

RLE Learning Communities

Our Big things for this year:

Fun and Joy	Learning should be joyful and bring us happiness.
Trust	We trust each other and we trust our students.
Growth Mindset	Taking risks Learning from our mistakes Setting no limits... the power of yet! Stretch your thinking
Design thinking	Working through a think Create/prototype-test-refine/revisit-create
Inquiry	Scaffolding- starting guided and well supported by teacher, working toward independent inquiry with teacher facilitating (Trevor McKenzie)
Assessment Language	Acquiring, developing, refining, mastering. Students self-assessing and identifying their next steps/setting learning goals.
Communication	Problem solving Students discussing and teachers facilitating with questions to dig deeper Students untangling their thinking and making their learning strategies evident
Our Image of the Child	We believe that students are capable, competent, curious and like to be challenged. They will rise up to the bar, no matter how high we place it!
Student Agency	Students are responsible for their own learning We want students to feel that their thinking and learning and words are valuable! Risk taking and success Students leading the conversations, doing the deep thinking, asking meaningful questions
Relationships	Our relationships with our students and their relationships with each other are incredibly important to community. Interrelationships and connections improve our learning - we build our knowledge and understanding together. (We don't learn from people we don't like)
Environment	Facilitating a collaborative culture with the learning spaces that we provide for the students (not the 'icing,' but the purpose and pedagogy) - being aware of the 'extras' in our classrooms (careful consideration of what is on the walls, designing our spaces for diverse learning preferences)

What do we believe about student learning?

Students are competent, capable and curious	Students can do far more than we give them credit for (assume competence)
Students like to be challenged	Set high expectations and students will rise up to them with facilitation Students are curious and engaged, they want to learn and discover new ideas! We should celebrate the struggle.
Students need to go through a fail/succeed process to move forward	It is okay to let them struggle and figure it out (perseverance).
Students need to play an active role in their own learning journeys (agency).	Students need to know where they are at in their own learning and be a part of planning their next steps
Students learn better in community (Learning is Social)	Students can build their collective knowledge when given many and varied opportunities to discuss and share and think together.
Students learn from reflecting on their learning	Students have many opportunities to reflect and share their learning. Students need to have time to engage with feedback to improve their learning.

How will we facilitate that learning?

We need to Name, Notice and Nurture Competencies	Help students recognize what they can do well. Building from strengths.
We need to leave more spaces and gaps for the students to fill	Learning takes patience and time.
Relationships are KEY for learning!	It is important to know our students really well so we can create learning opportunities that will be important to them.
We need to provide access points for all learners	Meeting the students where they are at (differentiation, remediation, stretching and extending)
We need to keep students curious and engaged	Supporting students in driving their own learning based on their interests and passions- provide elements to spark curiosity
The Environment is our 3rd Teacher	It is important to create a safe, homey, cozy environment where student learning is at the center. Including the indoor and outdoor environment. -we want to create different, flexible learning spaces -we want to make our students' family pictures visible -we want to make our students' learning visible
We make student thinking visible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital (Adobe Spark), online• portfolio• Making thinking visible strategies• Documenting the learning and sharing it on the walls (student words, authentic/real thinking - potentially including student goals for improvement, our questions are visible, pictures of our students engaged in learning.• Orally and visibly (with each other!)

“Many times what we perceive as an error or failure is actually a gift. And eventually we find that lessons learned from that discouraging experience prove to be of great worth.”

— *Richelle E. Goodrich, Smile Anyway*

What do we believe about our students?

We believe that our students are capable, competent, curious and like to be challenged. They will rise up to the bar, no matter how high we place it!

How do we facilitate our student’s learning?

Through establishing positive peer relationships, and a sense of belonging, we will foster an environment that allows for risk taking, creativity and student responsibility for learning. Each child is unique and we recognize that students need to show their thinking in many different ways, which often requires patience and time.

We will create opportunities for students to engage in learning that is important to them. It is important to us that the environment that we create for students is a home away from home. Students need a collaborative space designed for engaging and diverse learning needs.

We think it is important to make our community’s thinking and learning visible. We want visitors in our classroom to feel welcome and to understand the culture of thinking and growth mindset that we are creating.

This year we will use the following questions to guide our learning:

What does it mean to belong to a community that recognizes and values differences?

As we continue to discover the meaning of community, together we are asking:

- How do we strengthen and deepen our sense of community at school, at home, and in Kelowna?
- Who am I? Who are we?
- What do I value? What do we value?
- How are we connected to each other and to the place we live?
- How does our learning shape who we are as individuals and as citizens?
- How does better understanding ourselves help us to better understand each other?

We look forward to building knowledge and understanding with each other.

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