

EMPOWERING STUDENT VOICE THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

People for Education Conference

York University, Toronto

November 2, 2019

Kate Gatto, YPI National Program Director

Louis Paolillo, Assistant Curriculum Leader, Kipling Collegiate Institute (TDSB)

DRIVING QUESTION

How can we ensure students have a real voice in education policy and curriculum?

PROJECTS THAT IMPLEMENT STUDENT VOICE

HISTORY AWARENESS PROJECT

- **Grade 10 Course Culminating Project**

- Students are to select a minority group and create an awareness platform to educate others
- Students select one group (ex: African-Canadians) and write a report that traces their presence in Canada, their impact in Canadian history and also problems they have encountered.
- Students select a current issue facing their chosen group.
- Students select a media platform (letter to an MP, petition on [change.org](https://www.change.org), video announcement played at school, etc.) that they feel comfortable to educate students about the issue.

PROJECTS THAT IMPLEMENT STUDENT VOICE: ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP ASSIGNMENT

- Grade 10 Civics Course
 - Students brainstorm issues facing their community or school.
 - Students complete a neighbourhood or school survey regarding the issues.
 - Students create a petition to draw attention to the issue and collect signatures from members of the school community or the community at large.
 - Petitions are addressed to individuals that can effect change (school principal, trustee, building managers, etc.).

OUTCOME

- Letter to Minister of Education, MPP Stephen Lecce
- Toronto Star Article in June, 2019

Stephen Lecce
2220 King Rd
King City, ON
L7B 1L3

Dear Mr. Lecce,

We are "The Last Resort", students who attend Kipling Collegiate Institute, who are representing the embodiment of our school's voice. We are writing to you today to express our concerns regarding the cuts Premier Doug Ford is making on our education.

Premier Doug Ford, has made budget cuts on health, education, technology, research, culture and tourism. However, we are focusing on the cuts Premier Ford has made on our education. The proposed changes for education include larger class sizes in schools. This will result in limited support for students, and the cancellation of many elective courses. This also results in the removal of thousands of teaching jobs.

Kipling Collegiate Institute is one of the many schools across Toronto impacted as a result of these cuts being made on education. About a quarter of the teachers at Kipling Collegiate are being moved to different schools. This is a significant loss of teachers at our school, as these teachers hold sentimental value in the hearts of our staff and students. Not only this, but these staff members have made enormous contributions to our school and ultimately have provided students with unlimited assistance and support in and outside of our school.

Kipling Collegiate Institute is also a school that has a lot of ESL students. These are new students arriving from other countries with gaps in their education, and those who are also financially unstable. These students need all the support Kipling Collegiate can offer them, however the support they require and deserve is ultimately being cut short and limited, because a quarter of the teaching staff have been bumped or surplused from their teaching positions..

The teachers bumped from Kipling are not just individuals who work at our school. They are people who have taken time out of their own busy schedules to provide us with extra-curricular programs for us to enjoy, as well as, extra support to help us improve our academic performance. Some of these staff have been with Kipling Collegiate for years, and within that period of time they have done a lot to support students and overall make Kipling Collegiate Institute what it is today.

Ronald Dubuc is one of the teachers leaving our school, he plays a major role in the mechanical and technical programs at Kipling Collegiate Institute. Students and staff say the technology department at our school hinges on Mr Dubuc. He runs multiple extra-curricular programs. For example, he runs Yearbook Club, a club dedicated to taking memorable moments of the school year, and compiling them into a book that can be purchased by other students. He also assists other teachers in their programs. For example, he helps Ms. Mildebrath and Ms. Panavas run "K-TECH", a technology program at Kipling that involves students managing the stage equipment in the auditorium. Without Mr. Dubuc, these programs will not be the same.

Some of these staff also ran sport teams at our school. For example, Ms. Kondakciu helps run Track and Field, a club which fosters athletic excellence in runners, sprinters, jumpers and athletes. Athletic clubs such as these give students the perfect opportunities to build on their teamwork and collaboration skills, as well as improve on existing sports-related skills. Some of these skills are crucial to possess in a workplace environment. With these teachers leaving, the clubs they ran will also be cancelled robbing students of an opportunity to build on and hone these skills.

Kipling has been gradually growing and improving over the last few years. The library has been newly renovated, a new robotics room is in the final process of completion, and our school cafeteria is almost finished being renovated. These are a few of the many changes coming to our school. However, Kipling is still a small school with only around 40 teachers and staff. The fact that nine of these staff are bumped out is a major step back for Kipling. Students have built strong and lasting relationships with the teaching staff at our school. Their loss is devastating for our school because with their loss, we lose teachers who could have taught new courses, and new extra-curricular programs. These are staff that could also have been references and connections to the world of employment.

We have already contacted a reporter from the Toronto Star, and one of our peers, Zaki U. Haq, was the product of an article published in the Toronto Star. The article, *Students Brace For Big Losses As Boards Prepare To Slash Budgets*, written by Isabel Teotonio, one of the Toronto Star's education reporters. We would like to see efforts in place to keep our teachers in their respective schools.

Thank you, we look forward to hearing back from you, and we can be contacted by this email: joshiah.clifford-george@student.tdsb.on.ca.

Sincerely,

The Last Resort.



The Star Edition
CHANGE LOCATION

THE STAR

LOCAL CANADA POLITICS WORLD OPINION LIFE SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS STAR INVESTIGATIONS

STAR

Students brace for big losses as boards prepare to slash budgets

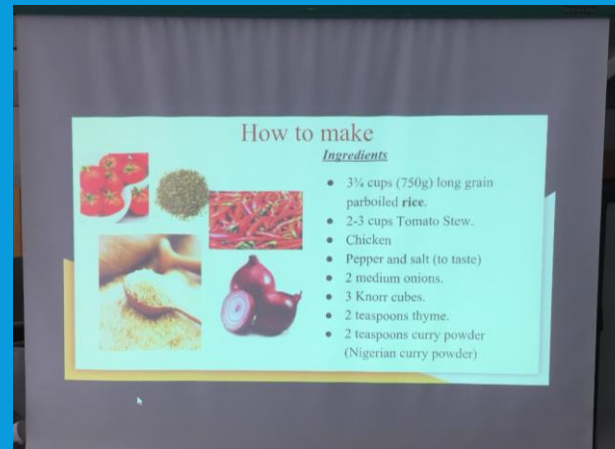
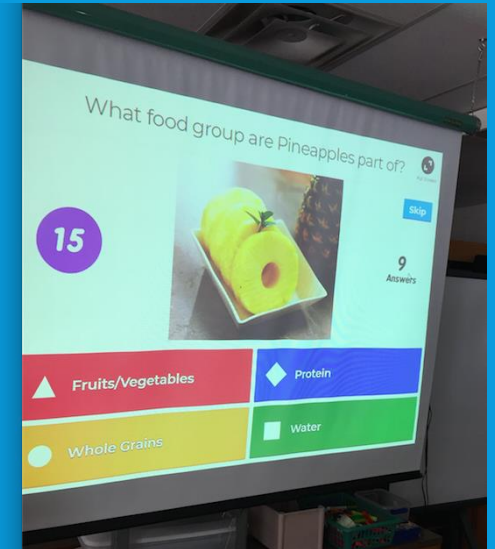


By Isabel Teotonio Education Reporter
Tues., June 18, 2019 | 6 min. read



PROJECTS THAT IMPLEMENT STUDENT VOICE: A CELEBRATION OF FOOD WORKSHOP

- Held in February during African, Black, Caribbean Heritage Month.
- Students put together a healthy eating workshop for Grades 9-12.
- Students partnered with Toronto Public Health to train in food safety.
- Students selected recipes from West and East Africa as well as the Caribbean, put together a healthy eating power-point and Kahoot! that engaged students.
- Students cooked healthy snack samples for students attending the workshop to try.



PROJECTS THAT IMPLEMENT STUDENT VOICE: THE YOUTH PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE



INTRODUCTION TO YPI

YPI PROCESS



Form Teams

In teams, students identify and research social issues affecting their community.



Research

Teams research and analyze local charities working to address the social issues they've identified.

YPI PROCESS



Choose a Charity

Teams select and further research the charity they believe best addresses their chosen issue.



Contact and Visit

Teams contact and visit one charity, gaining a more detailed understanding of what they do and how they operate.

YPI PROCESS



Presentations

Teams prepare and deliver a presentation on their chosen charity and issue, and the impact \$5000 would have.



YPI Final Presentation Assembly

Finalists go on to present again before their school, guests and a panel of judges. The team with the most compelling presentation is awarded a \$5000 grant to direct to their charity.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Full grade participates*
- Designated YPI Lead Teacher
- Experiential learning: Students visit charities
- Charities for YPI are local, registered, social service org's
- School hosts a YPI Final with majority-youth panel of judges

THE BIG PICTURE

- This year, over 120 schools across 7 Canadian provinces are participating
- More than 20,000 students will learn about their communities and advocate for charities
- Over \$600,000 in grants will be awarded to local social service charities across the country
- Since 2002, YPI has spread to 4 countries, granted \$19M, with 550,000 alumni

YPI'S OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

"Learning about local charities, hearing amazing stories, and learning some important lessons along the way really opened my eyes. This project especially helped with my time management, teamwork, communication and presentation skills, and organization."

- YPI Student, 2018





"Through this project I was exposed to many different causes and ways I myself could help out. This project made me want to go out search for volunteer opportunities, something I was never really motivated to do for school."

- YPI Student, 2018



"I learned that it's ok to have and show feelings as a man."

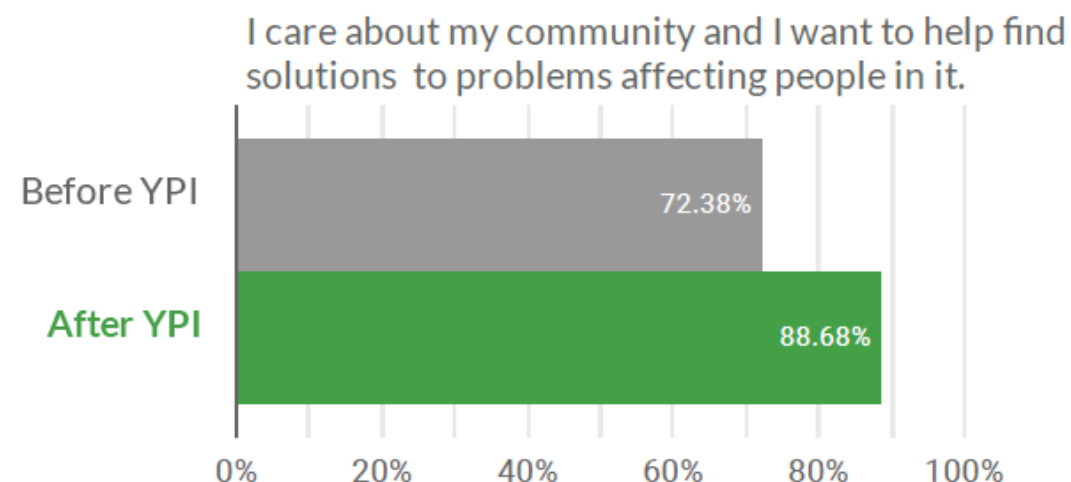
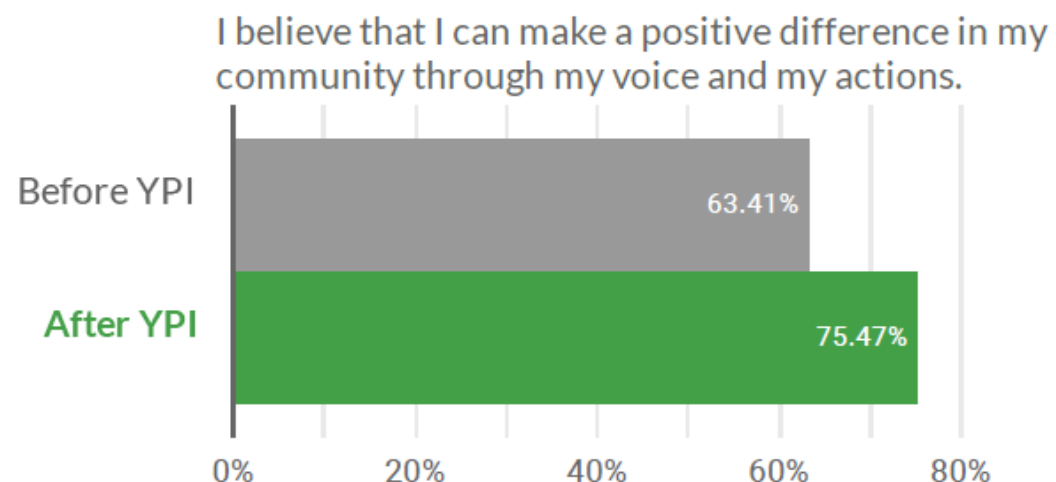
- YPI Student, 2018

"I learned about many social issues in the small of our city, and how easy it is to help them. I feel like a better person after YPI."

- YPI Student, 2018

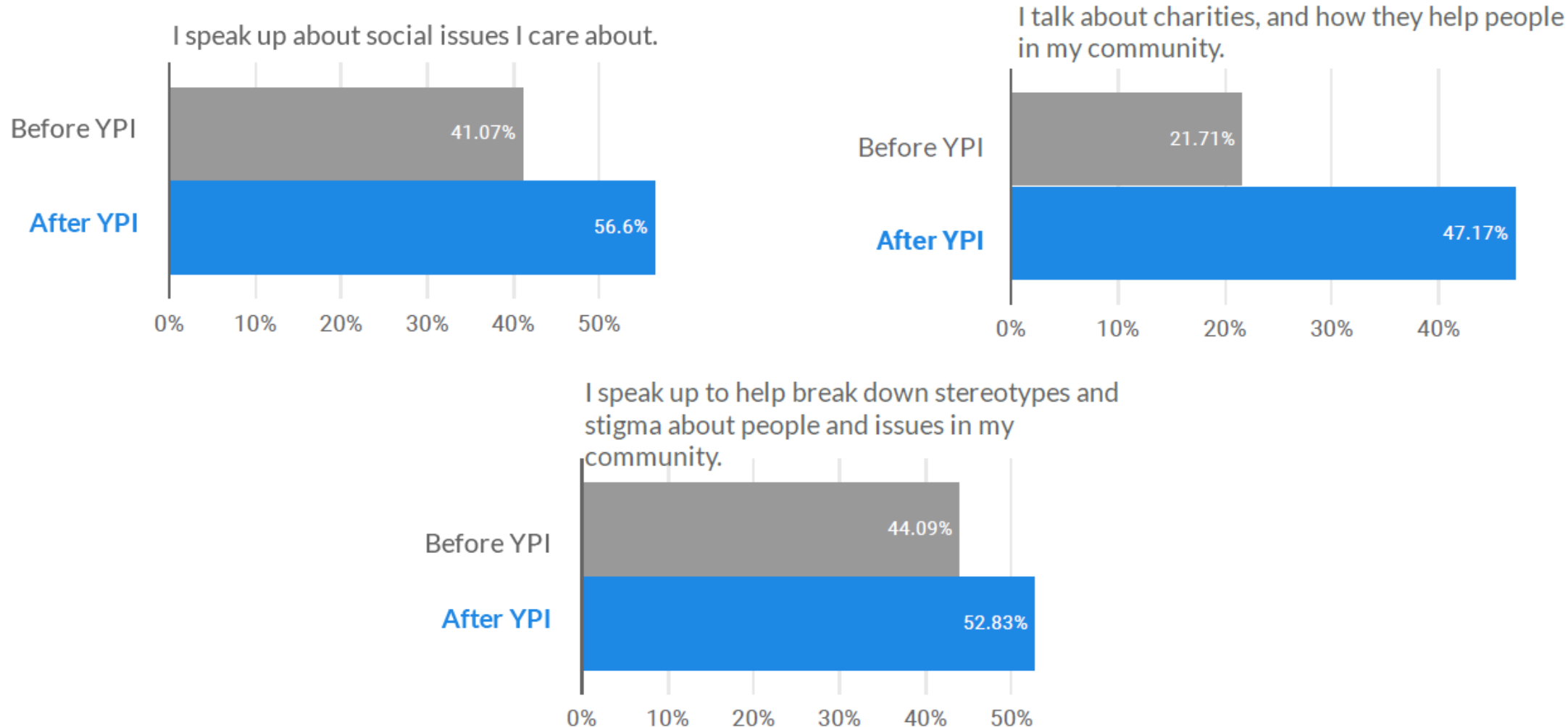
Emotional Outcomes

The following data relates to the social skills & behaviours that your students developed through YPI. Here we've reported the percentage of your students who agreed or strongly agreed with the following statements:



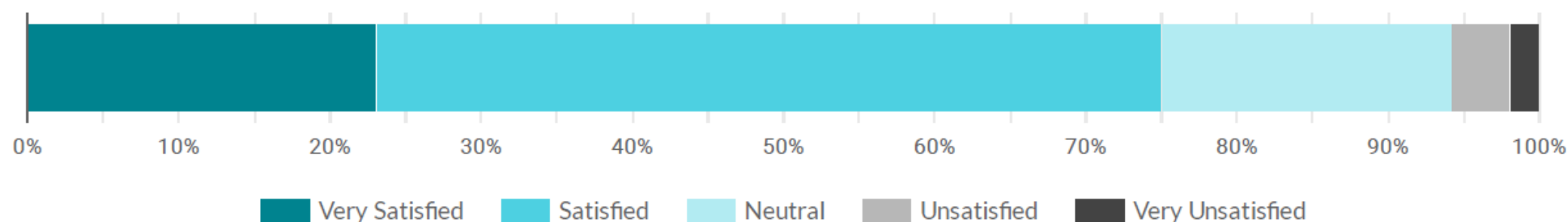
Social Outcomes

The following data relates to the pro-social attitudes and behaviours that your students developed through YPI. Here we've reported the percentage of your students who agreed or strongly agreed with the following statements:



YPI Overall

This is how your students rated their overall satisfaction with the YPI experience.



THANK YOU!

Kate Gatto | kate@goypi.org | [@kategattog](https://twitter.com/kategattog)

YPI Canada | www.goypi.org | [@YPI_cares](https://twitter.com/YPI_cares)

Louis Paolillo | louis.paolillo@tdsb.on.ca | [@LouisMPaolillo](https://twitter.com/LouisMPaolillo)