

# Affirm, Refine, Aspire

HS Learning Services Newsletter - December 2020

## Finding the Joy

Unsurprisingly, 2020 continues to be full of unexpected twists and turns. The recent announcement from the province to have all of our grades 7-12 students learn from home for the next 4 school weeks and elementary students for the week after our Christmas break has undoubtedly rattled many in our learning community. Although many of us have been preparing for this eventuality, there is no doubt a sense of loss and uncertainty for just how long At Home Learning will continue.

Given all that we have had to overcome already in 2020, Advent is arriving just in time! Advent is a season of quiet waiting, praying, reflecting, and most importantly, hope and joy. This season (particularly this year) will offer us all the opportunity to focus on what is most important and what provides us joy, both in our personal lives and in our work. If someone were to ask you what brings you joy about the work you do, what would you say? Certainly burdens are heavy and anxieties are high, so an answer may not be at the ready. Perhaps this means it is even more important for you to take some quiet reflection time -- under the glow of the candles on the Advent wreath -- to uncover (or rediscover) what it is about this holy work that you wouldn't trade for anything. My hope for all within the Holy Spirit School Division is that the Advent season is filled with beautifully quiet moments of joy that remind you that the work you do serving our students brings them much joy as well.

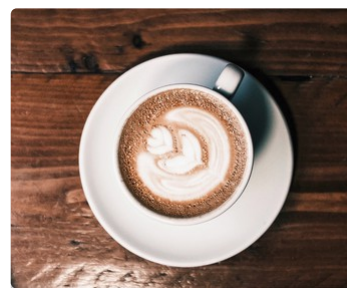
**Have a blessed Advent season.**

**Carmen Larsen**  
**Director of Learning**



**Decolonizing and Indigenizing Approaches to Education**

[Decolonizing Methodologies](#) is the resource Dr. Dustin Louie shared with us during his presentation on November 20. Dr. Louie explained how his education students endeavored to teach content through the approach taken in one of the 25 projects, focused on themes such as cultural survival, self-determination, healing, restoration and social justice, described on pages 142 - 162.



For classroom strategies to help incorporate Indigenous perspectives and practices to work towards decolonization, see this resource: [Weaving Ways: Indigenous Ways of Knowing in Classrooms and Schools](#)

**Disciplinary Literacy:**  
**We All Teach Reading and Writing**  
[click here](#)

**Assessment**

Revision Student Work Criteria  
Feedback

[click here](#)

**Numeracy**  
**'Problem solving is what we do when we don't know what to do'**  
(Aljeda, 2021)  
[click here](#)

## Cultures of Thinking

**Are your students deep thinkers?** Likely there are students in your class who reason, wonder, make connections, and go beneath the surface as they engage in learning. You may also have students who struggle to make sense of complex ideas, and don't know how or where to start. The [Thinking Routine Toolbox](#) allows you to search for research-based routines to support student thinking and learning according to the kind of thinking you want your students to engage in, as well as by subject area.



On our Division Professional Development Day in October, we learned about *creating cultures of thinking* with Dr. Ron Ritchhart. For those who are interested in taking another step on this journey, an upcoming SAPDC series of sessions with Dr. Ritchhart will focus on the practical and concrete ways teachers can create a culture of thinking in their schools and classrooms, and how to look for evidence of student thinking and understanding. To find out more and to register for this learning opportunity, click [here](#).

The [Ladder of Feedback](#) was featured in one of the videos Dr. Ritchhart shared with us during our District Professional Development Day. This thinking routine enables students to provide meaningful feedback to their peers.



## Google Support

Tools to Support Teachers [here](#)

[Google Classroom Tutorial for Students and Parents](#)

[How to Use Google Classroom for Parents!](#)

[2020 Parents guide to Google Classroom](#)



## Online Safety

ATA Internet Safety Resources [here](#)

Being **Web Wise** [here](#)

Privacy Considerations when **Posting Online** [here](#)  
**Fair Dealing** Decision Tool [here](#)

'Samaritans On The Digital Road' [here](#)



## Online Privacy

Privacy Provisions & FOIPP Coordinator info [here](#)

A Guide to Staying **Safe on Facebook** [here](#) and a Guide to Safety & Privacy on **Twitter** [here](#)

Using a **personal Google** account [here](#)

**Google Support** Site [here](#)

## Prayer For Joy

Dear Lord Jesus, there are so many sad and troublesome things to face in the world today, which too often cause our hearts to become weighed down with difficulties and doubts, but I pray that Your joy would fill my heart and strengthen my soul, and that times of joyful laughter would replace those seasons of weeping and hardship.

I pray that in Christ, I may be clothed in strength and dignity, wisdom and grace and that I may be enabled to laugh in the storms and not to fear the future, knowing that my times are in Your hands. You have promised to draw near to each one of us, and be with us in every circumstance of life that may come our way.

I pray that Your joy and laughter may flow through me to others who are facing similar difficulties and hardships, and that together we may maintain an ever deepening trust in You, as we look for Your any day return to take us to be with Yourself. This I ask in Jesus' name,

*Amen.*

Source: <https://www.knowing-jesus.com/Prayers-for-joy/1122>



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