

Award Winning Speaker Visits JJ Parr

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Standing in front of 24 youth, Melanie Hayden-Sparks brought her message of taking a positive leadership approach in your own life to the teens participating in the CF Connecting Youth Pizza Party last week.

"Your life is like a piece of clay," she says. "And you are the artist able to shape it into any masterpiece you like."

Hayden- Sparks was in Cold Lake promoting her Positive Zone approach to the business community but jumped at the chance to speak to youth. "My hobby is working with kids," she says. "They are the future and I like giving them the tools to excite, inspire and lead them on a fulfilling journey."

The Positive Attitude Zone is Hayden-Sparks life mantra and encompasses most everything she's learned throughout her life personally and professionally. She says it is about creating a set of rules for yourself, a standard of excellence for who you want to be. Then only allowing the people, activities, and things in your zone that are going to lead you to your goals. She related this message to the teens in reference to making good decisions about drugs and alcohol, education, and community involvement.

Over 20 years ago, Melanie Hayden-Sparks was a young mother looking for work after making some not so positive choices in her life. Foregoing a University education and getting married at eighteen, Melanie knew her options were limited and not very lucrative, nor challenging. After getting involved with an at home sales cosmetic company, Hayden-Sparks made some major changes to her life, and after five very successful years as a Distributor and independent Sales Director, she was offered executive Canadian and US positions with other leading North American direct selling corporations.

Business Woman Canada magazine featured Melanie on their front cover. She also led the way in being recognized for three of their achievement awards in 2003. "Birds of a feather flock together," she says. "They also fly in the same direction." Hayden Sparks hopes that the 4 Wing youth got her message about positive leadership.

Ksenia Collins attended the seminar and she says that she learned a lot. "Anyone can be a leader as long as you're honest, trustworthy, and willing to take responsibility for actions made by you and others," Collins says. "Anyone can make a difference, and as long as you're trying your hardest, no one can tell you that you're not good enough."

The teens of Cold Lake hope to make a difference. Melanie Hayden Sparks challenged them all to take a leadership role in their community before the end of the summer. Together the youth brainstormed various ways they would like to make a difference and put together a plan of how they could make positive impacts on the community.

Hayden Sparks was very impressed with the youth's enthusiasm and interest, she has invited them to help her create a website that will celebrate positive youth contributions and support teens who are making a difference. Youth who attended the workshop today were asked to sit on the Board of Directors of the youth run website and help the computer programmers with its development.

"I really enjoyed my time in Cold Lake," Hayden-Sparks says. "I think you are going to see really great things from this group of youth."



Melanie Hayden-Sparks stopped by JJ Parr July 19 to speak with teens participating in the CF Connecting Youth Pizza Party. Hayden-Sparks spoke to the teens about taking a positive leadership approach in their life. (Photo by Ryan Cane)