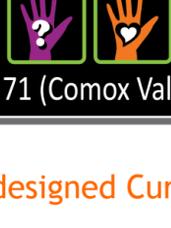


# INNOVATIVE INKLINGS

Comox Valley School District Newsletter for Innovation

February 26, 2016

Today's Learning  
for Tomorrow's World



SD 71 (Comox Valley)

## Redesigned Curric

Curriculum Links  
Animal School  
Quotes  
Parent Evening  
No Child Left Behind  
CID  
Where buffalo roam

## Redesigned Curriculum Links

Saanich School District has a good site with information about the [redesigned curriculum](#). Check out slide 30 of the PowerPoint.

The redesigned curriculum and supporting documents, videos, etc. are [available here](#).

We are building support materials and links on the



## Quotes

“Everything that has happened to you is either an opportunity to grow or an obstacle to prevent you from growing....You get to choose.” - Wayne Dyer

“Large scale, systemic change is deeply personal.”  
- Peter Senge

“In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.”  
- Albert Einstein

“What is your mental model?” - Maria LeRose

# Around the District

Innovative events and efforts from around our district

## Curriculum Implementation Parent Evening

On Wednesday evening, [DPAC](#) co-sponsored an event with our district designed to introduce parents to our redesigned curriculum. Parents filed into the Multi-Purpose Room at Isfeld Secondary to listen to [Maria LeRose](#) give some background as to why we have redesigned our curriculum. That was followed up with our three curriculum support teachers (Doug David, Debbie Nelson, and Carol Walters) as well as our District Elementary Teacher Librarian/Learning Resource Centre Librarian, Joan Pearce, talking about some different elements of the redesigned curriculum and how it might look to parents.

Larose started by telling a story of how she was not engaged by school until in grade 10 a teacher made her feel ‘seen’ and ‘valued’ and that made all the difference. In her presentation she asked parents some thoughtful questions. Recognizing that parents most want their children to be happy, she asked what that means and looks like. She also asked “what do you believe an educated child should look like,” as she segued to talking about the vital importance of our mental models. She talked about the challenges our youth face including the future of work (referencing Doc Zone’s [Generation Jobless](#)) and what implications these challenges will have. She finished her presentation by explaining to parents the importance of social emotional learning and emphasizing that “this is not soft stuff” it is at the core of learning.

The response from parents was mixed from open anxiety, to anger, to relief, and to thanks. Many parents are anxious about the changes and what it will mean for their children. One parent was openly angry that we are going this route and we need to return to failing kids, using rote memory, and actually preparing them for the real world. Another set of parents were relieved to hear that school-



## Curriculum Implementation Day

On Thursday we had our first of six (6) Curriculum Implementation Days over the next 3 years. The day was organized by a group of representative volunteers and was designed to give all teachers a background on why the curriculum was redesigned, the process that was followed, and an introduction to the Core Competencies. More than 450 teachers were in attendance as well as administrators, senior leadership, members of the Aboriginal Education Council, and 40 students who volunteered their day to participate with the teachers.

The day began with a traditional welcome and then CDTA President Nick Moore welcomed everyone. He began his presentation with a video showing someone [building a plane while flying it](#)—an apt metaphor. He went on to explain that we will all be learning, shoulder to shoulder, participating in the active learning process. Acting Superintendent, Tom Demeo, reiterated the work that we will be doing together, along with the other 60 districts, as we learn new ways to support student success. “These are exciting times and we will need to work together to realize the opportunities that exist. We are here to support you and your work.”

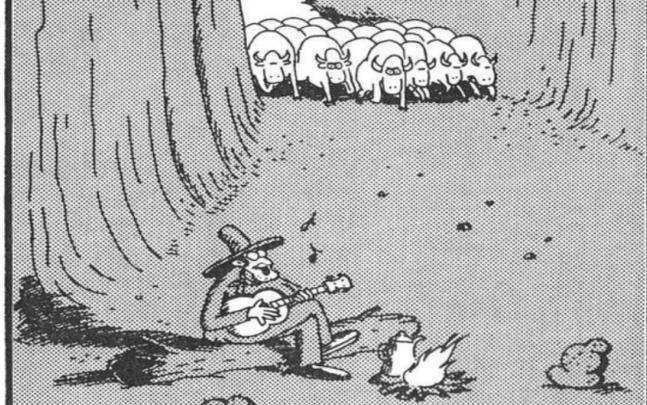
[Maria LeRose](#) then delivered the keynote address, centred around the theme that the redesigned curriculum will enable more students “to be seen.” She engaged district teachers with her personal journey, describing it as boring and scary until in grade 10 when she received feedback from her teacher identifying that she was a good writer. By doing this, her teacher let her know, “I SEE YOU” which became a life altering moment. She talked about the challenges our youth face including the future of work (referencing Doc Zone’s [Generation Jobless](#)) and what implications these challenges will have. As current and future grads enter a workforce that is project based and mechanized, LeRose pointed to two key outcomes of a high-school education that teachers need to embrace:

1. Support the use of and the passion towards technology in today’s youth;
2. Teach them skills machines are not good at and/or don’t have

She went on to talk about the importance of student autonomy and ownership of their learning, the importance of belonging and how the Core Competencies are really designed to support student success for their future.

After an energetic and conversation filled lunch, Chief Rob Everson talked about the importance of education for all, that it has always been important. “The education of our people had been taking place for centuries prior to explorers arriving on the coast line.” He went on to comment that the Komox Band needs educated people with leadership skills and qualities to carry on the band legacy, culture, and way of life. “We are all teachers of aboriginal education. Our aboriginal youth, all youth, need people in positions of leadership to look up to...” and to authentically see them.

After Chief Everson’s well received speech, teachers, administrators, and students went into smaller groups (K-12) to discuss and work with the six Core Competencies. For some, this was the first time they had seen them. Others were part of the SD71 writing team that built the



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](mailto:Gerald.Fussell@sd71.bc.ca)