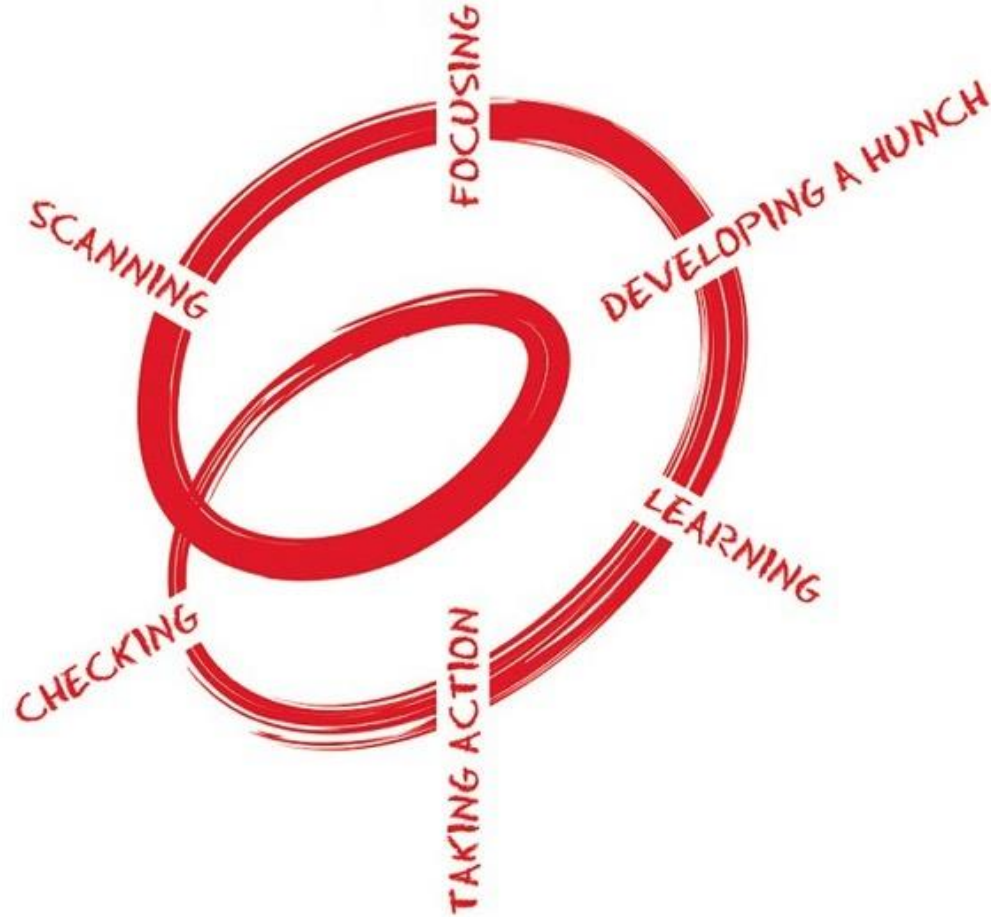




School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha) Wiltse School Growth Plan



"Spirals of Inquiry for equity and quality"
Judy Halbert and Linda Kaser

School: Wiltse Elementary



“School District 67 (Okanagan Skaha) and Wiltse School wish to recognize the Okanagan (Syilx) People and our local nation, the Penticton Indian Band, on whose territories we live, learn, and do our work.”

School Context:

Wiltse Elementary School serves a diverse catchment area that includes the Wiltse Flats neighbourhood, the area around the north shore of Skaha Lake, the orchard/hobby farms along Valleyview Road, and East Lakeside Road south to the new subdivisions of Lakeshore Highlands and Heritage Hills.

The school consists of sixteen classrooms, a computer lab with thirty stations, areas for small group instruction, a well-stocked Learning Commons (Library) and, a large multipurpose room and an excellent gymnasium. The school is very fortunate to have extensive grounds that provide students with excellent play and sporting areas.

The Parent Advisory Council is a key component of Wiltse School. The parents support student achievement through the One-to-One Reading Program, their funding of additional library and learning resources and through the annual Read-a-thon. The Wiltse PAC annually supports Accelerated Reader and Star Reading Programs plus Mathletics. The parents have enriched the schooling of the students by funding extra-curricular events, co-curricular projects and the swimming, skating and cross country skiing programs as well as year-end trips for each grade level.



Inquiry Question: What do you think is driving your plan for student success?

“If we implement specific schoolwide strategies and use common language from the Successful Learners Framework, how will students’ abilities to self-reflect and self-assess their learning improve?”

Our goal(s); We will implement the Successful Learner Trait Framework in alignment with the BC Core Competencies. We will use the common language from the Successful Learner Traits for students to practice self-reflection and self-assessment of their learning.

We hope to give our students the opportunity to self-assess and share their growth and development of the core competencies through the digital platform, All About Me.

Scanning:

Successes

Students at Wiltse School:

- are generally connected to their peers, teachers, support staff and our school
- are well supported and cared for by our school community including parents, teachers and support staff
- have growing confidence in their digital literacy
- seem to like school and appear happy and engaged in school life
- show a high level of participation in extracurricular activities including leadership opportunities, sport activities, music/drama groups, Wiltse Wear Wednesdays, spirit days
- understand and display expected behaviour vs. unexpected behaviour in the many settings of the school



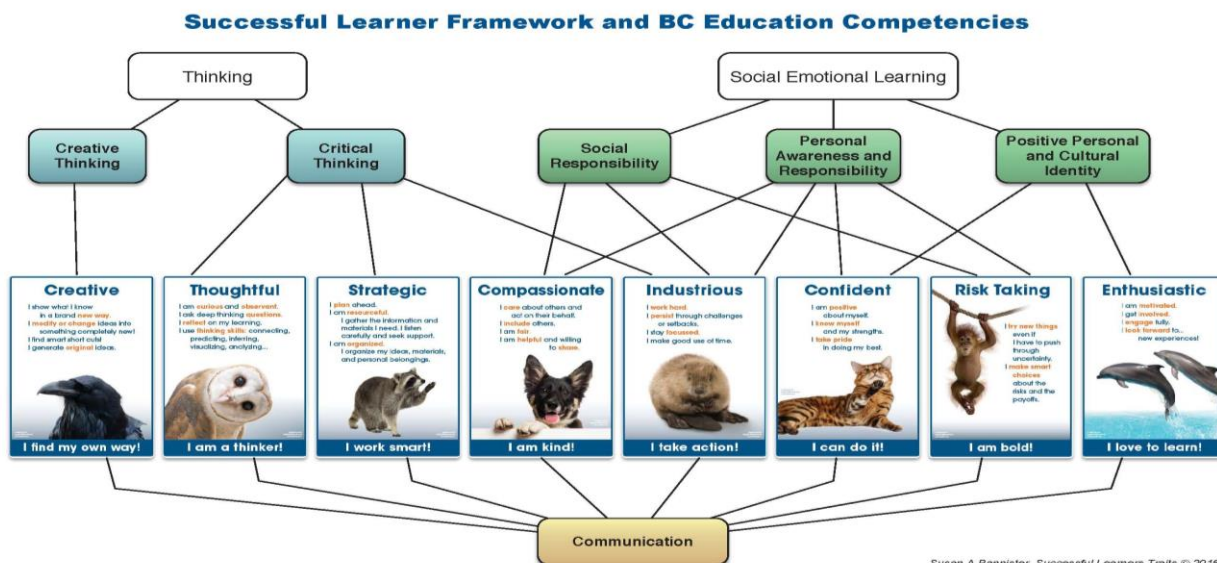
Challenges

- there is a wide range of academic abilities among same-aged students
- students often do not relate the learning at school to their personal lives and experiences outside of school
- some students demonstrate a lack of perseverance when faced with difficult academic tasks and challenging material
- students don't want to challenge themselves and often look for adult support when learning is difficult (lack of grit)
- a number of students lack impulse control and forget to consider the consequences of their actions
- many older students lack creativity and imagination in their outdoor play

Focusing:

Focus on applying the Successful Learner Traits during student reflections

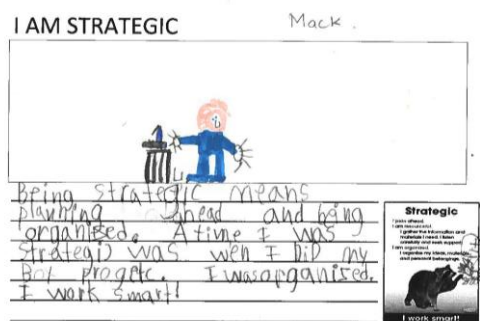
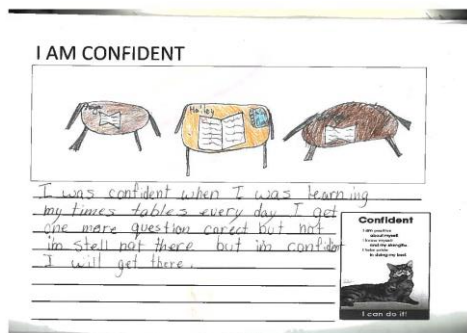
- Teachers will collaborate to create classroom lessons and activities that engage students in hands-on learning and require them to utilize 2-3 successful learner traits to be successful in the activity. Students will be asked to reflect on their learning using the language of the SLTs as part of the learning experience.
- Classroom teachers will continue to reinforce and expand on (unpack) the successful learner trait during classroom learning experiences and provide opportunities for students to reflect on this learning.
- Students will be given opportunities to regularly reflect on their learning using the digital platform, All About Me.



Evidence/Data to support:

Opportunities for students to self-reflect on the Successful Learner Traits and their learning

- Teachers will encourage and give students opportunities to reflect on their learning using the language of the SLTs (connecting to the Core Competencies) during learning activities.
- The digital platform, All About Me, will allow students to reflect on their learning using different means of communication including video clips, drawings and photos.

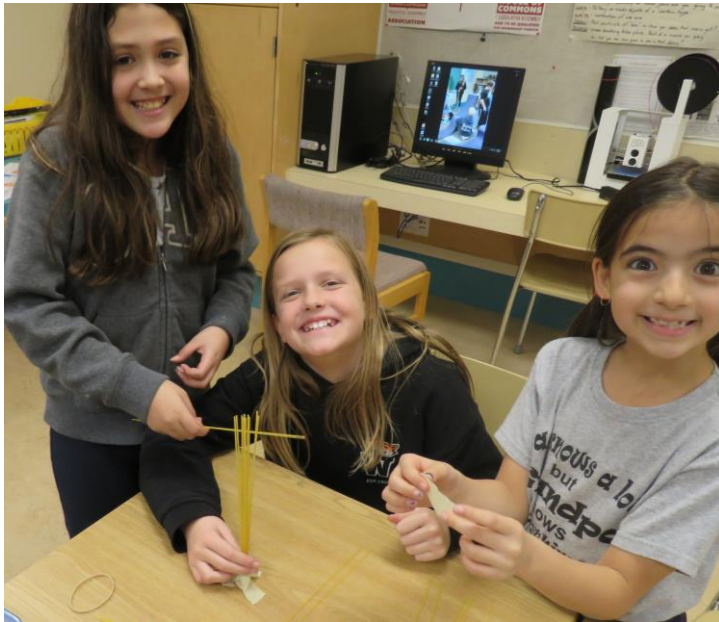


Key Learnings:

We hope to build regular opportunities for students to self-reflect on their learning and to self-assessment their development of the Core Competencies using the language of the Successful Learning Traits. We want our students to develop a stronger understanding of their strengths and how to apply them to push themselves during challenging learning situations. We also want our students to continue to develop in all areas of the core competencies (thinking, communication, personal & social skills).

Developing a Hunch: What is leading to this situation?

Our staff feel that our students have a difficult time on how to self-reflect on their own learning in relation to the core competencies. They are beginning to understand the language of the Successful Learner Traits, but need examples and exemplars of ways to self-reflect on their learning so they know what “good” self-refelction looks like. We need to do a better job connecting the SLTs to the Core Competencies and ultimately, giving students regular, authentic opportunities to self-assess and reflect on their learning.



(Students showing their creative thinking and perseverance during a SLT buddy activity.)

New Professional Learning: (Summarize new areas for professional learning and how you will go about designing new learning for yourself and your staff that will impact your learners.)

As a staff we continue to work at connecting the language of the Successful Learner Traits to the Core Competencies. We have also begun learning how to use the digital platform, All About Me by having mentor teaching supporting other teachers. Teachers have been sharing examples of their work using All About Me with colleagues at staff meetings.

Taking Action: What will you do differently?

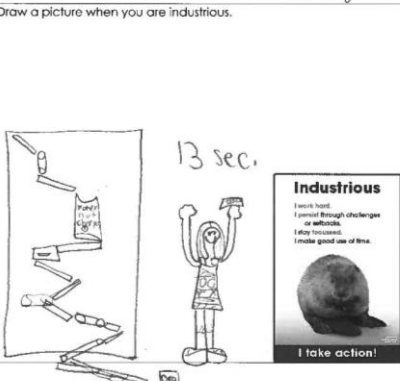
Now that our students have an understanding of the Successful Learner Traits, we need to help connect the SLTs to the core competencies using a digital portfolio. We also need to use the language of the SLTs during all areas of the curriculum and allow it to live and breathe in our classrooms. This integration of the SLTs can then be used as part of the learning process on an ongoing basis in classes to help students self-reflect on their learning. The use of a digital portfolio will make self-reflection more accessible and relevant to our students and parents so they can begin to see their individual growth. This will need to be modelled and scaffolded for our younger learners.

Check: (Have we made enough of a difference? How do we know?)

Although we are still in the early stages of implementation of developing the Successful Learner traits and the All About Me platform, we hope to create more self-aware learners and improve their abilities to self-reflect and assess their learning. We hope to observe noticeable differences and improvements in the way our students view themselves as learners and approach new learning. We hope to build to give our students the skills to self-assess their learning and then set goals for future growth. Our foundation will be starting with the core competencies but we hope to expand into all areas of the curriculum.

Successful Learner Trait: Industrious^U
Name: Manning

Draw a picture when you are industrious.



I am industrious when in stem we made
a marble run and my group was the most
on task so we ended up winning because
ours was the longest in the class so we got
a prize! Hard work does pay off!



Communication Strategies & Parental/Community Involvement:

- School bulletin boards and classroom displays feature information for our school community on the Successful Learner traits
- Our school PAC is updated each month at PAC meetings with information about our inquiry.
- Our monthly newsletters include a section on our school inquiry to keep parents informed on a regular basis
- Teachers are beginning to send home student reflections using SLTs to parents.
- The yearend reporting requirement to provide parents with a student self-reflection on the Core Competencies will include the language of the SLTs (interrupted due to COVID-19)
- Open House for parents to view student self-reflection on All About Me (interrupted due to COVID-19)



Connection to the District Goals:

Our school goal aligns with our district's goals around the focus on assessment and sound grading by using the All About Me platform we are supporting student voice through "teaching to and supporting self-assessment of the core competencies. As well, our use of regular student self-assessment on the SLTs in classrooms offer consistent assessment practices which engage the learner in their learning. We also need to be responsive to the needs of our learners and be prepared to adapt our plans to meet their learning needs.

Connection to the 7 Principles of Learning:

- 1. Learners at the center:** Students are given voice through regular self-reflection and self-assessment
- 2. Social nature of learning:** Students are connecting in buddy classes on a weekly basis.
- 3. Emotions are integral to learning:** Planned activities are engaging, hands-on.
- 4. Recognizing individual differences:** Activities are differentiated and flexible based on the needs of the individual, age range and abilities.
- 5. Stretching all students:** Activities and social interactions so all can experience success and be challenged.
- 6. Assessment for learning:** Students are engaging in reflection and self-assessment on an on-going, monthly basis. Plans are altered or extended based on the needs of our learners.
- 7. Building horizontal connections:** Activities are structured to build on social connections through a variety of other school routines and activities where we come together for a common purpose.