

## ***CODE Innovation Fund 2015-2016 Report: Thames Valley District School Board***

### ***Learning Outcome:***

To explore the use of a digital portfolio (i.e., FreshGrade) to enhance formative assessment and reporting practices, engage parents and empower students.

### ***Participants:***

Kevin Auckland, Learning Supervisor  
Susan Bruyns, Learning Supervisor  
Riley Culhane, Superintendent of Student Achievement  
Laura Elliott, Director of Education

### ***Itinerary:***

On October 7 and 8, 2015, our team travelled to British Columbia to visit the Surrey and West Vancouver school districts. We had the opportunity to speak with senior staff members to learn about their use of FreshGrade. We visited four elementary schools and one secondary school. During our school visits, we were provided with time to engage in conversations with educators, system staff, administrators and students to discuss both the opportunities and challenges of utilizing this digital portfolio. We also visited classrooms where we could see the use of Freshgrade in action and had conversations with educators and students.

During our visit, we also took the opportunity to learn more about the use of innovative learning spaces to promote the development of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning competencies.

### ***Key Learning:***

This visit resulted in significant learning for our team. It was extremely beneficial to visit school districts that are utilizing FreshGrade in their school communities to capture student thinking, inform instruction, empower students and engage parents. We learned a great deal about their implementation plan as well as the impact that FreshGrade has had on educator formative assessment practice, parent engagement and student learning.

***Application in the Thames Valley District School Board:***

Upon our return from British Columbia, we have had multiple opportunities to gather TVDSB input in terms of moving forward with a pilot project.

On October 22, the team who traveled to British Columbia met with our Associate Director to share our findings and potential next steps, which included going forward with a pilot project involving a small number of elementary schools.

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, the team met to plan the sharing session at an upcoming Program Advisory Committee meeting.

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, the team involved the members of the Program Advisory Committee in a simulation using the FreshGrade mobile applications and gathered their feedback in terms of a pilot project.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, our K-12 Special Program team members and TOSAs were provided with a training session using FreshGrade and asked their input in terms of a pilot project.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, the elementary Instructional Coach team was provided with a training session using the FreshGrade mobile applications and asked their input in terms of pilot project.

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, we invited the administrator's from our 7 selected pilot project schools for an information session.

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, some of our Instructional Coaches partnered with classroom teachers and offered a session on FreshGrade at the STEAM conference. Throughout the month of May correspondence has occurred between FreshGrade and TVDSB in terms of SIS integration and confirmation of contract. Connections have been made between the two Information Technology departments. Communication is ongoing with FreshGrade for professional learning support.

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, selected teachers from the pilot project schools will be attending a ½ day Introductory Inservice.

September 2016 – June 2017 ~ teachers from the pilot project schools will be invited to participate in several professional learning sessions occurring throughout the upcoming school year