

INNOVATIVE INKLINGS

Comox Valley School District Newsletter for Innovation

February 5, 2016



Community Schools

Community School Links
The Book of Life
Where and when?
Quotes
Hornby Island Community
Building a Community
Compassion is our Passion
Wireless Communication

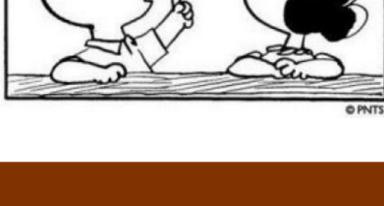
Community Schools Links

The Association for Community Education has a lot of resources and information related to community schools on their [web-site](#).

The Hornby Island Educational Society has information pertaining to them on their [web-site](#) that also can serve as a model for others.

Denman Island also has a community [school](#).

And I know that I have mentioned it before, but Cumberland Community School also has a vibrant connection between school and community. You can see the work of their [society here](#) and the [school by clicking here](#).



Learning occurs at any time, in any place, any way, and at any pace.

Quotes

"Education is that whole system of human training within and without the school house walls, which molds and develops people." - W. E. B. DuBois

"It takes a village to raise a child." - African Proverb

Around the District

Innovative events and efforts from around our district

Hornby Island Community School

Hornby Island Community School had their school review this week. School vice-principal, [Alissa Pratt](#), was joined by PAC Chair Andrea Kaback and [Hornby Island Education Society](#) Coordinator April Lewis for the review. It was obvious from the beginning that the partnership between the community and the school was enriching the learning for all.

As enrollment continued to shrink it was natural for the school community to focus on loss and removal; however, they shifted their mind-set to one of opportunity and that has made a profound difference. Much of the innovation practiced at the school has been in response to the opportunities that presented themselves with the smaller school. The increases in flexibility for students received the impetus from the shrinking enrollment. The multi-age groupings and familial feel are enriched by the freedom that smaller allows. They have also been able to explore the opportunities that using blended learning will afford, especially supporting any time, any place learning.

The year has been divided into 'learning cycles' which culminate in a showcase of learning, reflecting on learning, revising learning plans, connecting with passion pursuits, and other features that enrich the learning. As Andrea Kaback said, "if children are engaged in their learning, anything is possible, and our kids are very engaged, as is the staff." The engagement goes well beyond the classroom as the students are connected with members in the community to pursue their learning plans which are based on their passion pursuits. "Learning lies in the hands of all of us," identified the PAC Chair. The student learning plans are created and reviewed through meetings between the student, the teacher, and the family. They serve as a road map that shows where the child is at in his/her learning journey, where he/she wants to go next and the steps to get there.

The school also has a very strong community feel with the traditional barriers and divisions being removed. The older students help the younger students and there is a genuine respect for all. "We trust them as kids and that has helped them to improve their independence and the self-regulation necessary for on-line and independent learning."



Compassion is our Passion

Last December, Students in two grade 6/7 classes at [Queneesh Elementary](#) participated in an inquiry exploring sympathy, empathy and compassion; delving into what these words mean, and how they are closely entwined. The inquiry zoomed in specifically on developing a deeper understanding of compassion, asking, "What does it mean to be compassionate? What does it look like?" Using video clips, story, and photographs, students investigated and attached meaning to this variety of media with a 'lens' of compassion. Further, students explored and discussed evidence of compassion they see in their daily lives, why it matters and how to find, or foster it.

Learning about capturing compassion in a photograph was guided by Comox Valley photographer [Karen McKinnon](#). Karen shared about how compassion feeds her passion for photography, identifying the importance of connecting and getting to know the people she photographs. She also inspired students to consider 'compassion to self' and 'compassion to others', what this looks like, and how to capture it. Karen shared two photography techniques for students to consider. Students were invited to seek out authentic, living moments of compassion, found and displayed by self and others, and were encouraged to capture these moments in photographs.

As a final thread, students spent time working with singer/songwriter [Will Stroet](#) and music producer [Corwin Fox](#) to collectively co-write, perform, and record a song that speaks to what they have discovered about compassion through their photography and shared learning experiences. The shared writing process was an incredible learning experience; it clearly reflected back what students have noticed and internalized from this inquiry into compassion. Another highlight of this learning experience was a visit to work in the recording studio of Corwin Fox in [Cumberland](#).

Students' captures of compassion and their song [Compassion is our Passion](#), have been combined into a final presentation to share with others. Enjoy!

© 2009 by Randy Glasbergen.
www.glasbergen.com



"Wireless communication is nothing new. I've been praying for 75 years!"

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