



May 26, 2007

École Émilie-Tremblay Jackrabbits Club

Annual Report for Cross-Country Yukon – 2006-2007 Season

We had another great year at Émilie-Tremblay as we expanded our program again to younger children. This past winter, we offered the Bunny-Rabbit, Jackrabbitt and Track-Attack programs as part of the classroom physical education program for all of our students from junior kindergarten through grade six. For students in grades two through six, Jackrabbits and Track Attack was one component of a year-long in-school program that included trail running and swimming. In total, we had approximately 105 students participating. We also had great support from parents, our administration and from our school board. Also, our students in grades 4, 5 and 6 participated in the Ski-school day and had a great time again this year. The teachers involved in the program were Nathalie Émond, Bernadette Roy, Caroline Roy, Nathalie Martel, Clémence Roy, Christine Marchand, Manon Aubert, and myself. We also had numerous parent volunteers (too many to mention here!).

The JK, Kindergarten and grade one program was completed with the help of CCY's program with Mary Waddell. The younger children skied on our school trails while the older children had regular visits to Mt. MacIntyre throughout the ski season (we skied twice a week, weather permitting). Students were able to acquaint themselves with the chalet, the wax-room and parts of the trail system.

By involving all students, we provide an opportunity for kids to learn (and enjoy) the sport who would otherwise never get the chance. We are also able to stream kids into the CCY teams and get parents out skiing with their kids on the weekends. We hope that many of these kids are discovering a sport that they will enjoy for the rest of their lives (the physical education curriculum for Yukon schools places a great emphasis on developing healthy habits in our students and cultivating an interest in life-long physical fitness). We believe that this is extremely important for the continued development of cross-country skiing and the continued growth of the WCCSC. We believe that **all** children in the Yukon should have the chance to learn to love skiing.

We continued to do our own grooming on our trails using the WCCSC equipment. We had a couple of new parents this year and this helped reduce the workload (there was a lot of snow to groom!). An ongoing issue for the school is snowmobiles and ATVs wrecking our grooming. Also, new housing developments around the school have greatly increased the number of walkers on the trails and it is difficult to have decent tracks for more than one or two days.

We continue to have extremely positive feedback from parents on the ski program and we will definitely continue next year: it is always noted as one of our strengths at our school in our parent surveys. Also, the Jackrabbitt program provides an excellent approach and structure for teaching our students up to grade 4 and we will continue offering it. We tested the Track-Attack program this year and reviews were mixed. The material is very attractive and the kids enjoyed the trading cards and the booklet, but it is quite expensive and many of the elements in the program do not apply to our school program (rollerskiing, for instance).

We would again like to thank CCY for their work and support for our club, in particular Paula Stoker for her assistance with Jackrabbits. We would also like to thank Mike Gladish and the WCCSC for their continued support for our trail grooming. We would also like to thank Mary Waddell for her work at our school over the past two years. We hope that CCY will be continuing this program!

I would also like to reiterate my offer to provide information or assistance for other schools interested in developing a similar program.

Marc Champagne
Coordinator
Émilie-Tremblay Jackrabbits