

**Summary of Year 6 Final Practicum**

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Student: Nathalie Boulanger	Practicum Dates: (dd/mm/yy): 12/10/2015 – 11/12/2015
School: Ecole Mt. Prevost	District: Cowichan Valley (#79) Grade(s): K
Analysis By: Bob Belcher	Supervising Teacher(s): Louise Ouellet
Received and Discussed	Signatures:
Date: December 8, 2015	Student: <i>Nathalie Boulanger</i>
	Sponsor(s): <i>Louise Ouellet</i>
Page 1 of 3	Supervisor: <i>Bob Belcher</i>

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**This report includes: School/class context statement and evaluative comments based on the eight BC Teachers' Council Standards.**

Ms. Nathalie Boulanger completed her Year 6 Final Practicum at Ecole Mt. Prevost Elementary, a K-7 French immersion school in the Cowichan Valley School District (#79). There are 450 students at the school which draws students from many areas in Duncan. Most of the students come from middle income families. Nathalie was assigned to a kindergarten class under the sponsorship of Ms. Louise Ouellet. The students had varying needs, none designated for an Individual Education Plan (IEP) at this point.

**This report will focus on the following areas: (1) Value and Care for Students, (2) Planning, Classroom Management and Instruction, (3) Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting, and, (4) Professional Conduct and Contributions to the School and Community.**

**Value and Care for Students**

From the outset, Nathalie created an upbeat, safe and positive learning environment for the students in her care. She achieved this in many ways that included

- attending to the varying needs of students thus securing an emotionally and physically safe classroom.
- providing positive feedback to students throughout her lessons.
- being aware of which students did not work well together and creating a new seating arrangement that would maximize the learning of all students.
- photographing proud students with their work and displaying this on a bulletin board in the hallway.
- initiating a meeting between students, parents, the principal and herself regarding a serious safety issue.
- respecting diversity (e.g. Jehovah's Witness/Remembrance Day), and
- creating a balance between play and focused instruction.

This was an energetic and happy classroom, where the students were treated with respect and dignity.

**Planning, Classroom Management and Instruction**

Nathalie's planning was detailed and reflected intended learning outcomes/core competencies from the redesigned provincial curricula (Draft, 2015). She effectively used music for class management and settling in, an activity the students thoroughly enjoyed. A variety of visuals, modeling and chart paper drawings and notes

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were used successfully in providing clear directions and criteria for the young learners. Once Nathalie knew the students better, she made some changes in their seating arrangements and work groups which resulted in fewer disruptions and more focused learning. Learning resources and hands-on materials were always well-organized, resulting in efficient distribution to the students in advance of lessons. Her command of the French language impressed both the Vice Principal and her sponsor teacher. The use of demonstrative gestures with a new language was a well-thought out strategy to aid in student comprehension. She used her skills as a certified Yoga teacher to enhance PE classes; the use of the flip chart pictorials was a novel way to enhance the students' French language while they exercised.

### **Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting**

Nathalie used a number of formative assessment tools to gather information on each child's progress. This included

- anecdotal observations and checklists,
- photographs,
- writing/art journals and other work samples, and
- timely and descriptive oral feedback.

Many of the students' finished products were placed in a portfolio for parent conferences as well as using the samples to make evaluative judgments for report cards. Nathalie collaborated with her sponsor teacher on the term reports and also wrote three mock reports on students of differing ability levels. These written reports were very well written in jargon-free language that parents could understand. The contents would provide parents with a snapshot of their child's progress in key developmental areas as per Ministry guidelines.

### **Professional Conduct and Contributions to the School Community**

Nathalie professional conduct over the course of the practicum was exemplary as she embraced the notion that parents play a critical role in the success of their child in school. She was keen to know more about the children in her care and opened the lines of communication quickly. She met with parents in formal settings such as parent/teacher interviews as well calling a meeting with a group of parents when she realized student safety was being compromised. She also made the effort to exchange information informally by "chatting" with parents at drop off and pick up times. This flexible attitude went a long way in gaining credibility with parents.

Nathalie also established strong collegial relationships with a number of staff members by attending staff meetings, participating with the jazz exercise group and joining a professional learning group that wanted to explore the merits of Reggio Emilia, an early childhood teaching approach that is predicated on students as constructors of their own knowledge. Having had a rich background in writing grants, she wrote the proposal after brainstorming a number of ideas with the group. The proposal was successful and work can now begin on the project that supports the new curriculum directions in BC.

Nathalie is a curious and passionate individual who enthusiastically embraced the need to continually seek out knowledge and expertise from others during her time at the school. The profession needs individuals like her who realize that the learning never stops.

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## **Summary Statement**

Ms. Boulanger experienced a most successful practicum. She was respectful of her role as a student teacher and appreciated the words of advice and encouragement from different staff members and her sponsor teacher. She has many talents, but was determined to grow in many areas critical to successful teaching. And she did! Nathalie has much to offer a school and is eager to start her career as a teacher. She would be a great addition to any school.

**Nathalie Boulanger has successfully met** the outcomes for the Vancouver Island University Teacher Education program Year 6 final practicum.

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