

STUDENT SUCCESS

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Holy Saviour School Writing Project Increases Student Engagement in Writing Tasks

In October, Holy Saviour School implemented a laptop program providing all Intermediate students and teachers with laptop computers, and supports to assist with integrating the laptops into curriculum and instruction.

The students think the laptops have facilitated their learning. They report that they do more work, more quickly, with improved quality. The students are in agreement that the use of the laptops has also increased their editing and correcting. Classroom teachers observe students doing more work, and doing work that is of higher quality. They report that the students are more engaged in learning, more apt to revise and edit their work, and better able with the laptops to understand what they are learning. Here are the students' responses to "How do you feel about the use of the laptops in the classroom?"

1. The computer is very helpful because I can type faster than I can write.
2. It helps me find relevant information

related to the topic that I am researching much faster.

3. The availability of the internet gives me much more information to choose from than just using the school library
4. It reduces the cramping in my hand when I have to write lots.
5. You can readily tap into a wealth of knowledge through the use of the internet.
6. The applications help you to complete tasks quicker than actually using pen and paper.
7. Projects are created with the click of a button. I-movie allows us to incorporate relevant pictures, adding to our understanding of topics studied.
8. Typing my writing allows it to flow better. It helps me with editing my work. The text read back feature is awesome.
9. Resources, such as the dictionary and thesaurus are used more often because they are at your fingertips.
10. Using the computer allows me to be better organized. All my work can be saved in a file that is easy to find.

Holy Angels School and St. Hilary School Speak-Up Projects Granted Ministry Funding

In December a number of schools submitted applications for funding for student led, teacher facilitated projects and individual student applications to participate on the Minister of Education's Student Advisory Council. To date Holy Angel School and St. Hilary School were successful in being granted funds to carry out their Student Led, Teacher Facilitated Projects.

Intermediate students at Holy Angel School will participate in a Promoters of Peace Project which will encourage students to become activists in social change. St. Hilary School students (all grades) will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities in multi-aged groups which are student selected and organized.

Inside this issue:

Web Site Information	2
Laptop Pictures	2
Activity Report	2



(See pictures on page 2)



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- INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS
- TEACHING STRATEGIES
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Holy Saviour School students engaged in learning with MACBOOKS

Activity Report for December/January:

December 2 : Student Success Section of board web-site developed

December 5: Collected and forwarded Speak-Up applications to the Ministry

December 8: Submitted Student Success items for Director's report

December 10: Invitation to teachers and administrators to participate in Math Focus Group in March.

December 17: Submitted compilation of student leadership opportunities to the Director

January 8: Planning for professional development session on Education for All, Learning for All, Technology to Support Differentiated Instruction with Kim Asmussen

January 30: Facilitating Session with Kim Asmussen for Intermediate teachers for Professional Development Day.

January 31: Differentiated Instruction Plan to be submitted to Ministry

