



2012-2013 AESN Inquiry Case Study

School Name: Ecole Davis Road Elementary

District: #68 Nanaimo Ladysmith

Inquiry Team Members: Doug English, Janelle Mould,
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AEEA Goal Area: How can we enhance all students' and all adults' understanding of Aboriginal history, perspectives, people and the contemporary context?

Question/Focus: Will the introduction of an Aboriginal Value system lead to an increase in respectful communication and actions within our community of learners.

Scanning: Communication is being lost among members of our community of learners and we are noticing a decrease of communication skills overall. We would like to see more respectful, personal interactions between members of our community.

Focus: We will be focusing on strengthening our community of learners by using buddies, cross grade activities, community education programs (DARE, Artist in the School, Kids in the Know, FRIENDS), story sequences (Yetsa's Sweater), literacy/numeracy groups, Aboriginal Value voucher system.

Hunch: We feel that the members of our community of learners are struggling to interact in appropriate and respectful ways. We need to offer more opportunities to allow for appropriate networking among all members of our learning community.

New professional learning: Last June, we listened to an Elder at Cowichan Cultural Centre and learned about traditions and legends in our local area. We offered professional learning opportunities at a Pro-D meeting with Sylvia Olsen (to help us learn about Yetsa's Sweater). We also explored some traditional Values with our classes and our PLC (staff).

Taking action: We will be continuing to use school programs that are already in place (DARE, FRIENDS, Kids in the Know) to encourage appropriate interactions. We have also recently introduced a new value system based on traditional values we are studying in Yetsa's Sweater (we also had a school wide story sequence for all grade levels).

Checking: We hoped to see an increase in behaviors that reflect the values we are studying. This would involve more vouchers in our weekly/monthly value jar and fewer incidents leading to behavior interventions such as think sheets. We also hoped to see increased student willingness to volunteer and participate in school activities. These were all things that we did observe throughout the year.

Reflections/Advice: We learned that by reaching out to various community members, focusing on relationships and sharing our visions, we have been able to create a better atmosphere for collaboration. The community has been more supportive of the school and is making strong efforts to work alongside teachers to create ideal learning conditions for our students. We learned that when the community strongly supports the school and the schools visions, the students then come to school calm, respectful and willing to engage in learning.

EVERY learner crossing the stage with dignity, purpose and options.