

District Capacity Building Initiatives



December 15, 2015

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Complex Communication Needs (CCN) with Kathy Howery

- ★ One of the priorities identified by the Student Services team for 2015 to build capacity in school-linked and school-based teams to support the diverse learners in our classrooms.
- ★ The Student Services team has spent a couple of days in consultation with Kathy Howery through face to face format and also video-conference. Kathy will join us for 4 days in January to build capacity in our school-linked teams.

Self Regulation: Calm, Alert and Learning by Dr. Stuart Shanker (presentation in partnership with RCSD and SAPDC)

- ★ There is a growing awareness among developmental scientists that the better a child can self-regulate, the better he can rise to the challenge of mastering ever more complex skills and concepts. In the simplest terms, self-regulation can be defined as the ability to stay calmly focused and alert, which often involves – but cannot be reduced to – self-control.
- ★ Learning Coaches, Learning Support Teachers, Behaviour Interventionists, Student Services Team as well as some Administrators attended this informative session. Continued work will take place to further develop district planning and capacity building through SAPDC Community of Practices.

Service Provider School Linked Day

- ★ Held September 9th, 2015 at the Esplanade
- ★ For Administrators, Learning Coaches and Service Providers
- ★ Opportunity to meet team members, learn more about the collaborative process and discuss Collaborative Planning Circles (CPCs)
- ★ Networking and Partnership time

S.I.V.A. (Supporting Individuals through Valued Attachments)

- ★ The SIVA training is to provide caregivers the proactive tools and practical knowledge to create an environment where safety is pro-social, healthy and respectful part of day-to-day life.
- ★ SIVA believes that true safety, is safety not only for the caregivers, but also for the individuals being helped which is built on communication and the establishment of trusted relationships.

Learning Coach Capacity Building Sessions

- ★ Our focus this school year is continuing to build capacity on creating inclusive learning environments in our schools, and strengthening coaching practices for inclusion to meet the needs of all learners.

Learning Support Teachers Capacity Building Sessions

- ★ The focus is to continue to build capacity as we work to meet diverse learning needs and develop our skill set in addressing emergent literacy skills.

Early Learning PD Workshops

- ★ Let's Talk...about alcohol and pregnancy!
- ★ Good Sense
- ★ Motor Monkeys
- ★ The Value of Play!
- ★ Ooey Gooey – The Importance of Early Experiences
 - How Play is Kindergarten Readiness!
 - Fizzle Bubble Pop Wow!
- ★ The Language of Art
 - Art as a Language
 - The Photography Project
 - Hands On Experience
- ★ Unbridling Creativity

ELP/K Monthly Teacher Meetings

- ★ **Environment as the Third Teacher** – teachers had monthly opportunities to visit their colleague's classrooms and reflect on their own environment
- ★ **Emergent Curriculum and Documentation** – ongoing dialogue around extending understanding of and application in our classrooms
- ★ **The Core Story** – Building Better Brains – Alberta Family Wellness
- ★ **The Early Child Development Mapping Project (ECMap)** – final report
- ★ **Professional Resource Book Studies:**
 - I'm Ready – How to Prepare Your Child for Reading Success – Greenberg & Weitzman (The Hanen Program)
 - The Unscripted Classroom Emergent Curriculum in Action – Susan Stacey
 - Pedagogical Documentation in Early Childhood – Susan Stacey

Early Learning Training Opportunities

- ★ Sound Thinking
- ★ Early Years Evaluation – Direct Assessment & Early Years
- ★ Evaluation Teacher Assessment
- ★ Sand Play Training

Assistive and Augmentative Communication (AAC) with Dr. Caroline Musselwhite

- ★ The focus was on how to help AAC users set topics, and how to support AAC users in inclusive settings. This was done through lecture, demonstration, brainstorming, case studies and “try it” activities. Dr. Musselwhite emphasized the importance of providing access to communication for students not just to meet their needs, but also to allow them access to share their thinking, knowledge and understanding.

READ 180

- ★ Formation of Community of Practice to support implementation and capacity building
- ★ Targeted, responsive and levelled intervention to literacy remediation
- ★ Comprehensive reading program and library to support intervention and improve benchmarked reading levels
- ★ Books and site licences were purchased for learning support departments at Crescent Heights High School and Medicine Hat High School

Fountas & Pinnell

- ★ Benchmark assessment system that helps identify a student's current reading level and progress over time
- ★ Professional Development on the benchmarking process was provided last Spring for teachers as well as resources for the participating schools
- ★ Fall benchmarking focused on grades 2, 4, 5 and 6
- ★ Spring benchmarking for grade 1 and those in previous group that were not at grade level

Individual Support Plans (ISPs)

- ★ **Early Learning Profile** was created!
- ★ The ELP, Kindergarten and Community Early Learning Teachers explored plans from around the province and collaborated to create their own template that was adopted by NetScaffold.
- ★ The new template is more in line with the ISPs that went online last year in our district.

VTRA (Violence Threat Risk Assessment) Training

- ★ 2 Student Services team members have recently completed a 3 day train the trainer session
- ★ Level I Training planned for Winter of 2016
- ★ Level II Training with Kevin Cameron, planned for Spring of 2016 - intended to coincide with the signing of Regional Protocol for VTRA

Educational Assistant Capacity Building

September:

Extending Classroom Activities Through Art

Working with Students with ASD

Ipads - How to operate and Apps for the Classroom

November:

Relationships and the Brain

Mindfulness: The Sandbox in your Classroom

Expressive and Receptive Language Strategies

First Nations, Métis and Inuit

December:

The Impact of Poverty

Executive Functioning

Introduction to Google Platform

Literacy Strategies

Educational Assistant Capacity Building (cont.)

January:

Mindfulness: Building Kindness & Compassion in the Classroom

Kagan & TRIBES

Self-Regulation in the Classroom

The Art of Questioning - Tapping into Student Potential and Interests

Positive Behavior Supports - EA

March:

Using Language to Make Friends

Cultural Diversity and Impact on Learning

Anxiety & Depression Signs Symptoms and Strategies

Ministerial Order - EAs

Engaging Students in Playful Learning

April:

How to Engage the Disengaged Learner

Managing Challenging Behaviors: A Brief Introduction to the Collaborative Problem Solving Approach

Fun and Games - Be Fit for Life

Youth and Non-Suicidal Self Injury