



Network of Performance Based Schools

A Thinking Guide for Display Design for the Network Celebrations -- and at Your Network School

The key ingredients:

- The name of your school and your community – (Seal Cove Elementary, Prince Rupert)
- Your major area of inquiry – Social Responsibility, Writing, Reading, Math, Healthy Schools
- Your school question(s)
- Your performance standards-based findings in simple, easy to read format or, for Healthy Schools, your inquiry results
- One or two sentences or photos with captions about key elements of your strategies and/or structures

For you to consider:

1. The Spirit of the Poster/Celebration – A Blend of Oral Story Telling and Active Research Practice

Poster sessions and the celebrations / showcases are designed to be interactive – those doing the research talk with interested colleagues about what they are investigating and what they are finding. The poster never tells the “whole story.” Your case study tells more of the full story; the poster session is used to spark curiosity, highlight your school story and to generate sharing of ideas

We think of the celebration as a blend of two traditions – the oral storytelling tradition of educators and the research tradition of exploring an idea through an evidence-informed discipline.

2. Multiple Purposes for Displays

School teams have told us they have used their poster displays for many purposes during the year – during Open Houses, at a variety of meetings and with parent groups. You may wish to consider the range of possible audiences – the celebration with colleagues and the families in your community -- as you design your display.

3. Focus for Performance Standards Information

As the Network has developed we have become more and more interested in those schools that are having success in getting kids out of “not yet” and into something better! Rather than telling every single aspect of your work you might want to focus your display on the learners in the two toughest categories – *not yet* and *approaching* and show how they were doing at the beginning of the year and towards the end.

If these two categories are less important in your inquiry because you have been successful, for example, in getting most of your learners solving problems in peaceful ways – then feel free to pick any other categories that make the most sense for you.

4. Visual thinking

If you ever have time (who in education has time?), read the work of a fellow with a lot of experience in design and showing numbers (quantitative information) in a way that is truthful and helpful – you can find his work by searching for Edward Tufte – his books are beautiful and fascinating.

Some of the main ideas:

- Be as truthful as you can.
- Keep visuals simple and compelling. Confusing information can lead to poor decisions (he uses the space program as one example).

5. Case Study Sharing

Your two page case study report will tell the bigger story – if you have already done your end of the year data collection and have found time to write the story – bring a few copies to share. Otherwise consider that your display is the background piece for your oral story telling.

6. Other Presentation Considerations

- **Please be on time** – Make sure you give yourselves lots of time to set up so that you are ready to go right at the starting time.
- **Invite parents, colleagues and friends** – This is an important opportunity to help others in your community appreciate the power of networked learning across schools and districts as well as the impact of formative assessment on learners.