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**2014!**

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*Success Beyond Limits*

# ACK NOW LEDG EME NT S

*#collaboration*

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*Credits*

Our key partner in delivering the March Break Career Exploration Program has been the Toronto District School Board, through Westview Centennial and the Focus on Youth Program we have been given the opportunity to innovate and expand how our students are prepared for success!

It took all of our staff and mentors to step up and give it all to make it happen! Thanks to Hive Toronto for immediately saying 'yes' and connecting us to the Mozilla space, which opened up a lot of doors for the program.

To everyone that facilitated for us, hosted us, and visited us – you played a huge role!

And for the design that is helping us share the story of this remarkable week – thanks Monica!

# SBL

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# TAB LEOF CON TEN T S

#sbl

*March Break Report*



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# CARE EXPLORATION PROGRAM

Free!

## Program

***The program has no cost to students and includes:***

Breakfast // Lunch // Transportation  
Program supplies // Training  
Workshops // Site visits // Recreation  
& a book of their choice — connected  
to the goals and plans they have been  
inspired to reach!

Youth participants: 60  
Location: Mozilla Community Space  
(366 Adelaide Street West)



### ***Success Beyond Limits: March Break Career Exploration Program 2014***

In 2010, in response to youth in our community expressing a need for support in securing employment interest in getting exposure to greater career options, we launched our March Break “Employment Readiness and Career Exploration” program for 30 students with support from Westview Centennial and the Toronto District School Board. The focus at that time was on important items such as resumes, cover letters, interview skills, goal-setting, time-management and financial literacy.

Late in 2013, Success Beyond Limits joined the Hive Toronto (@HiveToronto) and this got us thinking about what career exploration and employment readiness means for youth in 2014. That opened up issues about the location of the program (bringing it into the core of the city) and the types of skills and experiences that we needed to offer.

The program is ran from March 10th to 14th with 60 students (20 being paid through the TDSB Focus on Youth Program, and 10 being paid through SBL), and was delivered out of the Mozilla community space. You can get a sense of how amazing it was in the pages that follow!

***Success Beyond Limits***

**01!**

# SCHEDULE

*March 10-14*

## *March Break Schedule Mentors/Volunteers Gr. 11 & 12*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Bus Pickup	8:15 am	8:45am	8:45am	8:45am	9:00am
Workshop #1	9:30am-11:00am Do It Yourself	10:00am-11:30am Exploring Careers	10:00am-11:30am Hack-a-thon	10:00am-11:30am Branding Using Social Media	ALL
Lunch	11:00am-12:00pm	11:30am-12:30pm	11:30am-12:30pm	11:30am-12:30pm	DAY
Workshop #2	12:00pm-1:30pm FLiP: Leaving the Nest	12:00pm-1:30pm Transition into Post Secondary	12:30pm-2:00pm Hack-a-thon	12:30pm-2:00pm Popcorn: Creating a Digital Resumé	FIELD
Field Trips	3:30pm-5:00pm Norton Rose Fulbright	2:15pm-5:30pm Toronto International Film Festival	3:30pm-5:00pm Ministry of Education	3:30pm-5:00pm TD Canada Trust	TRIP

## *March Break Schedule SBQ Program Participants Gr. 9 & 10*

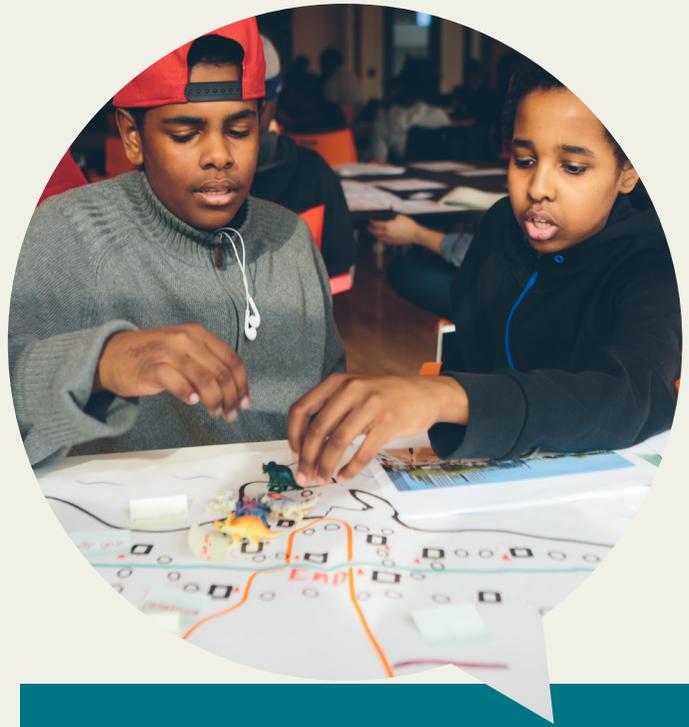
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Bus Pickup	8:15 am	8:45am	8:45am	8:45am	9:00am
Workshop #1	9:30am-11:00am FLiP: Leaving the Nest	10:00am-11:30am Environmental Justice	10:00am-11:30am Hack-a-thon	10:00am-11:30am Branding Using Social Media	ALL
Lunch	11:00am-12:00pm	11:30am-12:30pm	11:30am-12:30pm	11:30-12:30pm	DAY
Workshop #2	12:00pm-1:30pm Do It Yourself	12:30pm-2:00pm Exploring Careers	12:30pm-2:00pm Hack-a-thon	12:30pm-2:00pm Popcorn: Creating a Digital Resumé	FIELD
Field Trips	N/A	3:30pm-5:30pm Toronto International Film Festival	3:30pm-5:00pm KPMG	3:30pm-5:00pm Ministry of Education	TRIP

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**02!**

# MONDAY

## Programming



### *Financial Literacy: What Does it Cost to Live on Your Own*

Presented by Kofi Frempong of FLIP (@freedomfridayz), this session dived into the realities (costs and benefits) of stepping out on your own.

This session was fantastic at activating concepts like budgeting, savings, and the real costs of independence (groceries, bills, rent/mortgage, taxes...and the list goes on).

### *D.I.Y. (Do it Yourself...or Together) Learning*

Facilitated by the MaRS Discovery District (@MaRSDD) Studio Y cohort, the focus of this session was the exploration of how you can build knowledge and skills of interest through Do It Yourself learning, which included MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), webinars, and community-based workshops (to name a few of the options) – thinking beyond traditional education pathways.

### *Site Visit: Norton Rose Fulbright*

Far from the television depictions of the trial lawyer, the legal profession is complex and layered with options. From the heights of the RBC tower on Bay and Front, our students were hosted by a diverse group of staff at the firm that expanded the conversation on the legal field, shared stories about the personal motivations that got them there, and de-mystified the education paths for those careers.



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**03!**

# TU ES DA Y

#information  
interview

## Programming

### Environmental Justice Workshop

Facilitated by Jennifer Foster, York University, this workshop examined vital environmental justice issues currently impacting the Jane and Finch area. More specifically, the workshop will focus on the Line 9 pipeline flowing through the community. The workshop, also explored career opportunities available in the environmental studies field.



### Exploring Careers: Information Interviews

The information interview is a valuable skill in learning about career options, gaining insight from accomplished individuals and building important relationships. Students were prepped on this skill, and then had the chance to practice it in groups of 4 as they spent time with a variety of professionals.

Guest speakers representing various career backgrounds were also invited to share their experiences, educational paths, and insight into their day-to-day lives. During the breakout sessions students were able to hear about things such as workplace culture such as unwritten rules and expectations that come with the job.

Speakers included:

**Phil Edwards**  
Mortgage Agent  
MorCan Direct

**Nadine Liverpool**  
Associate Producer  
Rogers Sportsnet

**Mazin Osman**  
Creative Director & Entrepreneur  
Operations & Marketing Director  
busybuildingthing.com

**Digal Haio**  
Lawyer  
Franklin Law

**Joseph Harry**  
Professional Musician & Business  
Owner, 4th Metric Music  
Technical System Analyst  
Royal Bank

**Angel Coutré**  
Chef  
Soul2go

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04!

# TU ES DA Y

#TIFF14

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## *Programming*

### *Transition Into Post-Secondary*

There are many great ways to learn about post-secondary education, but one rarely used source is first year students. In this session, we turned the floor over to a couple of our former mentors (from last year) who came in as friends and neighbours to our students to give them the real-deal on what post-secondary is really like.



### *Site Visit: Toronto International Film Festival*

Being one of the top film festivals in the world and operating a remarkable hub for fostering the love of film is no simple task. Our students explored the behind the scenes facilities of the TIFF Bell Lightbox, and heard about the many types of roles it takes to be a global leader... and then they watched a movie in a state of the art cinema!

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**05!**

# WE DN ES DA Y

#Design  
Thinking

## Programming

### Hackathon: Design Thinking

We know that there are new skills and problem solving approaches that are going to be critical to success in the future. Among them is design thinking, which taps into empathy, creativity, rationality, and prototyping to explore problems as a gateway for new ideas and innovative solutions.

Facilitated by Exhibit Change (@exhibit\_change), this fully interactive day has the aim of engaging students with the power of the creativity they already possess.



### Site Visit 1: Ministry of Education and Ontario Public Service

You are passionate about education? Be a teacher. You are passionate about your community? Become a social worker. While both of those career options are amazing, both answers are incomplete. Through exploring the Ministry of Education, our students learned about the range of opportunities within Ontario's second largest ministry. And for students passionate about impacting community, the Ontario Public Service offers a phenomenal range of options.

### Site Visit 2: KPMG

As a partner over the past few years, KPMG has opened up their space to us, provided mentorship to students, and sought ways to share their skills and experiences with our students. The world of consulting touches our lives in more ways than we often see, and is an option that is often off the radar for many students.

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06!

# THURSDAY

## *Programming*

### *Popcorn: Creating a Digital Resume*

There is only so much a resume can communicate about you. Mozilla has developed a tool called Popcorn, which lets you create your own short videos pulling video, audio, images and text to create your own narrative. Students created a digital compliment to their resumes offering insight to who they are and what they bring to the table!



### *Personal Branding Using Social Media*

It is becoming common knowledge that who you know and who knows you has as much to do with your future opportunities as your education and experience. Submitting a resume and being considered for a job, in more and more cases, means an online search of your name to see who the internet says you are. Embracing and taking control of this reality is the aim of this session.

We are also looking at social media as a great way to get to know (and get known in) areas of interest that may end up being the fields where our students make their mark in the world!

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07!

# THURSDAY

#Strombo

## Programming

### Site Visit 1: TD Canada Trust

The financial sector in Canada (and even more so in Toronto) makes up a significant portion of the career opportunities that are out there. Touring the facilities of TD gave insight into the range of positions in the financial sector, as well as experiencing the inside scoop about life on Bay Street.



### Site Visit 2: Live Taping of CBC's George Stroumboulopoulos

Students went behind the scenes and joined the live audience with George Stroumboulopoulos who had a special guest in Premier Kathleen Wynne.

Seeing all about how what we see on air is put together would have been enough, but the live Q&A with Strombo took a beautiful turn when he spoke directly with our students about living your passion (as a son of Toronto's North-West) offering a ton of great advice including "surround yourself with people doing cool s#\*t who believe you can do cool s#\*t too".

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**08!**

# FRIDAY

*field trip!*



*MaRS Discovery District*

*Programming*



*KPMG*



*A Different Booklist*

*Success Beyond Limits*

# FRIDAY

#Kids UpFront



*Ice Skating*

*Programming*



*Mozilla*



*Raptors Game*

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**10!**

# EVALUATION

## Results

### Evident Trends

- Students gaining knowledge and understanding about their future career paths was a main indicator of students satisfaction ratings in attending the program. Subsequently, 88% of students indicated that they are very pleased they attended the program while 100% were pleased that they attended the program.
- In regards to the significance of being downtown, qualitative data indicates that students enjoyed the experience of being in a different environment and benefited positively from the exposure of various downtown businesses and career opportunities.
- In regards to students having the opportunity to select and purchase their own book, qualitative data indicates that the experience reinforced the importance of reading, made students feel more independent and that their passions and interests are respected.



### Success Beyond Limits: March Break Evaluation Results

#### Significant Findings

**85%** of the youth enrolled in the 2014 SBL March Break Program felt that the program gave them greater insight on how to make themselves more appealing to employers. This is in line with the finding that following the SBL March break program, 97% of the youth strongly agreed that they now feel more confident and ready for employment.

**83%** of the youth felt that the SBL March break program helped them better understand ways to achieve their career goals.

**97%** of the youth strongly agreed that being in the Mozilla space made learning more enjoyable, while 88% of the youth involved in the 2014 SBL March Break program felt that being downtown for the week gave them greater access to opportunities.

**88%** of youth indicated that they are very glad they attended the 2014 SBL March Break program and 100% of students indicated that they would recommend the program to other Westview students.

# EVALUATION

Quotes!



## Results

### *In regards to being downtown:*

*"This Program should keep on running, especially at the Mozilla building. Can't wait to go there next year."*

*"Being downtown felt great. I finally got to be in a different space other than in the SBL office and we actually got to go places rather than people coming in to talk to us."*

*"My experience of being downtown was great because I got to see new things!"*

*"I would describe my experience downtown as exploration because I was able to explore different job opportunities."*

*"I would describe my experience of being downtown as a moment to remember. I will definitely recommend this program to future generations."*

### *In Regards to Selecting and purchasing a book:*

*"It proved that SBL not only has our best interest at heart, it also encourages me to broaden my knowledge, reading wise"*

*"SBL allowing us to purchase our own books meant that we have the freedom to make our own choices."*

*"Being able to select and purchase my own book meant a lot to me because it pushes me to pick up my book and read it. I enjoyed selecting my book because it reminds me just how important reading is."*

*"Picking and purchasing my own book gave me the chance to showcase what I want to learn. Books=knowledge."*

*"It was nice to know that SBL encourages us to read."*

*"Being able to select and purchase my own book meant that I can make a change and make a difference, I will also be able to excel my knowledge further."*

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**12!**

# SUMMARY

# ARY

#SteppingUp

## Outcomes

### ***In regards to being downtown:***

*"This Program should keep on running, especially at the Mozilla building. Can't wait to go there next year."*

*"Being downtown felt great. I finally got to be in a different space other than in the SBL office and we actually got to go places rather than people coming in to talk to us."*

*"My experience of being downtown was great because I got to see new things!"*

*"I would describe my experience downtown as exploration because I was able to explore different job opportunities."*

*"I would describe my experience of being downtown as a moment to remember. I will definitely recommend this program to future generations."*



### ***Career Exploration and Ontario's Stepping Up Outcomes for Youth***

*Our March Break Career Exploration Program has the high-level outcomes of:*

- connecting education paths to career goals
- keeping students positively engaged
- building leadership capacity
- preparing them for employment
- exposure to a wide-range of career paths
- encouraging volunteerism
- offering youth employment
- closing the "digital divide"
- fostering 21st Century learning skills

We also see tremendous value in the Evidence Informed Outcomes from the Stepping Up report from the Ministry of Child and Youth Services. Our programming for March Break is responsive to many of the themes and outcomes.

Through offering breakfast and lunch, as well as physical activities such as ice-skating.

*Health & Wellness Priority Outcomes:*

- Ontario youth are physically healthy
- Ontario youth feel mentally well
- Ontario youth make choices that support healthy and safe development

# SUMMARY

cont'd!

## Outcomes

Though having a youth-led and youth-centred decision-making and design process in our programming, through offering a wide-range of leadership opportunities, and through intermingling personal development with a social justice lens, we are responding to:

*Civic Engagement & Youth Leadership*  
Priority Outcomes:

- Ontario youth play a role in informing the decisions that affect them
- Ontario youth are engaged in their communities
- Ontario youth leverage their assets to address social issues

Through our site visits and our program location, as well as the depth of training and workshops provided, we are responding to:

*Coordinated & Youth Friendly Communities*  
Priority Outcomes:

- Ontario youth have access to safe spaces that provide quality opportunities for play and recreation
- Ontario youth know about and easily navigate resources in their communities

## *Career Exploration and Ontario's Stepping Up Outcomes for Youth*

Through presence of our staff team and mentorship built into the March Break program, we are responding to:

*Strong, Supportive Friends & Families*  
Priority Outcomes:

- Ontario youth have at least one consistent, caring adult in their lives
- Ontario youth form and maintain healthy, close relationships

Through designing our program through a youth-led approach with the aim of using our workshops, training sessions, and site visits to connect the passions and interests held by students to their educational and career paths, we are responding to:

*Education, Training & Apprenticeships*  
Priority Outcomes:

- Ontario youth achieve academic success
- Ontario youth have educational experiences that respond to their needs and prepare them to lead
- Ontario youth access diverse training and apprenticeship opportunities

Through providing valuable training and exposure, meaningful employment experience, we are responding to:

*Employment & Entrepreneurship*  
Priority Outcomes:

- Ontario youth have opportunities for meaningful employment experiences
- Ontario youth have the skills and resources needed to develop a successful career or business

Through providing the opportunity to expand their social network, building digital literacy, and access to an extremely wide-range of spaces, we are responding to:

*Diversity, Social Inclusion & Safety*  
Priority Outcomes:

- Ontario youth experience social inclusion and value diversity
- Ontario youth feel safe at home, at school, online and in their communities

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# SUPPORT



Team

## Generous Funding Support



## Partners



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