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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Enhancing the Craftsmanship of Education

Enhancing the craftsmanship of education has far reaching implications for the education community as a whole.

Teachers, consultants, school administrators, superintendents, Manitoba Education and Training and the Faculty of Education are important players. Each has an important role to play in enhancing and advancing education. A critical component that is sometimes overlooked is the part that research plays.

In order to enhance education, teaching must be based on research that has been proven to be effective. Educators need to be able to make informed rational decisions about the complex task of teaching. Therefore, educators require solid information from researchers and must use the data to drive decisions that affect teaching and learning.

The educational research community should be encouraged to provide useful evidence and to base their evidence about practice on the best evidence available. Lisa Towne, senior program officer at the National Research Council's Center for Education suggests that the principles for scientific inquiry have clear implications for educators. They are as follows:

- Pose significant questions that can be investigated empirically
- Link research to theory
- Use methods that permit direct investigation of the question
- Provide a coherent chain of rigorous reasoning
- Replicate and generalize
- Ensure transparency and scholarly debate.

The message is clear we need more impact studies and a balanced view.

In this issue of *Reflections*, the Editorial Committee has compiled a number of interesting articles that are supported by research yet are practical in nature. They represent a number of aspects of education in Manitoba.

In the article "Arts Revival in Schools? It's About Time!" two schools divisions collaborate to explain why the Arts are important and how they can be integrated. The article by Patti Field and Roger Landry explains the St. Boniface

Mentorship Program, a division initiative, which focuses on developing a mentoring culture throughout the school division. Brenda Lanoway discusses a collaborative culture that includes a collective sense of responsibility for student learning in her article "Building Learning Communities That Will Enhance Teaching and Learning". In the article "Student Voice: Voices of Today and Tomorrow" Sharon Pekrul explores the ways in which schools have provided students with tools to systematically collect, analyze, and interpret data about issues that matter to them so that students can improve their lives at school.

Miriam Trehearne is a specialist in Early Literacy in Calgary. Her article "Balanced Literacy Programs +Early Intervention = Success" is a must read for Elementary School Principals. Citing current research, Trehearne explains how school systems can support their at-risk readers and what effective early literacy instruction looks like. Iain Riffel reports on research he recently completed in the article "The Social Integration of Parents in Schools". He outlines a research model for examining the social integration of parents into their children's schools. Using the model, school leaders can obtain a more precise indication of how they might better promote their own institutional effectiveness. In the article "Career Internship Program: Partnership Specialists", the authors Adriano Magnifico and Rory Bochinski explain their successful program which is designed to meet the challenges facing today's graduates by spanning the gap between the regular curriculum and school to work transition. Finally, the IMYM model developed by Manitoba Education, Training and Youth and piloted in many Manitoba Schools under the direction of Cheryl Prokopanko, introduces readers to an interdisciplinary middle years multimedia model for integrating information and communication technologies with best teaching practices.

These articles represent the many ways in which Manitoba educators are researching and working diligently to enhance their craft.

References

Towne, L. (2002, February 6). The principles of scientifically based researched.

Speech presented at the U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC.