

## **Report to Community Re: Erickson Collegiate School Priorities 2010 – 2011**

### **1. To Continue with the Divisional BATL (Balanced Approach to Teaching and Learning) Initiative**

This past year saw Erickson Collegiate continue its commitment to integrating technology into the classroom. The initiative encourages teachers to balance traditional teaching strategies and methodology (i.e. textbooks) with new strategies that involve technology. The October in-service saw teachers continue their professional development learning about software and technology and how to effectively use the technology for their lessons and with the students. The day was highly productive as teachers collaborated, shared, and taught each other about the Smartboard. Grant Butler, the division's IT co-coordinator, was here to facilitate the session and to work with teachers. The division's IT people were also here to work with individuals, and at least one teacher attended divisional workshops offered after school. Some teachers have really embraced the technology and their growth has resulted in them becoming leaders amongst their colleagues.

Teachers' increased knowledge and usage of technology has had direct benefits for our students. They are using the technology more themselves and are more engaged in their learning. Most students are very proficient at PowerPoint presentations and many are able to use school cameras to download pictures for various projects. Mr. Sansom had community members in to teach our students about GPS systems and the students also used the World Time Clock to review "real time" data to see the impact that live births have on energy consumption. Ms Dalton used the Smartboard for interactive math lessons (using Math Trek) and Mr. Carefoot used it for teaching mapping skills. The Grade 7 and 8's also used robots to learn about circuit boards, electricity, and computers.

Our expected outcome for this goal was that by the end of June 2011, 25% of our teachers would implement one or more strategies that supported the divisional technology initiative. I am pleased to report that this year a minimum of 33% of ECI teachers employed one or more strategies that supported the BATL initiative. Our students have directly benefited from the teachers' commitment to professional development and the implementation and integration of technology. Students' interest in using the technology and their engagement and ownership in their education has resulted in some amazing assignments!

### **2. To Begin an Assessment Review**

As the division continued to review its assessment policy and practices, grading guidelines, and reporting practices, it was important for the Erickson staff to review what they were doing and to be part of the change process. Mrs. Robson, Mr. Mathews, and I were part of a divisional committee that reviewed current policy and practices regarding assessment. Erickson had the most staff representation on the committee of any school.

We used part of some staff meetings and the November in-service to begin our work on assessment. The government document "Rethinking Classroom Assessment with Purpose in Mind" was given to each teacher at the beginning of the year and we also used the Manitoba Education's "Provincial Assessment Policy Kindergarten to Grade 12" as another source. While we did not meet our goal of getting through

both documents, we have made progress as a staff. We had staff answer questions related to diagnostic, formative, and summative assessment and we reviewed the current assessment policy and guidelines. The answers generated some fantastic professional dialogue and assisted us in determining where we were at individually and collectively, what we were doing well, and where we need to go and grow. We also had discussions that centered on reporting only students' summative assessment and the process and reporting regarding incomplete assignments.

The November in-service had all four divisional high schools come together to discuss learning outcomes, outcome based assessment, and essential learning outcomes. Teachers participated in group discussions to review the previously mentioned relative to their subject areas. They were also assigned the task of creating the essential learning outcomes for their subject areas and to create assessment strategies for each essential outcome. To date, some subject areas groups have identified the essential learning outcomes, while other groups have either met or not to completed the task. Staff was asked to provide feedback so we could determine what the next steps in the process needed to be. This work will continue next school year.

On February 28, staff attended a division-wide workshop that focused on assessment. Janet Martel and Eileen Sutherland, senior administrators from the Sunrise School Division, presented what their division had done in relation to essential outcomes and grading practices and then they lead staff through a process to assist our teachers in moving forward. Staff was once again asked to provide feedback on the day in order to assist with future planning.

The divisional committee that Mrs. Robson, Mr. Mathews, and I sit on reviewed the division's current assessment policy and grading practices. The group also went through a process to create new policy and grading practices that were recommended to the school board for their approval. At administrators' meetings, principals have also participated and completed their own professional development regarding assessment, grading guidelines, and reporting.

One of our objectives under this priority was to have all teaching staff attend a minimum of one professional development session. All teachers attended three divisional in-services that were related to assessment practices. Mr. Mathews also attended a Ken O'Connor workshop – the person whom much of the division's work in based on.

While Erickson has begun the process of change in relation to assessment, grading guidelines, and reporting, there is a great deal of work left to do. The change is going to take time and much more discussion, collaboration, and professional development (within the school and division) is going to be needed.

Have a safe and wonderful summer.

Respectfully,

Barry Lee

Principal

