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CELEBRATING OUR SENIOR STUDENTS!

GRADE 8 & R SMART

WE LOVE THE ARTS



ROCK ON CONCERT

INTRODUCTION TO PBL INFO # 2:

For AITs and Grade 8 Teachers **ONLY**

WHAT'S PBL ABOUT?



HAVING BEEN in the classroom for many years, I always wanted to highlight Grade 8 students in their final year in their beloved school, which they have attended for 9 years. When you consider that elementary years are the most years some students will ever spend again in education. **WHAM!** That's worth a re-think! It was always my intent, as a teacher, to find a way to celebrate Grade 8 students, throughout their final year, and not just at graduation. As you are fully aware, school life gets so busy, it is easy to let things ride because of **'life getting in the way'**. Universally, we all have this deep need to rites of passage and celebration: a sense of completion. Sadly, we all know that feeling of **'meaning to get to it.'** Not this year, folks! Grade 8s are in for a pleasant surprise! And hopefully, so are you. PBLs (*Project Based Learning*) is on fire! And **ARTSAROUND** wants to lead the pack.

A HE-ART-FELT WAY

THINKING of a way for an AIT to take the lead at **'highlighting Grade 8 students'** (*especially in a he-ART-felt way, before their actual graduation*), would mean a project had to last longer than the short period of time AITs has during **ARTSAROUND** lessons. So that is what I have created. Full transparency: this project requires the AIT to communicate regularly with the Grade 8 classroom teacher(s). Not only will your Gr 8 students be collaborating with you but you will be doing the same with their classroom teachers as well. What a coup! This Project-Based-Learning (PBL), implemented accurately, will provide tremendous motivational fun for the Gr 8s, while the entire school community cheers them on! Basically, they are preparing for their own going away party!

You will soon begin to see hints, sprinkled in your Music and Dance **ARTSAROUND** lessons about a wonderful opportunity for you to highlight Grade 8 students in your schools. Before we take this Project-Based Learning (PBL) adventure together, it is a good idea to remind yourself what PBL means in a gritty sense of being successful and fulfilled. You have heard me mention about two young teachers who do a fine job of working through challenging and innovative approaches to education. As AITs it is important that you are constantly moving forward, experimenting and discovering new practices. That's what keeps you empowered and allows you to keep evolving. These two mentors have been chosen, by me, to guide you through this approach. Let's learn from these two experienced teachers who have walked this road, which helps to iron out the kinks for you. If you have seen them before, consider these links, a review. If not - you're in for a pleasant surprise: deeper thinking will be coming your way soon!

PBL LINKS

[SEE WHAT JOHN SPENCER HAS TO SAY ABOUT PBLs HERE](#)

[AND MORE ON COLLABORATION HERE](#)

[HIS EDUCATIONAL PARTNER IS TREVOR MUIR AND HE WEIGHS IN TOO WITH A BRILLIANT REBUTTAL](#)

TREVOR REMINDS US about the **'cognitive load theory'**. **YOU** need rest, too! Thinking of starting something new as more work added to your already heavy load, keeps you stuck (*fixed mindset*) and trapped with the thought **'there is only one right way'** to approach learning. Trevor's rebuttal talks about **'silo education'**. Great food for thought to expand your view to a growth mindset, always curious about advancing your strategies and techniques.



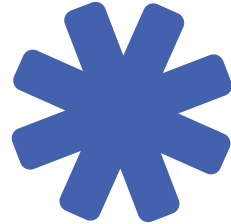
Please read through these links when you can and dig further to explore a bit more to find out what you can about PBLs. Expect several articles from me, that can certainly be accounted for PD (*professional development*), in case anyone is counting hours for your professional portfolio. Some instructions will be built right into lessons. Not only will this be great fun, but you are also giving your Grade 8 students a truly special send-off as they get to **'show off'** to the entire community what they chose to perform for their **GRADES 8S R SMART: WE LOVE THE ARTS ROCK ON CONCERT!**

PERFORMING SKILLS, THEY WANT TO EXPLORE

KEEP IN MIND the students are expected to perform skills taught during **ARTSAROUND** - not whatever they want. In the introductory guidelines you already received, you were given a concise rundown of all expectations and boundaries. The kids cannot just do anything they want if it does not relate back to the skills taught in **ARTSAROUND**. For now, get better acquainted with PBLs, while you watch for instructions in the **ARTSAROUND** music and dance lessons and make sure you communicate the info I send you, with your Grade 8 teachers. For this to be the success it deserves to be, you need to cooperate, collaborate and communicate. I know teacher's schedules are loaded and to meet with your Grade 8 teachers is difficult. Therefore, most of your communication can be done via email or online.

Cut and paste whatever parts of this note that applies to the classroom teacher, especially the links to the PBL readings. Or just forward it. Gr 8 teachers will have their reasons for liking, loving or avoiding PBLs. Please shut down opinions and invite them to roll with this PBL concept as a tribute to their Gr 8 students and their involvement in **ARTSAROUND**. Their main role is to be their students' mentor, adviser, and coach. You will do the heavy lifting. And I will provide everything you need. Now that's collaboration!

COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR GRADE 8 TEACHERS



WHEN MY NEXT ARTICLE rolls out, you will release more information to the teachers. Once **YOU** have a handle on what's expected and the kids are working on their PBL Proposals, then you may need to have one Teacher Team Meeting - even if it is on Teams, Google Meet, or Zoom - to trouble shoot and decide how you will collaboratively move forward. For now, information is on slow release.

Thank you for supporting such an important school-wide project to get every grade to keep all eyes on the Grade 8 seniors all year long. It will be some time when your Gr 8s feel like seniors again, (*and for some kids this may be the only time they will be honoured and appreciated at such a broad scope*), having an entire school community cheering them on. The other grades do not know it yet, but every one of those classes get 1-2 minutes to perform their well wishes too. The younger grades are losing their role models. All you need to know will unfold in due course. Stop thinking **'I don't have time for this.'** **ALWAYS** make time for making memories that last a lifetime. BTW - this **'rock concert'** will take place Feb-March. You can't say you didn't get ample warning!



ALWAYS CREATING CULTURALLY RICH SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

CONTINUE doing **GREAT** things in the name of **ARTSAROUND** and most importantly for our students who flourish when being encouraged to be creative, curious and actively engaged! I am filled with gratitude for those teachers who share my passion for ‘**creating culturally rich**’ school communities! **MANY** thanks and many blessings! Get the process on video during the process-not just during the celebration. Every school will want a copy of that for their archives... and so will **ARTSAROUND**.



“TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!”

JOHN C MAXWELL

