



**Palisades
Stewardship Education Centre**
Jasper National Park of Canada
parksCanada.gc.ca

**Centre des Palissades
pour l'enseignement de la gérance**
Parc national du Canada Jasper
parksCanada.gc.ca

SNAPSHOTS *Spring 2012*

The Parks Canada Palisades Stewardship Education Centre in Jasper National Park engages and inspires our youth, the future ambassadors and guardians of Canada's National Parks, Historic Sites and Marine Conservation Areas.

Biggest Spring EVER

The popularity of the Palisades Centre continues to grow. In just April, May and June of 2012, 871 youth came through the gates to learn about national parks, mountain recreation, forensics and water travel. There were students from as far away as Moncton, New Brunswick and as close as Hinton, Alberta. Many groups came from Edmonton including some inner city young adults who had never been in the mountains before. The largest group was an entire French Grade 8 class from Grande Prairie with 46 students. In the 2011/2012 school year the Palisades has reached over 3,000 youth!



Water Experience Courses

The Palisades Centre delivered five Water Experience courses including the first ever 25 level course (Grade 11). This high school program allows students to obtain 3 credits while studying aquatic environments and experiencing ways to safely travel on our lakes and water ways. Students taking this program go rafting, canoeing and kayaking, learn about water conservation, heritage rivers and how to weather a storm. Joe Storms, our local swift water specialist, wowed the youth with river tales and Sean Allen, Jasper's kayaking guru, taught them the ins and outs (wet exits) of kayaking.



“An outdoor learning classroom can substitute for a heavy dose of behaviour management chemicals”

-Senauer 2008, CNN Research and Studies Santa Fe, New Mexico.



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Corporate Development

In June the Palisades Centre launched its new team building program for businesses. Corporate Development contributes towards effective communication and trust can be a primary influence in organizational depth, growth, and innovation. Participants learn through carefully constructed challenges and reflection activities all while enhancing their knowledge and understanding of Jasper National Park.



The Palisades Education Team – Professional Learning

As part of our commitment to continual improvement and quality assurance, the PSEC Ed Team is engaged in regular professional learning activities. This month our focus was on the relative contributions of Outdoor/Adventure education, Environmental Education and Experiential education towards the Parks Canada mandate. We also reviewed the appropriate application of ‘teacher centered’ and ‘learner centered’ methodology.



Norwegian Education Delegation

This May the Palisades Centre was selected to form part of a high-level education study tour from Norway. Superintendents and Principals joined a program led by the University of Alberta to learn about progressive and rigorous curriculum. They spent three days at the Palisades Centre, toured Jasper National Park and participated in some of our signature experiential education programs.

Meet the Education team (from left to right) Jeanine D’Antonio, Lisa Freeman, Amber Legault, Geneviève Turcotte, James Bartram, Richard Horn, Joan Dillon, Jodi Hawkins and Cynthia Routhier.

“The best way to make learning meaningful is to do so in context”

-Rivkin 2000, ERIC Clearinghouse on rural education and small schools