

NEWS RELEASE

June 14, 2019

Students Offer Educators a Deep Learning Opportunity in Maker Education

Students from four Avalon region schools switched roles with educators today (Friday, June 14), providing an opportunity to show teachers how young learners are grasping educational concepts, from the latest advances in technology, like 3D printers, to more traditional skills, such as knitting and sewing.

After spending the 2018-19 school year becoming well-versed in Maker Education, students led educational sessions for teachers at the District Conference Centre in St. John's which allowed the older 'students' to learn and ask questions about this hands on approach to learning. Maker Education offers students opportunities to imagine, design, and create projects that align the content of learning with hands-on application. It is designed to have student interest at its core, and allows learners to develop diverse skills, knowledge, and ways of thinking through interactive, student-driven experiences.

Sessions were designed as introductory lessons by the following classes and schools:

- Beachy Cove Elementary (Grade 4 - Paula Courage/Laun Shoemaker classes) - Topic: Green Screen Video Production;
- Leary's Brook Junior High (Grade 6 - Vanessa Carey/Stacey Hopkins classes) - Topic: Coding with Scratch/ ScratchJr;
- Mary Queen of Peace Elementary (Grade 6 - Michael Burton/Deanne Burton Snow classes) - Topic: Podcasting, and
- Vanier Elementary (Grade 4 - Ashleigh Hudson class) - Topic: Pop-Up Makerspace/Students Choice.

Maker Education offers both students and teachers the opportunity to engage in deeper learning in a variety of subject areas. Leary's Brook teacher Stacey Hopkins has adopted Maker Education approaches to her teaching and learning this year, and has had great success with the cross-curricular approach to incorporating student creation.

"What makes me certain that Maker Education is worthwhile in the classroom is the level of motivation and engagement of my students," Ms. Hopkins said.

Tony Stack, CEO/Director of Education with the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District said schools have been focused on the concept of 'Deep Learning' and student engagement this year.

"Deep Learning embraces new teaching approaches and partnerships; leverages technology and connects learning to real world applications and experiences," Mr. Stack said. "With help from a variety of partners, Maker Education is one way we have moved forward to foster student engagement and enhance learning. Our students and teachers are very excited about the results."

The District extends its appreciation to all partners who have helped support and augment these efforts, including the Provincial Government (through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development); CanCode Program partners such as Brilliant Labs, Kids Code Jeunesse, Let's Talk Science, The Learning Partnership, Canada Learning Code, Actua/Memorial Engineering Outreach, and TakingIT Global, community and local partners, District office staff, educators and, most importantly, our students.

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District represents approximately 65,000 students, over 8,000 employees and more than 250 schools.

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