

Why God Made Teachers

When God created teachers,
He gave us special friends
To help us understand His world
And truly comprehend
The beauty and the wonder
Of everything we see,
And become a better person
With each discovery.

When God created teachers,
He gave us special guides
To show us ways in which to grow
So we can all decide

How to live and how to do
What's right instead of wrong,
To lead us so that we can lead
And learn how to be strong.

Why God created teachers,
In His wisdom and His grace,
Was to help us learn to make our world
A better, wiser place.

by Kevin William Huff

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Board Meeting	CANCELLED	April 26, 2010
Teacher Appreciation Week		May 3-7, 2010
SPICE		April 29 - May 2, 2010
Blue Prints		May 4 - 7, 2010
Math PD—Grade 3 & 6 Teachers		May 7, 2010
Religious Education Meeting		May 10, 2010
Admin Meeting		May 11, 2010
Protégé Day		May 13, 2010
Board Meeting		May 31, 2010



April 2010

A Message from the Superintendent...

The principles of creativity and flexibility always come to mind at this time of year. The weather gets nice, the days grow long and the outdoors call. It is a great time of year to be anywhere but school or home doing homework. Even gardening is enticing. And that is for teachers! Imagine how the kids feel.

And yet, this is also the time of year when we begin to take a good look at the data accumulating that shows how much of the curriculum remains untaught, the number and names of students who still don't get certain concepts, the impending need for preparation for final exams, the indications of some student disengagement. Parents, too, get report cards and become concerned about the outcomes of the year. The pressure builds.

Not to panic! There are still at least 45 days left! No time calls for greater out of the box thinking! With good planning and a focus on the major outcomes for each subject, you can still, not just cover the curriculum, but ensure it is learned by all. 45 days also gives ample time for some serious interventions for students who are still chasing mastery.

Let us not forget the old axiom at this time. "If you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got".

Wayne Hulley calls it SOS - Save One Student. If you can identify the most vulnerable student in the class: the one who, if unsuccessful this year is in danger of becoming a drop-out some time in the future, and design a set of strategies to engage, intervene, teach and give hope; you can save that student by the end of the year. And in doing so, you will benefit all of the other students in the class.

This type of planning, if done collaboratively with other grade partners, pares the curriculum down to the essentials, uses HYIS to engage immediate learning, and shares the responsibilities for student success among the team members, rather than being a huge weight on the individual teacher's shoulders. Creativity and flexibility are not just recommended, but required. And what a rush when it's successful!

Carol Lemay

Targetting the Next 45 Days!

In the classroom it is especially important to help our students to set goals and as educators we must be prepared to support, facilitate and guide our students in a way that allows us to reach them. In setting goals, we must also be ready to provide our students with meaningful data and feedback to empower their ability to recognize their strengths as well as the areas which need focus and growth. I would like to share a personal experience to demonstrate the value of setting targets for our students.

One of my sons plays competitive volleyball. He is passionate about the sport. He participated in his first tournament four weekends ago. His team placed 11th in their first tournament. At the end of his first tournament he received a set of stats which summarized, in detail, his weekend of play. Serves and serve errors, aces and percentages, successful pass-receives, number of blocks and attacks, and games played were just a few of the stats that were recorded. Following that weekend while at his practice, the coach requested that each player write down a goal that they would like to work on during their practice based on stats. At the end of the practice they were called on to rate their level of success. As an observer of the practice, it became obvious to me that the coach had reviewed the data from the tournament and targeted in on the skills that needed more practice and attention. He had looked at the data and had used it as concrete and specific evidence to inform himself and his players so that they, the individual players, could further develop the necessary skills for the benefit of themselves and of the whole team.

Three tournaments later, Adynn's team placed 2nd and took home a silver medal. For Adynn, the excitement of the medal wore off quickly as he realized that the medal itself is not of greatest importance; rather it was the milestones and progress that had been achieved on his stats sheet. With that meaningful and targeted information, he was able to self assess and take responsibility for his own development. He is able to celebrate and recognize his strengths and celebrate his successes, yet more importantly, he is able to identify areas of and for growth.

As educators, it is important to take the time to help our students to set some goals over the next 45 days that will help them to work to their fullest potential. Let's not count the days until the end of the school year, rather let's make the days count. Start by setting some targets!

*Jo-Anne Lanctot
Deputy Superintendent*

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)... What does it mean?

Many of you have probably heard by now that our new school in Slave Lake, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy, has been designed to LEEDS Silver certification standards. I want to explain a bit about what that means in this newsletter.

LEED is a voluntary, points-based environmental rating system administered in Canada by the Canadian Green Building Council. There are four certification levels: LEED Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum. LEED covers six topic areas: site development, water efficiency, energy efficiency, material selection (e.g. re-use), indoor environmental quality, and design innovation. The Government of Alberta has adopted a Silver standard for all new schools within the province.

LEED Silver-rated buildings can cost up to five percent more to build than traditional buildings, but cost less to operate and maintain because they typically consume 40-45 percent less energy than other buildings. Any additional costs are recovered through lower operating costs in about 7 years.

LEED Silver buildings may include: recycled, renewable, or recyclable materials, water conservation, daylight harvesting, natural ventilation, high performance building envelope, low-emission carpeting, paint and sealants, improved indoor environment, etc. To learn more about LEED and the Canadian Green Building Council, visit <http://www.cagbc.org>

*Kevin Robinson
Facilities Manager*

Board Briefs

March 22, 2010 - Regular Meeting

The following motions were made by the Board of Living Waters CRD No. 42:

- ❖ The Board made a motion to adopt Policy 7 changes as presented.
- ❖ The Board made a motion to re-authorize the following locally developed courses:
 - Film Studies 15, 25, & 35 (5 credits)
 - Film Studies 25 (3 credits)
 - Forensic Science Studies 25 & 35 (3 credits)
 - Health & Wellness 15, 25 & 35 (5 credits)
- ❖ The Board accepted the proposal from Alexdawn Bus Lines to provide student busing services for the Edson area.
- ❖ The Board initiated a 5-year contract with Alexdawn Bus Lines.
- ❖ The Board appointed Nieta World as the Returning Officer for the upcoming Trustee election on October 2010.
- ❖ The Board appointed Lynn Sloat as the Deputy Returning Officer for the upcoming Trustee election in October 2010.