

# DisCo



*The District Teacher Coordinators  
Monthly Newsletter*

November, 2020

Vol. 1

## IN THE ISSUE

Robron Artstart Program

Mentorship Round Table  
November 30th ProD

Healthy Schools Corner

Shelley Moore's Assessment  
Curriculum Grids

Learning Opportunity in FSL  
Reading

*"District Teacher Coordinators -  
we're here to serve and support"*

**~ Reach out to us ... ~**



---

## OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

By: Jeff Lontayao

[jeff.lontayao@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:jeff.lontayao@sd72.bc.ca)

The Robron School Community came together for an ArtStart project, funded by the BC Arts Council and the Province of BC. In partnership with Alex Witcombe, of Drifted Creations, students at Robron created their own driftwood sculptures and worked with Alex on a school community project. This project engaged a variety of learners capturing their creative passions. Alex has been sharing his career journey with our students throughout the entire process.

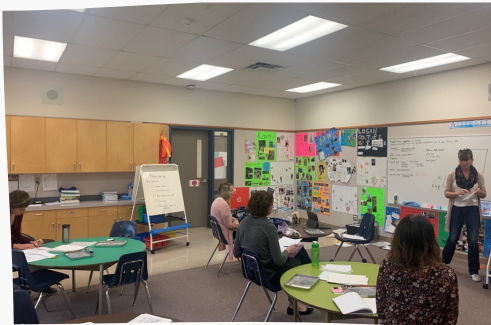
Bringing local artist into our schools shows our students that art is a viable career pathway for them.



## ELEMENTARY LITERACY

By: Christine Fraser and Audra Schroeder

[christine.fraser@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:christine.fraser@sd72.bc.ca)   [audra.schroeder@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:audra.schroeder@sd72.bc.ca)



## Engaging Literate Minds

Developing Children's Social, Emotional, and Intellectual Lives, K-3



*Great read to help build environments in which children meaningfully engage with each other through reading, writing, making and discussing books.*

What a great start to Fall! We have made site visits to all elementary schools, made personal connections with many teachers, and have enjoyed interacting with students. Thank you, teachers, for being welcoming and flexible as we arrive at your schools. Highlights for us include being part of lively literacy discussions, team teaching, delivering the long-awaited PM Benchmark kits, facilitating workshops, working with students, and gathering helpful data that will help guide the next steps for students. These are complicated times, no doubt, and yet we have noticed teachers demonstrating ingenuity, adaptability and a passion for teaching and continually asking, 'what is possible?'.  

---

## ADOLESCENT LITERACY

By: Rachel Friederich

[rachel.friederich@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:rachel.friederich@sd72.bc.ca)

Something that has echoed across the district this past month is confusion about how we are communicating student learning. I can't solve this problem but these [curriculum grids](#) by Shelley Moore are a tool we can use to plan, assess, track, and communicate with parents about students' progress in developing the Curricular and Content Competencies. Students can communicate about their grasp on the Core. I can help you, too; check out the literacy skills embedded in the Curricular Competencies across subjects! As your Adolescent Literacy Coordinator, I can co-plan concept-driven and competency-based units, systems for curriculum-aligned assessment, and opportunities for growth in metacognitive skills needed for reading. Please reach out and book me for some "[Literacy Talk Time](#)" - I'll come to you.

---

## FRENCH

By: Desiree Dallaire

[desiree.dallaire@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:desiree.dallaire@sd72.bc.ca)



*Merci M. Crepet who invited me to Ecole Phoenix to help make crepes.*

**Connecting** is the first word that comes to mind as I reflect on the last 7 days in my new role. Conversations with educators and visiting schools has lead me on a path forward. French Immersion resources, mentorship, literacy, and collaborating with other educators to create lessons that drive FI students' purpose, identity, and pride as second language learners are some of our priorities. There was a warm and welcoming feeling everywhere I went.

Thank you for welcoming me.



*EDM, EWP and I are learning and working with this resource. Please let me know if you are interested.*

## TEACHER LIBRARIAN

By: Cathy Fowler

[cathy.fowler@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:cathy.fowler@sd72.bc.ca)

It has been a pleasure to collaborate with our district coordinators to create and plan new resources for the Ed-Centre. Watch for a newsletter from the Ed Centre highlighting these new resources. Remember to seek out your Librarian for help finding resources in our district or go to: [www.sd72.follettdestiny.ca](http://www.sd72.follettdestiny.ca)



*Check out our Digital resources on the [District Library Learning Commons](#) page.*



*Be sure to take some time to check out the [Tech Untangled Blog](#) if you haven't had a chance.*

## EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

By: Shannon Hagen

[shannon.hagen@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:shannon.hagen@sd72.bc.ca)

As things are slowly settling down and we are looking forward to the rest of the school year, some of you might be ready to look at different possibilities to incorporate technology into your classroom. Please reach out to me so that I can collaborate with you make this process as easy as possible.

[BOOK TECH TIME WITH SHAN](#)

I'm looking forward to a great year working with you all.

*Also, just a gentle reminder that you should be finished moving your H: Drive files to your OneDrive by Winter Break.*



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

By: Erin Pickering

[erin.pickering@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:erin.pickering@sd72.bc.ca)

### School Based Pro D Day

November 30th

- Full day K-8 & Robron Centre
- Afternoon only Timberline & Carihi

### Offerings

- [Accessing Pro-D Funds](#)
- [Updated Pro-D List](#)
- [November Offerings](#)

## MENTORSHIP

Work in progress!!

check back soon...

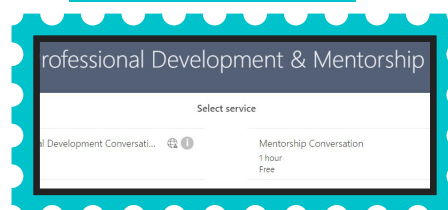
### Mentorship Round table

What does mentorship mean to you? Come and share your ideas and opinions about how mentorship can best serve SD72  
Tuesday November 17th  
3:15pm On Teams.



*Click image for Teams Join Link.*

*Book some time with Erin*



Check out our [Pro-D Portal page](#).

## Professional Development



For your personal pro-d account balance contact your site pro-d representative at [prod@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:prod@sd72.bc.ca) or [erin.pickering@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:erin.pickering@sd72.bc.ca)

## INDIGENOUS RESOURCES

By: Gillian Kirke - Indigenous Education Department

[gillian.kirke@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:gillian.kirke@sd72.bc.ca)

Check out the [Indigenous Offerings for Education blog](#). On this blog you will find the Offerings for Engagement newsletters, upcoming learning opportunities, news stories, and other information to include in and inform your pedagogy. Please reach out to me so we can collaborate!



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

By: Kim Stix - ELL Department

[kim.stix@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:kim.stix@sd72.bc.ca)

It has been a busy yet exciting time in our schools as ELL students adjust to different routines and navigate new classes. I have been actively reconnecting with our ELL/ESD teachers and guiding student assessments. All of these teachers, including myself, are now supporting these students in small groups in and out of the classroom. We are providing learning resources for these students to enhance their academic and social English language development.

### "Popcorn" Response Frames: Student Selected Reporters

- I select \_\_\_\_.
- I nominate \_\_\_\_.
- I would like to hear from \_\_\_\_.



*This speaking strategy can be used when sharing out information or ideas in pairs, small groups, or as a class. Information provided by Dr. Kate Kinsella at the BC TESOL 2020 Virtual Conference.*

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

By: Drew Williams

drew.williams@sd72.bc.ca

· FOUNDRY ·

[Foundry](#) is your amazing one-stop shop for Mental Health and Wellness

- backgrounders on various topics
- self-checks for youth
- online and in-person resources

WELLNESS TOGETHER  
**Canada** | Mental Health and Substance Use Support

## Wellness Together Canada

We live in challenging times. Get connected to mental health and substance use support, resources, and counselling with this interactive tool from [Wellness Together Canada](#).

It only takes a second to create your free account.

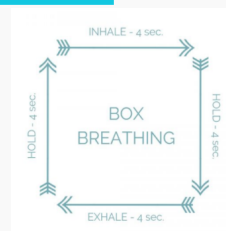


Click on the above image for SOGI-related resources.

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Education

## Mental Well-Being Information and Resources

As caring adults in children's lives, we can help by being a steady calming influence, providing developmentally-appropriate and factual information about the local situation, and helping children to feel some level of control.



### The Benefits of Box Breathing

Research shows that box breathing:

- reduces physical stress symptoms in the body
- positively affects emotions and mental well-being
- increases mental clarity, energy, and focus

## ONE STOP SHOPPING Resources

The SD72 District Teacher-Coordinator (DisCo) Team invites you to create and engage in an online community of educators looking to connect, share ideas, and find or promote. Twitter is a social media platform that allows us to follow the work of today's *Big Thinkers* in education, such as favorite authors, professors, and colleagues. You will also find links to new lesson plans or ideas, books and articles, instructional strategies, and assessment tools. Use the hashtag **#sd72learn** when you post and be sure to find and follow other local educators. We hope you'll join us! If you are a Twitter beginner and would like to learn how to use this platform, please join *Adolescent Literacy Coordinator, Rachel Friederich*, on Monday, November 9th, on Microsoft Teams, for an overview of how to set up and use Twitter.

[Click here to join the meeting.](#)

