### **Action Plan for Learning**



School Name: Terry Fox Secondary

School Goal: Social Responsibility

School Year: 2015-2016

## Goal / Inquiry #1 Character in Action

The aim of this program is to encourage students to take responsibility and develop their character in a positive manner. In essence the students' characters develop by the choices they make. Good choices create good habits and good character. Social responsibility is about students having character traits that allow them to be accountable and responsible for their actions.

### Rationale

1-3 reasons for choosing goal

Belief that the development of character attributes namely: integrity, perseverance, leadership and compassion/kindness. are assets to students' personal, academic and extracurricular growth. The name of this program the "Character in Action" program.

Teachers and coaches have an opportunity to influence a student's character. This program builds upon the premise that key positive character attributes are the foundation for success in such areas as academics (classroom), athletics (extra-curricular), arts (visual and performing) and community (service).

# References and sources to support actions

Terry Fox has served the Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam communities for over 50 years. It originally opened as Port Coquitlam Secondary School and then moved into the new building in 1999 and became "Terry's School." We are the largest Secondary school in Coguitlam School District#43. Terry Fox Secondary has a higher than average male population, significant number of Ministry identified students and a strong and growing International program. Terry Fox Secondary is a school extremely rich in tradition and tremendous community interest and support. There is a special and unique relationship between the school and their namesake - Terry Fox. Representing a true Canadian hero gives our school community an extra relevant responsibility. Our students and staff and parent community take on that responsibility in a very authentic way. Our school is located in a growing and changing urban/semi-rural area and serves a diverse student population that comes from broad cultural and recently changing socioeconomic backgrounds. The community continues to grow as several new housing projects have set up on Burke Mountain. Our enrolment does not (yet) reflect this development. We have been told that the children moving into this area are in the K-3 age group. We believe that our enrolment will continue to decrease until these bubbles of students are in grade 9. We do however; continue to draw students from Maple Ridge/ Pitt Meadows. Most often the out of district students attend Fox because of our outstanding (football, basketball) athletic programs.

Perhaps the most outstanding and prominent feature of Terry Fox is that it has exceptional school spirit - students and teachers feel proud to be at "Fox". Although we are striving to increase the focus and importance of academic success, athleticism, fine arts, practical arts and student leadership are also at the heart of the students' focus. Consequently, there are a number of very strong programs and groups that perform at

very high levels with great success. Student leadership initiatives, music (band, choir, and rock school), theatre, football, basketball, rugby, and cheer are but a few examples. This school year continued to build on its culture of care through diverse projects and presentations. Grade wide presentations from ICBC and plane crash survivor, Dave Jonnson helped us discuss and address the social mores of adolescent behavior as well as the intrinsic and altruistic windfall behind intentional kindness.

Continuing the project spearheaded by one of our leadership teachers, Dean Whitson, last year, our leadership students once again set out to raise enough money via the sale of SD43 Anti Bullying T-Shirts to donate all proceeds to our Tri-City KIDS SPORT initiative.

This year we made a profit of \$3800 on the shirts. We sold over 1000 of them in February.

The Terry Fox legacy is very much a part of the culture at Terry Fox. The student leadership groups (student council, Legacy, Link Crew, Terry Fox Alliance) sponsor many community initiatives and consistently raise money and awareness for humanitarian causes. The year Legacy worked on behalf of ABAKIS.

Backup Documentation (please see attached folder of images and documentation which provides much more 'color' to our school. This year we made a profit of \$3800 on the anti-bullying shirts. We sold over 1000 of them in February with Scotiabank also purchasing 100 of them so we are trying to reach out and connect to the corporate world.

To help others the Leadership students raised awareness of those less fortunate twice this year and organized a massive gently used clothing drive that resulted in over 80 large garbage bags of clothing that this spring filled half of the small bus!

The goal of this year's 70 member Link Leadership crew was to demonstrate their commitment to the social and public service of our community through the implementation of diverse Character in Action initiatives.

This began with a two day leadership training session in late August 2014 where the team met to discuss how best to support the incoming grade 9s and prepare a warm and open welcome along with the brainstorming of themes, plans and implementation ideas for the year's projects. They believed that when the Grade 9s saw what Link crew did, they would see what Terry Fox Secondary could be. In all initiatives, their goal was to recruit grade 9s for connection opportunity LEADERSHIP. Team building activities for the Link team themselves were capped off by a LEGO challenge that promises to be the prized feat of upcoming years.

To complement Terry Fox Secondary's annual Cancer Run initiatives we had a late Terry fox Run in October. We also added an outreach for our Homeless and we collected food in classrooms with a prize to the class that could bring in the most items. This along with We Scare Hunger over Halloween night brought in over 500 pounds of food for the local food bank.

Giving Back was the focus of November and December. The link crew joined forces with Leadership classes and participated in a community clean up. This spurred a school wide tidy of Commons posts, bulletin boards and display cases. They then coordinated Operation Christmas Child and joined forces with Student Council and the Adopt an Angel Program. The difference for the second year is that the Adopt an Angel program was that the recipients of all the gifts went to our Community of Schools families in need. After meeting in the fall with our Community of Schools team, we struck the agreement, another extension of our second school goal and were humbled with the outpouring of unexpected gratitude.

With less fanfare and public acknowledgement, the focus of January and February was subsidiary groups doing Random Acts of Kindness, hot chocolate and cookies, some cotton candy and spontaneous compliment cards posted on a bulletin board.

April and May focused on leadership and community activities around how we can make a difference by doing little things all the time. Guest speaker Kevin Brooks reminds the grade 10s what you can do when you decide to do.

The Carnival FAIR was initiated and carried forth for the second year, this time in Spring / May....vs. Fall due to job action last year. The crew worked extensively with student council and reached our community by delivering flyers around the neighborhood and to our feeder elementary and middle schools. The intent was to offer everything absolutely free and to garner a lot of laughter, a host of fun activities and a school brimming with kids and adults from our community playing together. The link crew talked to staff and students after and again we had excellent support for this being an ongoing event.

Late May and June plans were all about how to wrap up a Grade 9 year with a feedback loop and celebration for their first year in high school. About 30 members of the Link team met and planned a celebratory lunch that will be served by the older students in the school (planned for June 23). This will be followed by a series of games in the gym (three legged races, hoola hoops, ball spinning and straw balancing acts, juggling etc.) and craftily incorporated breakout sessions gathering the 'what worked in grade 9', 'how was high school this year?, how was it better/worse than you imagined?, what was your greatest accomplishment? what ideas do you have for clubs and activities next year? and what can we, as Link Crew, do better?.

A very special feature of Terry Fox Secondary School is the incredible commitment the staff, parents and community have to our extracurricular programs. We have an amazing number of teams. As a result, we have a very large number of students involved in extracurricular activities - more so than many other secondary schools. We have a higher than average number of coaches that come directly from our staff and our programs attract some of the most qualified community coaches and mentors in the province.

Another unique feature of Terry Fox is the high participation rate in the Physical Education classes. We run more PE classes per capita than most other secondary schools which may be the direct result of the passion created by the large number of teams we run. In addition, our PE staff runs a highly successful intramural program EVERY day at lunch. Furthermore, the Rock School Program is another rather special program at Fox that attracts a high number of students.

Terry Fox is very proud of its high grade and transition rates. We believe students are engaged and attached to Fox because of the many outstanding programs we offer.

### **Planned Actions**

Continuing practices working well (1-3)

- What will we do differently? (1-3)
- How will we provide for staff development and collaboration?
- How will we involve parents?
- How will we involve students?
- How will we monitor progress and adjust actions?

- 1. Distribute more Character in Action cards
- 2 Continue awareness on mental health and overall wellness
- 3. Continue to bring in dynamic and diverse guest speakers
- 6. Diversifying instructional strategies/ learning opportunities
- 7. Daily lunch tutorials be-weekly school wide tutorials
- 8. International Foods luncheon
- 9. Trip to the downtown Eastside to increase student engagement and build relationships with adults / connects students to the community
- 10. Refine report card comments to reflect learning versus behavior, provide parents with more information on how they can support our classroom practice.
- 11. Development of new clubs and maintenance of past clubs: Math club, Science/Math Investigative Club, Chess Club, Drag Racing Club, Nepali Relief Club, Student Council, Odyssey of the Mind, Anime Club, Prayer Club, Art Club, Legacy Club, Photo Club, Improv Club, Model United Nations Club ...
- 12. Engage parents to support better decisions
- 13. DELF exams
- 14. Math Contests
- 15. 30 Hour famine
- 16, Christmas Shoeboxes
- 17. Adopt an Angel for our Community of Schools and SHARE
- 18. WE Day

### **Backup Documentation**

Bookings are done for ICBC road sense, MADD, Dave Jonnson and Rob McGirr, Alanon and Al-a-teen, Kevin Brooks

# Goal / Inquiry #2 Student engagement and academic rigor through increased school and community activities

The aim of this initiative is to promote continual social and emotional connections between the students, staff and community of Terry Fox Secondary through engaging and diverse clubs and activities provided outside regular school hours.

### **Rationale**

1-3 reasons for choosing goal

Belief that meaningful relationships in our building can enhance academic performance and rigor demonstrated by the students.

Teachers and coaches have an opportunity to influence a student's success. As we implement this program we will be proceeding on the premise that each interaction and opportunity to connect outside regular school hours create the foundation for a healthy successful community and where results will be seen in such areas as academics (classroom), athletics (extra-curricular), arts (visual and performing) and community (service).

## References and sources to support actions

The Terry Fox legacy is very much a part of the culture at Terry Fox. The student leadership groups (student council, Legacy group, Link Crew, Terry Fox Alliance) sponsor many humanitarian initiatives and consistently raise thousands of dollars and awareness for a number of humanitarian issues. This year, the Legacy crew worked on behalf of an autism education organization known as ABAKUS.

January through to June, we worked on HACE initiatives and pursued an alignment with Kindness and Connection exercises we did with Grade 9s during provincial exam week and then extended this initiative to the whole school in 2 Homerooms and with staff at staff meetings with making connections exercises.

Our Community of Schools team meets once or twice a year to discuss ways to be supportive of each other and build common goals, carry out common initiatives. This year we focused on student career choices and brought in an excellent speaker/facilitator from Capilano University to do two, two hour workshops – one week apart, all about how to talk to your teen about career, education etc

### **Backup Documentation**

(please see images attached in the folder

### **Planned Actions**

Continuing practices working well (1-3)

- What will we do differently? (1-3)
- How will we provide for staff development and collaboration?
- How will we involve parents?
- How will we involve students?
- How will we monitor progress and adjust actions?

We know that what we do annually is working because we manage to secure incredible parent support in all extra-curricular areas. Our parents run concessions with our student leaders, coach, facilitate, cheer on the choir and drama students and athletes.

Our staff continues to pride themselves in the diversity of programs we offer. We can do better in the collection of more concrete data for use next year allowing us to more closely monitor and adjust our actions.

- increase number of students attending school wide tutorials
- increase awareness and development of our scholarship club
- development of our Academic Enhancement Coordinator
- Continue to develop the Gifted Program and investigate a Science Gifted 9/10 program.
- Increase promotion and celebration of academic success

Backup Documentation please see images attached in the folder

Reflection Highlights	We are proud of the Terry Fox Community . We believe we celebrate our diversity in
<ul><li>Where are we now?</li></ul>	program offerings frequently and well.
<ul> <li>What are some patterns emerging?</li> <li>What surprised you?</li> <li>What conclusions / inferences might you draw?</li> </ul>	A pattern we see emerging, through feedback from staff and students is the desire to have this type of energy celebrating academic excellence and rigor.  This has already influenced our next steps in that we designed a S.M.A.R. T. goal activity for a pro-d held late May to seek feedback and move forward with a more refined second school goal. The collation of this is almost complete and we will draw data from this to see where we end up next year.
<ul> <li>How does this inform</li> </ul>	
potential next steps?	
Backup Documentation	Please see folder of data attached

Signatures

School Name: Terry Fox Secondary	School Goal: Social Responsibility	School Year:
School Name. Terry Fox Secondary		2015-2016

Submitted by School Planning Council:				
Title	Name	Signature		
Principal	Heather Murphy			
Parent	Nancy Labranche			
Parent	Stacey Parman			
Parent	Sarah Murray			
Recommended by Assistant Superintendent:				
Assistant Superintendent				
Board and Superintendent Approval:				
Board Chair	Judy Shirra			
Superintendent	Patricia Gartland			