

City cashing in on reusable bottles in blue bins?

Calgarians may see a reduced recycling fee next year if revenues from the beverage empties they put in their blue bins exceed the city's expectations, says the mayor.

But at the same time, Mayor Dave Bronconnier and city officials are encouraging citizens not to put the refundable items in their bins following numerous reports of aggressive confrontation among bottle pickers rummaging through recycling carts.

Bronconnier said it's too early to tell whether the city will make revenue out of the bottles collected by the city, but officials will evaluate that a year from now.

"This is a program that's designed to encourage people to recycle, not to make extra money," he said yesterday after he delivered the last blue cart at a northeast residence.

At the end of April the city had collected \$3,500 from refundable items, said Dave Griffiths, the city's waste and recycling director.

— SUN MEDIA



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WORKOUT: Grade 4 student Kateri Oakley, from the Foundations for the Future Academy, takes part in an innovative research project that is hoping to discover whether the new generation of "exergames" can have a real impact on youth fitness.

Video games keep students moving

Elementary school students have turned into human joysticks as part of a five-year research initiative in Calgary to study the impact of exergaming — a combination of exercise and video gaming.

A new exergaming centre — equipped with flat screen TVs and the latest Wii equipment — is now set up in the gymnasium of Foundations for the Future Academy, located at 886 Sylvester Cres. S.W.

During gym classes, Grade 4 students have the chance to dance, hula hoop, walk a tightrope, and even snowboard by playing video games — something that used to be taboo inside schools.

"Exergaming is not a replacement for physical activity. It is an alternative for sedentary video gaming," said Mount Royal College's Dwayne Sheehan, one of the lead researchers.

Children develop the majority of their fundamental movement skills between the ages of six and 12, said Sheehan, which is why elementary school students are being targeted.

The centre is the first of its kind in Canada and is a collaborative initiative be-

tween the school, the college and the University of Calgary, funded through the Alberta Lottery Fund.

Cathy McCauley, principal of Foundations for the Future, said she's already seen kids becoming more interested in gym class, even kids who aren't very athletic.

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"I have seen kids become hooked; Phys. Ed. has become the subject," she said.

Grade 4 students Lauren Horne and Kateri Oakley said they look forward to coming to school these days.

"I think it's awesome; sometimes I forget I'm in class," said Oakley, adding gym has become her new favourite subject.

"I'm sad it's the end of the year now — I wish we could keep doing it."

— Jenna McMurray, 24 HOURS



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