

NHE Inquiry Intentions

2018-2019 AREAS OF FOCUS:

Attendance and Engagement-

- 1) Engagement through technology and having opportunities to present learning in a variety of ways
- 2) Moving learning outdoors – garden and beyond
- 3) Environmental footprint – gardening (composting), recycling
- 4) Financial literacy – recycling and financial goal setting
- 5) Wellness – mental, physical, emotional
- 6) Making connections and helping our most vulnerable - PALs

We are adding another layer to our mindfulness and wellbeing approaches at the school. Taking into consideration student voice (requesting to be out in nature) and student learning surveys (stress and anxiety levels at school), the garden project and our environmental footprint project will help us make strides in these areas. Due to a new grant, each class will have a garden plot where they will learn about planting, tending, and harvesting. They will learn more about composting and be conscious about what is garbage and what is not. They will learn about the vast things that can be recycled, reused and reduced in order to make our school environmental footprint smaller yet larger with respect to care for oneself and the environment.

Along with our gardening and environmental footprint projects, we will be adding the financial literacy piece to our recycling efforts. Currently the Grade 7 class collects and returns all of our juice boxes, cans and bottles to the depot knowing that they get a percentage of the proceeds towards year-end events. Next year, some of our primary classes will be taking responsibility for their own recycling, as a good place to start with respect to financial literacy and money management goal setting. They will learn the value of nickels, dimes and quarters and what they can earn with pocket change. This will also be added to our math problem solving projects. Students will be able to come up with a variety of combinations of recyclables that make a certain value of money. For example, if you received \$6.50 in returns, what combination of juice boxes, cans, and bottles did you collect? With weekly returns, classes can keep graphs and chart their progress towards a year-end goal.

Next year, we are planning on having 10 PALs sessions starting in November and through to May. We are going to identify 10 early primary students and their families that need extra foundation support and track their progress throughout the year.

We have been blessed with three Synergy, SET-BC projects next year. Two projects are focusing on coding, creating and designing which we are hoping will enhance student engagement as well as attendance at school. The third project is focusing on math problem solving using technology which will

also enhance engagement and attendance, but more importantly, their problem solving skills. This current year, our Grade Six class completed a project on First Nation Storytelling through media and they presented their learning to parents with the use of *Fresh Grade*. My hope is that this will continue next year and more and more staff will get interested in the program *Fresh Grade* and what it can offer to support students and their families.