





- **FNMI Empower Tutoring Update**

In September, two teachers (tutors) were trained in Empower by Sick Kid's Hospital staff. Kits were purchased for the two tutors.

A list of students from Aspen who self-identified as Indigenous and are currently in Grade 7 or 8 was compiled.

Principals were asked to work with their LSTs/Special Education Coordinators/Classroom teachers to determine which students were potential candidates.

Parents/caregivers were contacted by school principals and asked to commit to the after school tutoring program.

We are expecting to have the Empower Tutoring Program up and running in the next two weeks.

- **Special Education PD Update**

- Empower Refresher Training**

- All LSTs who facilitated Empower were provided with a refresher session to support them given the interruption to face to face learning over the last 18 months.

- GAINS TEAMS Resources**

- This session explored the teaching resources available on our Microsoft TEAMS platform to support GAINS teachers in the event we need to pivot to remote learning

- EDSBY Report Card Training for STEPS and GAINS Teachers**

- EDSBY is a learning management software system for teachers to communicate with parents and students, store assessment and evaluation data and compiles data analytics. Individual Education Plans (IEPs), annual goals and expectations were reviewed as well as reporting expectations and report card comments for the alternative report card.

- Science of Reading (SOR)**

- Working in partnership with the Program Department, we have begun the Science of Reading (SOR) PD sessions to build educator capacity to teach reading based on evidence-based research from SOR. All primary classroom teachers, Learning Support Teachers, ESL Teachers, RISE Teachers and Early Childhood Educators will attend 4 half day PD sessions developed by a multi-disciplinary team of Program Consultants, Special Education Consultants, Speech and Language Pathologists and Psychological Services staff. All classroom teachers will be provided with literacy kits to support the implementation of reading interventions in their classrooms.

- Lexia for Administrators**

- All elementary principals and vice-principals attended a professional development session provided by Lexia Core5 trainers. The focus of the session for administrators included how to "dig deeper" on the Lexia Core5 dashboard to further understand the literacy needs of students in their buildings.

6. New Business

The focus within the board this year has been on Equity and Diversity. T. DiCastro, Program Consultant, suggested a video to share which will be viewed at the November 2021 SEAC meeting.

7. Association Reports

- K. Stack, Brain Injury Association, Windsor-Essex

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 22, 2021

**Pediatric Caregiver Group**

This is a group for parents & caregivers of children who have an acquired brain injury. The