

For Immediate Release

Contact: Mikki Dadoun

Above & Beyond Learning Experience

Classroom: 123 Victoria Street West, Alliston

Head Office: 596 Victoria Street East, Alliston L9R 1K1

Telephone: 705-796-2253 (ABLE)

info@ablelearning.org

<http://www.ablelearning.org>

Struggling Students Get a Second Chance in Alliston

By: Nancy Collins

Alliston, ON, June 13, 2005--Above & Beyond Learning Experience: "Teaching young minds to learn and inspiring them to dream ... the mind is the limit." This vision was taken from Mikki Dadoun, a woman who has opened the door for many struggling students to find a second chance at learning. Above & Beyond Learning Experience is a new school in Alliston for at risk youth who need an alternative to the regular school system.

This venture addresses the needs of a crisis in our country, our teens between the ages of 15 to 19. Statistics Canada reports the national drop-out rate at 23%. With the Ontario drop-out rate reported by at 31%, the number of youth in New Tecumseth and surrounding area leaving school this year reaches a staggering 2000-2700.

The school, also known as ABLE, provides the student with many different ways to learn. It provides a home-school program, where the students are permitted to advance at their own pace. This allows them to set goals for themselves, and to gain a sense of achievement when those goals are met. However, there is no race to achieve, and no deadlines to meet. The school meets Monday to Friday, from 9am to 3pm, and accommodates students from grades one through twelve. The instructor to student ratio will be no higher than one to eight, and one to six for primary aged children.

Above & Beyond also provides a tutoring program. Tutoring is available to any student, whether from the conventional private or public school system, or being schooled at home. The tutoring hours are after regular school hours from 3pm to 6pm, or during the day for home schoolers.

The school offers a unique program called FlexSchool™. Being ABLE's flagship offering, this program combines community resources to provide a complete alternative education experience. This includes volunteer hours, vocational training, apprenticeship training, schooling, job placement and mentoring as part of what is offered and are tailored to each youth's needs. FlexSchool™ is certainly not for the lazy!

The goal of Above & Beyond Learning Experience is not to take children away from the conventional school system, but to give an alternative to it. The local schools have given their support to ABLE, and they feel that this alternative is a good one. The school offers a wholesome, relaxed and caring atmosphere, where the student can feel at home, and receive the care and the help he or she needs.

Each student is treated as an individual person each with unique needs and abilities. The ABLE program includes job placement, career counselling and planning, and helps with gaining acceptance into college or university. Students who are preparing for post-secondary education have the distinctive opportunity to incorporate jobs and/or apprenticeships into their school schedule with the FlexSchool™ program.

Above & Beyond Learning Experience is also offering an exciting Science and Technology summer program for grades 4-8, running from July 5th to August 26th. There are a variety of sessions to choose from, including Robotics, partnering with Kids Co, Digital Video, partnering with Big Fish Video, (cameras and software will be provided) and the Discovery Program, which is two weeks of exciting exposure to various sciences and technologies, such as, Robotics, Astronomy, Animals and Microscopes, Computers, Web Design and Digital Video.

For pricing, schedule and registration information please go to their website at **www.ablearning.org**, or contact Mikki at: 705-796-2253(ABLE)
Above and Beyond Learning is located in Alliston, ON, on the third floor of The Door Youth Centre on 123 Victoria St. West.

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