



AGASSIZ ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY SCHOOL

## LITERACY PLAN

2009-2010

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## **Overarching Purpose:**

The overarching purpose of the Agassiz elementary-Secondary School Literacy Plan is to build the school's capacity to support literacy development and to make it a sustainable focus.

## Action:

- Participate as a partner with the community to support and sustain literacy development

## Process:

The school's Literacy Plan establishes the foundation upon which the school can develop strategies to improve student literacy by including school and district partner groups. Because it is a "work in progress", it will continue to evolve as a result of consultation with school staff, the Parent Advisory Council, School Planning Council and the community literacy coordinator. The school librarian will be the school's representative at community literacy meetings.

At this point, the school's literacy plan has been based on data included in the *Agassiz Elementary-Secondary School Achievement Plan for 2009-2010* and input from school staff.

The ultimate goal is to improve student literacy, to encourage student love for reading and to provide the most effective supports for students and their families in our communities.

## Actions:

- The school librarian will work with the district literacy committee to participate in community programs that improve student literacy.
- The school librarian will work as a resource person to help achieve Agassiz Elementary-Secondary School's literacy goals.
- The school librarian will review the literacy plan at school staff meetings.

## **Goal 1:**

To improve literacy skills for students from Grade 7-12.

### Rationale:

Literacy improvement is a district and provincial goal. AESS scores from a variety of data sources indicate that the school will need to continue to work on the reading and writing skills of its students. Improving literacy skills is critical to student success; therefore, teachers and support workers regard this goal to be of the highest priority.

### Actions:

1. Reading assessment
  - Students in Grade 7 & 8 will be tested using *Star Reading* to determine an appropriate reading level for each student. Students who were tested in April 2009 will be retested in September 2009 to validate previous scores.
  - The Web-based *Accelerated Reader* program will be implemented in September 2009 to monitor student improvement in reading over the course of the year. English teachers will determine the frequency for follow-up testing.
2. Library Resources (funding dependent)
  - Increase the collection of library books available to support the *Accelerated Reader* program beyond the current 1500+ titles.
  - Increase the current collection of “special” reading materials such as high interest/low vocabulary books, graphic novels, books that appeal to boys...
  - Introduce the novel study packages consisting of novel units and teacher guides available to teachers who require books for literature circles and students who have difficulty reading at an appropriate grade level.
  - Increase the number of titles for use by ESL students.
  - Increase the numbers of titles that center on characters and events relating to Canadian First Nations people.
  - Place titles of “Books for the Well-Read” in English classrooms.
  - Plan with teachers strategies to encourage summer reading by students.
3. Staff and Curriculum Support
  - Continue initiating and collaborating with teachers in the design, development, delivery of units that integrate information gathering and processing skills into different curricular programs.
  - Continue initiating and collaborating with teachers in the design, development, delivery of units that address the needs of students on modified and adapted programs
  - Continue initiating and collaborating with teachers in the design, development, delivery of units that address the needs of students who can benefit from enrichment activities

- Continue writing original units (poetry, novel study, short story study...) for English teachers
  - Continue compiling information for English teachers on language study topics e.g., forms of writing, scoring rubrics, graphic organizers, novel units ...and maintaining it on the school computer server
  - Continue purchase print and nonprint materials to support literacy needs of students in different subject areas.
4. Student Support
- Continue library orientation of Grade 7 students and other students new to the school.
  - Continue introducing computerized library catalogue to Grade 7 students and other students new to the school.
  - Continue assisting students with effective and efficient means of selecting appropriate Internet resources

## **Goal 2:**

To maintain and strengthen literacy development capacity between Agassiz Elementary-Secondary School and the community.

### Rationale:

AESS has a strong history of cooperation with the Fraser Valley Regional Library (F.V.R.L) which dates back to the time the school library and public library shared the same space. This cooperation has continued over the past years. The school benefits by having access to resources such as novels for senior students because the school does not have the finances or space to house such a collection. The school also benefits because the head of the Agassiz branch of the F.V.R. L. encourages student use, orients Grade 7 & 8 students to the library, and invites classes of students to participate when authors have readings at the library. Readings by authors is something the school library is ordinarily not able to support financially. The public library has a variety of other resources available that provide a “good fit” with literacy efforts at the school – such as summer reading programs and online homework help.

### Actions:

1. Continue collaboration with the public library by:
  - a. Encouraging students new to the school and community to apply for and use public library cards
  - b. Participate in orientation activities offered by the library
  - c. Use opportunities offered by the public library to participate in author readings.

### Measuring for Success

The school will continue to review data from tools identified in the *Agassiz Elementary-Secondary School Achievement Plan for 2009-2010* and the *Accelerated Reader* program

to determine student improvement in literacy. Results will be shared with staff and the literacy plan will be revised as necessary.