



**Network of Performance Based Schools  
Aboriginal Enhancement Schools Network  
Fall 2010**

**The Network is Forging Ahead**

**Dear Network Educators:**

Across BC inquiry and innovative practices in Network schools continue to lead the way. The Network is forging ahead and your involvement is making a huge difference – in our own province and in places across the country and around the world. Here are just a few updates:



Lorna Earl



Alma Harris

**Network Seminar 2011**

**May 15 - 16: Save these dates!**

Once again, this May we will be stimulating our collective thinking with colleagues who are leading research and influencing practice. We will learn from the efforts of schools across BC – at all levels and from all regions, in workshops and in ‘lunch and learn’ dialogues. We will devote considerable time to learn from our lead AESN schools. Their work is very exciting.

Four of the top researchers in the world will be joining us:

**Focus on Secondary Assessment**

Dr. Lorna Earl

**Moving Schools Beyond Expectations**

Dr. Alma Harris

**Teacher Professional Learning**

Dr. Helen Timperley

**Social and Emotional Learning**

Dr. Kimberley Schonert Reichl

Plan to come. The seminar learning will shape your plans for 2011-2012 in very productive ways. Watch for registration information early in February.



Helen Timperley



Kim Schonert Reichl

## Numeracy

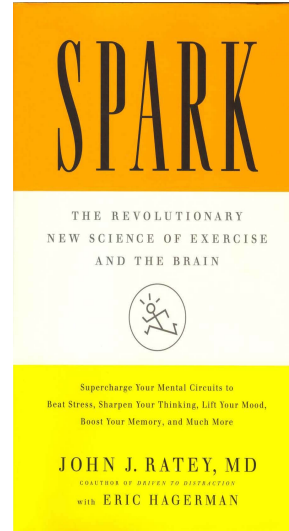
There is real interest within the ministry and the Math PSA in revising and refining the numeracy performance standards. Your support in examining the new standards, in exploring tasks, and in providing feedback to the educators working to make them of the highest quality would be most appreciated. Requests will be coming out in the New Year. In addition, UBC is holding a symposium on Aboriginal Math in January. We'll let you know all details as soon as they are confirmed.

## Science

We hope that some of you have taken advantage of the draft science performance standards, as they are exceptionally useful. Advanced Education has declared that this is the year of science – so this is a great opportunity to profile an area that has INQUIRY at the heart of the discipline. The link to the draft standards is on the website. Check them out!

## Health

We know that many of you have read John Ratey's book *Spark* – and are using it as a motivation to START every day with a walk or a run. We have found his arguments very convincing and network schools in BC and in the Yukon have demonstrated the benefits from physical activity early in the day.



## Aboriginal Understandings: AESN

We are very impressed by the spirit of the work and the caliber of the thinking done by the educators in the AESN network. The Federal Deputy Minister of INAC (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada) believes that this work is an exemplary national initiative. A big thank you to those of you who have “stepped up” with approaches that are creating a more civil Canadian society and greater learning progress for all learners.

As BC residents we work in indigenous cultures of incredible depth and richness – and now through your work, many more young people are becoming aware of our history and of the strengths of Aboriginal people in a wide range of fields.

### **Secondary Assessment**

Lorna Earl is in the process of completing a major research study of secondary formative assessment practices in Ontario. As soon as her report is available we'll let you know. We expect to hear highlights and some of her recommendations at the spring seminar. We believe that some of the smartest secondary work in the world is taking place in BC. Network schools and Network teachers and leaders are sorting out the issues around coaching for learning and 'grading practices' in thoughtful ways – with their students as co-investigators and planners.

### **Aboriginal Resources**

Terri Mack, a Network participant from Nanaimo is now providing outstanding resources to deepen Aboriginal content and understandings. Check out her website at:

[www.corelearningresources.com](http://www.corelearningresources.com)

### **Reporting using the Performance Standards**

Check out the Campbell River report card for Grade Four on the Network website. This work is well conceptualized and is now provoking new thinking at many levels. Thanks to Campbell River for leading the way and for their generosity in sharing their thinking.

### **International Connections**

We have hosted many study tours over the last few years as a result of growing international awareness of the BC Network of Performance Based Schools as a sustained initiative with a clear focus on improving literacy, numeracy, social responsibility, health, science and Aboriginal understanding.

A team of educators from Wales attended ICSEI 2009 in Vancouver. Since then, Alma Harris, a lead researcher on leader development and improving schools in challenging circumstances, and Michelle Jones, a highly successful elementary principal have been seconded to the Welsh Assembly Government to lead their educational change strategy.

The connections between Wales and BC have continued to grow with a team from Wales attending the Network seminar last May. Network leaders were invited to Wales in July to work with principals and district leaders in the development of their inquiry communities and continue to serve as part of an international reference committee. An important step for the Welsh educators is to see the work firsthand. To this end, the British Council is funding several principal-teacher teams to spend February 12-18 in BC schools. The focus of this study tour is:

1. To understand how teachers are using the BC performance standards to strengthen student ownership and confidence in writing and reading;

2. To learn how Network schools are collaborating with and learning from each other.

Lynne Tomlinson and Sandi Stacey, regional Network leaders, are helping to coordinate this visit. We really appreciate the willingness of Network schools in the lower mainland to share their practice with these international visitors.

#### **Congratulations - Alison Sidow.**

Alison's work in the Bulkley Valley and then as superintendent and Network leader in Gold Trail has made a big difference in the learning lives of young people and educators. Alison has accepted an appointment as Superintendent of Achievement starting January 2011. We are pleased that Alison will bring her inquiring mind to her role in leading the province towards greater responsiveness and equity.

#### **Appreciations – Elizabeth Wilson**

Elizabeth has provided outstanding leadership to the northwest region for many years. Although she will continue to stay involved in Network activities, she has passed on her coordination responsibilities to Christine Franes and Kathy Eades who will be joining Debbie Leighton Stephens and Nicole Davey as regional leaders. We sincerely thank Elizabeth for all her efforts and her very thoughtful guidance.



#### **Evolving Work - Arts Performance Standards**

For a long time we have wanted to see provincial performance standards for each area of the arts – as a way of indicating the value of the arts and to encourage inquiry in all areas of learning. In 2011 we are going to make a start by exploring the development of draft music performance standards at the elementary level. We are hoping to interest the Vancouver Opera Association, in conjunction with their involvement in youth programs, with this initiative. If you are interested in being involved, please let Donna Weaving know.

**Website Update** We are rebuilding the website to make it easier to navigate. Hopefully this will be finished by Christmas. We are always on the lookout for great links, video clips, photos and new resources, Please send ideas and materials to Donna.

### **Teacher Pre-Service Education**

Education programs and are transforming the experiences of aspiring teachers. The Propellor model group in Nanaimo (Mary Lynn Epps, Kerry Armstrong, Lynn Brown, Paige Fisher) are linked with Vancouver Island University. They are leading sessions on campus and are opening up their classrooms as learning labs for teacher candidates. Imagine being able to see state of the art assessment and inquiry practices at the very start of your career.

Network leaders in Prince George, Debbie Koehn, Frances Roch, Denise Wilson and Colleen Gurney are developing a coaching model with teacher candidates in which new teachers get an experienced network teacher as a 'coach.'

### **Inquiry Questions Due November 30.**

Don't forget to submit your question to Donna ([dweaving@dccnet.com](mailto:dweaving@dccnet.com)) by November 30. Once the questions are all in, they will be posted on the NPBS and AESN websites. We encourage you to check out what all schools are doing and to get in touch directly with other network schools with a similar focus.

### **Contact Us**

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### **A Focus on the Learner**

The goal in the Network is that *every learner will cross the stage with purpose, dignity and options*. We also want every learner, no matter what their age will be able to provide thoughtful responses to the three key learning questions:

Where are you going with your learning?

How is it going?

Where to next?

If learners are in environments where the six coaching (formative assessment) strategies are a way of life, their answers will be personal, meaningful and coherent.

We look forward to hearing from you about how your inquiry work is developing.

All the very best.

***Judy Halbert and Linda Kaser***