

## ~ Balanced Literacy Initiatives at Earl of March ~

### Balanced Literacy Committee Objectives for 2007 -2008

#### **Cross Curricular Initiatives**

The members of the Balanced Literacy Committee at Earl of March Secondary School will participate in cross curricular initiatives next year.

#### **Departmental Groups**

English and World Studies  
Math and Science  
English and the Arts  
Physical Education and Healthy Living  
Library and all subject areas

#### **Library Initiatives**

- Current display boards: each department will create display board to showcase literacy initiatives in subject area
- Interactive display boards: information about contests and events that will take place into the library to promote library use – contests, etc.
- Reading Hub – comfortable reading areas for students. Purchasing of more current student-read magazines will be purchased
- Signage – enhance the signage displayed throughout the library
- Interactive Library web site with information of current books, contests and reading activities
- Coffee Houses/Slam Poetry: create a venue emulating a coffee house and have poetry readings and contests among students
- Graphic Novel Section and fiction and non-fiction: continue to purchase graphic novels and current works of fiction and non-fiction for students
- Purchase of hundreds of works of fiction and non-fiction books
- Steps to effectively researching essays

#### **Initiatives with Feeder Schools (interaction is currently taking place)**

- Teachers liaise with the feeder schools to discuss literacy initiatives.
- Met with the librarian technicians at feeder schools to discuss the types of literature elementary students are reading, literacy programs such as Red Maple Earl of March participates White Pine Program
- Projects between classes: The Writer's Craft class and a grade 3 class at Roland Mitchner Elementary School established a *Reading Buddies* system where grade 12 students read to grade 3 students and vice-versa. Favorite books, poems and fairy tales were exchanged. Both classes participated in a number of oral and written exercises.
- Grade 9 English and Math teachers at Earl of March are meeting with grade 7 and 8 teachers at W. Erskine Johnson to discuss current curriculum expectations and creating a continuum.

### ***What is Already in Place***

- Working with words
- Critical thinking
- Guided practice
- Academic journals
- Direct instruction

School as a community framework: a perspective in which the school is seen as the center of a community of influences upon students.

### **Major Areas of Focus**

Focus on a Safe and Caring School Community  
Assessment and Evaluations  
Cross-curricular literacy approaches  
Professional Development

- Establishing a shared vocabulary
- Teaching in context versus delivery of content
- Focus on learning and achievement
- Positive school community partnerships
- Professional learning opportunities
- Open communications
- Information gathering
- Respect, trust, harmony
- Inclusive teaching
- Assessment and evaluation
- Code of conduct
- School policy
- Safe and caring school culture
- Research
- Curriculum support materials
- Effective discipline strategies
- Equity, fairness and tolerance
- Behaviour/anger management