



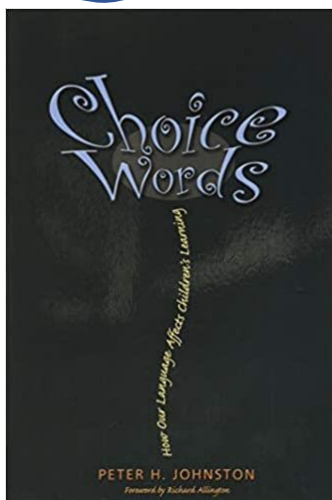
# STEELERS SHOWCASE

**Our School Goal:** "Each staff member will develop an individual goal connected to MPSC that will result in a positive impact on learning in Perdue School". Each staff member chose a place to attach their dot, or learning, for the year in areas such as: relationships, assessment, relevance, math, and engagement.

Welcome back to the Steeler's Showcase. In this monthly newsletter we share the stories of our staff and students learning journey. This month we will feature the work of Mrs. Gamble and Mr. Brandt.

**Mrs. Gamble** – My goal is to deepen connections and relationships with my students and their families throughout the school year.

This past year has been a challenging time for all of us as we try and navigate life during a pandemic. If teaching from home last spring taught me anything, it was how much I missed seeing and interacting with my students each and every day. Upon returning to school this fall, I knew I wanted to center my personal goal on reconnecting with my students and their families. I wanted to reassure students and families that this was new for all of us, and together we would figure it all out! Dr. Jodi Carrington, a child psychologist from Alberta has been a great inspiration and reminder of how important relationships and connections are. Her wisdom and real-life attitude really stuck with me and truly reminded me how important it is to "connect before you direct". In a year like no other, it was important to me to have relationships come first!



Real, authentic relationships are key in any classroom. To continue and further develop relationships with my students, I have:

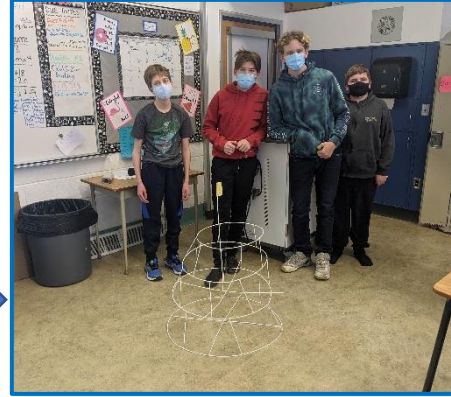
- Learned interesting facts and tidbits about each of my students that I didn't previously know. Ex. Favourite foods and activities, and items on their bucket list
- Been reading *Choice Words* by Peter Johnston
- Connected with parents on a regular basis to share accomplishments and achievements.

"I continue to be thankful that I am able to laugh and learn alongside my students each day!"

- Mrs. Gamble

**Mr. Brandt's Goal** - Engage students by developing new instructional strategies that provide students more opportunity to construct knowledge and give choice in learning

I chose to focus my goal specifically on the grade 7/8s this year as their class size allows for flexibility in lesson planning. Lessons included more group work (with student choice or randomly assigned partners/group members), classroom discussion, and out of desk learning opportunities. I came into the school year wanting to make the return to the classroom as engaging as possible as I found many students struggled with the online learning format that we ended last school year with.



## Democracy

Everyone in the group is equal. You must take a vote on anything and everything, with a majority ruling.

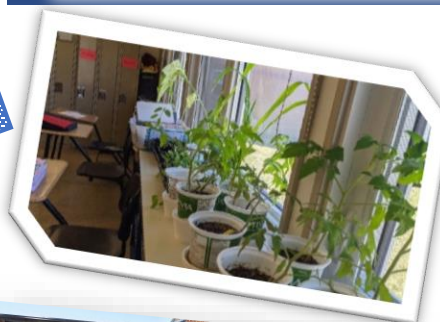


In the two pictures above the grade 7/8's spent some time exploring different forms of governments and the culminating activity was to take a key feature of that government and have to work together in a group to make a stable straw structure. This turned out to be a competitive but fun class activity.

To support my research and implementation of new instructional strategies I am reading a book called, "The Motivated Brain: Improving student attention, engagement, and perseverance" by Gayle Gregory and Martha Kaufeldt. In it the authors take a research-based approach to explain student behavior and offer strategies to use in the classroom that will help teachers to harness the power of their students' intrinsic motivation to make learning fun, engaging, and meaningful.

Out of desk learning opportunities have proven to be an engaging way of having the students work on a task. It has been nice to get some learning in outside as the weather continues to improve

In health we have decided to create a community garden that will support healthy eating and sustainability in our community. The students researched information about accessibility to food before having to find a fruit or vegetable that they wanted to grow. Many students have experience with having a garden at home or helping family with gardens so there was a high level of engagement with wanting to plant their fruit and vegetables. Unfortunately, we won't be able to plant a garden at school this year with the current COVID restrictions so the students will be responsible for taking their plants home and tending to them over the summer. In the fall we hope we harvest all the fruits and vegetables to put into baskets that we can offer to community members who would like them.



"The students this year have demonstrated a great deal of resiliency and adaptation in the face of a different learning environment that no one has ever had to deal with. They have been amazing and I look forward to building a positive future with them all!" – Mr. Brandt



