

**NETWORK OF PERFORMANCE BASED SCHOOLS  
2011-2012**

**CARMI ELEMENTARY  
#67 Okanagan Skaha**

**Leadership Team**

Jandi Doyle, Kathryn Golbeck, Christie McRobb, Sharon Sola

Contact

Sharon Sola (ssola@summer.com)

**School Context/Community Involvement**

Carmi Elementary School provides education to approximately 160 students in Kindergarten through grade 5. As a school community, we value and pride ourselves on an inclusive approach to education, where all students are welcomed and appreciated for the various strengths and talents that they bring. Our school also houses a Strong Start Centre which serves as an excellent resource for parents and their preschool aged children.

Carmi Elementary School has a longstanding and proud history within the community, and has been serving the community for over 50 years.

**School Inquiry and Action**

**School Question**

If we identify specific students K – 5 who we are worried about, and we put specific strategies in place to connect with those students, what will be the affect on students’ sense of belonging?

**Strategies**

One of our classes has buddied up with a neighbouring senior extended care facility. We have hosted classes there one day per week and have seen great gains. The staff at the care facility have seen interesting results as well and are considering an inquiry project therein. We have honed in on some specific students in our building and have tried to ensure they have deeper connections with adults in the building. It is working. We plan to expand this approach and hope that there will be more examples of strategies that promote greater connectedness next year.

**School Findings**

Social Responsibility	NY	A	M	E
Fall 2011	8	18	6	4
Spring 2012	5	18	9	4

We believe that common language and school wide approaches in various settings result in greater chances for students to demonstrate growth in social responsibility. We are working on tightening the language we use with students relating to social responsibility.

**School Plans for 2012-2013**

We are planning to implement a deliberate buddy class framework that will allow for personalised learning projects completed at the community extended care facility where the adults serve as mentors and partners. We hope to host class there once per week with our K students and their 4/5 buddies

**Reflections, Advice**

Common language and approach throughout the school yields most promising results. Providing opportunities for students to be owners of their learning (personalised learning choices) helps increase student engagement. Community care facilities have so much value to offer.