



KOOTENAY LAKE UPD8

Volume 2, Issue 8

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WEDNESDAY MORNING MEMO

From the Desk of the Superintendent, Patricia Dooley . . .

Action Research: Focused Collaboration with a Commitment to Action

One of our district directions is "focused collaboration with a commitment to action" and action research is one of the most effective ways to address this direction. Action research typically involves a professional learning team in a school or across schools, who identify an area that they wish to inquire about. A question is typically identified to research over a period of time, with baseline data gathered, an intervention implemented and then a post-assessment determines the effectiveness of the intervention on a group of students. There is a growing body of international research that also highlights the adult learning that occurs when the action research focus in a school is coupled with some form of networking through which schools and districts learn from one another.



In British Columbia, one of the most effective networks is the **Network of Performance Based Schools**, which is the largest action research network in the world. The model used to guide the work of Network Schools has now been expanded to include an *Aboriginal Enhancement Schools Network* and a *Healthy Schools Network*, which involves a partnership with the Ministry of Health. In

School District #8, I am delighted to say that there is a strong commitment to action research with the following schools involved in provincial Networks:

Adam Robertson Elementary, Canyon/Lister Elementary, Erickson Elementary, Blewett Elementary, Brent Kennedy Elementary, J.V.H. Elementary-Secondary, L.V. Rogers Secondary, Mt. Sentinel Secondary, Redfish Elementary, Salmo Elementary, South Nelson Elementary, Trafalgar Middle, Winlaw Elementary, Yahk Elementary, and the Central Education Centre.

In addition, our school planning process has been revised to enable a school to identify an action research question to guide its work and the template and process being used in School District #8 to create *School Plans to Strengthen Learning* is attracting some provincial attention, with the approach now being used in some other districts.

Another action research initiative that will start this week is the **Literacy Innovation Project**, through which school teams focus on a group of vulnerable students. The project is in its 4th year and will be launched on Thursday, October 29, with networking sites in Creston and Nelson.

H1N1: District Update

*The district has had several confirmed cases of H1N1: Cases are reported to **Larry Brown** in order that we can monitor the impact on the district.*

*We have a district **Pandemic Plan**, which is posted on our website, and are in regular contact with provincial and local health officers to receive advice and directions on how to handle the situation.*

BCELC Webcasting Series: www.bcelc.ca

Assessment for Learning:

November 3, November 16, November 17 (3:30-5:30 pm)

Early Learning:

November 9, November 23 (3:30-5:30 pm)

Teacher Leadership:

November 12, November 26 (time: tba)

Sharing the Dream

October 30 (3:30-5:30 pm), November 5 (9:00 -10:00 am)