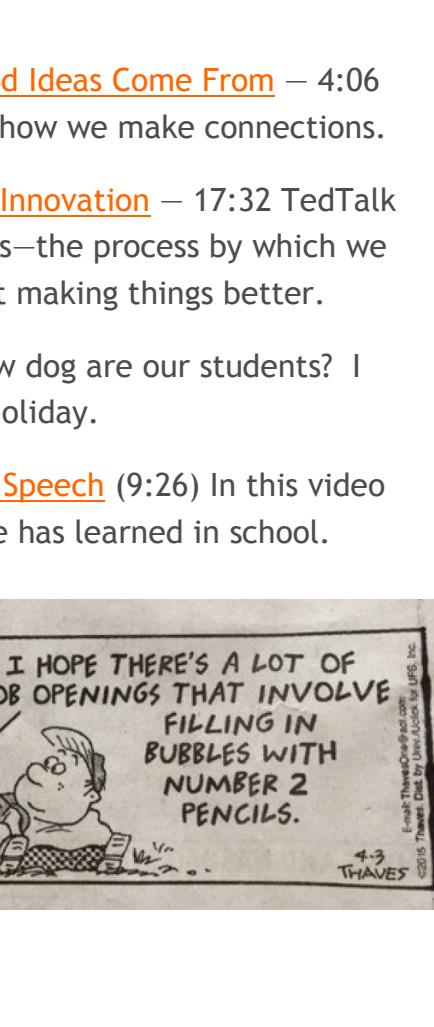


INNOVATIVE INKLINGS

Comox Valley School District Newsletter for Innovation

December 18, 2015



Video Clips

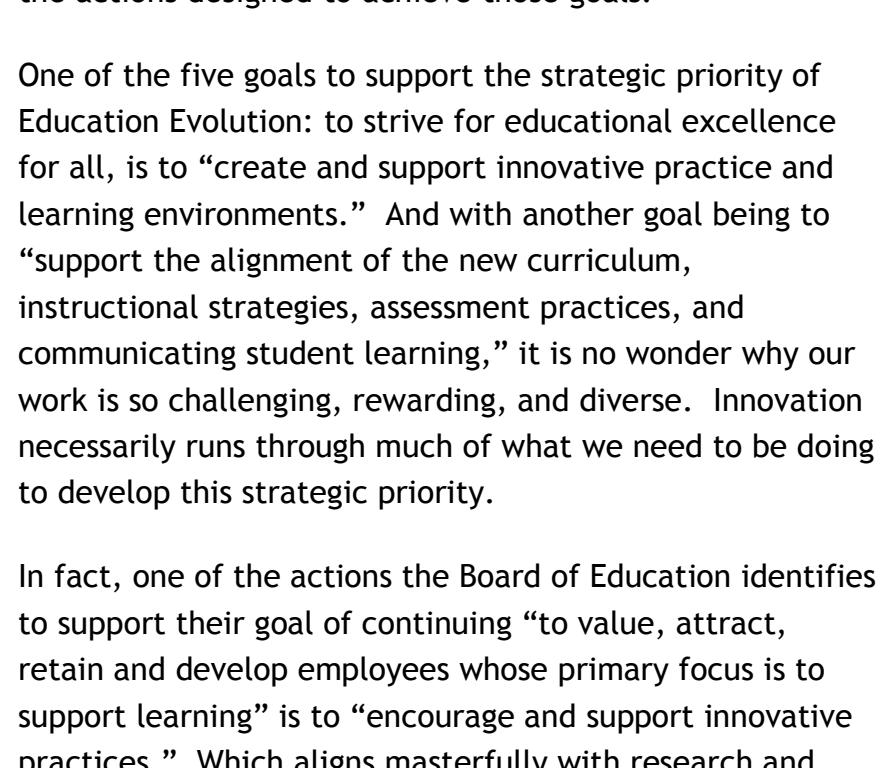
Suli Breaks [Create the Future](#) – 4:50 spoken word on change.

Steven Johnson [Where Good Ideas Come From](#) – 4:06 RSA Animate that explores how we make connections.

Carl Bass [The New Rules of Innovation](#) – 17:32 TedTalk looking at what Innovation is—the process by which we change the world; it's about making things better.

[How dog are you?](#) (1:10) How dog are our students? I think I'll try to have a dog holiday.

[Erica Goldson Valedictorian Speech](#) (9:26) In this video Erica comments on what she has learned in school.



Innovation Blog Posts

[Innovation is Not a One Time Event](#)—George Couros—looks at the mindset of innovation.

Innovation

“Innovation is a way of thinking that creates something new and better.”

— George Couros —

[Innovate My School Guide](#) is an online publication that explores 10 hot topics in education.

“Learning and innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow.”

— William Pollard —

[What the Research Tells Us About Team Creativity and Innovation](#) by Roger Schwarz looks at the relationship between the two and their reciprocal impact of leadership.

In this document you will find a lot of very valuable information about the goals our Board of Education has and the actions designed to achieve those goals.

One of the five goals to support the strategic priority of Education Evolution: to strive for educational excellence for all, is to “create and support innovative practice and learning environments.” And with another goal being to “support the alignment of the new curriculum, instructional strategies, assessment practices, and communicating student learning,” it is no wonder why our work is so challenging, rewarding, and diverse. Innovation necessarily runs through much of what we need to be doing to develop this strategic priority.

In fact, one of the actions the Board of Education identifies to support their goal of continuing “to value, attract, retain and develop employees whose primary focus is to support learning” is to “encourage and support innovative practices.” Which aligns masterfully with research and professional writing about the need for innovation in education and the need to create a positive culture of innovation. Innovation is not a skill, it is a mindset. Innovation in teaching is the constant evolution to make things better for learning and we must maintain a “relentless restlessness”.

As George Couros says in his new book [The Innovator's Mindset](#), “In reality, you can't make anyone change; people can only change themselves. What you can do is create the conditions where change is more likely to happen. As a leader, you can create those conditions by taking a strengths-based approach for learning and leadership and unleashing talent in your organization.”

By creating this Strategic Plan, our Board of Education, in working with our Senior Management team, has worked to create the conditions for innovation in education. Our district is often held up as a provincial leader in this regard. This document provides a focus for our work and an alignment of our resources as we move forward.

So, as we head into our winter break our minds inevitably turn to next year...oh, not quite yet. Hmm.

Okay, our minds inevitably turn to reflections of this past year...oh, not that either, eh?

Okay, in all seriousness, hopefully our minds turn to a well deserved break, relaxation, and time with friends and family that allow us to recharge for what is ahead.

For those of you that want to take advantage of the break to do some professional reading, on [my blog](#) I have put a list of interesting books that some members of my PLN (Personal Learning Network) have recommended (I also put it on my [web-page](#)).

When our minds eventually turn to the coming year, I hope it is with excitement. I am constantly reminded that negativity and happiness are both contagions. This coming year, unlike any before it, holds unlimited possibilities and opportunities for us and for our students and they deserve the best we've got.

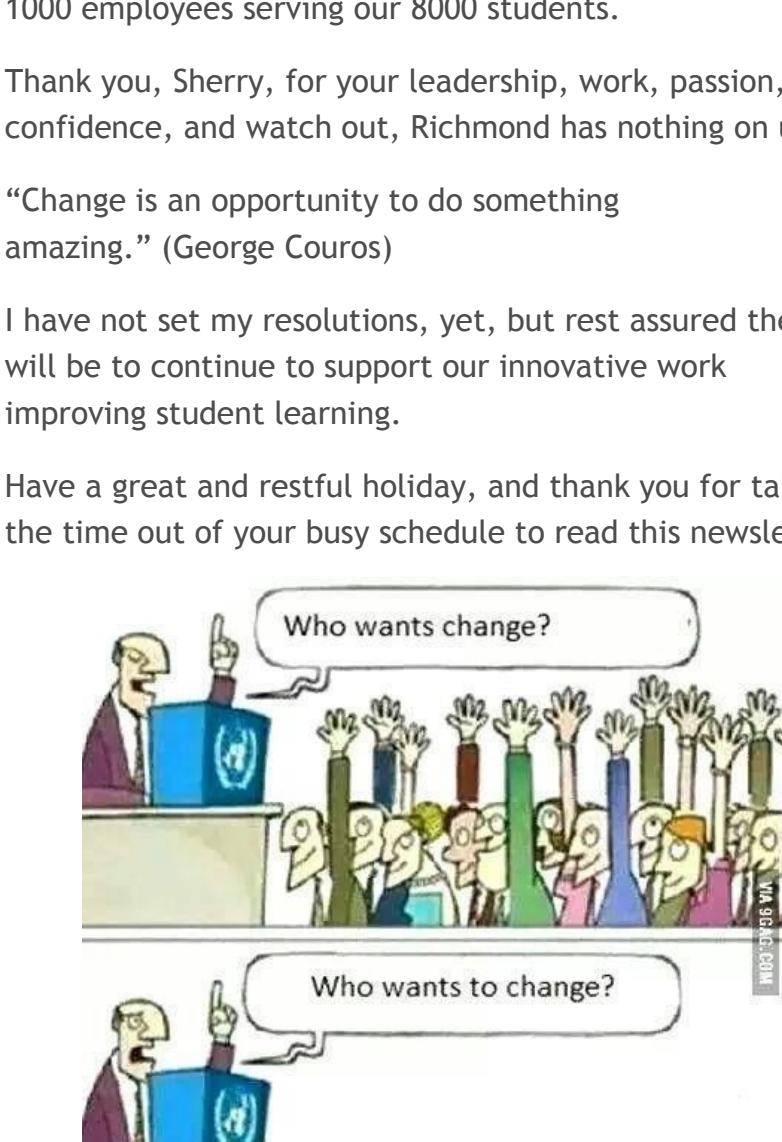
I would be remiss here if I did not acknowledge the outstanding leadership we have benefitted from over the past seven years. Out-going Superintendent, Sherry Elwood, has been instrumental in helping to create an authentic culture of innovation in our school district, focused on improving the learning for our students. In everything she did she challenged us to recognize and to create new and better opportunities for our students, and she supported our efforts to do this. As she moves on to new challenges, she leaves behind a district well positioned to continue its quest to improve student learning. The legacy she leaves behind is unlimited capacity in us, the 1000 employees serving our 8000 students.

Thank you, Sherry, for your leadership, work, passion, and confidence, and watch out, Richmond has nothing on us.

“Change is an opportunity to do something amazing.” (George Couros)

I have not set my resolutions, yet, but rest assured they will be to continue to support our innovative work improving student learning.

Have a great and restful holiday, and thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to read this newsletter.



Thank you for taking the time to read this and please direct any suggestions, questions, or inquiries to me directly: Gerald.Fussell@sd71.bc.ca