

**LEAP Action Learning Report 2012 – John Walters (Heathcote East PS)**

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| Topic area  (The What) | To explore successful school/successful models and methods to encourage parents to engage deeply with their child's learning. |
| Context  (The Where and When) | Glen Carter (Miranda PS) and I visited a wide range of schools in Alberta (Canada) along with a school in British Columbia (Canada).  I was based in Red Deer while Glen was in the town of Olds. |
| Research methods  (The How) | Our diverse school visits included: Hutterite community School; a First Nation school (Cree Indians); Primary Schools; Middle Schools; a K-12 school ; a Senior High School, an SSP for students with a severe intellectual delay (Horizon). as well as meetings with the Red Deer Board (COLT). We observed lessons & had discussions with the leadership team, staff and students and met with parents. |
| Initial findings | * The Alberta province is very wealthy and prepared to commit high levels of funding to education at all levels. The physical resources are very visible both in the quality of the buildings, design of classrooms, fit out and teaching resources. All students are very well supported in schools both in BC and in the Alberta Provinces. * On National scores, Alberta (& Chinooks Edge) rank #1 in Canada. * The Chinooks Edge Board (COLT) is very closely connected to schools. * Principals are often rotated to the board for a twelve-month period. * A teacher from every school is selected by local staff to be a contact with the board. * There is a very high ratio of TA support for students - Horizons School had a support aid for every student. * Strong parental support is evident across the school system and one school used a very effective daily written communication document between student-teacher-parent. |
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