

Ridge Reader

November 2016, Edition 52

RTI – Models of implementation

In earlier newsletters I have mentioned how we use a process commonly known as Response to Interventions (RTI) to help support all our students. In an effort to increase everyone's understanding of this process I am going to define the two basic forms of the process. The first is the protocol system that has as its structure pre-established qualification criteria (not reaching a standard by a certain date), specific interventions given the results and blanket training for staff with minimum decision making. The second is the problem solving system. In this system, students slightly below and below a cut off line are looked at individually and more specific plans are created with a possibility of multiple interventions. Staff input is also sought and used. KRS, as always, has developed a blend of both systems. We use curriculum and District agreed criteria as standards and combine these with observations and assessments to determine "who has it and who is almost there".

A number of years ago the staff sat down to establish a guide to follow to help us ensure every child was observed and assessed. If there were any concerns the teacher could then follow the guide and seek support as needed. The guide is, and I must stress this, is a guide. One of the keys is the constant contact and input from other staff such as the Methods and Resource Teacher, the Guidance Teacher and our EAs. Although on paper it looks linear, this process is very fluid and often teacher concerns are addressed at the lowest level through discussions at informal meetings. When observations and assessments warrant, student results will be brought forward to the grade level meetings and/or the monthly Educational School Support Meetings. Once the intervention is developed, it is implemented for about 6 weeks and then reevaluated to see if it was successful and can be stopped, if it should be continued or if additional interventions should be developed.

RTI is an example of best practices that many schools follow. It is one of the strategies the staff uses to work with our students so we can take them from where they are to where they can go. (And Oh the Places They Will Go.)

Winter is Coming

Sorry, but yes it is. Since our first "S" day last year, if my memory is good, was in November, I thought I should remind you that **we are in ZONE 6**. Cancellations are on all local radio stations usually by 6:00 a.m. and often posted on the District web site by 5:50 a.m.

Zone 6 – "Greater" Fredericton Area (including New Maryland, Keswick Ridge, Nashwaak Valley)

- Barkers Point Elementary School Bliss Carman Middle School
- Connaught Street School Devon Middle School
- Forest Hill Elementary School Fredericton High School
- Garden Creek Elementary School George Street Middle School
- Gibson-Neill Memorial Elementary School
- **Keswick Ridge School** Kingsclear Consolidated School
- Leo Hayes High School Liverpool Street Elementary School
- McAdam Avenue Elementary School Montgomery Street Elementary School
- Nashwaak Valley School Nashwaaksis Memorial School
- Nashwaaksis Middle School New Maryland Elementary School
- Park Street Elementary School Priestman Street Elementary School Royal Road Elementary School

Zone 7 – Oromocto, Geary, Burton, Lincoln, Fredericton

Silver Wave Festival

I wanted to pass on some great news. The video for KRS Rocks, completed during one of our Wii sessions, was submitted to the Silver Wave Film Festival and we've been selected to have our video featured at the Festival. It will take place on Saturday, November 5th from 12pm-1pm at the Centre Communautaire Sainte-Anne. Everyone is welcomed to attend the screening. In 2012, KRS received the "Best NB Youth Short" for their Canadian National Geographic Recycling Video. Can we do it again?

Road Construction

I am sure most people have either seen or recently experienced the results of the latest road construction. Although a welcomed upgrade to the ditches and eventually the road surface, it has left the school with a bit of a dilemma. The upgrades include an off-ramp as a drop off area. At first glance this seems like a great idea, however, please be aware that it has some shortfalls. Presently we are still running our "Drop'n Go" through the upper school bus route. If students are dropped off on the lower area they end up going through the "Drop'n Go" which ends up being a safety issue. I am also not sure how the winter snowbanks will affect the lower drop off area. We will need to organize a spot that needs shoveling to allow safe entry onto the school grounds. This is not the role of our custodian and may prove an issue later. Supervision may also be an issue since the distance from the school and traffic flow with the school busses may not allow for constant supervision. Add to this the issue since the drop off area is not "on school property" and we have a multi-pronged situation.

All of this is a heads up to anyone who may use the lower drop off area once the pylons come down. I would request that everyone still use the upper "Drop'n Go" until we have a chance to look at the new traffic patterns and decide what would be a safe and efficient method. Thanks in advance for your understanding and patience.

Book Fair Dates

Thursday, Nov 24th Classroom Visits and then open to public 2-6 p.m.

Friday, Nov 25th 8-11:30 a.m.

News from the Zaatmosphere

October was a great month as students learned about Xavier Rudd and his musical gifts. I've been hearing stories about the song "Follow the Sun" and the impact the song has made. This song sure helps us to get into the *green zone*.

During the month of November we will be looking at three rock groups from Canada: ***Rush, the Tragically Hip and Heart***. There is so much to talk about when discussing the history of Rock in Canada. We have lots to be proud of in this regard! Stay tuned to the school website/Extracurricular/Leaders in Music Videos for videos and information. The website URL is <http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/KeswickRidge/Pages/default.aspx>.

Choir News

Both our Senior and Junior Choirs will be singing in our Remembrance Day Ceremony (Thursday November 10th at 12:30). Dress for this event for both groups will be **black bottoms** and **white top**. On the school website I have set up a page dedicated to the choir. It can be found under "extracurricular" and it's called "Choir Videos". I've set up videos of songs we are working on as well as lyrics and audio. Senior Choir will perform "Thousand Years" and Junior Choir will sing "What a Wonderful World". We're looking forward to this event.

Stay tuned to the website for information regarding our Christmas Concert. I hope to use the site for practice clips and information for choirs and classrooms.

New Bus Numbering

There has been a provincial reorganization of bus numbering so in the next week or so our bus numbers will be changing. Here are the new numbering for us.

Former #	Changed to:
13	275
20	276
32	277
47	278
44	213

Thank You

We would like to acknowledge some local donations. First, from TNT, 5 gallons of paint, roller and tray. This now has transformed our staffroom into a fresh and "warmer" place to be. Also, Glen Coburn for two rather large boxes of apples. They were the key item at our healthy snack station during our K-5 Halloween activities. Finally, to Riverview Orchards for their partnership this past summer and fall with the planting, growing and harvesting of pumpkins that were used in our Halloween activities, art classes and field trips.

Upcoming in November

Wednesday 09 -	PSSC meeting at 6:30
Thursday 10-	Remembrance Day Celebration at 12:30
Friday 11 -	Remembrance Day – Holiday, no school for students.
Wednesday 16 -	H&S meeting at 6:30
Friday 18 -	H&S Christmas Bazaar 3-6 set up, 6:00 – 9:00 open to public.
Tuesday 22 -	EYE-DA Screening, various times for Pre K students. This will be held in the library area.
-	H&S evening at "Chapters" Fundraising – a percentage of dedicated purchases goes directly to the KRS H&S.
Thursday 24 -	Student Lead Conferences 3:00 – 6:00 Book Fair 2:00 – 6:00
Friday 25 -	Student lead conferences 8:00 – 11:00 – No school for students Book Fair 8:00 – 11:15 Professional Learning by staff in p.m. – No school for students
Tuesday 29 -	Letters to Santa – 6:30 – 7:15 (Time to be confirmed)

December

Tuesday 13 -	Christmas Concerts 10:00 and 12:30, Christmas basket tickets and other items will be available.
Friday 23 -	½ day of school. Busses will leave school at 11:00.

January

January 09 -	Professional Learning for school staffs. No school for students.
January 10 -	First day back for students.