REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.46 (SUNSHINE COAST)

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT: DIGITAL LITERACY
Submitted by Director Kate Kerr
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(1j) Our students will have the digital literacy skills to enhance and communicate their learning, and responsibly navigate technology

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Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.

- Albert Einstein

Background:

Digital Literacy is the interest, attitude and ability of individuals to use digital technology and communication tools appropriately to access, manage, integrate, analyze and evaluate information, construct new knowledge, and create and communicate with others. The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) frames its benchmarks for Digital Literacy around six standards: creativity and innovation; communication and collaboration; research and information fluency; critical thinking, problem solving and decision making; digital citizenship; and technology operations and concepts. [1]

Discussion:

- *Flourished* with various initiatives throughout this unprecedented school year of 2020-2021, by providing rich on-line and in-class opportunities for our SD46 community to engage together and innovate creatively.

- *Engaged* with our SD46 community by and through: coding and robotics workshops for classrooms, teachers and classrooms both on-line and in-classroom learning; Innovation kits for classroom usage; augmentative and alternative technology for differentiated learning; rich collaborations with Canada Learning Code, Amazon, Green Bricks Education, Science Odyssey, Sechelt Library, Gibsons Library, Trinity Western University (Math Department), Science World, Walnut Grove Secondary (Robotics Team), ARC-BC, and SET-BC; Read & Write; Margaret Cooper's Book Creator workshops; Differentiated apps that are allowing students to reach a further potential in their learning; Innovation Club; Week of Code in December 2020; Drop-In Tech Times for the whole SD46 community; Teachers Educating Teachers on Technology Team; and with a helpful ADST resource page by Sandy Magnussen on the Engage site.

- *Connected* with the principles of Universal Design for Learning. The foundations of our Digital Literacy is to facilitate a richer learning experience for all and enable our inclusive community to empower all of our young learners. We are grateful our

provincial partnerships from FASD, SET-BC and ARC-BC to enrich and equip our district in powerful ways.

- *Accessed* by all learners in our SD46 community. Our district license for Read & Write for Mac, iPad and Google Chrome has broken down barriers for many of vulnerable learners. Read and Write is a universal support, providing an accessible toolbar which hovers above writing documents, web pages and PDF's. The toolbar provides students with text to speech, dictation (speech to text), word prediction, dictionaries and a multitude of other tools to support literacy in an inclusive learning environment.

Next Steps:

- *Deepen* our SD46 community's understanding and skillset of Read & Write, ADST, differentiated learning apps and FreshGrade through workshops for SD46 staff and through targeted in-class instruction

- *Promote* inspiration and inclusion through various initiatives (i.e. Innovation kits) and connecting with key influencers in schools (i.e. TETT members, librarians) who can be resourced and empowered in Digital Literacy

- *Empower* accessibility to information and tools

- *Connect* and *Equip* with the SD46 community through our Innovation Club, TETT Team, our 2nd Annual Week of Code in December and the continual connections with our local, regional, provincial and national partners

- *Strengthen* the capacities and education of our SD46 community through connection and resources

[1] International Society for Technology in Education (2007*). iste.nets.s: Advancing Digital Age Learning.* Iste.org/nets.