



Students Helping Students

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ABSTRACT

Through drawings and written text created over several weeks, Manju Hawkins reflects on her ideas about leadership. She shares her preference for informal leadership situations characterized by students helping other students.



Fig. 1: Student Council

When I first thought about leadership and education, what came to mind was the idea of tutoring. I was thinking of drawing students helping each other and I was going to draw that. But then I thought, no, it would probably be best to draw something about Student Council, so I did. After I finished my first drawing I was encouraged to continue with my original idea, and I was happy about that.

Our Student Council in high school was pretty effective. Even grade seven students were represented on the council so it was not made up of only the older students. They did a pretty good job. They organized field trips to the Cabane à Sucre and Tremblant, and dances, and music at lunch hours and recess. They also got tutoring started so that teachers could help students in their breaks. I found Student Council too autocratic though. They had too much responsibility. I wanted to focus on my work and my friends and I found it interfered with those things. That is how most of us felt. In our class we did not care who represented the group. Whoever wanted to, could do it.



Fig. 2: Students helping students

When I think about leadership I like the idea of students helping students. It is more comfortable than working with teachers because when I work with students it feels like they may be on the same page as I am. This is more of my kind of leadership.



Manju Hawkins spent her first seven years in India before attending Vanguard Elementary and High School in Montreal. She has always enjoyed drawing and has a number of other interests that include singing, dancing and swimming. In the fall she will be attending The Gordon Robertson Career Center to study hairdressing.