

INNOVATIVE INKLINGS

Comox Valley School District Newsletter for Innovation

October 30, 2015



SD 71 (Comox Valley)

Innovation Grants

On Thursday the Ministry put out a [call for applications](#) for K-12 Innovation Grants with the focus on “practices which integrate and promote personalized learning in the classroom, school and school community.”

Growth Mindsets

This one looks at the importance of having a [growth mindset in Math](#).

This one is from Stanford and has many great resources for [fostering adaptive learning mindsets](#) for teachers, educator groups, and parents.

“Sometimes you gotta create what you want to be part of.”

- Geri Weitzan

“Without change there is no innovation, creativity, or incentive for improvement. Those who initiate change will have a better opportunity to manage the change that is inevitable.”

- William Pollard

Key School Questions

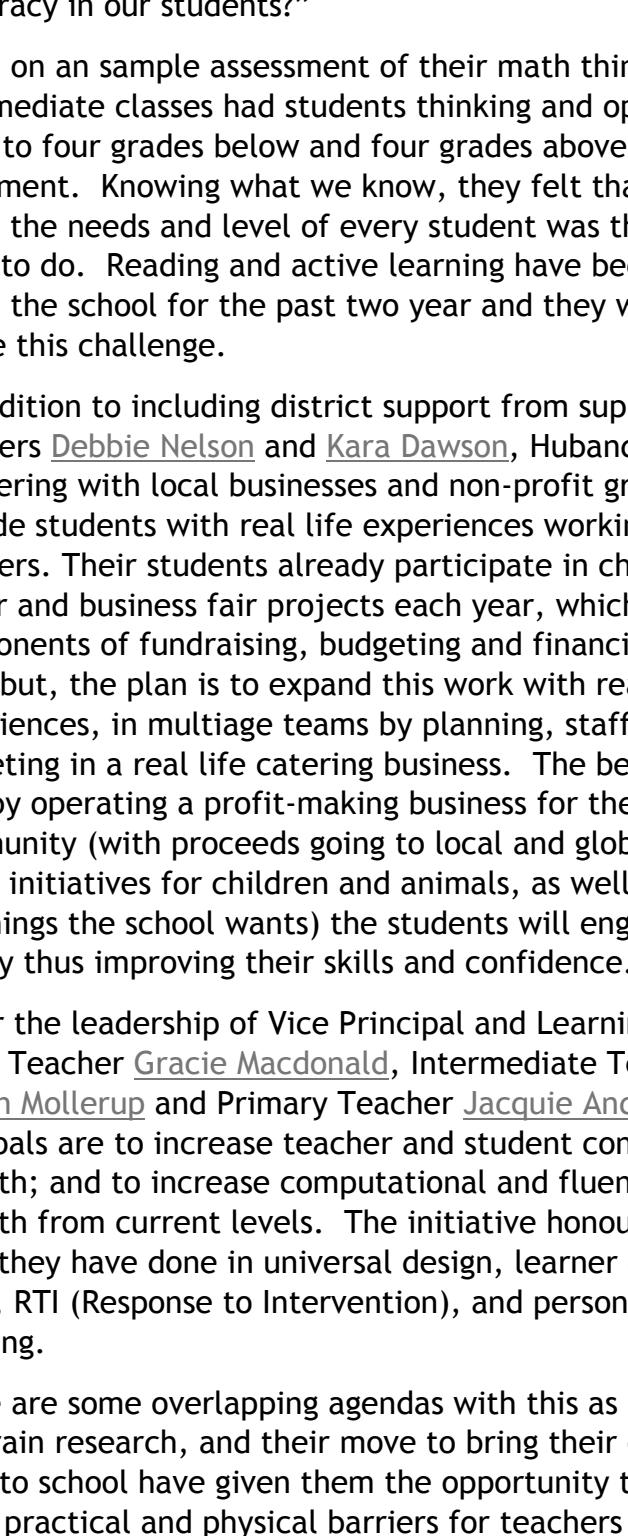
Who are we?

Why are we doing this?

Why are we doing this this way?

Or, put another way,

Who benefits from the current system?



Huband's Innovation Project

Huband Park Elementary School put an [Innovation Grant](#) proposal into the first round of submissions and it was approved. It all started with this rueful observation of data collected in June 2015: “If the kids in my class are operating at all different levels and sometimes eight grades apart, why am I giving them all the same math worksheet?” From this came their driving question: “How can we engage our teachers and student learners to improve numeracy in our students?”

Based on an sample assessment of their math thinkers, the intermediate classes had students thinking and operating at up to four grades below and four grades above their placement. Knowing what we know, they felt that teaching to the needs and level of every student was the right thing to do. Reading and active learning have been a focus in the school for the past two year and they wanted to tackle this challenge.

In addition to including district support from support teachers [Debbie Nelson](#) and [Kara Dawson](#), Huband Park is partnering with local businesses and non-profit groups to provide students with real life experiences working with numbers. Their students already participate in change maker and business fair projects each year, which do have components of fundraising, budgeting and financial planning; but, the plan is to expand this work with real life experiences, in multiage teams by planning, staffing and budgeting in a real life catering business. The belief is that by operating a profit-making business for the school community (with proceeds going to local and global non-profit initiatives for children and animals, as well as tangible things the school wants) the students will engage more deeply thus improving their skills and confidence.

This is a continuous submission process, however, for consideration in this intake session, proposals must be received by [Debra Page](#) by **November 10, 2015**.

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