

Principal's Report for Governing Board Tuesday, December 6, 2016

One to One Device (Chrome Books)

The weekend of November 25th-26th, I had the opportunity to attend the Google Summit at Rosemere High School with five of our staff. It was an amazing experience. It gave me the opportunity to catch a glimpse of what can be and how we can direct it, for our students and ourselves.

For the past several years, I have wondered what the face of education would look like in the not too distant future. This weekend gave me a glimpse into amazing possibilities and the potential that is within our grasp that we can be instrumental drivers to the inevitable change that must take place in education.

For years now businesses have adapted to the ever changing face of the work force. Businesses have provided their leaders with the opportunity to learn what makes new employees tick in this new age. In the education system, the change has been much slower. Ultimately, our driving force has to be our students and their individual stories and needs.

Whether we embrace technology or shy away from it, our students have grown up with it. This is a reality that we cannot ignore. Many children arrive in Pre-K or Kindergarten with a wealth of knowledge on how to navigate the technology. This technology dictates the path our student's lives will be taking in both their personal and professional lives. It will become an integral component into their education as much as our core subjects and socialization have always been.

Change is inevitable and occurs daily within our lives. We need to attempt to change our ways in the education process. Learning has become student centered as opposed to teacher directed. Active learning comprises of analyzing, defining, creating and evaluating. Studies have proven that 70% of what is retained by students is what they have actively said or written and 90% of what they actively do. Students need to be actively involved in their own learning.

Before we take any step in a process of change, we need to acknowledge that it will not be easy. Some of us may embrace it with open arms and others with more reluctance and skepticism. Wherever you lie on this spectrum it is ok to be at that spot. This is a start in the process of change. It is important for everyone to realize that we do need to start the process.

This week, we will be forming a committee to bring chrome book devices to our students. This one on one initiative will be a gradual process of acquiring chrome books for students that will become theirs. We will target specific grades each year until all students will have a chrome book.

We will receive support from several of our consultants and our DG is on board with this project.

Subject Time Allocation

We have started looking at the subject allocation, it will presented at the January meeting. At the present time, I do not see many changes to what we have in place this school year. There will be

a new financial course added in secondary five. It will be a two credit course. We have not received directives as to what will be changed at the moment to what we have currently. The Science and Technology course in secondary 4, we will be requesting 2 sections at school organization in the spring. This is to reflect the students that would normally have been registered in AST. It is not a certainty that they will split the group.

Health Care Caravan

The Health Care Caravan will be here on March 15th, 2017. The gym will be used that day for the presentations. In the morning, the high school students will have an opportunity to visit the presenters. In the afternoon, members of the community will be invited to attend.

TTFM Survey

We will once again be participating in the Tell Them From Me Survey. As soon as I have more details I will let you know. The survey will most likely be given in January.

Loss of floating Ped Day

Due to the school closure of November 29th, we have been advised that February 6th, 2017 will become a regular school day. It will be a day 5.

Christmas Basket Drive

From now until December 21st we will be collecting unperishable food items.

Mentoring (Student to Student)

SLSNC has suggested mentoring between students. The sec 3 POP class has been going into the kindergarten class as part of their curriculum. A couple of suggestions would be having the sec 5 academic prep class mentor sec 1 students (for example).

Best Wishes

At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the dedication to our school community and what you do for our students by giving of your time to sit on Governing Board. Wishing you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year!