

KNOWLEDGE NETWORK for STUDENT WELL-BEING

Update from the Knowledge Network for Student Well-Being (KNSWB)

Our last update followed the Project Steering Committee meeting for the KNSWB on Wednesday, September 20, 2017. We've been busy with our new project year, and have news to share.

The first meeting of the Knowledge Network for Applied Educational Research Coordinating Committee (KNAER CC) took place on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at the Ministry of Education offices. The objective of the meeting is to coordinate knowledge mobilization activities across the four knowledge networks. The KNSWB was represented by Don Buchanan, the Network Facilitator, and Christa Frieler from the Social Planning Network of Ontario.

After reviewing the purpose and terms of reference for the KNAER CC, we heard from Amanda Cooper, who was representing the team from Queen's University that has been engaged to complete the Developmental Evaluation of the KNAER networks. Amanda shared an overview of Developmental Evaluation, and emphasized that their first priority was not burdening the networks with new or additional evaluative tasks.

Linda Nicholson, also of the ERESB updated us on plans for this year's Ontario Education Research Symposium (OERS). This is the premiere education research conference in Ontario for educational researchers. As many of you may know, the OERS was not held last year, in order that the Ministry of Education might

sponsor the International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement (ICSEI).

The theme for the OERS this year will be "equity", and there will be opportunities for the Knowledge Networks and their CoP's to share information and build capacity. If you are interested in participating, you can contact [Linda Nicholson](#) directly. Tentative date for the OERS is February 28 and March 1, 2018.

The KNSWB attended the Canadian Education Association conference on student well-being, October 5 & 6, 2017, as well as the Public Health Education meeting on November 1, 2017. The later meeting focused on how the physical education and healthy schools movement might work together to achieve a common set of goals. Our community of practice, the Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition, was well represented, and is well positioned to share their broad, comprehensive vision of healthy school communities.

The Social Planning Network of Ontario (SPNO) is continuing their work in bringing together "equity champions" in communities and schools. They had a productive meeting on Friday, November 3, 2017. Shasta Carr-Harris and Melinda Phuong from the KNAER Secretariat attended the meeting and provided the SPNO with help in establishing a social media presence as well as examining options to update their website.

The SPNO is also eager to connect with the new "[Réseau de Savoir sur l'Équité/Equity Knowledge Network](#)", the third KNAER network that was recently announced by the Ministry of

Education. This network is led by a multi-stakeholder, bilingual team from the University of Ottawa.

The “Leading Mentally Healthy Schools” project from School Mental Health ASSIST worked with three Principal association to co-create resources that guide Principals on leading mentally healthy schools. After piloting and improving these resources last year, the KNSWB was able to facilitate the distribution of a package of these resources to every elementary and secondary Principal in Ontario.

The resources were enthusiastically received, and we’ve had to prepare a second print run. The KNSWB will be attending a session with the mental health leaders in mid-November to learn from their experiences in sharing these materials and training Principals on how to use them. We hope this experience will guide the dissemination of new resources and tools from across our network. A vital part of this dissemination has been the “on-the-ground” network of mental health leads, who have provided training to their Principals about using the resources effectively.

The Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition will be holding their annual conference in Hamilton this year, on March 26 & 27, 2018. Their theme is “*Integrating Health and Learning: Roles, Relationships and Results*”. They are hosting a panel discussion with all four communities of practice from the KNSWB coming together to discuss a shared understanding and commitment by CoP’s to an integrated systems approach to Wellbeing and Healthy Schools. More details about this will be shared as they are developed.

PREVNet is in the midst of final preparations for the 2017 Conference, to be held in Gatineau from November 15-16, 2017. The KNSWB will have a display, and we’ll be sharing that space with our colleagues from the KNAER Secretariat. Stop by to pick up copies of our latest resources, as well as goodies from KNAER.

I’ll include a more complete report on PREVNet’s activities once I have had a chance to chat with their team, and hear some of the presentations at their conference.

We’ve had some good discussions with researchers at the Offord Centre for Child Studies, who have a number of new research studies that tell us more about student well-being. They are interested in working more closely with our communities of practice, both to share the results of their research, and to learn from educators and front-line services how they can share their research in a way that will impact practice. We’re currently making plans to host some sessions about these studies early in the new year.

One other opportunity to network will be taking place on December 1, 2017 at the annual meeting of the Association of Educational Researchers of Ontario (AERO). This provincial association has strong representation from researchers in education and in school boards. Their conference is titled “*Student Mental Health and Well-Being: Research and Measurement*”, and the keynote is Dr. Jean Clinton, and Dr. Gail McVey from our CoP School Mental Health ASSIST will also be speaking. Further details are at: <http://www.aero-aoce.org/conferences.html>

Perhaps I’ll see you there!