



## Community Activity Info For Facilitators 2019-20

Developed in partnership with McGill University's BRANCHES Program, the Lester B. Pearson and New Frontiers School boards and the Kahanawa:ke Education Center. [Homework Zone](#) is a school-based mentoring & tutoring program for schoolchildren in grades 4-6 and 9-11. McGill student volunteers are paired with youth or work in small groups (high school) to support positive socio-emotional and intellectual development while helping McGill students forge deeper connections with the wider Montreal community.

### STRUCTURE OF THE HZ PROGRAM

We work in seven schools: ELEMENTARY: Verdun Elementary (Tuesdays 2:30-4), Karonhianonhnha Tsi Elementary (Wednesdays 3:30-5), Riverview Elementary (Wednesdays 2:30-4), St-Willibrord Elementary (Thursdays 3:30-5) and Lasalle Senior Elementary (Thursdays 3:30 to 5pm). HIGH SCHOOLS: Kahnawa:ke Survival School (Tuesdays 3:30-5), H.S. Billings High School (Wednesdays 2:30-4).

Mentors and mentees spend 45 minutes on school work help, and then 45 minutes of free playtime or participating in HZ Community Workshops.

### PURPOSE OF THE HZ COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Community members contribute to the goals of Homework Zone by offering 40 minute workshops & activities that introduce vocations, crafts, skills and ideas to children while also sharing the story of the work they do and why they do it. In this way, the school becomes an environment where once a week, children engage with their community in all its diversity, and through dialogue, play and storytelling, connect education to curiosity, creativity and possibility.

We encourage you to engage with participants on a playful, interactive and inquisitive level. The goal of the activity is not primarily for participants to complete the activity, but to use it as a catalyst for play and dialogue about new ways to see the the world of work, vocation, art, expression and being a 'grown-up'. The on-site HZ Coordinator will provide the logistic support and encourage participation.

### ACTIVITY DATES/TIMES FOR 2019-20

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MqgLfG0ZaSXyrPWxjxjQDFxWLcbySqu/view?usp=sharing>

## ACTIVITY PARTICIPANTS

Activities should be designed to engage both the children and their mentors. Homework Zone kids are in grades 2 to 6, and can number from 10-20 at each school. However, as activities are optional activities, the number of participants fluctuate from school to school. Facilitators can also specify whether they prefer working with a particular age-group.

## THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN DESIGNING YOUR ACTIVITIES

**Come prepared with the materials you will need:** The organizers will pay you back for materials-related expenses, as long as you provide in advance a list of the materials you will need and their estimated cost, and give the Coordinator your receipt after the activity. Remember that children will be using these materials, but will have the help of their mentors.

Let us know **what kind of space you will need** to hold your activity, although in general activities take place in either the library or gym, depending on your needs.

**Ensure that activities are as participatory and interactive as possible:** Have fun with the kids, and offer opportunities for the children and mentors to work together. Give them space to ask you questions.

**Know your audience:** use child-friendly language, and don't expect to present anything for more than a few minutes.

**Take your time.** No need to rush through any of this, especially since there is no pressure to finish the activity.

**Be open to change!** Your activity plans may change in the moment depending on where the kids take it and we believe in creating a safe space for that, especially after the homework help portion. The HZ Coordinators are there to make sure that the time we have together is treated respectfully, so things should not get too out of hand!

## COMPENSATION FOR FACILITATORS

BRANCHES will pay \$60 per activity day and will reimburse costs for materials upon presentation of a receipt. We can also offer public transit tickets.

## TO PROPOSE AN ACTIVITY

Contact Anurag Dhir: [anurag.dhir@mcgill.ca](mailto:anurag.dhir@mcgill.ca) or 514-398-3745