

MYABC

# In the Middle

## A Message from the President

Middle Level Education is meant to address the needs of children aged 10 to 15. Many of these students are enrolled in Middle Schools while many are in schools that house either older or younger children as well. As Middle School Educators we have the responsibility to meet the needs of these students regardless of the setting. Schools must organize teachers, schedules and groupings to have a positive impact on the learning environment. The heart of Middle School programming revolves around creating an interdisciplinary team of two to four teachers working with a common group of students. From this evolves other school experiences and desirable programs. We the Middle Level Educators can develop this structure in any setting. Research proves that effective teams leave to a positive school climate, better parent relationships, positive student attitudes and most importantly, improved student achievement.



“The interdisciplinary team is the signature component of high performing schools, literally the heart of the school.” This We Believe

## Connections Conference 2008 Transitions

The conference is coming and this year promises to be even better than ever. There are a large number of delegates registered for Connections 2008 in Penticton, B.C. This year’s keynote speaker is Rick Smith:

Rick has shared practical teaching strategies to tens of thousands of teachers and teacher-trainers worldwide, including two years training American Peace Corps Volunteer Teachers in Ghana, West Africa. Rick was a classroom teacher for over fourteen years, focusing primarily on students-at-risk. He’s been a mentor/support provider and mentor coordinator for many years, and has taught in both Elementary and Secondary Credential programs in northern California.



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## Connections Conference 2008 Transitions

As always there is an large number of breakout presentations including:

- instruction / assessment that is relevant and accessible to all
- social responsibility and building supportive school culture
- numeracy in the middle school and the transition to high school
- literacy and transition (across the curriculum and levels)

It's not too late to register online at [http://www.myabc.bc.ca/Penticton2008/MYABC\\_Index.htm](http://www.myabc.bc.ca/Penticton2008/MYABC_Index.htm) and take part in Connections 2008:

- wine and cheese on April 17<sup>th</sup>
- keynote and breakout sessions on April 18<sup>th</sup>
- social Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Lakeside Hotel
- breakout sessions Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>

If you have any questions contact Lloyd Lindsay [llindsay@summer.com](mailto:llindsay@summer.com) or Katie Hicks [khicks@summer.com](mailto:khicks@summer.com) . See you there!!

## MYABC Annual General Meeting at the Connections Conference 2008 in Penticton

Come to this year's Annual General Meeting! It will be held on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> following the sessions from 3:30 pm – 4:15 pm in the Princess Margaret Secondary Library.

We are holding elections for the roles of President Elect, Secretary and MOYA/Directory. Attend the meeting to nominate your colleagues and vote to select people to fulfill these roles. Refreshments will be provided. See you there! If you have any questions about the AGM or the elections please contact our current president Pat Vance [pvince@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:pvince@sd43.bc.ca)

## *Advisory at Ecole Phoenix Middle School*

### **Why we have Advisory:**

- We believe our Advisory program is a very effective way to deliver on our explicitly stated core values of; learning opportunities, relationships and safety.
- To develop a culture of caring in an environment where students feel accepted and valued by teachers and peers.
- To help develop and maintain academic success through the use of agenda books and binder checks.
- To deliver our social responsibility instruction curriculum school-wide.
- To improve home-school communication.

### **What our Advisory program looks like:**

The following is a breakdown of what a week looks like in Advisory classes at Ecole Phoenix. The Advisory class begins every day and lasts for 18 minutes. Students are organized by their core division classes and we keep each division with a core academic teacher for Advisory wherever possible.

#### **Monday:**

- attendance and announcements
- organize the week in agenda books
- binder check time
- 'check in' type conversations

#### **Tuesday:**

- attendance and announcements
- social responsibility lesson

#### **Wednesday:**

- attendance and announcements
- silent, oral, or shared reading time

#### **Thursday**

- attendance and announcements
- team building challenges school wide

#### **Friday**

- attendance and announcements

See the Advisory rubric on the next page

## Advisory Achievement Rubric for Ecole Phoenix Middle School

CRITERIA	1	2	3	4
<b>Agenda Book</b>	Agenda book was rarely brought to class with very few homework or reflections listed each week.	Agenda Book was sometimes brought to Advisory and had some homework or reflections listed each week.	Agenda Book was brought to Advisory most of the time and had most of their homework or reflections listed each week.	Agenda Book was brought to Advisory all the time and always had homework or reflections listed each week.
<b>Binder Checks</b>	Weekly Binder Checks – rarely met any of the criteria	Weekly Binder Checks -- sometimes met criteria.	Weekly Binder Checks -- met criteria most of the time	Weekly Binder Checks -- always met the criteria
<b>Attendance</b>	Attendance was poor and/or this student was late for Advisory many times.	Attendance was <u>O.K.</u> / <u>Good</u> . The student was late for Advisory sometimes.	Attendance was very good. This student was late only a few times for Advisory	Attendance was excellent. This student was never or rarely late for Advisory.
<b>Participation</b>	This student participated in little or none of the Advisory activities each week.	This student participated in some of the Advisory activities sometimes.	This student participated in most of the Advisory activities most of the time.	This student participated in all of the Advisory activities all of the time.

**Self-Assessment by Student:** Overall, my achievement in Advisory is:

A goal for next term is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Assessment of this student in Advisory for this term is:**

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K E Y	} Mostly:	1's	2's	3's	4's	<b>Student Self-Assessment:</b> <b>Circled</b>
		I/F	C	B	A	<b>Teacher Assessment:</b> <b>Highlighted</b>

## Regional Initiatives Up Date

### REGIONAL INITIATIVES GRANT APPLICATION

*The Middle Years Association of British Columbia (MYABC) is pleased to offer financial assistance to groups of middle level educators who are interested in holding workshops, study groups or other initiatives that:*

- ∅ Promote an understanding of middle level philosophy and understanding
- ∅ Develop curriculum that is relevant, challenging and exploratory
- ∅ Incorporate multiple learning and teaching strategies that respond to the needs and diversities of young adolescents

#### **Rationale:**

Research indicates that high quality professional learning:

- Focuses on deepening teachers' content knowledge and pedagogical skills
- Includes opportunities for practice, research and reflection
- Is embedded in educators' work and is connected to daily activities
- Is sustained over time

Is founded on a sense of collegiality and collaboration among teachers and between teachers and principals in solving important problems relating to teaching and learning

Dennis Sparks, National Staff Development Council, 2002

#### **Grant:**

Teams can apply to MYABC for funds of up to \$100 per group member. Teams decide collaboratively how funds will be used to answer questions and achieve goals specified in their application.

For applications or further information please contact Doug Cumming [dcumming@sd83.bc.ca](mailto:dcumming@sd83.bc.ca).

We are on the web at: <http://www.myabc.bc.ca>