



2015-2016 NOII Case Study

School: Dorothy Peacock Elementary

District: #35 Langley

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Our focus for this year: This inquiry will bring about interest in Technology and how students can be active participants in development and communicating through digital applications.

Scanning: The four key questions were vital in stimulating the students' ideas and foundation for this use of technology in the classroom. The students were empowered by the questions and there was a form of ownership that occurred during this process.

The four questions were pivotal for the students. The one question that was extremely powerful was the idea of "Can you name TWO adults in this school who believe you will be a success in life?" This came at a time where the students had just come out of the Primary years and were entering into the Intermediate years of Grade 4, 5, 6 and 7. Many of the students talked about teachers and to me this was very powerful.

The First Peoples Principles of Learning has a foundation of relationships. Relationships are key and essential for the growth and nurturing of learning in the classroom – and in the school for that matter. The relationships built with the students this year through technology were empowering to them and to us.

Focus: We selected this area of focus because I knew that the students in my class are familiar with technology. Often many of them go home after school and spend hours playing video games. This is their outlet. I truly believe that if you can tap into students' strengths and let them know that they are valued that this is an important part of creating a healthy educational environment. I believe that my role as a teacher is to encourage, facilitate and empower students to love learning. I also believe that when technology is used effectively then there can be an empowerment that we often don't see. Using technology to say that what these students are doing on their free time can empower learning is a pretty amazing thing.

The changes we were hoping for my learners were to grasp an understanding that learning is all around us. That learning doesn't just happen in a classroom with worksheets, and that learning can flow from the classroom into the home in a smooth and easy manner. Many of my students, once we had created our Perimeter and Area house plans in Exploration (Minecraft-like app), would go home and build more. It was very cool to see how learning was transitioning to their free time, because they wanted to learn.

Hunch: Teachers at our school are proud of what we do to ignite learning in different ways. There is such a power that happens when teachers support teachers and help each other out.

My hunches about student learning and how an environment creates and nurtures learning resonated throughout this whole project.

New professional learning: We explored the idea of manipulating digital platforms and working with conceptual ideas. This exploration was a wonderful opportunity for students to demonstrate their creativity as well.

The resources that were most helpful this year was the supportive team. The empowerment and encouragement from them could not be measured because we worked as a team in my class. Also, Social Media and the connections with educators, formal leaders and researchers across the world helped with innovative ideas.

We specifically engaged in innovative designs and collaboration. The ability to collaborate with one another and work creativity is a great advantage because we can get different peoples' perspectives.

Taking action: We needed the resources to implement the plan, which were iPads and educational apps. These were provided in late fall and if it weren't for the budgeting, we would not have been able to support this project. Working with a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) mindset to empower kids was important as well. We all come to the table with different perspectives and there is much to be said about approaching a project with the same perspective. We became goal-oriented and thought of ourselves as a team.

Checking: We saw kids become engaged with their learning and then they would often branch out and share exciting new projects that they were making on their own time. We wanted them to see that technology can empower and enable the weakest of children into super heroes because they felt what they were doing was important.

Our baseline was the four key questions, and also the observations of seeing the children more self-satisfied with their learning. There was evidence of change when the students began to work more with each other because they would use words like "Teach me" or "How did you do that?". We saw learning in action through the questions they were asking.

Some of the students seem to have a deeper understanding of what this project meant. One particular student seemed disengaged for some of the activities, which is surprising because he was the one I originally thought would be someone who would be changed the most. Their richness can be seen by the questions they are asking now; how they empower other students and how some of them are feeling more connected with each other because they have used technology to encourage each other.

Reflections/Advice: I found this experience to be a wealth of knowledge, as well as encouraging and empowering. Tapping into students' strengths and focusing on what they enjoy, made this whole year enjoyable. For the future, I would like to tap more into students' relationships and how using applications in technology can better facilitate mindfulness and connection in the classroom.

It is important to take the time to seek out your own passions and tap into your strengths as a teacher. Anyone interested in doing a project next year, should first look at what they enjoy doing and then go from there.

Screenshots from the questions asked. There was also discussion with the students, but we did not record the anecdotal.

Student #1 Cady June 27, 2016

Mrs. MacPherson and Mrs. Amano

Mrs. MacPherson would help me with the stuff I struggle with. Mrs. Amano was nice to me.

Do well in life in education.

Technology because it will help me in future if I want to get a job in it.

Technology ~~help~~ ~~is~~ this will help me get ahead of people because I know more stuff.

Reading is an area that I need to practice to get better.

Student #2 Cassidy June 27, 2016

Mrs. Woelker and Mrs. Flynn

Struggling with technology
Mrs. Flynn did drawing

Get better at something you was struggling with.

One thing I learned was learning Division because it is important for the future.

Division will help me in Gr. 5 to help me with other skills.

Quick multiplication and division is something I need to continue to work on for the future.

Student #3 Alex June 27, 2016

Mrs. MacPherson + Mrs. Woelker

funny jokes and if I struggled she made it easier. The website stuff was great.

Practice makes perfect.

Learning about Empathy to help in life.

Empathy will help me make friends.

Division concept of 3 digit division is something I need to build on.