

District GSA Trustee Report

September 24, 2019

- Updates from school GSAs
- Discussed topics of interest, including conversion therapy (no issues appear to be arising from our schools, but students did feel this was important to talk about), Rainbow week, pride parade review, Love is Love event

October 22, 2019

- New GSA board at Reynolds, bake sale at Lambrick Park, Shoreline GSA meeting (approx. 30 students attended), Spectrum meeting.
- Topics discussed were how to start a GSA, discussion of a GSA prom

November 19, 2019

- Update from Vic High (starting a rainbow club to celebrate diversity – planned for January), SJD putting up lots of posters and have a bulletin board (using the Gender Unicorn), Reynolds approached their PAC for funds and were given \$200 for t-shirts and \$50 for art supplies – had a bake sale that raised \$50 – meeting with Spectrum – looking to get outside speakers, Rockheights have 8 – 10 students attending and have focused on the Pride Flag Board, including the meaning of the Pride Flag, Spectrum had a bake sale and made \$100
- Vic High combined their two clubs, good collection of SOGI books in their library, first multi-stall washroom

January 28, 2020

- Marigold rainbow team meets every two weeks with numbers dropping slightly, Spectrum building their GSA presence, Quadra club has grown, having a book mark sale and want to make a music video, Vic High attendance is growing – want to focus on diversity mural, all GSA picnic (planned for May), Drag Show, Queer Prom
- Discussed elementary meeting and requests from schools to bring District GSA meetings to their schools

February 25, 2020

- Glanford started a club in September with about 25 students and are planning a commissioned art sale, Rockheights has a Queer Youth Showcase at the Met Centre and a GSA member was the youngest performer, George Jay club exploring identity in the classroom and kindy teachers setting up centres to meet needs of students to help explore gender through play, South Park club planning a spring drag story time for the school, Quadra Rainbow Club has attracted many young students
- Discussed Queer Prom, planned May mental health summit

As you can see above, the big focus of the year has been building GSAs in our schools. The district has been supporting this development through the sharing of the 'How to start a GSA' guide.

Sadly, COVID-19 has caused several really exciting programs to be put on hold.

Queer Prom, Out in Schools, Balancing Our Minds Youth Mental Health Summit and Love is Love, Pride Parade

My thanks and appreciation to Director Harold Caldwell for his consistent and dedicated leadership of this district club. His passion is evident at every meeting and the kindness and warmth he displays is continuously inspiring. Harold continues to share resources from SOGI to support our LGBTQ+ youth during our COVID response; Rainbow week was observed from May 19th to 22nd . We did purchase Rainbow flags for schools to raise during Rainbow week and Pride Week and now that we have flag poles at the board office, we hope to raise one for Pride Week.

You will also have received an email about t-shirts provided by the district. Sport them loud and proud for Pride month.

Happy Pride!