



Networks of Inquiry and Innovation Aboriginal Enhancement Schools Network

2016 - 2017 AESN / NOII Case Study

School Name: Dorothy Peacock Elementary School

School District: SD#35 Langley

Inquiry Team Members: Victoria Woelders (teacher) and Michael Morgan (Aboriginal District Principal)

Inquiry Team Contact Email: vwoelders@sd35.bc.ca

Type of inquiry: AESN

Grade levels: Intermediate (4 - 7)

Curricular area(s): Applied Design, Skills & Technology, Arts Education, Language Arts - Literacy, Language Arts - Oral Language, Language Arts - Reading, Language Arts - Writing, Physical & Health Education, Science, Social Studies

Focus area(s): Aboriginal understandings (for example, Traditional Knowledge, oral history, reconciliation), Community-based learning, Core competencies (for example, critical thinking, communication, problem solving), Differentiated instruction, Experiential learning, First Peoples Principles of Learning, Flexible learning, Formative assessment, Growth mindset, Inclusion and inclusive instructional strategies, Indigenous pedagogy, Inquiry-based learning, Land, Nature or Place-based learning, Social and emotional learning, STEM / STEAM

In one sentence, what was your focus for the year?

Developing awareness about our local environment through implementing the Aboriginal belief of the importance of valuing Nature.

Scanning: Briefly summarize your scanning process. How did you use the four key questions as part of the scanning process? What did you notice about the experiences of your learners that were most important to your team?

I reviewed and reflected on the questions. I noticed the students developed a greater understanding of the importance of critical thinking and self reflection. The important of respected nature was a key component for the last 10 months for me. The importance of sacredness and honouring the gift of nature.



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Focus: In a few sentences, explain why you selected this area. What changes were you hoping to obtain for your learners?

We are 8 minutes away from McClughan Park. This park has a salmon spawning creek called Yorkson creek. This is an amazing opportunity for our children to value the importance of our local environment.

Hunch: Describe your hunches about the ways in which practices at the school may have been contributing to the experiences of your learners that were of concern to you.

Practices at my school centre around Respect. This idea of Respect dove tails nicely into our belief of the respecting our local environment.

New professional learning: What new areas of professional learning did you explore? What resources were most helpful? What specific designs did you use to support the learning of your colleagues?

I explored Skype in the Classroom and connecting with different Aboriginal groups across North America and different National Parks and Museums. I found our Aboriginal Department very helpful and having Fern Gabriel come in to teach about Storytelling and the local Aboriginal language was very powerful. Discussion and empowering others to explore our local environment is important.

Taking action: Describe strategies you and your team decided on and how your actions worked out.

We walked regularly to the Ravine and this was important to continue the momentum of the program. We had the Resource Teacher and an SEA come and participate with us.

Checking: Summarize the differences you made. Were they enough? Were you satisfied?

The differences were the growth in advocacy among the children from becoming aware of the local environment to embracing continuing experiences to developing an deep understanding to advocacy. We now are working with the Township of Langley to develop interpretative panels for the bridge crossing the river. It is amazing! The students have developed a deeper connection, and my hope it will continue to grow.



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Reflections/Advice: Finish by sharing what you learned from this inquiry, where you plan to go next, and what advice you would offer other schools with a similar interest.

I plan to focus more on connections with sacredness/mindfulness, as well as develop a deeper Mathematical connection to the Ravine. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to grow and learn with my students!