

# South Wellington's Community of Learners Healthy School's Project

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School Name: **South Wellington Elementary School**  
School District: **Nanaimo/Ladysmith #68**  
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## **Our Healthy Schools Team**

Our project was very exciting as we had a wealth of people involved in the project over the three days. Our project was led by a great team of district leaders including one of our Assistant Superintendents and four Instructional Coordinators. With their leadership and guidance, our entire staff (five teachers and three support staff) and a group of four grade 12 leadership students from a local highschool, our entire student body (64 students) was able to explore the concept of a community of learners.

## **Our School!**

This project was designed to help see how a small school to integrate the ideas around a "community of learners" to benefit all students. The project was broken into two main parts: gathering of ideas of what a community of learners is; and a celebration activity where students use these ideas to help each other succeed.

The gathering part of the project took place over 2 days for about an hour each day, where students were broken into 10 different, multiage teams. In these teams the older students were expected to show leadership in helping the younger students come up with answers to questions about what it is to be in a community; what it is to be a learner; etc. During these sessions there were 8-10 adults who moved around to each group to support and teach at times students on interacting as part of a "community of learners".

The second part of project happened one week later for about an hour. This session was great as some leadership students from a local highschool came to run the teams of students through activities and games that required the students to work as a "community of learners" to be successful. This session was definitely enjoyed by all the students as they liked working with the grade 12's students.

## **Reflections**

During the last session while the students were practicing what they had learned in a fun activity, the educators gathered to discuss the project. We identified many things that worked well including: older students really took their leadership role seriously; the younger students better being grouped with the older students; and all the students were happy to share their answers in front of the whole school. The only main concern that the staff felt they would change next year would be changing the location or environment a little as the gym floor was a little uncomfortable for some students for a one hour period. As a staff we discussed how we would integrate some building activities with smaller teams first then move to the entire school for activities three to four times a year.