

ADHS wraps up ABC summer business program

Five of the Acton High School grade 10 business class students taught by Virginia Houston recently celebrated a very successful entrepreneurial summer with their mentors.

Acton Business Company is an innovative program that took the standard curriculum and gave it an exciting new twist. Last spring the students developed business plans and then presented them in a 'Dragon's Den'; like pitch day and the winning concepts were given funds to actually run their

business with the help of an extraordinary mentor team.

Brian Secord ran B-Fit Acton, an outdoor fitness program held at Acton High School for kids ages 7 to 14 where he focused on helping kids bring up their fitness level while having as much fun as they can.

Dhara Patel was busy with her company - A Cup of Cake - providing beautiful and delicious cupcakes.

Hydra was the concept developed by Dylan McNair. Dylan sold comics,

cards and collectible statues and action figures. He also ran games at Off The Wall Youth Centre.

Jon O'Neill and Carson van Tol had their workshop in full production for all summer making OVT Custom Guitars.

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The goal of the program is to develop a meaningful experience for students and staff that is steeped in the assets of the school and the surrounding community.

The community team includes Sandra Nuhn, Halton Region Manager, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Kathleen Dills, Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce and Beth Paisley Downtown Acton BIA, and dedicated partnership from Halton Public Health Rob Pozeg, Health Promoter and Tanya Melykuty, Public Health Nurse. An additional group of mentors also work with the class and the winners over



the summer, each sharing their very specialized business experience. Acton High Alumni Fred Dawkins, Sean Aherne, Jamie Draves and Corey Wilson.

The program would not have been possible without the generous support of the sponsors: Superior Glove, National Bank, Tandia, Acton East Housing Corp. And Scotia McLeod.

There are five key messages that drive the strategy and goals of all the people involved:

To build upon the unique strengths of our school and community.

To focus on meaningful engagement with adults and young people in ways that empower and challenge them.

To build layers that integrate policy, curriculum, awareness-raising, supportive social environments, healthy physical spaces, and community partners, that make the project comprehensive.

Most important, it is sustainable with a long-term vision within our

school's culture that,

Invites and impacts a whole community of students and adults.

In a wrap up session the entire group felt that the abc Company was a tremendous success and plans are in the works to enhance the program for 2017.

The abc Company team invites you to look at the video that was produced as well as see more information about the program. Please visit abc.acton-highschool.ca/ and stay tuned for more updates.

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