



Howe Sound
School District No. 48

NEWS RELEASE

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PROVINCIAL VIDEOCONFERENCING WORKSHOP TO FEATURE HOWE SOUND SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SPECIAL EDUCATION WORK

Howe Sound School District's unique approach to meeting the educational needs of secondary students with significant physical and cognitive needs will be spotlighted at a province-wide videoconferencing workshop October 21st. The day-long workshop is being sponsored by the Provincial Outreach Program for Autism and Related Disorders (POPARD) and will focus on the model Howe Sound has developed to meet the needs of "low incidence" students who require intensive support in the classroom.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rick Erickson said the District is very proud of the model staff have developed with the help of POPARD consultant Barbara Porco. "They have sorted through a massive amount of research, organized their findings and developed a set of practices based on the best knowledge available."

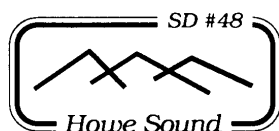
Director of Instruction Pius Ryan said, "It seems that in public schooling we are repeatedly inundated with the new best way of supporting our students. Therefore, one of the challenges facing special education and resource teachers is translating research into practice in a flexible yet coherent manner. In the Howe Sound School District, the Low Incidence Support Team has developed a model to aid the design and evaluation of a high quality resource program, which subsequently provides teachers with a conceptual framework to structure their thinking about practice."

Members of the team, Morag Marshall and Carol Bayliss explain, "The key components of the model include a functional curriculum, community training, work experience, and peer-mediated programs. Although, these components are common place within our practice, it is how Howe Sound practitioners have used this model to provide a common ground for teachers, parents, and administrators to evaluate practice that is unique."

While the conference will provide an overview of the work being done in Olympic Corridor, most of the day will be dedicated to interactive learning of the practical application of the model, which will involve small group work and sharing of ideas. At the end of the workshop, participants will be provided with information to further build on the material and ideas presented.

The conference is open to secondary low incidence support teams throughout the province, and conference organizers are encouraging the whole team to attend, including teachers, teaching assistants, and parents, where appropriate.

For further information about Howe Sound model, contact Pius Ryan (604-892-5228). For more information about the conference, contact Mary-Ann Fulks (mfulks@deltasd.bc.ca) of the Provincial Resource Program for Autism and Related Disorders.



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