**School District #35 (Langley)**

**Action Plan for Learning**

**Parkside Centennial Elementary**

Home of the Panthers

Parents: Erin Williamson Yolanda Davidowich Angie LeTexier

Principal: David Moorthy

Vice Principal: Cathy Gracie

**School Context:**

Parkside Centennial Elementary is an Aldergrove neighbourhood school serving 465 students in Kindergarten to Grade five. There are many cultures represented within the school community and approximately 12% of the students receive ELL instruction. This year the school welcomed 97 students into the full day Kindergarten program and data from the Early Development Indices (EDI) determined that 40% of the Kindergarten children in the community exhibit at least one vulnerability factor – the highest in the District. The team of 32 teaching staff and 16 support staff work extremely hard to provide a caring inclusive environment for all students, including the 35 students identified with learning needs.

Parkside students are offered a variety of programs to assist them in their academic learning as well as with social-emotional development. Programs for Pre-schoolers include: PALS, Ready Set Learn, and a Strong Start Centre. “Precious Moments” offers private before and after school care and pre-school classes. These programs bring an additional 100 children into the school daily.

To provide consistency in how the staff approaches social-emotional development, the school is in its second year of training and implementation of Mind Up strategies and is in the early stages of using The 5-Point scale for self-regulation instruction. The School has also created the BAT (Behaviour Action Team) which provides small group explicit instruction of expected behaviours to the non-designated students struggling in this area.

Many after-school and extra-curricular activities are currently being offered at Parkside ranging from Reading Club, Environment Club, Choir and several sports activities such as Cross-Country, and lunch time intramurals for dodgeball, basketball, and handball. Aldergrove Neighborhood services also offer afterschool programs five days a week. The Aldergrove region continues to coordinate on all important issues. Aldergrove region schools continue to support communally developed school plans based around reading and Aldergrove Community Needs. One collaborative strategy currently in place is the use of a joint school calendar for the 2013/14 school year.

**Inquiry Question(s):**

**How can a community approach to teaching reading & writing at Parkside increase student achievement in Language Arts?**

Although this is the overall inquiry question, there are also sub-questions to focus the inquiry to meet the needs of students of different grade and development levels.

Primary – Will providing explicit instruction to teachers and parents increase students ability to read orally and demonstrate comprehension of text in Grade K-2?

Grades 3-5 – Will focusing on making connections and asking good questions help students to improve their comprehension of reading material in core content areas?

**Actions:**

Everything we do is connected to the ultimate goal of improving the reading and writing skills of our students.

- High quality professional development for teachers in literacy instruction, technology and assessment practices.

- Facilitation of a series of Parent Information Evenings that focus on providing parents with effective ways to support/encourage their child’s literacy development at home.

- Continued implementation of the Reading Recovery and Leveled Literacy Intervention Programs - - - Continued focus on Guided Reading and Home Reading in all classes.

- Continued support and participation in the Aboriginal Literacy Support Program

- Continued Support and Collaboration between the administration and parents who run an after-

school reading club (over 80 children participate)

- Providing increased collaboration time for teachers

- Providing resources to support a strong literacy program

- Guest Speakers ( ex. Eric Wilson) to provide opportunity for older students to connect with a

Canadian Author and to become excited about wanting to read.

- Support of Literacy through Music education, utilizing tracking and specialized reading skills

- Utilization of parent volunteers in the classroom

We know that the number one factor affecting classroom success is poor student behavior

-Continued training and participation in the Mind-Up program as well as use of consistent language and visuals from the 5 Point Scale to be used by all staff; both teaching and support staff.

- Provide opportunities for a Grade 5 leadership program through literacy and public speaking: making announcements at assemblies, class presentations, monitoring in younger classes, big buddy reading, big buddy technology, school wide Speech Competition

- Joined Pro-D and dedicated collaboration time to facilitate transitions of students from Parkside to Betty Gilbert Middle school.

- Increased time on site for our counselor and Youth & Child Care Worker.

**Daily Bell Schedule**

Office hours: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

8:35am Welcome Bell

8:40 Morning Classes begin

10:30 – 10:45 Recess

10:45-12:00 Classes in session

12:00 – 12:41 Lunch break/play

12:41 – 2:30 Afternoon classes

2:30 Student Dismissal