

INNOVATIVE INKLINGS

Comox Valley School District Newsletter for Innovation

January 29, 2016



French Immersion

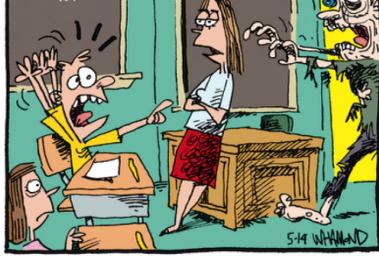
French Immersion links
In French please
French words
Quotes
École Robb Road
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VEX Robotics

French Immersion Links

The [Canadian Parents for French](#) is a national network that has excellent research and information about French Immersion in Canada.

[Report](#) on the state of French as a second language education in Canada.

[10 benefits](#) of learning another language.



French Words in the English Language

Déjà vu	Hors d'oeuvre	Abnormal	Souvenir
Mirage	Abrupt	Cul-de-Sac	Avant-Garde
Absent	Façade	Matinee	Touché
Risqué	Capitalist	Mirage	Encore
Concession	Pot-pourri	R.S.V.P.	Fiancé

Quotes

“The thing that’s wrong with the French is that they don’t have a word for entrepreneur.” - George W. Bush

“A different language is a different version of life.” - Frank Smith

Hmmm...

16% of our students study in French (1,360 students)

Our district receives \$178,370 extra for our FI students.

Ilsfeld will have 71 bilingual graduates this year.

Around the District

Innovative events and efforts from around our district

École Robb Road Elementary

École Robb Road Elementary had their school review this week. There were a number of highlights including a visit to [Noah Burdett's](#) grade two classroom where students were working on a variety of projects related to [Les Oiseaux](#). The students were engaged and when asked what they were doing, why they were doing it and what the next steps would be, they could all answer each question eloquently and with understanding. There was evidence in every group that they were using self and peer assessment to improve their learning. There were also a lot of examples of critical thinking as the students worked to identify what birds were responsible for the different nests and eggs they were working with.

In [Kiri Yourchik](#) and [Cheryl Adebar's](#) class we saw students developing their inquiry questions related to [de physique](#) through many different media including coding. Their knowledge of their topics, all in French, was deep and they were able to make some complex connections. One thing that stood out was the ownership and pride each took in their learning and presentations.

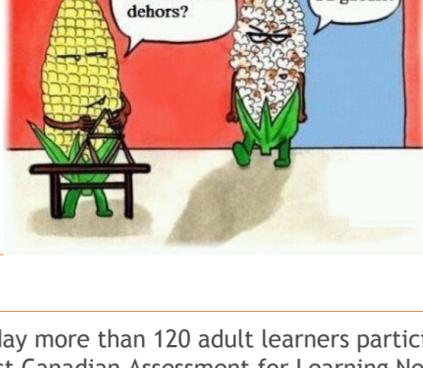
Two teams of teachers are working on projects related to the [Imaginal Learning](#) work we are doing throughout the district, focusing on “Je peux...” statements as a vehicle to share clear learning intentions. Most at the teachers are also working on continuous reporting.

École Robb Road has some very active PLC teams working with the following questions:

- ◇ How can we better engage and empower students to use criteria to self-assess and include them within the e-portfolio as part of their learning journey?
- ◇ How can we weave the Successful Learner Traits into our current practices and increase student ownership of learning?
- ◇ How can continuous reporting and regular home communication reinforce explicit classroom instruction to improve student learning?
- ◇ How do we use project-based learning to engage 21st century learners in a primary, French Immersion classroom?
- ◇ How can we best facilitate the use of technology in an inclusive way to meet the needs of students with learning differences?

◇ My only disappointment was not being able to go outside to their outdoor classroom (there was just too much rain).

Another thing that came across is that the school community will miss Mr. Coats as he takes next semester to help others overseas. Bon voyage monsieur.



CAfLN

On Monday more than 120 adult learners participated in the latest Canadian Assessment for Learning Network meeting. [Dr. Judy Halbert](#) and [Dr. Linda Kaser](#) led the afterschool session at our Glacier View Learning Centre. In this learning opportunity, put together by our Curriculum Support Teachers, there were representatives from Qualicum, Cowichan, Nanaimo, VIU, and from most of our schools.

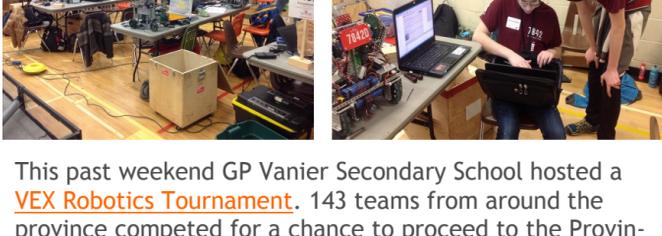
Halbert and Kaser talked about the [Spirals of Inquiry](#) – the origins (BC and New Zealand) and the impact internationally. BC is one of the top performing education systems in the world for quality and equity. As an English-speaking, multi-cultural, multi-linguistic province, [re-ports show](#) we are one of the best. [Pasi Sahlberg](#), now at Harvard but formerly a key architect of the Finnish system, said that for students to meet the demands of the 21st Century “the world needs more Canada” referring to our education system.

And, just recently (January 16) researcher [Ben Jensen](#), CEO of the [Learning First](#) organization in Australia, published a [report on what professional development](#) looked like in high performing systems and BC was one of the four model systems they examined. The report went on to identify five key findings that all four systems had: inquiry based, collaborative, linked and coherent, professionally led, and take place over time.

The rest of the meeting was spent with participants sharing their work and learning with each other through several different structures. Aspen Park shared the [writing continuum](#) they created last year through their PLC work. [Sue Bannister](#) and [Deb Fullerton](#) shared posters that they created with [Jaki Braidwood](#) designed to demonstrate six guiding parameters in communicating student learning. Our Curriculum Support team had participants do a gallery walk of samples of assessment for learning from many of our schools and this generated a lot of engaged, energetic conversations.

This is a learning network that goes back 16 years in our district.

VEX Robotics



This past weekend GP Vanier Secondary School hosted a [VEX Robotics Tournament](#). 143 teams from around the province competed for a chance to proceed to the Provincials and ultimately the World Championships. This is an event that brings together many diverse elements of student learning.

VEX robots are individually designed by students from the ground up; based on strategy, physics, game limitations and imagination. The final product is the culmination of their BIG IDEA, that’s formulated by UNDERSTANDING and KNOWING what they have to DO to win.

In the pit area you witness real-time collaborative analysis, problem determination, trouble-shooting, adaptation and (re)programming in action. VEX Tournaments are really community-wide events involving students, parents, faculty volunteers and sponsors from across the Comox Valley, Vancouver Island, and Lower Mainland.

This year’s challenge required students to design robots that could fire foam balls into an elevated net situated at the opposite side of the court in both autonomous and driver assisted modes. Bonus points were awarded if a robot could also hoist their alliance partner’s robot 4” - 12” into the air at the end of the match. Comox Valley teams were the only ones successful doing so.

Once again, teams from across the Comox Valley won numerous awards including the first place trophy.



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