



# my **smile** matters: a youth movement

## *Thank you Dakota Dunes CDC!*

Thank you for supporting *My Smile Matters: A Youth Movement*. The project was piloted in Saskatoon elementary schools with students at higher risk of dental disease (based on Saskatoon Health Region school oral health screenings).

### **A Youth Empowerment Project: Breaking the Cycle of Dental Disease**

Designed to break the cycle of dental disease among higher-risk children, youth were engaged to provide education, using an existing training kit, to provide education on good smile habits to younger students within their school.



Gr. 6 & 7 students were trained to deliver an oral health lesson to

K-Gr. 5 children in their own school. The students used an existing kit that included fun, interactive resources designed for young children.

### **102 Presentations to 2,422 Children**

105 Gr. 6 & 7 students were trained to deliver an oral health lesson to K-Gr. 5 students across the 25 schools. The student trainers delivered a total of 102 presentations to 2,422 students.



## Participating Schools

The project was piloted in 25 elementary schools where children are at higher risk of dental disease. Most of the schools were located in neighborhoods in Saskatoon's core and west side:

Bishop Klein	St. Goretti	Holliston
Caroline Robins	Queen Elizabeth	Caswell
St. John	Fairhaven	Vincent Massey
Bishop Filevich	Sutherland	Brevoort
Hugh Cairns	Brownell	Father Vachon
Mayfair	Westmount	St. Gerard
Bishop Roberecki	Ecole College Park	Forest Grove
St. Frances	Lester B Pearson	St. Mark
Roland Michener		

## Participant Feedback

*"It was fun! The kids were really fun to work with. I liked it."* (Student Trainer, Queen Elizabeth School)

*"It was a good experience to be up in front of kids. The kids seemed to really enjoy it."* (Student Trainer, St. John School)



*"I had so much fun working with the little kids that it makes me think I would make a great teacher."* (Student Trainer, Sutherland School)

*"It was fun teaching the Gr. 1's about dental health. It was easy, they were all good listeners. Do we get to do this again next year?"* (Student Trainer, Caroline Robins School)

*"We had a very gung-ho group of students who took time to practice at recess. This led to very strong presentations. Another teacher took the time to seek me out to say how well the presenters did."* (Teacher, Bishop Filevich School)

*"The Grade 6 students were fabulous and very dedicated to their task! The visuals were excellent and their message was well rehearsed. I would be interested in doing this again next year or*

*somehow expanding the presentations by training more students."* (Teacher, St. Gerard School)

*"Kids loved it and the presenters did awesome. They did great! The presentations went amazing. The students practiced a few times with all the training and knowledge they received and did a wonderful job. They knew their facts and presented well. It was nice to see them take a leadership role within our building. The classrooms enjoyed the presentation.*

*It was nice that it was inclusive and included class participation. I even had*



*parents come talk to me days after the presentations because their children were asking to go to dental appointment to make sure their teeth were healthy and strong. Fantastic project and opportunity for the kids! It was nice that we could keep the kit in our building for presentations in years to come."* (Teacher, Sutherland School)

## Next Steps

Due to the success of our pilot project, we intend to continue this project in these 25 schools as well as expand the project to other schools. We hope to continue working with Dakota Dunes CDC on this exciting project!

**We would be happy to work with Dakota Dunes CDC to promote our story on your website, annual report, or other materials. Please feel free to contact Kellie Watson by email at [sdha@sasktel.net](mailto:sdha@sasktel.net) or phone at (306) 931-7342.**

