



Chalk Talk

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PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers:

"I played with the best, I played against the best — it was a blast. It really truly was."

With these words, Eric Lindros announced his retirement earlier today. I was struck by the tearful good-bye, not uncommon when a professional athlete makes this difficult decision. He tried to smile but somehow the feelings got the better of *The Big 'E'*. And those of us who have watched the stellar climb and premature decline of his career share in the emotion.

For Lindros, who often played hockey as well as anyone ever has, the 'game' is over ... no more practices, no more power



plays, no more trophies, no more contract negotiations, no more controversy. All that remains of 'Number 88' are the statistics and the memories; a legacy that will be discussed and dissected by the talking heads of the sports world who will argue about whether the imposing centre's concussion-riddled career prevented him from achieving his true potential. Since he was a boy, playing hockey had defined and determined the course of his life. During the press conference, the 34 year old Lindros expressed a couple of regrets but was at peace with his decision to leave hockey's competitive arena. As a parting shot, he donated five million dollars to the London hospital that had treated his injuries over the years.

This week's issue contains a classroom resource that promotes sport and play for all children as well as information on how students can take part in a special fundraising event organized in conjunction with Canada's NHL teams. 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.](#)

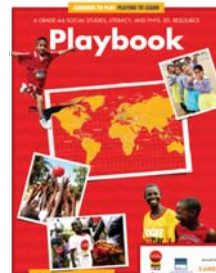
Mary Kovack

Look After Yourself, Look After One Another

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.

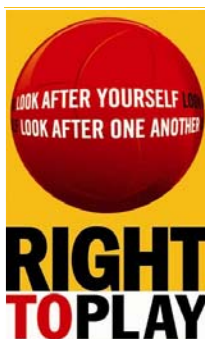
Right To Play offers elementary teachers — grades 4-6 — a free, curriculum-based teachers' kit packed with ideas for creative play and activities featuring an exploration of the lives of children around the world, the countries they live in and a study of our rights and responsibilities in the world 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. **Available in English and French**, well over 5,000 **Playbook** kits are now being used in classrooms across the country.



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

NEW! **Right To Play** invites educators currently using the **Learning To Play, Playing To Learn Canadian school program** to its new **web links page** designed to enhance and supplement the material already contained within its fun and informative, curriculum-based educational resource. Go to righttoplay.com.



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This winter, **Right To Play** celebrates its signature national fundraising and awareness event — the second annual **Harris Steel Right To Play Skate** — in partnership with Canadian NHL teams. With funds to be raised through participation, pledges, and sponsorship, Canadians of all ages are invited to help bring the power of sport to more children. Proceeds will support local children’s charities and Right To Play’s Sport For Development programming in the most disadvantaged areas of the world. **Join Right To Play Athlete Ambassadors, hockey heroes and other local celebrities for a fun day of skating in support of a child’s right to play.** The **Harris Steel Right To Play Skate** will be held in Calgary (November 11/07), Montreal (November 25/07), Toronto (December 9/07), Mississauga (January 19/08), and Vancouver (February 17/08). For complete details and to register for the **Skate** event nearest you, click on the Hockey Club Team logo and city below. [Please note that advance registration is highly recommended as skating capacity is limited!] **When Children Play, The World Wins!** To read more about this event and the exciting work done by Right To Play, [click here](#).

[Source: Right To Play Canada online]



Vancouver



Calgary



Toronto



Montreal

Right To Play introduces 'Make Your Goals Count' — an opportunity for school athletes and minor sports teams

SUPPORT A CHILD'S RIGHT TO PLAY

Right To Play's newest initiative — **Make Your Goals Count** — encourages Canadian students and athletes of all ages to bring the joy of sport and play to children around the world who need it most.

Make Your Goals Count empowers Canadian athletes to have an impact on more than just the scoreboard. By collecting pledges in support of their on-field or on-ice successes, athletes will allow children on the other side of the world to share in their celebrations while raising awareness of the power of sport as a force for positive social and individual change.

Here's how it works for schools: First student athletes are educated on Right To Play and its work. Then they are encouraged to collect pledges from family, friends and the community for every goal their team – or a particular individual player -- scores during the season. For example, one hockey player's parents might pledge \$5 for every goal their son or daughter (or team) scores during the season. At the end of the season, the players are asked to collect their pledges and combine them with any personal donations from team members. All funds will be used to support Right To Play's *Sport for Development and Peace* programs in 23 countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.



Teams that don't score goals (eg. swim team, track team) can track their laps in a daily log and ask for pledges for their laps. A total distance goal can be set for the team to "Swim/Run Across Canada." This is a great way to promote teamwork while supporting every child's right to play.

Make Your Goals Count has already been taken up by Toronto Blue Jays catcher and Right To Play Athlete Ambassador Gregg Zaun, who donated \$25,000 to Right To Play based on runners thrown out in the 2007 season. Now it's your turn. No contribution is too small, as the need and potential impact are so great. Join the four Toronto schools



too small, as the need and potential impact are so great. Join the four Toronto schools that have already signed up — Crescent School, Greenwood College, Upper Canada College and the University of Toronto!

Make Your Goals Count fundraising is easy through Right To Play's on-line pledge software mechanism. Schools, individuals, minor sports teams and other sport organizations can get involved by visiting www.righttoplay.com/goals, or by contacting Right To Play at 416-203-0190, x. 252.

News & Related Links

[Johann Koss: Making Miracles One Ball At A Time](#) —John Budris, Hall of Fame Magazine[HOFMAG.com] Exclusive, Autumn, 2007

In a sporting universe fretted with greed, ego and money – all three in growing abundance – one demure star is a guiding light. Johann Olav Koss. That Johann Koss is not a household name today underscores the success of his own humility. Yet he is no less a sports, humanitarian and philanthropic giant, the perfect antidote to Michael Vick, Barry Bonds and much of the athletic world that clutters newspaper front pages. Distilling Johann Koss' athletic résumé is a golden litany. The four-time Olympic Gold Medalist in speed skating owned world headlines in 1994 when he won three gold medals at the Lillehammer Winter Games in the 1500, 5000 and 10,000-meter events. During his skating career, he broke 11 world records, took three World All-Round Championships, and won 23 World Cups and numerous National Championships. Koss first became engaged with Right To Play – formerly known as Olympic Aid – in 1993, when as a volunteer he visited the African country of Eritrea. In the aftermath of a long and bloody civil war, Koss observed kids kicking cans, rolled-up clothing and pieces of wood as substitutes for balls. "Yet even in such poverty, danger and seeming hopelessness, there you see the purest joy of play," says Koss. That was Koss' eureka moment. Shortly thereafter at the Lillehammer Olympics in 1994, he donated his prize money from his victories to Olympic Aid and challenged other athletes to match his gesture. Olympic Aid ultimately raised some \$18 million. [To read the whole story, click here.](#)

[Class Project is Making a Global Impact](#) – News Release, April, 2007, **Right To Play** online

Université de Moncton's Physical Education and Sport and Leisure Management students recently hosted an Ultimate Frisbee tournament to raise funds for Home-made Right To Play Trophy. This year, Professor Roger LeBlanc challenged his students to organize and host a fundraiser for Right To Play as a class project. The students took to the challenge with enthusiasm. Corinne Fournier, one of the student organizers of the event, said: "Not only was it a learning experience regarding coordinating press releases, securing corporate sponsorship, recruiting participants and collecting pledges but it turned out to be one of the most rewarding learning experiences I've had during my university degree."

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T 416.955.9526
F 416.955.0815

THE COMPANY FOR EDUCATION COMMUNICATIONS INC.

66 George St., 3rd floor • Toronto, ON, Canada, M5A 4K8 • www.coedcomm.com • info@coedcomm.com