

September/October

“For the next eight weeks our school will be exploring the **Communication** Core Competency...”

What is communication?

- Communication is connecting with other people to share your thoughts, add on to each other's ideas, and create better ideas together.
- Communication includes understanding information that someone else shares and then asking connecting questions and adding my own thoughts.
- Active listening means whole body listening. We listen not only with our ears but also with our eyes and body. The brain is turned on when paying attention. We focus on what the speaker is saying so that we can listen to understand.

Wolf is a great communicator.

- Wolf reminds us to listen to each other and work together as a team.
- Wolf helps us understand that each member of the pack is important and has a role to play for the greater good.
- Wolf reminds us that strength comes from cooperating, listening with respect and sharing ideas.

What do good communicators look and sounds like?

- Good communicators are active, whole body listeners who support and encourage the person speaking.
- Communicators know that everyone has their own point of view. I respect other points of view and can disagree respectfully.

Why is good communication important?

- Practising my communication skills is important because I have lots of creative and interesting ideas to share with others. Practising sharing my ideas helps me to become a strong speaker and story-teller.
- Communicating allows you to present information clearly and in an organized way.
- Communication allows me to present to an audience you may not know.

Communication is a huge part of successful group work.

- Good communicators can work with others to achieve a shared goal with everyone doing their jobs.
- Communication helps teammates divide the work in a group project so that everyone has a job that they can understand and do successfully.
- Practising communication skills make it easier to ask for help when it is needed.
- Practising communication makes summarizing key ideas easier. This allows all of us find the ways that we agree and talk about where we disagree.

Giving and receiving feedback is an important part of communication.

- Giving each other and receiving feedback helps all of us to make our work better.
- Confident communicators act on the constructive feedback that they receive.

November/December

"For the next eight weeks our school will be exploring the **Creative Thinking** Core Competency..."

What is creative thinking?

- Creative thinking is a way of looking at problems or situations from a new or fresh point of view. Some of the ideas that you come up with when you think creatively will work and others won't. The purpose of creative thinking is not to be 'judge-y', but rather to be open and accepting of new ideas and different points of view.
- Creative thinking comes from free play, exploration and experimentation. Jean Piaget once said: "Play is the work of children". In real life play is also the work of creative adults!
- Creative thinking is about coming up with as many ideas as you can. Brainstorming is a terrific example of how to get your creative juices flowing.
- Creative thinking grows from playing and working together.
- Creative thinking grows from connecting with others to share thoughts, add on to each other's ideas, and create better ideas together.
- Creative thinking grows from understanding different perspectives and then adding your own thoughts.
- Creative thinking grows from noticing connections between thoughts, ideas and people.
- George Bernard Shaw once said: "Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine, and at last, you create what you will".

Raven is a creative thinker.

- Raven reminds us that creative thinkers are playful and enjoy what they are doing.
- Raven reminds us that there is no problem that can't be solved without a little imagination. When faced with a challenge, Raven doesn't give up. Instead Raven looks for ways to achieve her goal.
- Raven is innovative. When we feel like we've run out of ideas, we can look to Raven for inspiration. Raven helps us to think "outside of the box".
- Raven helps us understand that listening to and gathering ideas from others can help us make something new.
- Raven reminds us that we need to work hard to make our ideas come to life. Just as Raven can build a nest bit by bit, we need to remember that creativity takes imagination and determination to make your dreams a reality.
- Raven reminds us that it is ok to swoop high and dive low, as well as fall and fly freely. Making mistakes is part of the creative process. No one is perfect. As Salvador Dali said: "Have no fear of perfection, you'll never reach it".
- Raven teaches us that we can be creative and playful in all that we do!

Creative thinking helps you come up with new ideas.

- Creative thinkers use their five senses to explore.
- Creative thinkers build on other's ideas and add new ideas of their own.
- Creative thinkers learn about new things on purpose.
- Creative thinkers have strategies for quieting their minds so that they can be more creative.
- Creative thinkers have interests and passions that they pursue.

What do good creative thinkers look and sound like?

- Creative thinkers love to play. Whenever you play or experiment you come up with new ideas and try them out. Play is the most important work of creative thinkers.
- Creative thinkers get new ideas or build on other people's ideas to create new things.
- Creative thinkers come up with new ideas as they pursue their areas of interest.
- Creative thinkers know that everyone has their own point of view. They encourage others to share their ideas so that they can learn from them.
- Creative thinkers get ideas that are new and different than those of their friends.

Being flexible is an important part of creative thinking. Don't be a rock brain!

- When working creatively sometimes your ideas will work and other times you will need to be flexible and make changes to your ideas.
- Being a creative thinker who is also a flexible thinker will help your ideas work.
- Being able to give and receive thoughtful feedback is part of creative thinking and makes all of our work better.
- Creativity includes working hard, on purpose, on skills that you need to develop to make your ideas work.
- Creative thinkers persevere. They are good at 'having a go' and then using their experiences to make their next try even better. Creative thinkers always "try, try again!"

Why is creative thinking important?

- Creative thinking is at the heart of invention and innovation. Sir Ken Robinson said: "Creativity is putting your imagination to work, and it's produced the most extraordinary results in human culture".
- Susan L. Taylor reminds us that: "Every problem has a solution. Stress and worry, they solve nothing. What they do is block creativity. You are not even able to think about the solutions (when you worry)".
- Taking risks is part of creative thinking. Follow your interests. Yo-Yo Ma believes that: "Passion is one great force that unleashes creativity, because if you're passionate about something, then you're more willing to take risks". Yo-Yo Ma

Other quotes:

"Creativity is contagious, pass it on" – Albert Einstein

"Every child is an artist, the problem is staying an artist when you grow up" – Pablo Picasso

"If you hear a voice within you say, 'You cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced" – Vincent Van Gogh

"There is no innovation and creativity without failure. Period." Brene Brown

"I want to put a ding in the universe" – Steve Jobs

"Creativity is a habit, and the best creativity is the result of good work habits." Twyla Tharp

"Curiosity about life in all of its aspects, I think, is still the secret of great creative people" – Leo Burnett

"You can't wait for inspiration, you have to go after it with a club" – Jack London

"Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try"  
– Dr. Seuss

"Creativity is more than just being different. Anybody can plan weird; that's easy. What's hard is to be as simple as Bach. Making the simple, awesomely simple, that's creativity" – Charles Mingus

"Creativity comes from a conflict of ideas" – Donatella Versace