

INNOVATIVE INKLINGS

Comox Valley School District Newsletter for Innovation

November 13, 2015



Technology

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Technology Sites

The [OECD Report](#) on the use of technology in the classroom raises some very good points for conversation and exploration.

This is a follow-up piece from a [Swedish researcher](#) who has looked at some applications and believes examines some of the claims made in the OECD Report.

“The first rule of any technology used in a business is that automation applied to an efficient operation will magnify the efficiency. The second is that automation applied to an inefficient operation will magnify the inefficiency.”

Key Technology Questions

What do we want to accomplish with this technology?

What is the instructional problem you are trying to address?

- Bill Gates



Around the District

Innovative events and efforts from around our district

What is ERAC?

Last week the IT leadership team ([Josh Porter](#), [Darren Leary](#), [Kara Dawson](#), and [Gerald Fussell](#)) attended the IT4K12 Conference hosted by [ERAC](#). The theme of the conference was “Transforming the Learning Landscape.” My notes from the conference are on my [blog](#) and [web-page](#) for those who want to look at them. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

ERAC is a consortium of BC public school districts and independent schools that work together cooperatively. The goal is to ensure that BC K-12 schools have access to appropriate learning resources at the best possible price. ERAC also provides the training and support required to maximize the benefits of the membership.

The savings in each district depend on the volume of that district's purchases. Collectively, ERAC member districts experience significant annual savings on digital, software and learning resource purchases. Perhaps more importantly, as members of ERAC, school districts also realize process savings related to their software, digital and learning resource acquisitions. In terms of software purchases, ERAC works with its members to determine software needs. Software is evaluated and appropriate agreements made, establishing maximized savings for the district. This work results in lower costs for the actual software and saves districts many hours of staff time that they would have spent evaluating software and contacting various vendors.

ERAC also issues regular [reports and whitepapers](#) on timely topics relating to everything from information technology to classroom support. This helps in saving districts the time involved with researching and creating similar reports.

Another great value of being involved with ERAC is the ability to network and collaborate with people from other districts to share our learning and experiences.

What does our District Elementary Teacher Librarian do?

Quite a few years ago we had elementary teacher librarians in our district, [Joan Pearce](#) was one of them. In this role she worked at a number of schools. Due to budget constraints the positions were eliminated and Joan returned to the classroom working as an early years French Immersion teacher and later as a Learning Support Teacher and a Curriculum Support Teacher. Joan currently works as the elementary district librarian and librarian for the LRC. Joan's job is varied. Below is a quick summary of the things she does to support student learning.

The Big Picture: LRC and elementary libraries - resource selection, collection development and automation software management.

The Details:

Learning Resources Centre: Select print and electronic resources, K to 12, to support District initiatives (i.e., Imaginal Learning) and the new curriculum, in collaboration with the District Curriculum and Aboriginal Support Teachers. Resource recommendations? Questions? Please contact [Joan](#).

Elementary Libraries and Cumberland Community School: Select print and electronic resources to support school initiatives and the new curriculum. Develop the library collections. Special titles? Areas to focus on? Please contact [Joan](#).

LRC and School Library software: Oversee the Follett Destiny Media and Library software programs that manage all library and LRC resources. Questions? Please contact [Joan](#).

Create Follett Destiny **help sheets** to learn how to access school library and LRC resources (including district databases and e-books and audio books on portable devices) and provide in-service opportunities. [Learn 71 - Library Commons](#).

Create **theme bibliographies** to support the new curriculum. [Learn 71 - Library Commons](#).

Host Pro-D staff meetings at the LRC to show new resources, ways to access the resources etc. Principals and Vice-Principals contact [Joan](#) directly to book one for your school.

Support elementary Library Clerks: facilitate the Library Clerk PLC.

Please do not hesitate to contact [Joan](#) directly if you have any questions about these or any other related topics. She is an incredible fountain of helpful information.



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