



CONNECTING WITH PARENTS

About Assessment and Technology

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In this month's edition of 'Connecting With Parents' we would like to focus on; the role of the learning coach within schools and examples of collaborative communication tools teachers are using in their classrooms.

Coaching for Success in Sturgeon

In Sturgeon Schools we have teachers working as Learning Coaches to support teachers in implementing effective grading practices and bringing new technologies into the classrooms. Learning coaches are on-site professionals who support teachers with using effective instructional and assessment techniques for the benefit of improving student learning. Some of their roles include: holding brief meetings with teachers to share ideas and plan how proven techniques can be implemented in a teacher's classroom, collaborating with teachers to prepare materials and find resources, and modeling how the method could be taught.

The work of the Learning Coaches is based on sound research. We are following the work of Jim Knight and his team out of the University of Kansas (www.instructionalcoach.org). The KU Center for Research studies problems in education and work to place solutions into the hands of educators.

We are very excited about the work our Learning Coaches are doing in our schools. Through collaboration, research, hard work and a focus on student learning, great things are happening in Sturgeon School Division.

Technology Spotlight: The Wiki and The Blog

The technology spotlight this month brings focus to collaborative communication tools that are being utilized by some teachers in their classrooms.

A wiki is a collaborative website, which can include text, images, and video, that allows the teacher and students to create and edit site content as learning occurs. A wiki is a "living" collaborative communication tool that evolves as titles, ideas, and comments, are edited (added, deleted, re-written).

A blog is a collaborative website, which can include text, images, and video, that allows the teacher and students to create and publish content as learning occurs. Participants are able to post observations, reflections, and/or understandings, as well as, add comments to thoughts that have helped to broaden the understanding of content.

When students participate in posting to either a wiki and/or a blog, they are demonstrating critical and creative thinking by navigating through content to develop meaning and knowledge in real and relevant ways.

Please contact Mark Lockwood or Amanda Dorosh at Central Office regarding any additional assessment and technology questions/comments.