

### **Community building activities**

#### *Why and when do we need them?*

Every teacher knows that each school year is different; each class has its own unique chemistry, rhythm, history. Each year of teaching carries its own successes and failures. And, it's to be hoped, each year the teacher also gains a little more insight into the mysterious art and difficult craft of teaching.  
(Greeley xiii)

- behaviour problems in the classroom
- heterogeneous classes
- lack of communication between teacher and students
- mixed ability classes
- uncommunicative students
- students from bad socio-economical environment

#### *What do these activities build?*

- knowing "myself"
- knowing others
- leadership x partnership
- empathy
- acceptance of others and their opinions

#### **References:**

Greeley, Kathy. *Why Fly That Way? – Linking Community and Academic Achievement*. New York: Teachers College Press, 2000.

Hadfield, Jill. *Classroom Dynamics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992.

Hanson, Elaine and Velma Corbett. "Classroom Climate." 30 Jan. 2001. The Adoptive Dimension. 17 Jul. 2007 < <http://www.saskschool.ca/curr/content/adapthandbook/envir/classrm.html> >

Practical examples of activities:

<http://wilderdom.com/games/TeamBuildingExercisesWebsites.html>

<http://www.freetch4teachers.com/2008/11/community-building-activities-from.html>

<http://www.teachmeteamwork.com/teachmeteamworkonline/teambuilding-games-archiv.html>