

INNOVATIVE INKLINGS

Comox Valley School District Newsletter for Innovation

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Did you know?

For the IT upgrade this summer, the electricians pulled 200.3 kilometers of new wire and installed 5376 new plug-in jacks. Wow!

Three Interesting Links

[Inquiry-based Learning](#)—“Inquiry...requires more than simply answering questions or getting a right answer. It espouses investigation, exploration, search, quest, research, pursuit, and study. It is enhanced by involvement with a community of learners, each learning from the other in social interaction.”

“Too often we give children answers to remember rather than problems to solve.”

- Roger Lewin

[Creating a Culture of Inquiry](#)—Inquiry is powerful. It can create student ownership in the classroom by validating the passions and interests of our students. All of our schools are using inquiry in some way or another. This article looks at ways to create a positive culture of inquiry.

[10 Fun-Filled Formative Assessment Ideas](#)—Here are some fun ideas: some I've seen work well, others I'd be interested in seeing.

Education is Not The Learning of Facts

It's Rather The Training of The Mind To Think

Around the District

Innovative events and efforts from around our district

Inquiry Fair—A World of Wonder

This year our district will be hosting an Inquiry Fair designed to celebrate student inquiry and help our community understand what some of the potential of inquiry based learning is. Doug David, Debbie Nelson, and Carol Walters have put together a web-site to help introduce and extend [inquiry based learning](#). A committee has been working since last year, building on the success of similar fairs in the past, to create an opportunity for students from Kindergarten through Graduation to present their inquiry based learning. The fair will be held on the evening of Tuesday, April 19th and during the day on Wednesday, April 20th. For more information please contact [Andrew Ferneyhough](#) (committee chair).

Design For Change

Four years ago a group of nine teachers from across School District 71 began a professional partnership based on a shared concern for student engagement. They started with the challenge of how to empower learners with a greater sense of meaning and purpose in school. They wondered, if by setting aside time for inquiry, would this increase student engagement, better prepare students to be self-directed learners, and increase their personal and social responsibility? Early in their partnership, a teacher involved in the collaboration shared a link to the TED talk [Kiran Bir Sethi teaches kids to take charge](#) and encouraged the rest to view it. Kiran's words filled them with inspiration and the project grew from there.

The team embarked on an inquiry, encouraging their students to think deeply about real issues. They guided them with examples of young people being change makers in their own communities, both locally and globally, and then empowered their students to identify issues that they were concerned about, to imagine solutions, and to take action.

Now, through the work of this team, our district is connected to [Design for Change](#), the largest global movement designed to give children an opportunity to express their own ideas for a better world and put them into action. As part of a network of educators from 35 countries of the world, we create the conditions for our learners to be change makers following an inquiry design-thinking model of *Feel, Imagine, Do* and *Share*.

For more information you are invited to contact [Doug David](#), [Catherine Manson](#), or [Christine VanderRee](#).

Adaptive Schools

As we continue to strengthen our collaboration skills, inside and outside of our PLC teams, this fall we will be hosting an [Adaptive Schools Foundation Seminar](#) in our school district. Adaptive Schools is a research-based approach developed by [Thinking Collaborative](#) that supports professional collaboration and positively impacts student development and achievement. It is informed by research in the new sciences, integrated with change models, best educational practices, learning theory, and research on group and adult development. Participants will leave the seminar with a host of strategies and processes to support innovation and collaborative work. The four days, October 22, 23 and November 19 & 20, will be co-presented by John Clarke, from Calgary, and [Lucinda Wolters](#), Vice-Principal of [Arden Elementary](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact [Lucinda](#) if you want more information or if you have any questions.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please direct any suggestions, questions, or inquiries to me directly: Gerald.Fussell@sd71.bc.ca