



Manshops

“What does it mean to be a man in 2010?”

A series of guest speakers from our school community that talk openly about how they became the people they are, and what it means to be a man in today's world.

All are welcome (males and females) – but this is part of a class

Starting Wednesday, December 1st
4th and/or 5th Period, Room 226 (check the sign on the door)

Recently the Globe and Mail ran a series entitled “Failing Boys”:

Some interesting points for discussion:

- In Ontario, just 27 per cent of teachers are male, down from 31 per cent a decade ago.
- Last year, more than two million prescriptions for Ritalin and other ADHD drugs were written specifically for children under 17, and at least 75 per cent of them were for young males. For school children across the country – most of them boys – taking a drug for attention deficit disorder each morning has become as commonplace as downing a vitamin. But the daily ritual has been quietly growing in Canada, year after year – a trend that's dwarfing rates in other countries and raising disturbing questions about the forces driving it. Has boyhood become a “disorder.”?
- More than a quarter of Canadian families live in a lone-parent home and the vast majority of the time – about 80 per cent – that parent is female. The result is a lot of lost boys with a lack of role models and a lot of questions. Hip-hop artists, rap stars, pornography and professional athletes have stepped into the place where fathers and male teachers once stood.
- There has been a trend to feminize education (sit quietly and do your work) – is this true?
- Why are boys not only failing, but completely disengaged from society?
- What does a healthy relationship look like?

Our discussions will be informal, allowing students to ask questions if/when they arise. Generally, guests will outline their own experiences growing up, including times that have defined them as a person. Certain speakers will have specific topics that they would like to address. Seminars can run from 15-60 minutes in length.