**Creating Cooperative Communities within a Triad Partnership**

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**Our Authentic Problem/Challenge**

1. How do we create a diverse community of learners who are motivated to learn from each other in an authentic context? (classroom challenge)
2. How do we inspire inclusion and acceptance through creating collaborative Knowledge Building communities within our classroom, and across the grades, school? (KB Buddies/KB Triangulated Buddies)
3. What impact and changes can human activities have on the natural environment within Canada and around the world? (KB Triangulated Buddies - current Curriculum focus for 3 classes)

**Major Goals**

Our goal was to build community amongst three groups of classes (two grade four classes and one grade six class). Several sessions focused on building community, creating team norms and establishing a safe learning environment for all students. Generating ideas and creating a safe environment for all students involved was essential to the lead-up to our critical inquiry question. Furthermore, the knowledge building principle of *Community Knowledge, Collective Responsibility* was introduced and modelled at each of our meeting sessions. Through a variety of community building activities, additional principles such as *Idea Diversity* and *Improvable Ideas* authentically surfaced. These interactions needed to occur *prior* to launching our session with all three groups of students and co-creating the critical inquiry question that would apply to all students involved.

**Promising Practices**

* Creating a community within individual classes as the first step
* Building community within 2 classes as the second step
* Nurturing community within 3 classes as the last step
* Designing opportunities for the triangulation of teaching, learning, re-teaching, and evaluating
* Refining the knowledge/skills through the Triangulation of KB
* Modeling the process of introducing one of the KB Principles to set the foundation of the other KB Principles. KB Principles are meant to emerge *authentically* through student voice.

**Advances and Challenges**

We observed students positively engaging with one another and feeling safe and willing to share their ideas with each other.  We observed that students were building on and honouring each other’s ideas no matter what grade they were in. We observed that students were able to respectfully disagree and have meaningful conversations to work through the task at hand.  It is always a challenge to find the time to plan and the time to coordinate the timetables to have the students work together. Ensuring that students with various needs are considered and the tasks are built with multiple entry points.

**Reflections and Next Steps**

We have learned that we can strategically build positive learning communities across the grades in which students ideas are valued, respected and honoured in an environment where students are risk-takers and take ownership of their own learning.  In addition, we have learned that we need to model KB Principles through daily practices along with inclusion and responsibility. The next step is to continue to move forward in content areas using grade appropriate Curriculum through the use of Knowledge Forum.