

## Collaborating to improve student learning in Chinook's Edge!

*November 26 is a Collaborative Day in Chinook's Edge. What are staff doing during these non-instructional days for students?*

There are five Collaborative Days in Chinook's Edge, which provide consistent opportunities for focused professional development and connection time for staff. These days are carefully spread out over the division's 180-day calendar, to ensure the learning momentum is sustained over time.

"The research could not be more clear – if school divisions want to help students learn and succeed at the highest levels, they need to support the professional growth of their staff," said Superintendent Kurt Sacher. "The pandemic has shown us the true value of our culture of collaboration – if you don't have the answers or the resources at your school, there are 40 other schools ready to assist if they can. This approach protects time and energy, which staff need to deal with the increasing complexities of teaching.

"Collaborative Days provide consistent opportunities for teachers and school staff to reflect on their own work and share high leverage strategies, all of which positively impacts the classroom. This is one way of honouring our teachers and staff with the time to improve teaching practice, which ultimately leads to greater success for students in school and in life."



**Connection!** The impact of collaborative work in schools is present in this successful team of Grade 1 teachers from Jessie Duncan Elementary in Penhold. Their *strength* grew from a commitment to mentorship, to their professional learning community, and to nurturing a collective responsibility for student achievement. *Success* grew from the time provided to accomplish these goals.

***There is a mix of staff who collaborate across schools while others collaborate within their own schools, and all have defined topics and goals for their time. The goal of all teams is stated on their team's professional growth plan, is focused on student learning, and provides evidence that their effort is making a difference in classroom practice and student achievement.***



**Investing in students** - Bowden Grandview staff at the first Collaborative Day of the year. Check with your school to see what they have accomplished and what they have planned for November 26!

### Focused efforts on Collaborative Days over the years has created:

Improved student achievement results and support for those who are having difficulty, to ensure high school graduation is a reality for everyone.

Detailed strategic frameworks to inform student levels in literacy, numeracy, social emotional learning and more.

A comprehensive series of Google Classroom materials to benefit high school teachers and students throughout the division, with plans to involve all grades. Shared knowledge and a pooling of the best teaching resources available.

Key time for staff to connect around strategies and supports for each student as required, through the division's Collaborative Response Model process.

**Chinook's Edge records show that scheduled days for staff collaboration result in a decrease of hundreds of substitute teacher days – a cost-savings which is reinvested back into the classroom. It is a winning strategy in Chinook's Edge. Our staff are investing their time during Collaborative Days to enhance quality learning environments for over 11,000 students in our division.**