

# INNOVATIVE INKLINGS

Comox Valley School District Newsletter for Innovation

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## Tech Tips

Check out the #learn71 trend on [Twitter](#).

Check out the awesome changes at [Learn71](#).

## Three Interesting Links

[Introduction to Twitter](#)—This is a good blog post to read in order to see some of the benefits of using Twitter and how to get started.

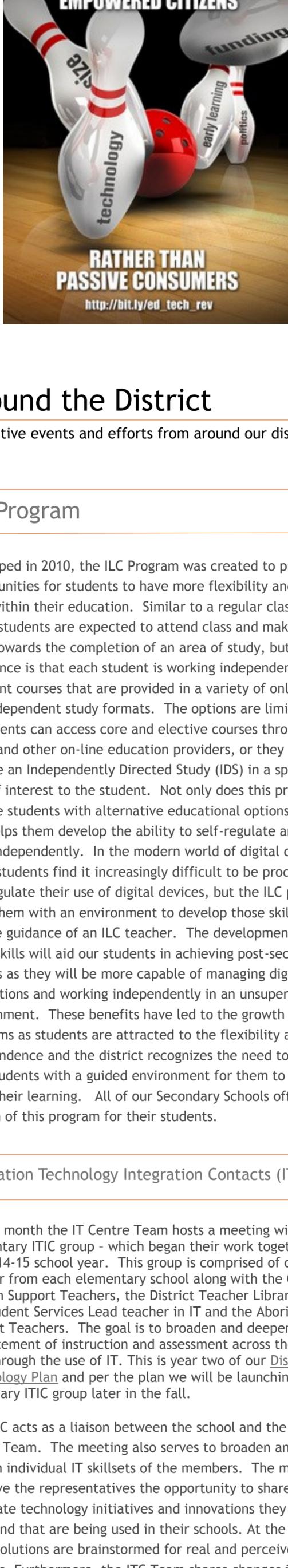
*“Too often we give children answers to*

[Using Twitter for Professional Development](#)—here is a good site from Education World showing some good uses of Twitter for Pro-D—not limited to teachers but in all areas.

*remember rather than problems to solve.”*

- Roger Lewin

[Global EdCamp](#)—here is a link to an exciting opportunity for personalized learning with the global community in January.



## Around the District

Innovative events and efforts from around our district

## ILC Program

Developed in 2010, the ILC Program was created to provide opportunities for students to have more flexibility and options within their education. Similar to a regular classroom, students are expected to attend class and make progress towards the completion of an area of study, but the difference is that each student is working independently on different courses that are provided in a variety of online and independent study formats. The options are limitless as students can access core and elective courses through NIDES and other on-line education providers, or they can explore an Independently Directed Study (IDS) in a specific area of interest to the student. Not only does this program provide students with alternative educational options, it also helps them develop the ability to self-regulate and to work independently. In the modern world of digital distractions, students find it increasingly difficult to be productive and regulate their use of digital devices, but the ILC provides them with an environment to develop those skills under the guidance of an ILC teacher. The development of these skills will aid our students in achieving post-secondary success as they will be more capable of managing digital distractions and working independently in an unsupervised environment. These benefits have led to the growth of ILC programs as students are attracted to the flexibility and independence and the district recognizes the need to provide students with a guided environment for them to explore their learning. All of our Secondary Schools offer a version of this program for their students.

## Information Technology Integration Contacts (ITICs)

Once a month the IT Centre Team hosts a meeting with the Elementary ITIC group - which began their work together in the 2014-15 school year. This group is comprised of one teacher from each elementary school along with the Curriculum Support Teachers, the District Teacher Librarian, the Student Services Lead teacher in IT and the Aboriginal Support Teachers. The goal is to broaden and deepen the enhancement of instruction and assessment across the district through the use of IT. This is year two of our [District Technology Plan](#) and per the plan we will be launching a Secondary ITIC group later in the fall.

The ITIC acts as a liaison between the school and the IT Centre Team. The meeting also serves to broaden and deepen individual IT skillsets of the members. The meetings give the representatives the opportunity to share and celebrate technology initiatives and innovations they are using and that are being used in their schools. At the same time, solutions are brainstormed for real and perceived barriers. Furthermore, the ITC Team shares changes in technology, provides updates, introduces new software and explains fixes for existing software and hardware. The ITICs are then in a good position to share with their staff and to lead as appropriate.

The sharing that takes place at these meetings has been invaluable. It is critically important to have a group of people in the district who can share knowledge of what changes are taking place in technology and help their peers adapt to the changes. It also helped the IT Centre Team to know the areas where support is needed and to focus its energies in the right direction to aid the teachers and students.

## E-portfolios

The students in a Humanities 9 class in [Isfeld](#) are just getting started using their [e-portfolios](#) available through the [Learn71](#) website. All students in the class maintain a folder that contains evidence of their learning gathered throughout a semester. In previous years this has been a paper folder that was kept in the classroom; however, this year, after attending [Kara Dawson's](#) workshop, teacher [Deborah Adams](#) opted to have one of her grade 9 classes use e-portfolios. So far it has been a successful endeavour for several reasons. Most significantly, students are helping one another, and their teacher, regularly to figure out how to use phones, i-Pads, NetBooks, school and home computers to add to their e-portfolios. It comes as no surprise that some students are very tech-savvy, and their readiness to assist classmates is positively changing classroom dynamics and conversations. Because they are online, portfolios can be added to almost anywhere, at almost any time, and students can easily share their portfolio with their parents. This shift has positively changed much of the conversations between students around their learning. The assessment potential of the e-portfolios has been shown at the elementary levels and it seems that it has the same impact at the secondary level. It encourages the students to find new ways to show what learning and success in Humanities 9 can look like and to thus take more ownership of their learning. The potential of this tool to support learning is very exciting.

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)