

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 22, 2007

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Belgravia – A School in the “Deepening Literacy Instruction” AISI Project

ORIGINATOR: P. Enokson, Principal, Belgravia School

RESOURCE
STAFF: Sig Jensen, Corrie Ziegler

INFORMATION

Belgravia School is located in southwest Edmonton. It provides a community school setting for 121 students and integrates special needs students throughout the school.

In the spring of 2006, staff at Belgravia decided to participate in the Deepening Literacy AISI project as a way to improve student achievement in writing and to address individual student needs in reading. The decision to join the Deepening Literacy project was based on careful analysis of the data from Highest Level of Achievement tests, Provincial Achievement tests and school-based interim measures. Although students at Belgravia consistently achieve excellent results on all of these measures, staff believe more students are capable of achieving the standard of excellence.

The Instructional Focus at Belgravia continues to be a school wide effort to have all students show measurable growth in their ability to write competently. The staff uses high quality children’s literatures as a springboard to create high levels of interest and engagement of students in writing. Staff have also used the “6 + 1 Traits of Writing” program for the past three years, focusing on different trait each year. In November, staff reviewed and reflected on their progress in teaching the Traits and based on their reflections, created a professional development plan for the current school year. New resources were purchased to support and augment the writing traits and the school’s best practice of linking quality literature to writing across the curriculum. In addition, two teachers are currently participating in the first year of Division I Balanced Literacy training. This training is providing staff with the expertise to place students into guided reading groups based on ability and to monitor progress through small group instruction. With this added training, the goal to address individual student needs in writing is begin met.

Belgravia staff continue to measure student growth through school wide interim measures and the sharing of students’ work. These data analysis sessions inform effective next steps in classroom instruction. Teachers also engage in professional reading in the areas of assessment in writing and the setting, and using of criteria as a means for student self assessment and improvement. Collaborative staff discussion about their readings continue to

support the deepening of literacy instruction. The principal, along with teachers leaders have attended the professional development sessions offered through the Deepening Literacy AISI project, and have found these sessions supportive of the professional development plan at Belgravia.

Belgravia school is involved in school cohort with Westbrook, Windsor Park and Steinhauer schools. The cohort partnership was formed in 2004 and even though all four schools were participating in different AISI projects, it was decided to maintain this collaborative group. This has allowed all four schools to participate in professional development regarding Assessment for Learning, Differentiated Instruction and Technology and to learn about how these AISI projects support the work at Belgravia. Belgravia staff has participated in three Instructional Walk-Throughs and teacher sharing times this year and look forward to engaging in this meaningful inter-school collaboration again next year.

The staff at Belgravia are committed to improving student achievement. Through professional development opportunities and the sharing of in-house expertise and student work, the staff continue to improve the teaching and learning for all students at Belgravia.

ES:gj