



**PARTICI-PATRICK**

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## What is Partici-Patrick 2014?

**Partici-Patrick** is an activity-focused education program that will help youth understand the importance of physical activity and making good choices while providing them with tools for character and self esteem development.

The initiative was propelled from **Patrick 4 Life**, an organization that is working toward creating awareness of AIDS while offering a positive twist on a serious condition. It was Patrick Fortin's wish that his legacy of hope for zero HIV/AIDS in the world continue through youth and education.

This project is a unique partnership between all area school boards (*French Public, French Catholic, English Public, English Catholic and the Nbisiing Secondary School*) and is endorsed by their respective Directors of Education. It clearly demonstrates their commitment to on-going communication, education and HIV/AIDS awareness.

Through a ten week in-school program, students use their daily physical activity time to work towards a 40K marathon. Students log their progress in their own Partici-Patrick scorecard as they work toward completing their marathon. In the classroom teachers facilitate discussions on virtues and values which correspond to those identified in the score card along with age-appropriate facts about HIV/AIDS. This leads to discussions regarding the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices.

On Monday June 9<sup>th</sup>, over 2,000 students (grades 3-8) from the four local school boards will head to the Steve Omischl Sports Field Complex in North Bay to run/walk the last 2.2K of their marathon together. On this "**Day of Champions**" Patrick 4 Life's **Youth 4 Youth** will lead various activities throughout the day and there will be a variety of entertainment from secondary schools and community partners. Schools outside the North Bay area are encouraged to run their own school/community based "Day of Champions".

One of the goals of Partici-Patrick '14 is to show students how powerful their voices can be and that together, they can make a difference.

This multifaceted program is a fun and unique way for students to become aware of the strengths they have within and how using these strengths, can help prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS.