

D2 Students and Educators Showcase Innovative Learning

Students and educators recently showcased some of the innovative learning that is happening in School District 2. On Monday, Jason Humphrey, the Provincial Innovative Learning Fund (ILF) Manager, visited two schools and one of the district's business partners. At Bernice MacNaughton High School, Mr. Humphrey spoke with students from Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan who are participating in the Cultural Café project. Students showed Mr. Humphrey some of the podcasts and i-movies they had produced using the MacBooks provided by a recent ILF grant.

The students' teacher, Kathleen Woodworth, explained, "This kind of project-based learning engages students in the realistic use of language. Group members first have to agree on an idea. Then they have to write a script and create a storyboard. From there they have a ball shooting their project, learning to use all sorts of interesting equipment-- video cameras, digital cameras, card readers, and computers. Each of the steps in the process requires students to talk amongst themselves, expressing their ideas and compromising, as well as using new vocabulary. All levels of language learning are targeted."

Sandra Foreman, District 2 International Language Coordinator, observed, "When students are producing podcasts or i-movies, they are intrinsically motivated to practice their English skills. They often do several re-takes to clearly communicate their message to their audience."

The district technology mentor participating in the project, Richard Daley, added, "While students are working on multimedia projects, they're having so much fun that they don't realize how much they're actually learning."

All three educators agreed that the equipment provided by the ILF grant has enhanced project-based learning and increased student engagement. As a result, the project has accelerated the rate at which students are developing their English language skills.



Mr. Humphrey's next stop was Moncton Northeast Construction Association's (MNECA) offices on Collishaw Street. There he met with students who now have hope—and the hands-on experience and skills—for a successful future. Norval McConnell, District 2's High School Learning Specialist, explained that an ILF grant had allowed the district to launch the Transition to Work program. Thanks to this program, at-risk students and those who had already dropped out of high school, now have a second

chance. Students in the program work fulltime hours four days per week without pay. Once per week they attend class to complete any remaining credits necessary to graduate with a high school or adult diploma. A total of 160 local businesses—including MNECA- - have partnered with the district, providing students with real world work experience. MNECA and other companies further invest in students' future by donating office space so that students can meet for the academic portion of their week.

Gordie Kline, Transition to Work Coordinator, summed up by saying, “This program is cutting edge and feasible because of the support that we have from Superintendent Branscombe, the schools, and the community! All of these partnerships and support are what make a program like this so successful— and ultimately make our students successful!”



The day's ILF visits wrapped up with “Tiger Talk” radio and television. At Caledonia Regional High School guests had the opportunity to view students recording an episode for the “Tiger Talk” radio show. During the commercial break, Mr. Humphrey told students that he wished he had had the opportunity in high school to discover and to develop his interest in radio broadcasting. Students talked about how the club had helped them to improve their research skills as well as to clearly and briefly communicate ideas on the spot. The students' teacher, Mr. Kelly, wrote not one, but two, successful ILF grants. Thanks to these funds, students have professional recording equipment with which to produce their segments-- MacBook, iMac, digital video camera, and microphones. Obviously proud of his team, Mr. Kelly beamed, "The students prove on a daily basis that they can be creative and use their literacy skills in many ways beyond the classroom walls. They make sure that “Tiger Talk” truly bites!" He added, “The students involved in this government supported program have bright futures ahead of them in careers which rely on literacy skills.”



Of his day spent in School District 2, Mr. Humphrey stated, “It was very exciting to see, firsthand, innovative projects that are aimed at enhancing and engaging student learning. I was very impressed by the forward thinking of the three teachers I met with during my visit to District 2. Exciting things for our students and the education system are happening as a result of these ILF projects and the hundreds of others being undertaken in New Brunswick.”

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