OCTOBER 2026
LEARNING UPDATE

ISSUE #1

CISPG LEARNS TOGETHER

BOLD INTENTIONAL FAITH FORMATION. INNOVATIVE LEARNING. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Welcome to our first Learning Update! It is a joy to begin this new journey together as Principal of Learning for our eight Catholic schools. I'm excited to introduce this Learning Update as one way to keep us connected, share ideas, and celebrate the incredible learning happening across our schools. My hope is that this newsletter becomes a space to spark curiosity, encourage collaboration, and bring forward innovative approaches to teaching and learning, while also sharing practical best practices, resources, and professional learning opportunities. As we continue to be Rooted in Faith, may we grow together as a community of learners- supporting one another, sharing our gifts and experiences, and always keeping our students at the heart of what we do. I look forward to learning alongside you and the many opportunities we have to connect, collaborate, and grow together.

With gratitude and faith,

Jenna Fedyk
Principal of Learning
Catholic Independent Schools
Prince George

CISPG HIGHLIGHTS

During September and October, your Principal of Learning visited all 8 of your schools! Thank you for welcoming me and allowing me to experience each of your unique schools. I appreciated hearing your stories and witnessing all of the exciting learning that is happening not only for our students, but our staff as well!

A warm welcome and beautiful reminder from the **Annunciation** school foyer: "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me." *-John 10:14*

On October 7th, staff and students at **Notre Dame** gathered to pray the Rosary together as part of "A Million Children Praying the Rosary" campaign. To learn more and to participate with your school next time, access the link to the right.

ACN International

COLLABORATION ACROSS OUR DIOCESE

Teachers and principals have been taking the opportunity to visit and learn from other schools!

Cara Polanin, principal at **St. Joseph's**, and **Salem Beukema**, music teacher, spent a day at Veritas school: "It was a great experience to visit **Veritas** in October... I can really see the value in visiting another school to get fresh ideas. Each school has experienced teachers to learn from and has their own way of doing things."

Shannon Wellington, LST member and Gr 1/2 teacher at **St. Joseph's** travelled to **Prince George schools**: "Everyone was very welcoming and went out of their way to show me things that I was interested in seeing. I have a couple of things that I am excited to talk to my principal about and try in my classroom."

"Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens the wits of another." *-Proverbs 27:17*

Teachers have also been shadowing in classrooms within their own schools.

If you are interested in visiting another school or classroom to collaborate or learn from other teachers, please speak to your principal!

To reach others across the diocese, please use the staff directory.

The trees remind us: growth happens quietly when we are deeply rooted. May this season invite us to slow down, find peace, and trust the work God is doing beneath the surface.

"I am the vine, you are the branches." *-John 15:5*

BEST PRACTICE

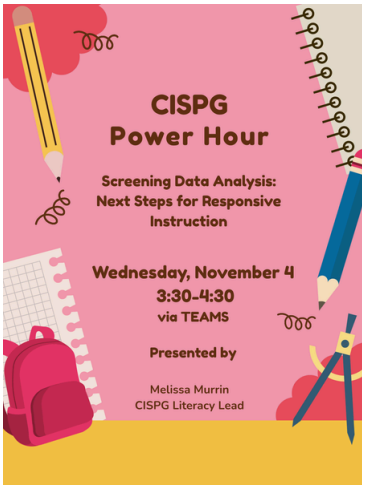
Small, intentional actions that make a meaningful difference in student learning, well-being, and growth

- **Make learning intentional**
  - share and post clear learning intentions and criteria for success in your classroom
- **Use assessment to guide instruction**
  - provide timely, specific, descriptive feedback
- **Design lessons (and your classroom!) for inclusion**
  - provide multiple ways for students to access information and demonstrate learning
- **Strengthen relationships and classroom community**
  - build positive relationships through consistent, respectful interactions
- **Collaborate and reflect**
  - share strategies and resources with colleagues
- **Honour Indigenous perspectives**
  - engage respectfully with the First Peoples Principles of Learning
- **Keep faith at the centre**
  - create opportunities for prayer, reflection, and gratitude

For more information on best practice visit the BC Ministry's Building Student Success-Classroom Assessment

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCES

Literacy



Join our CISPG Literacy Lead, **Melissa Murrin**, Gr 1 teacher at **St. Mary's**, for a dive into next steps for responsive instruction following screening data collection Wednesday, November 4th .

Numeracy

Solve math mysteries! Explore Steve Wyborney's Esti-Mysteries to spark curiosity, build number sense, and get students thinking mathematically!

Get those math facts fired up! Explore Facts on Fire to build fluency, boost confidence, and make math practice engaging and fun! Our educators at **Immaculate Conception** are using this program!

Interested in learning more about numeracy assessment? Access this link from BCAMT for a webinar on assessing with intention.

Mathematics helps us to recognize the patterns, relationships, and order woven throughout God's creation.

"You have arranged all things by measure and number and weight." -*Wisdom 11:20*

Looking for ways to communicate curriculum and foundational learning to parents? Access these links for BC Learning Pathways: Foundational Literacy and Foundational Numeracy

Indigenous Education

Join Outdoor Learning School & Store for Cycles of Indigenous Learning! This annual course continues to support participants in deepening their understanding of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives while strengthening connections with the local Land and taking action to support more reciprocal relationships.

Social-Emotional Learning

Make kindness a conversation! Join Captain Compassion in this engaging anti-bullying comic resource to spark meaningful discussions, build empathy, and empower students to stand up for one another.

Inclusive Education

Explore the many opportunites for online learning offered through POPARD. Learn more about how best to support your vulnerable learners, particularly those with ASD.

POPARD®
PROVINCIAL OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR AUTISM & RELATED DISORDERS

Want to learn more strategies to help students manage anxiety? Access EASE courses through Healthy Minds BC.

Christian Education

Make use of the beautiful and comprehensive resource we have aligned with our Rooted in Faith theme. Here, our theme is broken down into month-by-month activities and opportunities to learn about liturgical context, patron saints, scripture, and practical ideas for classrooms and the school community.

Social Studies

Prepare for Remembrance Day as we acknowledge those who sacrificed for our freedom. Take time for Teaching youth about Indigenous military service as a cross-curricular link and important learning opportunity.

Consider interacting virtually with a veteran or member of the Canadian armed forces who can share their experiences and perspectives through the Canadian War Museum as part of the virtual school programs.

Science

Take some time to explore the Let's Talk Science website. Use the Classroom Resources page to find resources that align specifically with your grade level and BC curriculum with the search features provided.

Looking for exciting and engaging STEM activities for your classroom? Check out the many options available through Science World!

"Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance." -*Proverbs 1:5*

Music

Visit BCMEA and access strategies for culturally responsive music education and music technology through Music in the Matrix sessions available online.

Physical & Health Education

Access multiple virtual learning opportunities through PHE Canada via the Spotlight Series. Explore topics from phsyical literacy to puberty and more!

French

Looking for resources to support your language lessons? Check out the resources page through BCATML for a list of free resources and social media supports!

The Teacher Toolbox

Looking for some fresh call backs? Try these ideas from TikTok!

Teacher	Students
Flat tire!	Shhhh....
Tootsie roll, lollipop	We were talking, now we stop
Ready to rock?	Ready to roll
Kiss your brain, kiss your brain	Throw some glitter, make it rain
Antonyms show?	Opposites we know!

Do you have tips for the Teacher Toolbox? Is there something exciting going on at your school? We want to hear about it! Send ideas to jfedyk@cispg.ca

CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOLS

A beautiful "Rooted in Faith" bulletin board from **Liz Creyke**'s Gr 5 classroom at **St. Joseph's** School. Through the year, the leaves will change with the seasons.

St. Anthony's does community outreach and multigenerational relationship building weekly when the Gr 3 and Gr 4 class gather to sing for the elderly patients at Delta King and Multilevel Care facilities in Kitimat.

Veritas is connecting with students in a fun way this spooky season! This is an idea found on Instagram. Interactive bulletin boards are a great way to build relationships and a sense of community in our schools.

Learn more about the Stained Glass Window in Parliament and access the colouring activity used for this inspirational project here.

Amie Reid shares: Gr 7 students at **Sacred Heart** honoured Indigenous history by studying and artistically replicating, "Giniigaaniimenaaning (Looking Ahead), the stained-glass window designed by Métis artist Christi Belcourt that commemorates the legacy of residential schools and looks toward healing, reconciliation, cultural renewal, and future generations...

One of the most meaningful parts is the idea behind the title Looking Ahead. The window does not end with the past; it asks us to think about the generations still to come. That became the central message of our assembly: we cannot change the past, but we can choose what kind of community we build now. We ended by asking students to think about what we can do together, as a school community, to make sure every child feels safe, welcomed, respected, valued, and that they belong.

It was a really meaningful example of art, history, faith, student voice, and collaborative learning coming together. I was especially proud of the way the students took ownership of both the artwork and the responsibility of sharing its message with the younger students in our school.

If anyone wants our presentation and/or student script, I am happy to share too."

WEBSITE URLS FOR REFERENCE

For your convenience, the URLs below correspond to the hyperlinks included throughout this Learning Update. These direct links can be used to access resources, particularly when viewing a printed copy of the document.

Aid to the Church in Need International: ACN International: accessible at https://acninternational.org/millionchildrenpraying/

Staff Directory: https://www.canva.com/design/DAGIteDpgZc/4lHDGP7T5smsRu7hFHzQQw/view

BC Ministry Building Student Success: https://www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca/classroom-assessment

Foundational Literacy Pathways: https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/learning-pathways/foundational-literacy

Foundational Numeracy Pathways: https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/learning-pathways/foundational-numeracy

Steve Wyborney's Esti-mysteries: https://cispgca.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/CISPGNUMERACY/IgAJ7mKe5oj9RqjryuejR5GHAYCIse-c-kaIzrk5DJqSeVk?e=e3XDKa

Facts on Fire: https://brianponcy.wixsite.com/my-site-2/m-i-n-d-2-0-facts-on-fire

BCAMT Assessing with Intention: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfwN3q_JO53klKihgrbgD7GGfc9CNMEsp

Cycles of Indigenous Learning: https://outdoorlearning.com/cycles/

Captain Compassion: https://www.secondstep.org/captain-compassion-resources

EASE Courses for Educators-Everyday Anxiety Strategies: https://healthymindsbc.gov.bc.ca/course/educators/

POPARD: https://autismoutreach.ca/training/

Rooted in Faith: https://cispgca.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/CISPGCHRISTIANEDUCATION/IQAakPyzXLynQoXeF2-E8jkNAd0cS0y-GKLb4hFC-PPOQDs?e=dkXRGe

Teaching youth about Indigenous military service: https://veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/classroom-materials/learning-resources/teaching-youth-about-indigenous-military-service

Canadian War Museum Virtual School Programs: https://www.warmuseum.ca/educators/virtual-school-programs

Let's Talk Science Classroom Resources: https://letstalkscience.ca/educational-resources

Science World Classroom Activities: https://www.scienceworld.ca/resources/?pg=0

Music in the Matrix: https://www.bcmusiced.ca/professional-development.html

PHE Spotlight Series: https://phecanada.ca/events/phe-spotlight-series

BCATML Resource page: https://bcatml.org/resources/

Remembering the Past: A Window to the Future: https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1710173722911/1710173746129

Stained Glass Window in Parliament Colouring Activity: https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2015/aadnc-aandc/R3-172-1-2012.pdf

All resources mentioned in this Learning Update have been collected from school districts and educators across our own diocese, the province, other vetted educational programs, and our greater faith community. Please be advised that the links embedded within this document are meant to provide examples of "strong practice" in education, often aligned with BC curriculum. They are not meant to overwhelm nor to replace curriculum, but rather to support CISPG educators with a collection of rich resources. I am grateful to school districts and educators across BC and within our diocese who so generously share their learning with us.