



ISC Views and Voices

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Love Peace Joy

The Christmas season is a time when society's focus on love, peace and joy is renewed. Everywhere we look—on cards, wrapping paper, billboard signs—we are reminded that Christmas is a time for love, peace and joy. But I always feel we should hold these essential life values as our focus *all the time*, not just at Christmas. At the Indigo Sudbury Campus, we are blessed because love, peace and joy are a part of our everyday experience. Step into our world as you read the next few pages...

Love at ISC...

- Boomer being hugged by Anna Marie.
- Alexander kissing his mom good-bye.
- Amanda cuddling with Kassie and Anna Marie.
- Johnny getting up early in the morning to come to school.



- Bretton signing in for Kassie.
- Greg making a one-hour bus trip to

school on Fridays when he already has his 25 hours.



- Yusuke phoning Nathen 20 times per day on the weekend.
- Dylan calling Ric "Rickster" and "Old Man" and then sitting down for a long talk.
- Anna Marie asking to be picked up.
- Victor asking to share with you his newly acquired toy, possession or knowledge.
- Kennedy sharing her talent and or knowledge in movie trivia.
- Anna Marie running to Dylan for a hug and him swooping her up in his arms and carrying her upstairs with him.
- Seeing Jessica all giddy.
- Dylan talking about Volunteer Mark, whom he affectionately calls "the Enforcer".

- Nathen and friends calling Boomer "Boom Boom".



- Anna Marie asking Tyler for help and him gently and patiently helping her.
- Jessica and Amanda coming into the office for long conversations with Corinne.
- Kennedy reading to Kassie in front of Kennedy's "fireplace".



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Peace at ISC...

- Alexander at his computer.



- Michael playing Starcraft.



- Amanda reading poetry in the library.
- Johnny finding new wallpaper for his computer desktop.
- Bretton seems to be at peace all the time.



- Jessica listening to others in conversation.
- Sam sitting at his computer with his radiation screen on and his radiation chip around his neck.
- Nathen eating lunch and talking.
- Saige watching music videos.
- Anna Marie making a puzzle with

Nicolette and Kassie.

- Dylan on the couch or on his recliner chair talking.



- Victor listening to Weird Al Yankovich
- Kennedy painting in the art room.
- Kassie playing games in the games room.
- Kassie being read to (The Chicken Soup for the Soul Children's Christmas Treasury.)
- Yusuke reading e-mails from Japan

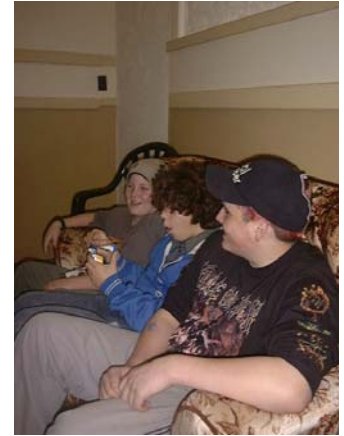


- Anna Marie looking at a book about gerbils.



- Greg after playing a game he's good at.
- Tyler managing the JC meeting with tolerance and understanding.
- Anna Marie quietly doing calculations on Corinne's adding machine.

- Bretton, Logan and Dylan watching video games.



- Boomer hanging around the office or Nicolette or Ric's computer to talk with the adults.
- Jessica sitting quietly in a chair and looking out the window.
- Amanda making an art project.



- Nathen in one of those rare moments when no one needs him to fix his/her computer or burn him/her a CD.



- Ric and Nicolette doing a self-chosen activity because all the students are busy doing their own thing.
- When there isn't a single JC report written during the day.

Joy at ISC...

- Alexander doing the snoopy dance.
- Alexander when the skunk in his word game gets a bath.
- Michael climbing anything.
- Victor on his skateboard.
- Bretton thinking about “what is out there”.
- Nathen with a candy cane.
- Greg and Yusuke playing Starcraft.
- Johnny winning (at anything.)
- Sam making his own lunch.
- Kassie camouflaging as the couch.



- Kennedy researching movie making.
- Saige eating sugar foods.
- Kassie all day every day.
- Dylan playing basketball, listening to loud music and talking.
- Amanda and Jessica camouflaged as the hallway and being secret agents.



- Logan playing video games.
- Boomer playing the Spiderman game.
- Hearing Amanda giggle.
- Anna Marie and Kassie all excited because of their JC consequence which is to pick up garbage outside.
- Amanda becoming a “traffic safety

agent” by going through the little traffic safety booklets we happen to have.

- Amanda, Jessica, Kassie, Anna Marie, Bretton and Nicolette dressing up in dress-up clothes.
- The group of boys who discovered they could play their movie on Tyler’s laptop after the PS2 they wanted to use wouldn’t work.



- Nicolette relearning to play the piano.
- Volunteer Jason playing the piano.
- Ric, Jason and students having discussions about mystical things.
- Witnessing Alexander running the JC meeting.



- Nathen and the Starcraft gang’s bursts of joy after finally beating the Level 8 ghosts.
- Witnessing Yusuke running the JC.
- When Kassie and Anna Marie get the “Yes!” that Ric will take them to walk around the Charles Camsell hospital.
- Kennedy doing computerized make-overs.
- Anna Marie, Ric and Kassie creating

“corpses”, one of which is meant to be Jason.



- Kassie and Anna Marie playing “real” school with Jason.
- Tyler and Logan shooting a roll of tape around with hockey sticks in the library.



- Kassie and Anna Marie getting scary stories read to them.
- Bretton, Logan, Victor and Greg skateboarding.
- Kassie and Anna Marie drawing pictures with Corinne in the office.
- The basketball gang having a game.
- Ric and Nicolette having conversations with parents.
- Sam pogo-sticking.
- Michael working on a model.
- Ric and Nicolette coming to school every day.
- **And that which, in the last few weeks, has caused *the most* joy, laughter and delight...**

Wrestle-mania at ISC!

Love ("male bonding")

Peace (no one gets hurt)

Joy (do they ever have fun—and the spectators too!)

It was Greg and Yusuke who started it all... Like clockwork, every afternoon around 4:00, they would come into the library and *it* would start. It didn't take long before Nathen and Michael got involved... Then, one day, Dylan and Logan were in the thick of things and somewhere along the line Bretton, Boomer and Johnny joined in, too. When Volunteer Jason started to play, *it* really became a popular sport and when Tyler got involved—last but not least—*it* hit its record for intensity and fun!

It started innocently enough. Greg and Yusuke started throwing pillows at each other. Then they started jumping on each other and getting into wrestling



matches. Add a few more bodies, and suddenly a simple pillow fight and a simple wrestling match became an intense competition!

Several days last week, Dylan waited impatiently for Jason to get to school. Jason would barely get to say hi to everyone before Dylan would be challenging him to another bean bag fight. Because, you see, couch pillows were the first level and then using the bean bags took things up a notch. Tyler with the bed pillow topped it all off, and now we can only wait to see where it goes

from here!

It is to be noted that this wrestle/pillow mania did not remain a sport only for the boys. Nicolette and Kennedy got involved a few times and Kassie and Anna Marie did their best to get attention without getting pummeled! (The result for Anna Marie was getting spun around on the bean bag.) But mostly, the girls have sat to the side watching and laughing and laughing and laughing! Because not only are the matches highly intense, they are hilarious! Take, for example, Boomer's surprise shots at Dylan and Jason which



resulted in him being dragged, pinned and pillowed. And then on the big day

that Tyler got involved, Johnny, Logan and Bretton found themselves being



dragged all over the library as they tried to steal Tyler's pillow from him! Dylan and Jason's bean bag fights are also highly entertaining, especially when Jason gets on a roll and doesn't stop swinging until he is dead exhausted!

The best thing is that all



this intense activity is done exclusively in the spirit of fun. There are no head shots allowed and the whole purpose is just to play, not to hurt anyone. A great side benefit of the matches is the amount of physical exercise it generates—we're talking serious exertion—and this all comes from the students' own desire to participate.

As I'm writing this, Dylan comes into the office so I ask him, "What did you think of Phys. Ed. when you were in regular school, Dylan?" "I hated it!" is his reply. But watch him in these pillow-fight matches, red-faced but unstoppable, and you'd never think he had an aversion to sports. This also makes me think of a lady I got an e-mail from recently who is starting her own alternative school. She described it to me and wrote, "We'll even have daily exercise time!" I try to imagine "coercefully" telling our boys, "You are going to wrestle from 2:30 to 3:15" and it's so obvious the experience would never be the same! What I get to witness now is pure spontaneity, desire motivated by the reward of fun, and each student pushing his maximum, not because he's being told to but because it's the most fulfilling and personally satisfying thing to do.

Sports at ISC: "unplugged" and so much fun!



by Nicolette Groeneveld



Sudbury quote:

"People learn best what they're most interested in.

People do best what they learn best.

Society benefits the most from people performing what they're best at."

Daniel Greenberg – Sudbury Valley School

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ric and I would like to wish all our **students, parents, volunteers and supporters** a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year! Thank you for all your support and positive feedback in 2002, and thank you for spreading the word about us!

Remember: We are closing December 20th and will open again Monday, January 6th.

Prepared by Nicolette Groeneveld with tremendous input from Ric!