

AISI Cycle 3

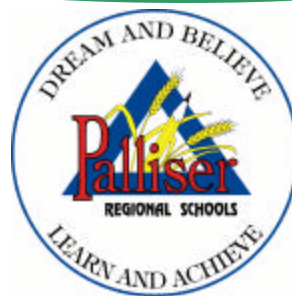
March Newsletter

Palliser Regional Schools

March 2007

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PD Activities Around Palliser



PD Steering Committee – February 14, 2007

The Palliser PD Steering Committee met on February 14 to examine a proposal for all of the professional development directions for the 2007 – 2008 school year. The Committee, comprised of School Administrators, PD Reps, Board Members and the AISI Team, made some specific and some more general plans for the 2007-2008 school year.

For further details, contact Mr. K. Gietz, Associate Superintendent.

SMART Board Purchases and Placements Approved – Upcoming SMART Training

For those who may have missed it, the purchase and placement of approximately 40 SMART Boards for Palliser Schools is currently underway. Bill Ward and his team will be working very hard over the next several weeks to get them all up and running. As part of the preparation, a SMART Training Session will be held for a teacher from each school at KAHS on Friday March 23. As well, 5 “select” teachers from that group have been designated as “trainers” who will help surrounding schools with the implementation of SMART boards and their software.

Recent AISI Activities

ATA PD Day

March 23, 2007



February Activities for DD

February was action packed! Here is a brief summary of what I have been up to as an AISI consultant.

- Feb. 2: Met with the grade 3 and the grade 2 PLC teams at JEES to discuss assessment for learning.
- Feb. 5: The JEES $\frac{3}{4}$ cohort celebrated their FSiM graduation! Congratulations!
- Feb. 6: Attended the ATA local's PD reps meeting. I also attended the Nelson Publishing new SS resource book launch.
- Feb. 8: Helped Clarice make a presentation on reporting achievement to the Palliser Administrators' Association.
- Feb. 9: Met with the Grade 4 PLC team at JEES to discuss assessment for learning.
- Feb: 12-13: Attended the AIAI Conference VI.
- Feb. 14: Attended a PD meeting (initial discussions for the 2007-2008 school year).
- Feb. 15: The Dorothy Dalgliesh cohort celebrated their FSiM graduation! Congratulations!
- Feb. 16: Attended a GLA-R presentation.
- Feb. 21: Gave a brief overview of First Steps in Math to the teaching staff at Menno Simons.
- Feb. 27: Attended the Alberta Assessment Consortium (AAC) specialists' meeting. Sat in with the AISI SS 7 Assessment Project team for part of the afternoon

Thank you to everyone who invited me into their school to participate with you in professional development activities. I am humbled by the creativity and professional spirit I encounter wherever I go in our district.



February Activities for RC

I am pleased to announce that Palliser Regional Schools and specifically, the Schools of Coalhurst have been successful in their bid to conduct a 1 to 1 Wireless Laptop Computing Project in Grades 5 – 12. We have received just under \$300 000 to implement the research activity. Gord Smith and I, along with the staff at CES and CHS, and not to forget Bill Ward and his team, will be very busy over the next few months making preparations to initiate the plan. Stay tuned for periodic reports on the progress of this exciting new venture.

I hope you all had as good a convention as I did – I particularly enjoyed listening Andy Hargreaves, Brian Keating and Sharon Wood. Kudos to those of you who sit on the Convention Planning Committees.

The Kindergarten Teachers of Palliser have initiated their AISI Project “Essential Learnings for ECS” – I recently spent a great day with them as they investigated the ECS Social Studies Curriculum.

Check out their website at: <http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/sites/ecs/index.htm>

Assessment for Learning

Reminder – Clarice wants to make sure that all teachers are aware of a great [Assessment for Student Learning](http://people.uleth.ca/%7Esapdc/workshops/assessment.html) workshop offered by Ken O'Connor coming up in Lethbridge on April 24 and offered through SAPDC. Click the link below or contact Clarice for further details.

<http://people.uleth.ca/%7Esapdc/workshops/assessment.html>

February Activities for CG

During the month of February it was my privilege to do presentations on Assessment for Learning at Coalhurst Elementary School and Jennie Emery School. I also was invited to attend one of Champion School's PD session in which they are exploring where they would like to go in their professional learning community journey. All three schools made me feel very welcome and showed a keen interest in continuing to learn and grow professionally. I am constantly impressed with the professional development activities in which individuals, school staffs and groups of teachers throughout the division are participating.

I attended the leadership session and the administrator's meeting where Donna and I did a presentation to the Admin. Association on grading practices. Each school received a “Smerging Data” book published by AAC to use to facilitate discussions on grading practices.

I attended a Professional Development Committee meeting where a discussion was held regarding professional development plans for next year.

I joined Barbara Gammon in presenting information on GLA-R to administrators in our division. Barbara and I are looking forward to doing presentations to school staffs over the next little while.

I met with some members of the PASS committee to create a draft proposal of Administrative Procedure 361 regarding reporting student learning.

Along with Rob, Donna, Gord and I all attended the AISI conference in Calgary. We heard a very inspirational keynote speech by Jim Hayhurst and I attended an interesting session on what one school is doing regarding outcome based assessment. From Dr. Lorna Earl, I learned that “Assessment as Learning”, which to me, is a part of “Assessment for Learning”, is all of those things we do in our classroom to coach each of our students to success and develop each student's self-efficacy. From Dr. Lucy Miller I learned the importance of focused professional development that goes deeper instead of going into too much, and that together we need to believe that we are all in it to make a difference for kids. Jim Parsons reviewed that last cycle of AISI projects; the information learned and the differences made. This is a very interesting conference as many of the sessions are presentations by teachers and AISI facilitators about what they are actually working on in their schools and school divisions.

PD Reminder

March 23/07 - ATA PD Day



Happy St. Patrick's Day!