



Beyond the Bell

2014/2015 REVIEW

A year-round academic program that closes the achievement gap for low-income children.

Building healthy communities



What happens after the school bell rings?

YMCA Beyond the Bell is a new and exciting academic-based program that takes a holistic approach to the wellbeing of every child. By emphasizing literacy, numeracy, recreation, homework help and values education year-round, YMCA Beyond the Bell helps to close the achievement gap experienced by low-income children compared to their middle-income classmates.

Targeting children in Grades 1-5, YMCA Beyond the Bell provides the additional help kids need to keep pace with their grade level and their peers, within a safe and supportive learning environment. The program occurs after the school bell rings and is delivered by

supportive, qualified YMCA staff leaders who act as positive role models, helping each student develop self confidence and experience new opportunities.

The YMCA proudly launched this unique program at AA Wright Public School, Wallaceburg in September 2014 and expanded the program to St. Ursula Catholic School, Chatham in October 2015.

Program goals

1. Realize academic achievement
2. Improve health and wellness
3. Explore culture and creativity
4. Develop social skills

YMCA Beyond the Bell Schools	School Board	School Year Capacity	# of Children Participating in School Year	# of Children Participating in Summer
A. A. Wright, Wallaceburg	LKDSB	30	33	18
St. Ursula, Chatham	SCCDSB	30	12	n/a

Typical routine*

Monday to Thursday

30 minutes - social skills and character development activities

20 minutes - snack

45 minutes - tutoring, homework completion, academic activities

45 minutes - recreation (alternating arts and physical activity)

Friday

20 minutes - snack

90 minutes - club activities (6-week progressive skill program in a recreation pursuit)

* Each child attends 3 days a week, either Mon/Wed/Fri or Tues/Thurs/Fri



YMCA Beyond the Bell goals and how we achieved them...

Goal 1: Realize academic achievement



READING ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Percentage of children reading at or above their grade level

Percentage of children reading at or above their grade level

86%

First reading assessment at start of program: of students were at or above

61%



*Second assessment at end of program: 71% of children had an improvement by at least one grade level (*A. A. Wright 2014-2015 Academic Year)*



YMCA Beyond the Bell is delivered by YMCA roles models with a low 1 to 5 ratio of educators to children. YMCA Beyond the Bell educators are supportive and knowledgeable in tutoring, mentoring and the YMCA principles of Healthy Child Development.



MATH ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Percentage of children performing at or above their grade level

By spring 2014

72.3%



41.5%

of students who were working on skills below their grade level are now working at or above their grade level

Prodigy

Prodigy is a free, self-paced math game for Grades 1-8 that allows students to create their very own wizard and then progress through a magical world by answering curriculum aligned math questions. The game automatically adapts for each child's individual needs while keeping both parents and teachers informed of their students' progress through real-time reporting.



Club Days (what did we do?)

- POWWOW celebration with the theme “Ekdaying Geyaabi Yaamgad” (Our stories are still here)
- Public Library
- Summer swimming
- Yoga



Communication with School

Each site works closely with school administrators, teachers and principals to provide seamless learning and supports which are consistent with the school. YMCA educators communicate on a regular basis with the school personnel to set individual goals and programming.



"At Beyond the Bell I found out that if you eat unhealthy stuff, you can get sick. That's why I eat healthy."

Student, YMCA Beyond the Bell at St Lawrence School

Our third student, [Spencer] was our biggest success story! Spencer also made great gains in his DRA and his math confidence and received our most improved student award. The extra support for was invaluable for him throughout the year. His confidence in his ability improved and he was more likely to persevere at a task. He really seemed to enjoy the program and looked forward to attending.

Teacher, YMCA Beyond the Bell at Name of School TBD

PARENT SATISFACTION SURVEYS:

98%

of parents indicated that they agree that their children enjoy the program, are learning new skills, and feel good about themselves at the YMCA.

CHILD SATISFACTION SURVEYS:

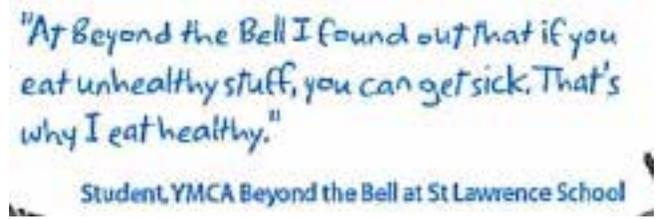
75%

of participating students indicate that they are having fun, becoming healthier, learning new skills and feel respected by the Beyond the Bell leaders.



YMCA Donors make it possible.

This program is 100% funded by donors and stakeholders. Through the generosity of many donors, the YMCA is able offer this program at no cost to children in need. Without this funding, the YMCA Beyond the Bell program would not be possible.



Thank you to all our 2014/15 donors your support helped close the achievement gap!

- The Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Chatham-Kent United Way
- Chatham-Kent Municipality Lambton Kent District School Boards
- St. Clair Catholic District School Board
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- St. Clair Catholic District School Board.





**If you wish to
implement or
support this
program at your
local school please
contact the YMCA.**

Questions? Contact us!

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