



Chalk Talk

Greetings

Feature

News

Up-date

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers:

For a child living in Ethiopia, meeting an Olympic athlete must be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The girl in this photo holding a picture of speed skater, Clara Hughes, is one of the children that the Canadian Olympian met on her visit to Ethiopia last year on behalf of the humanitarian organization, Right To Play. One can only imagine the excitement the child felt in meeting this bigger than life figure.



I know how exciting it can be because I had the opportunity to meet Clara upon her return from that trip, at a baseball game where she and fellow Olympian, Beckie Scott, threw out the first ball. As exhausted as she was from the long flight, Clara spoke with great excitement about her visit. 2006 had been particularly eventful for Clara beginning with the Turin Olympics, and just months later, finding herself in Addis Ababa.

Clara is, of course, a person who is used to hard work, having dedicated years of her life to training to compete alongside the world's best. When asked about her gruelling training schedule, she waved it off saying that in comparison to what she had witnessed the children in Ethiopia having to endure, she merely "skated around and around". It was clear that the experience had been life changing for Clara. It's common for kids to idolize sports figures, especially Olympic gold medalists, but the courage and hope demonstrated by these heroic young people had won Clara's admiration.

This week's issue contains information about **Right To Play** and how educators can order their Canadian school program. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit our website at 4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

[Let us know what you think.](http://4edu.ca)

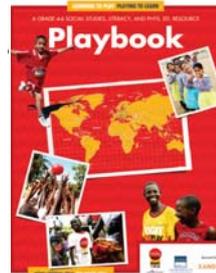
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Mary Kovack

Right To Play — Changing the lives of kids around the world through the power of PLAY!

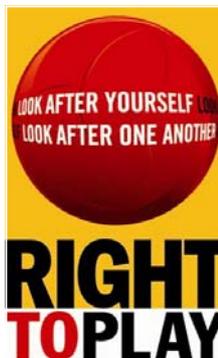
Right To Play is a Canada-based athlete-driven humanitarian organization committed to improving the lives of children in the most disadvantaged areas of the world through the power of sport. By providing children with the opportunity and tools to engage in regular sport and play, Right To Play enhances their physical and social development and helps foster safer and stronger communities in 23 countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Guided by the philosophy — **Look After Yourself, Look After One Another** — **Right To Play** offers elementary teachers (grades 4-6) a free, curriculum-based teacher's kit packed with ideas for creative play and activities featuring an exploration of the lives of children around the world, the countries they live in and a study of our rights and responsibilities in the world community.



Created in partnership with Silken Laumann's Active Kids Movement, **Right To Play's** Canadian school program — **Learning To Play, Playing To Learn** — promotes educational play and awareness of global issues among Canada's schoolchildren. Now available in French, close to 4,000 **Playbook** kits are now being used in classrooms across the country.

To order a kit, [click here.](#)



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Right To Play's Learning To Play, Playing To Learn teacher's kit is now available in FRENCH. Call 1-877-808-PLAY(7529) for details.

Excerpt from *The True Meaning of Hope and Courage*

“Though excited about the trip, I couldn’t help but feel a sense of anxiety and fear creeping into my consciousness. Why would I feel a sense of fear when talking about children? Because I knew these young people would hold life experience beyond the realm of my imagination. The state of poverty, disability and stigma these kids face in their daily lives were all foreign to my privileged existence in the western world. Ethiopia’s capital city of Addis Ababa is home to over four million people. The impact of seeing such rampant poverty was so strong for me. It felt like being hit by a truck. I couldn’t help but ask myself over and over, how can we have so much, and millions have so little?”



Clara Hughes plays the Over Under Game

What stands out the most is the opportunities that Right To Play’s sport and play programs give to the children. It was clear that without Right To Play, the disadvantaged and disabled children we visited would not have the same opportunities to evolve, change, gain confidence, experience a sense of security and belonging. I saw it again and again with all of the kids that we worked with.

For me, what shone the brightest was their courage. That’s the incredible thing. The children and coaches we met were not thinking about what they don’t have and what they cannot do - they just made it work. Seeing this, I wish and hope that Canadians at home can see it too and be as inspired as I am inspired by their beauty and courage. We have a lot to learn from them. This is humanity and we are a part of it. I wish everyone could see and experience this. I want everyone to understand the urgency and importance of the mission of Right To Play: to create a healthier and safer world for children through the power of sport and play. This is far more important than any gold medal - even an Olympic gold medal.”

— **Clara Hughes in her own words.** [To view the CBC web-feature documentary chronicling Clara’s visit to Ethiopia on behalf of Right To Play in May, 2006, [click here.](#)]

UPDATE — Right To Play Athlete Ambassadors

Founded by four-time Olympic Gold Medallist, [Johann Olav Koss](#), **Right To Play** is supported by nearly 300 Athlete Ambassadors world-wide who recognize the value of sport and play and the

benefits they bring to children. Star athletes are the heroes of children as well as entire nations. They serve as inspirational role models for children across the world and can educate governments and members of the public on the humanitarian potential of sport to promote health, development and peace.

Many Right To Play Athlete Ambassadors have visited Right To Play project locations in order to experience the impact of Right To Play's work first-hand. Last May, Canadian Olympic gold medalists Clara Hughes and Beckie Scott were among a group of international Athlete Ambassadors who visited Right To Play projects in Ethiopia. Rowers Silken Laumann and Marnie McBean, skier Steve Podborski and speed skater Catriona Le May Doan have also travelled to Africa to see Right To Play's programs at work.



Right To Play Athlete Ambassador Beckie Scott plays with children Ethiopia in May 2006 during a visit to Right To Play projects.



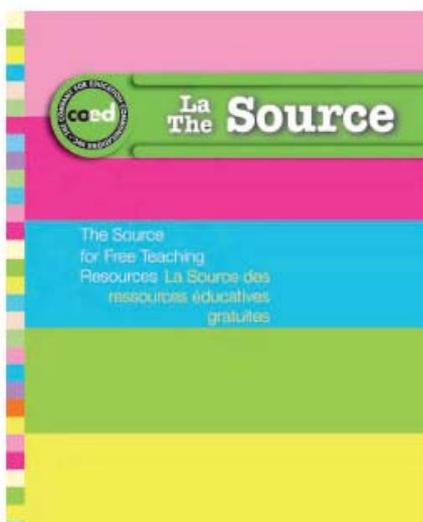
Olympic Moguls Champion, Jennifer Heil

In May of 2007, another group of Canadian Right To Play Athlete Ambassadors will be travelling to Rwanda to witness Right To Play's work on the ground. Athletes on the trip include hockey star Hayley Wickenheiser, Olympic moguls champion Jennifer Heil, and Olympic speed skating silver medalists Kristina Groves and Arne Dankers. Several Right To Play Athlete Ambassadors from the National Hockey League will also be visiting Right To Play projects in Tanzania in early July.

Now Available —THE SOURCE FOR FREE TEACHING RESOURCES

Free copies of the February, 2007 issue of **The Source for Free Teaching Resources** are currently being distributed to schools across Canada. This semi-annual, bilingual, printed reference guide to free, quality, curriculum-based resources for Canadian educators is produced by CoEd Communications, the same people who bring you **Chalk Talk** every week. We hope that this handy guide will make it easier for busy and dedicated educators to identify and order free supplemental classroom resources to assist in the preparation of lesson plans.

A limited number of extra printed copies of **The Source** are now available to **Chalk Talk** subscribers. To order your own copy and to receive future issues,





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Education News

[Museum of grim reminders](#) -- Craig and Marc Kielburger, **Global Voices**, TheStar.com, January 25, 2007

"It's essential we in Canada also strive to recognize the struggle for human rights. That's why we were excited to hear about plans for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, to be built in Winnipeg. Conceptualized by the late media magnate Israel "Izzy" Asper and slated to open in 2010, the museum will be dedicated to enhancing and challenging our understanding of human rights ... Human rights are a fundamental part of humanity, and we must bring them to the fore of our society's consciousness. Achieving this goal first requires education. The museum will also operate as a unique centre for teaching, training and rallying those who work to advance our rights – peacekeepers, educators and student activists. Its programs will bring discussion about rights to youth across the country, helping to foster the next generation of human rights heroes."

[Courage for the cause – excerpt from "I've Got a Home in Glory Land". Karolyn Smardz Frost's remarkable tale of the Underground Railroad, to be released Feb. 22](#) -- *TheStar.com*, February 12, 2007

"The story so far: Lucie and Thornton Blackburn, a black couple in Kentucky, escaped slavery in 1831, after Lucie's owner decided to sell her "down the river." Captured in Michigan, they were rescued amid Detroit's first racial uprising and spirited across the river. The Blackburns settled in Toronto, where they began the city's first cab company and began helping others in the growing black community. Despite (racial incidents), blacks living in Canada were most appreciative of the freedoms they did enjoy. The most important annual holiday was Aug. 1, Emancipation Day, when black Canada celebrated the release of the West Indian slaves from bondage in 1834."

[Bean-counting boy finds Science Centre mistake; Math whiz, 8, first to discover jelly bean exhibit doesn't add up](#) – Bill Taylor, Feature Writer, *TheStar.com*, February 09, 2007

"Parker Garrison is just 8 years old but he's enough of a math whiz to know when something doesn't add up. And he found that a pyramid of jelly beans, part of a travelling exhibit developed by the Ontario Science Centre, had a very shaky foundation. Until Parker announced that the formula given for calculating the number of beans was wrong, the Candy Unwrapped show had visited eight U.S. cities in four years without anyone spotting the error. No one caught it in Toronto either."

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