

# *Affirm Refine Aspire*

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LEARNING SERVICES

January 2020

## *Happy New Year!*

Happy New Year! Welcome to a new year and a new decade! As everyone does when they turn the calendar to a new year, the Learning Services department has taken a look at some of our traditional ways of doing things and wondered where we could improve. This newsletter is the result of some thoughtful reflection on our behalf -- wondering how we can better serve our staff in keeping them informed and up-to-date on all things 'learning'-- while minimizing the number of emails that fill your inbox on a daily basis.

Through this monthly e-newsletter, we hope to provide you quick updates on news regarding curriculum, links to resources around assessment, effective pedagogy, educational technology etc., highlights of upcoming professional learning opportunities, as well as summaries of the latest research in education and so much more. All of the areas within Learning Services will be contributing to the newsletter on an ongoing basis, including our Learning Coaches, French Language Consultant/International Education Coordinator, and the Off-Campus Coordinator. We hope this newsletter becomes your go-to for the most current information and also reduces the number of electronic communications on an individual basis. We look forward to your feedback - enjoy this first edition!

Carmen Larsen, Director of Learning



## *Collaborative Professional Learning 2020*

### **Grade Levels Meetings continue and with a twist!**

You are invited, (*non-mandatory*), to attend on the following dates:

Grade 2 - January 29, 2020

Grade 1 - February 4, 2020

Grade 3 - February 5, 2020

Grade 4 - February 6, 2020

Grade 5 & 6 - February 10, 2020

*\*\*\*All meetings are from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.*

Option:

Each day, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. there is an opportunity for self-directed collaborative work. (Please see the note below regarding the Grade 1 and Grade 2 'Make-and-Take Math Tools')

We ask that you register [here](#) if you are planning to attend.

## *Literacy*

### **What is comprehensive literacy?**

Also called balanced literacy, this approach to literacy instruction includes several components: Read Alouds, Shared Reading, Small Group Reading Instruction, Writing, Phonological Awareness, Word Work, Speaking and Listening, Viewing, Visualizing and Representing, Digital Literacy, Cross-Curricular Literacy and Independent Reading. These contexts support students in engaging in authentic literacy practices with varying levels of support.

Check out these [Comprehensive Literacy Guides](#) from ARPDC. They include background information, practical strategies, links, and resources to support teachers in implementing a comprehensive literacy approach.

## *Numeracy*

**Numeracy** develops as students experience and make sense of quantitative and spatial information in all aspects of their lives. While we can easily see literacy connections across the curriculum, it can be more challenging to identify how and when students can build numeracy skills. The [numeracy progressions](#) are a reference and planning tool designed to support teachers in identifying these opportunities. See the interactive version [here](#).

*“When numeracy is explicit in each subject: a meaningful context is created where students learn and apply numeracy skills; and students’ ability to understand subject content is enhanced” (Alberta Education).*

*Quick Tutorials on using some of the features already in Google to enhance literacy instruction:*

<https://sites.google.com/edu.ecsd.net/literacygdocs/home>

Shared in 3 segments:

Part A - Literacy Features in Google Docs



### *Grade 1 and 2 Make-and-Take Math Tools*

After their grade level meetings, Grade 1 and Grade 2 teachers will have the option to stay until 4:00 p.m. to explore how math toolkits can be used to build number sense.

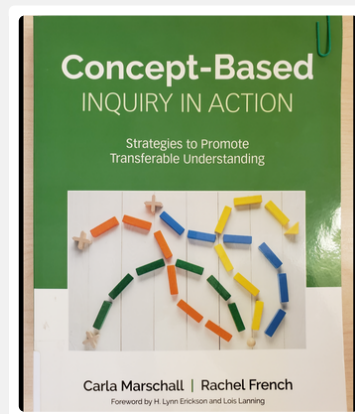
Supplies will be provided for teachers to make a sample bead string and Rekenrek.

Please email  
[knodell@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:knodell@holyspirit.ab.ca)  
or  
[brodied@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:brodied@holyspirit.ab.ca)  
to confirm your attendance.



### *Math PD for Your Ear Buds Podcast*

"Wondering how to create a classroom culture where students don't want to stop exploring mathematics when the bell rings? Get ready to learn as we interview math education influencers, engage in coaching calls with mathematics educators from around the world, and take deep dives into assessment, differentiation, student behaviour, engagement, problem solving, math fact fluency, and many other common teacher challenges as we strive to [Make Math Moments That Matter](#)."  
- Kyle Pearce and Jon Orr



### *Top Book Pick!*

**Concept-Based Inquiry in Action.** Rachel French is a certified Independent Consultant, Presenter and Trainer with Lynn Erickson and Lois Lanning. Through her workshops and ongoing consultation, she has supported schools around the world with the planning and implementation of Concept-Based Inquiry. The authors, Rachel French and Carla Marschall lead educators to implement teaching strategies that support the realization of inquiry-based learning for understanding in any K-12 classroom. Rachel French will be presenting in Lethbridge January 27 and 28 through SAPDC. For more information or to register, click [here](#).



## Competencies

Our learning about the Alberta Student Competencies began with the [Ministerial Order](#) in 2013. At that time, we learned that "competencies are interrelated sets of attitudes, skills and knowledge that are drawn upon and applied to a particular context for successful learning and living, are developed over time and through a set of related learner outcomes."



Alberta is not alone in its focus on competencies; it is a [national](#) and global movement in education.

*"Teaching kids to count is fine,  
but teaching them what counts  
is best."  
- Bob Talbert*

### Creativity & Innovation

[Step Inside, Perceive, Know about, Care About](#)

### Cultural & Global Citizenship

[Empowering schools and teachers globally to educate students on the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

### Competencies - Links

#### Personal Growth & Well-Being

[Instructional Strategies: How am I feeling? What am I thinking?](#)

#### Problem Solving

[Instructional Strategies: Create the Problem](#)

#### Managing Information

[Thinking Strategies: Double Entry Response](#)

### Communication

[The Big List of Class Discussion Strategies](#)

### Collaboration

[Thinking Strategies: Carousel Strategy](#)

### Critical Thinking

[Thinking Strategies: Fact vs. Opinion](#)

## Upcoming SAPDC Professional Learning Opportunities

### NEW French Resources have been added!

Lucy Calkins' Writing Workshop Series and Readers Workshop have been translated to French and are available for loan. They are levelled for 5-7 year olds and 8-12 year olds



### FSL Lesson Kits are available!

Printed from the U of L French Resource website and assembled for your use, but remember they are always available free at <https://tbltfrenchresources.weebly.com/>

### St. Basil Catholic Education Centre Lending Library

Located in the PD Centre, 3rd Floor at Division office. New resources are continually added to the Lending Library French and English collections.

### Inter-office Mail Delivery Available!

Staff can use the inter-office mail delivery service to receive requested resources on loan. Simply return the items through the inter-office mail service, Attention: Learning Services.

### A Resource Loan is as Easy as 1-2-3!

- Book through the online [Library Icon](#)
- Call Learning Services at 403 327 9555
- Email [Learning Services](#) with your request

## Language Learning

Whether you are teaching vocabulary so your students understand their math problem, welcoming a new student to your community, teaching our official languages or a foreign language, all teachers are language teachers!

How to meet the needs of diverse learners in your classroom? Here is a 5 minute podcast by Katy Arnett. Note that she her research focused on FSL classrooms in this episode, but applies to classrooms where language acquisition is key.

Diversity is not a bad thing:

<https://www.caslt.org/files/pd/podcasts/200711-arnett-katy-en.mp3>

Addressing learner diversity:

<https://www.caslt.org/files/pd/podcasts/200803-arnett-katy-en.mp3>

Accompanying fact sheet:

<https://www.caslt.org/files/pd/podcasts/200803-factsheet-arnett-katy-en.pdf>



*Mark Boschee, Off-Campus Coordinator reports enrollment at 200+!*



*The Green Certificate Program offers many specializations!*



*University of Alberta connects with students!*

## Off-Campus News...

**Currently we have well over 200 students enrolled** in our three off campus programs. As we entered into the winter months we were hoping things would finally start to slow down, yup, no. We are currently as busy as ever. Wendy Gurr, (Career Practitioner), has organized a number of college and university presentations, giving our students an early look into what is expected in the post secondary world. Gil Perron, (Teacher), is working hard just trying to keep one step ahead of the many CCH work experience students. Myself, I am on the road visiting our high schools also trying to stay ahead of the record number of enrollments. We are looking forward to a wonderful year and would like to acknowledge all our wonderful administrators for their dedication and leadership. Without them my job would be very difficult.

### Our Programs:

#### Green Certificate

Trainees select one of the specializations offered and under the guidance of their trainer, work towards mastering all skills within their training program.

### Registered Apprenticeship Program:

RAP students are both full-time students and registered apprentices, dividing their time between an approved work site and their high school studies. They take regular courses such as English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Math in order to earn their Alberta High School Diploma or Certificate of Achievement. Students interested in RAP will need to complete HCS3000 and for some placements students will also need to complete HCS3010. Students are also encouraged to have a class 5 drivers licence.

### Work Experience:

The Work Experience Program is an opportunity for students to develop employability skills while completing high school credits. Students work at an approved work site part time or during the summer in this program. They work with employers and receive 1 credit for every 25 hours of work. All forms must be completed, signed and returned to the Off-Campus Education Coordinator before a student is accepted into the program.

- Students may work Monday through Sunday.
- Transportation is the student's responsibility.
- The introductory course HCS 3000 is a required component of the first work experience course taken by the student.

Need Information?  
Have a question?

Learning Services  
is a *click* away!

Ask us!



There is no question in  
learning that is too **big**

or too small  
or too silly...

Ask Us!  
*Learning Services*

HOLY SPIRIT




CATHOLIC SCHOOLS


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 [holyspirit.ab.ca](http://holyspirit.ab.ca)



## A Learning Coach:

- Provides information and resources
- Helps implement new instructional strategies
- Gives demonstration lessons
- Co-teaches
- Collaborates in planning for individual, small group, and classroom instruction
- Supports assessment and intervention

*Twitter: @HS4Coaches*

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