



## 2013-2014 AESN Case Study

**School:** Wellington Secondary School    **District:** SD68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith

**Area of focus:** Transitions

**Inquiry Team Members:** Tom Mason, Lisa Frey, Lisa Peace, Tony Elliott

**Question:** Will helping all grade 7 students coming to Wellington help with transition through games, learning about how to have better social and academic success help grade 7 students be more successful in grade 8? Will having Aboriginal talking circles help increase self-esteem and sense of belonging?

**Scanning:** Many Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students have a hard time in grade 8 and experience challenges in their classes at Wellington. We hoped to give grade 7 students more ways to be successful through games. We feel as though many new grade 8 students struggle to get on track at the beginning of the school year.

**Focus:** Grade 7 students will learn how they can be successful through games and with older student's personal stories about how they had to work at their educational goals at school. Many older students want to help grade 7 students have a better experience in grade 8 at Wellington Secondary. We have talked to the Nanaimo Band members. Grade seven students learn how to personalize the information they are learning in games. Our goal is to keep grade 7 students curious about their learning and not feel bad about themselves in their new learning.

**Hunch:** When speaking to grade 8 students and grade 8 teachers about how students are doing, some students and teachers said it takes one semester for grade 8 students to get on track in their classes. Some grade 8 students are unprepared the first semester with the new social and academic stress of learning how to be a grade 8 learner. We gave the grade seven students the best information we could give them about being more successful in grade eight.

**New professional learning:** By having all grade 7 elementary school students connecting to themselves with an Aboriginal Talking Circle and learning to personalise the information they are learning without feeling any shame.

- Grade 7 students learning how to be more successful at Wellington from grade 8 to grade 12
- Having grade 7 students learning to use their best learning strategies and how to navigate Wellington successfully
- Students learning how to be a better friend

**Taking action:**

- Working with all elementary Schools, grade 7 teachers, formal leaders, Wellington Secondary's grade 8 planning committee, Wellington teachers and counsellors, the Nanaimo Band elder consultant and Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Center consultant