



Risky Business

THRIVING THROUGH ADVERSITY

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April 11, 2011

Conference



2011 Logo Contest Winner

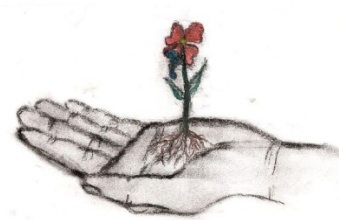
See details on page 8.



THRIVING
THROUGH
ADVERSITY

For all those working with Students At Risk

Ontario Association For Students At Risk
23rd Annual Conference



Monday, April 11, 2011
One Day Conference
Holiday Inn Toronto International Airport

Keynote Address: Deirdre Pike

Topic:

“Building A Positive Space For All”

Luncheon Keynote Address: Mary Alberti and Jesse Bigelow

Topic:

**“Fear Less...Opening Minds About
Schizophrenia And Psychosis”**

Hospitality Room on Sunday

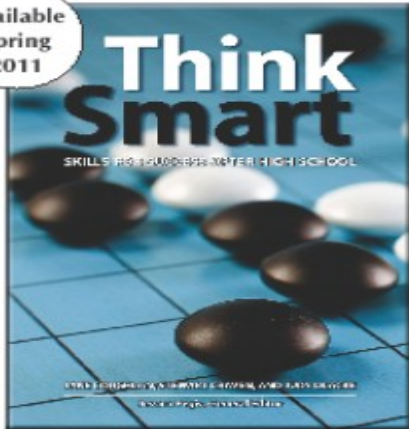
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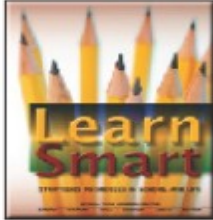
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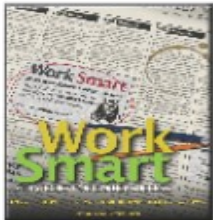


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For your information.....

The Ontario Association for Students at Risk is a non-profit organization,
Founded in 1987, with a mandate to:

- Provide leadership in the development of philosophy relative to students at risk
- Provide advocacy for students at risk
- Improve quality of programs
- Address needs and interests of students at risk
- Provide a forum for communication among those serving students at risk
- Share information on professional training, research and other related activities

Submitted by:

THE SOLUTION!

Shelley Falla, Section 23, HWDSB

Local & global problems can not go away unless
people bond together some way.



Use words to make goals.

Use actions to meet our goals by being bold.
This poem is hypocritical if we only read the
words of this poem.

Please be inspired to do some action around the world when you roam.
Start locally by saying there is too much garbage in our city.

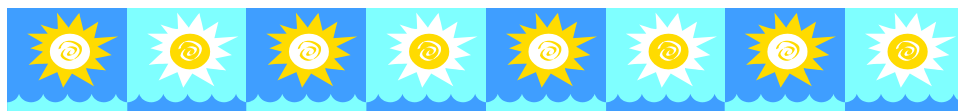
Bend over & place a piece of trash in the garbage can to make the
place pretty.

Globally, we talk about the global footprint.
Carbon dioxide must be decreased & not just for a short stint.

Decrease carbons by taking the bus .
We all can carpool, use electric bikes, or join together & walk with us.

War can be found around the world.
Lets get together with peace rallies to create a perfect dream-world

***Winning poem for the Miriam Drysdale Award for
Grade 10 Essential Poetry.**





SHARK STORY.....

I have a six year old student who LOVES sharks!! His favourite story in the whole world is one I bought for the classroom, with him in mind: "Shark in the Dark." I read this story every afternoon even though he knows all the words off by heart and says them with me!

In his journal, one day, he drew a picture of a shark, and dictated this story to me:

I drew a shark. Sharks like to be alone. They don't like to be bugged. Sometimes sharks eat boats if they float. If people are in cages underwater sharks can eat them. If scuba divers aren't in their cages, or if they get out, or if they are near the sharks' houses, or if they are near the dinner bell, they might get EATEN by SHARKS!! (My student knows that we can write really big when we want to shout out the words!). The shark told the scuba diver to get out of his house! The shark can bang the glass on the boat.

Lovingly submitted by Miriam Silvert

Miriam Silvert teaches a Section 23 class in the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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An Early Reservation Is Advised to Ensure Availability

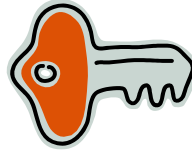
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Go to our website, oasar.org and click on Conference Registration.

PAYMENT OPTIONS: VISA, MASTERCARD, CHEQUE (made payable to: OASAR, PO Box 184, Strathroy, Ont. N7G 3J5) Contact us for a Group Payment Code (cheque payment only).

<u>REGISTRATION RATES</u> (rates include HST)	
MEMBERS	until March 11, 2011—\$125.00
	March 12, 2011 — \$145.00
	March 31, 2011 — \$165.00
NON-MEMBERS	until March 11, 2011 — \$168.00
	March 12, 2011 — \$180.00
	March 31, 2011 — \$200.00
STUDENTS/RETIREES	until March 11, 2011 — \$100.00
	March 12, 2011 — \$120.00
	March 31, 2011 — \$140.00

Book Review



“House Rules” by Jodi Picoult

This is the story of Jacob, an 18 year old boy with Asperger’s Syndrome. The book tells Jacob’s story through Jacob’s eyes as well as through the eyes of his mother and younger brother. The title, *House Rules*, refers to the rules of the house as laid down by Jacob’s Mother in an attempt to keep Jacob’s meltdowns to a minimum; things such as Blue Day which is every Friday when all clothing and food must be blue. The colour orange is never displayed as Jacob hates orange, but what do you do when your Prom date shows up wearing peach??? This family’s carefully ordered world suddenly rips wide open when a murder investigation threatens to destroy the family unit.

This book evoked a lot of different emotions in me. I have worked with Asperger’s teenagers for many years now. This book brought their individual behaviours back to me. *House Rules*, really reinforces the need for the educational system to step up to the plate and provide a more intensive social skills program if these young people are to be successful in the real world. This is a definite “must read”.

Karen Galer E.A. HWDSB

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2011 LOGO CONTEST WINNER



“Sinead” submitted the following written description with the winning logo.

“This picture was done to depict the theme “The Ability To Thrive.” It holds many different meanings, all pertaining to students at risk and the adversity they go through, as well as their ability to overcome obstacles with the skills and knowledge needed for surviving difficulties in life. Each object—the hand, the flower and the water droplet—all represent attributes that are common in students at risk.

The hand with deep cracks and lines is a symbol of a long, hard life filled with work. This relates to the idea that students at risk have all had hardship in their lives which they had had to endure. These are things which make success in life seem impossible, and can cause one to just give up. However, said students persevere and maintain an efficacious frame of mind, thus giving them the capability to work towards the life that they want.

The flower is a symbol of sublime, incandescent life that thrives in any environment. It depicts the proficiency that students at risk must develop to cope with new surroundings and circumstances in order to effectively survive. Just like the flower, the student must learn to adapt to progress in life.

The water droplet dripping from the petal symbolizes sustaining the end of a storm. As the petal from which the water is dripping appears undamaged and alive, it makes obvious the fact that the flower has weathered the storm, and in fact, has remained protected from an immense, destructive force.

In keeping with the theme “The Ability To Thrive”, I have attempted to display not only the issues that students at risk must endure but also the knowledge that they have acquired in order to reach success. All of the symbols are a representation that depicts their skills at surviving life, taking things, such as adversity, in stride and overcoming obstacles in order to thrive and live a happy successful life.”

Remember to watch for details

for the 2010 Conference!



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We are dedicated to the needs of students at risk;
in risky places; in risky times.

Teachers, administrators, ministry personnel or
any others who care about students at risk may
register for our conferences.

Many of us work in isolated situations and would
like to get together to: discuss, learn, laugh, cry,
teach, enjoy, eat, network, listen, and speak.

You are not alone.

Come and join others with similar needs and in-
terests.

Risky Business is an official publication of the Ontario Association for Students at Risk. OASAR's mission statement is to provide leadership, advocacy and education for all students in all risk categories in the Province of Ontario. OASAR is open to membership from anyone interested in prevention or amelioration of risk. Risky Business is published on a regular basis by the Newsletter Committee. The opinions expressed in Risky Business are not necessarily those of the Association.

We always welcome contributions to Risky Business. If you have something to share please let us know! We would love to hear from you about new research, resources, links, people, experiences, opportunities, technology, etc. Please contact us at:

kgaler@mountaincable.net or tracy.hunter006@gmail.com

OASAR Membership Means:

- **Conference discounts**
- **Risky Business Newsletter**
- **Members can apply for PD funds to provide workshops**
- **Members can apply for student assistance funds for camp/leadership programs**
- **Members only section of new web site**
- **Network with others who work and care about students at risk**

For more information, contact Membership Chair,

Tracy Hunter tracy.hunter006@gmail.com



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NOMINATIONS

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors?

We cordially invite you to attend our Annual General Meeting,

Sunday, April 10, 2011 at 7:00 P.M.

We are in great need of new ideas and better representation across Ontario. We meet five times a year. Board Members must be present at meetings.

Check out our website for responsibilities of a Board Member and to fill out a nomination form.