



Aboriginal Enhancement Schools Network
Healthy Schools Network
Network of Performance Based Schools

Guide for Network Displays 2009-2010

The Network Celebrations/Showcases provide the opportunity to tell your story, share your learning and reflect on your inquiry. Sharing your work at the annual celebration is a key part of being a NPBS, HSN and AESN school.

Three Key Questions for Learner Engagement

1. Where are you going with your learning? (What are you learning?)
2. How is it (your learning) going?
3. Where to next?

These three questions come from the work on student engagement from Helen Timperley and John Hattie in New Zealand.

We have been working with these questions in a variety of ways this year. Getting verbatim responses from learners provides very interesting insights into the depth of use of the six strategies.

If learners know what they are learning and why it is important, we know that the learning intentions are clearly understood. If they can provide a thoughtful response to how they are doing, we know that criteria for success are being used and internalized. And, if they know what their next steps are, then

we know that clear and specific descriptive feedback is being provided.

You may want to consider using these questions as a framework for your school inquiry.

The key ingredients for your display

- The name of your school and your community – (Gleneagles Elementary, West Vancouver)
- Your major area of inquiry – Aboriginal Learning, Social Responsibility, Writing, Reading, Math, Healthy Living, Science
- Your school question(s)
- Your use of the six formative assessment strategies – which ones were your focus?
- Your findings (using the performance standards) in a simple, easy to read format
- Your next steps

For you to consider

The Spirit of the Poster/Celebration – A Blend of Oral Story Telling and Active Inquiry Practice

Poster sessions and the celebrations / showcases are designed to be interactive – those doing the research talk with interested colleagues about what they are investigating and what they are finding. The poster never tells the “whole story.” The poster session is used to spark curiosity, highlight your school story and to generate sharing of ideas. We think of the celebration as a blend of two traditions – the oral storytelling tradition of educators and Aboriginal cultures and the research tradition of exploring an idea through an evidence-informed discipline.

Multiple Purposes for Displays

Consider the range of possible audiences as you design your display. School teams have told us they have used their poster displays for many purposes during the year – with their students, during Open Houses, at a variety of school and district meetings and with parent and community groups.

Focus for Performance Standards Information

As the Network has developed we have become more and more interested in those schools that are having success in getting kids out of “not yet” and into something better! Rather than telling every single aspect of your work you may choose to focus your display on the learners in the two toughest categories – *not yet* and *approaching* and show how they were doing at the beginning of the year and towards the end.

Visual thinking

If you have time, take a look at the work of Edward Tufte.

http://www.edwardtufte.com/tufte/books_vdqi His experience in design and showing numbers (quantitative information) in a way that is truthful and helpful is reflected in his books that are both beautiful and fascinating.

Some of the main ideas:

- Be as truthful as you can.
- Keep visuals simple and compelling. Confusing information can lead to poor decisions.

We have also found the ideas from *Presentation Zen*

www.presentationzen.com very useful and encourage you to take a look at the powerful design ideas summarized in this book.

Case Study Sharing

Your two-page case study, due at the end of June will tell the bigger story. If you have completed your data collection and have found time to write your case study, bring a few copies to share. Otherwise consider that your display is the background piece for you to tell the story of your inquiry.

Other Presentation Considerations

Please be on time – Make sure you give yourselves enough time to set up so that you are ready to go right at the starting time.

Invite supportive colleagues and friends – This is an important opportunity to help others in your community appreciate the power of networked learning across schools and districts as well as the impact of formative assessment on learners.

Enjoy the process – Your work is making a genuine difference!

*Judy Halbert & Linda Kaser
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