

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

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT: NUMERACY

Submitted by Superintendent Bocking
March 4th, 2020

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- 1a** Our students will be **numerate**. They will have the skills and tenacity to interpret and apply mathematical understandings in flexible, functional, and creative ways.
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"The book of nature is written in the language of Mathematics."

- Galileo

Background:

Numeracy is one of the key skills sets that young people need when they graduate from our high schools. The Ministry of Education defines Numeracy as, "the ability, willingness and perseverance to interpret and apply mathematical understanding to solve problems in contextualized situations, and to analyze and communicate these solutions in ways relevant to the given context."

Accordingly, the district created a numeracy committee to develop teacher and student confidence and competence in Numeracy. The committee has four key goals:

- To support teachers in their professional development to foster a positive mathematics culture.
- To improve students' ability to understand and communicate mathematical skills and concepts.

Discussion:

The district numeracy committee is supporting numeracy improvement through:

- creating opportunities for students to explore their own Mathematical interests & passions
- (ie. a Science Fair with a Mathematical focus; coding & robotics),
- enhancing experiential learning and infusing more Indigenous culture into Mathematics (ie. weaving to enhance pattern recognition and application),
- further promoting the Core Competencies from the new BC education curriculum to enhance our Mathematical vision,
- facilitating "expert" Math instructors from around B.C., who are well-versed in the new education curriculum, to provide engaging in-service training at the Primary, Intermediate & Secondary levels,

- Promoting Math CAMPS = Collaborating About Mathematics and sessions with presenters Sandra Ball (Primary), Selina Miller, (Intermediate), and Marc Garneau (Secondary)

Parents are encouraged to:

- Talk to their children about their current experiences in Math
- Stay in contact with their child's teacher(s)
- Promote numeracy discussions within their PAC's
- Practice and review basic skills at the Elementary level with fun strategies and games (ie. doubles, doubles +/- 1, make it 10, skip counting & times tables, 21, Crib, Snap, Draw etc.)

Next Steps:

- Promote a growth mindset with our students to celebrate learning – including mistakes!
- Monitor numeracy data to review progress and plan further supports as appropriate.
- Monitor support for teachers through surveys and staff discussions.
- Develop resources that support Indigenous ways of knowing in numeracy.