

INNOVATIVE INKLINGS

Comox Valley School District Newsletter for Innovation

June 30, 2016



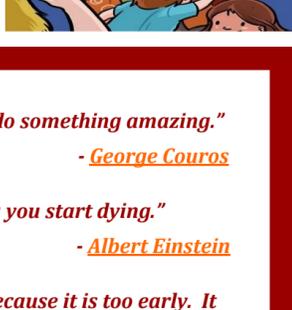
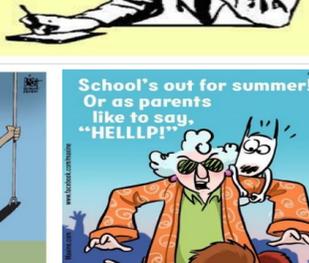
Summer Reading

- Reminder
- Quotes
- Solar Energy
- Reminders
- Brain Candy
- Summer Mondays

Just so you know, teachers don't "have the summer off".

They just do a year's worth of work in 10 months.

someecards user card



"Change is an opportunity to do something amazing."
- [George Couros](#)

"Once you stop learning you start dying."
- [Albert Einstein](#)

"Change almost never fails because it is too early. It almost always fails because it is too late."
- [Seth Godin](#)

"Inspiration is everywhere and often in unexpected places; you just have to keep your eyes open."



Teachers are solar powered.
They recharge during the summer!



Around the District

Innovative events and efforts from around our district

Summer Brain Candy

As another school year comes to a close we are filled with memories, fatigue, and gratitude. We also look forward what is coming. Eventually, because educators (lead learners) are wired this way, our minds will turn to our own professional development and planning for our next year. Below you will find a list of possible places to look for some brain candy. I hope this is helpful. Have an awesome summer.

Books

[A New Culture of Learning: Cultivating the Imagination for a World of Constant Change](#) by Douglas Thomas and John Seely Brown is an often referenced book for valuable and current information about the learners we work with.

[Creating Thinking Classroom: Leading educational change for the 21st century](#) world by Garfield Gini-Newman and Roland Case offers ideas, challenges, and solutions for supporting deeper, meaningful learning in our schools.

[Inquiry and Innovation in the Classroom: Using 20% Time, Genius Hour, and PBL to Drive Student Success](#) by A.J. Juliani describes how we need to modify our classrooms to instill in students the drive for inquiry and innovation that they will need to succeed beyond school doors.

[LAUNCH: Suing Design Thinking to Boost Creativity and Bring Out the Maker in Every Student](#) by John Spencer and A.J. Juliani provides a process that can be incorporated inot everyr class at every grade level....even if you do not consider yourself a 'creative teacher.'

[Teach Like a Pirate: Increase Student Engagement, Boost Your Creativity, and Transform your Life as an Educator](#) by Dave Burgess offers inspiration, practical techniques, and innovative ideas that will help you do as the title suggests.

[The 20time Project: How educators can launch Google's formula for future-ready](#) innovation by Kevin Brookhouser illustrates how to develop a 20time program in middle and high schools across curricula, how to effectively communicate the rationale of the program to administrators, parents, and students, and how to execute the program so students are able to manage their time effectively for a successful final project.

[The Innovator's Mindset](#) is an excellent book by George Couros (from Alberta) that looks at creating a mindset conducive to creating innovative learners. It is also full of great links, connections, and ideas.

[The Genius Hour Guidebook: Fostering Passion, Wonder, and Inquiry in the Classroom](#) by Denise Krebs and Gallit ZVI is a practical book that shows teachers how to implement Genius Hour, a time when students can develop their own inquiry-based projects around their passions and take ownership of their work.

[Tuned Out](#) by Karen Hume is an excellent read with a lot of researched information about our digital students and ideas/strategies, etc. to engage them. [My notes](#) from reading it are available on my blog.

[Unselfie: Why empathetic kids succeed in our all about me world](#) by [Dr. Michele Borba](#) takes a look at nine essential habits that provide the 'empathy advantage' in our digital age. Developing a healthy sense of empathy is a key predictor of which kids thrive and succeed in the future.

Web-Sites and Apps

[Adobe Spark Video](#) is a platform that makes creating quality videos easy and fun.

[A. J. Juliani's blog](#) has a wealth of links and resources related to innovative teaching that are very helpful and well worth spending some time poking through.

[Burnaby School District](#) has prepared a great site with documents of the different curricula with elaborations included.

Cale Birk is a good person to follow on Twitter and [his blog](#) provides some great food for thought.

[Chris Kennedy](#) and [Jordan Tinney](#) both have very good blogs that have a wealth of information, insight, and contemporary thinking.

Coding is not only popular, it can be a very valuable learning tool. There are many sites out there that help people learn to code and the structures that go along with it. Several good apps to start with are [Hopscotch](#) and [Tynker](#). [Scratch](#) is a free programming language and online community where you can create your own interactive stories, games, and animations. And the [Hour of Code](#) has a plethora of on-line resources.

[Kathy Cassidy's blog](#) is well worth looking at for ideas of how technology can enrich, deepen, and accelerate learning.

My son was working on a project for his Math class and needed to demonstrate graphs, charts, etc. and he found [Piktochart](#). It seemed to support his learning and allowed him to go deeper.

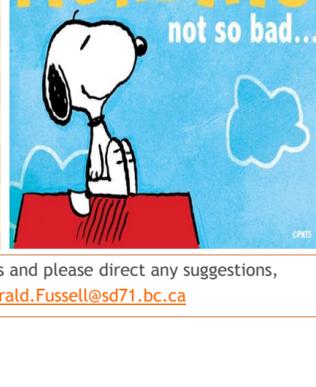
[WolframAlpha](#) is a great learning tool that could be harnessed to profoundly change the way we have students learn. It is far more than a search engine, it is a knowledge engine that is very powerful.

Interesting

This [job posting](#) seemed interesting to me for the qualities and skills it was demanding.

[The Paradox of Choice](#) is a TedTalk by Barry Schwartz that talks about the paralysis being experienced by the abundance of choices we have in every facet of our lives.

[Smarter Every Day](#) is a YouTube channel with a plethora of videos full of information - some valuable, some just purely entertaining. I found the Backwards Brain Bicycle quite interesting.



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