Language and Learning Team 2010-2011 Summary

Team:

| Chris Archibald –Applied Skills | Danielle Stokes-English, Languages, ESL | Kristeen Fisher – Math |
| Kate McMeiken- Languages | Katerina Vakakis- ESL | Garth Errico- Administration |

What	Why	Reaction/Feedback	Plans for 2011/2012
Attended PITA conference	For our own professional growth and acquire new strategies to implement in our classrooms, and in our professional development activities with staff	Excellent team building activity, fortified our bank of resources to share with staff.	Faye Brownlie series
Generated list of staff's questions to examine academic vocabulary and its impact on students	To collect cross disciplinary questions in order to identify patterns and language demands on students.	It was enlightening to see what students have to deal with on a daily basis.	Create a template or survey for teachers to record what they have tried in any given week in the way of Inspiration, graphic organizer or some other literacy activity
Demonstrated the use of a Sort and Predict activity and Performed a Skit to demonstrate the heavy vocabulary load and challenges for students	To raise awareness of the need to explicitly address vocabulary and literacy skills	Staff seemed to buy in, and most were involved in the activities and conversations	Reminder in letter trays regarding the graphic organizers on the T-drive, and the inspiration program.
Pig Latin lesson to demonstrate the importance of context/pre-teaching non-verbal cues	To make language challenges experienced daily by students obvious to teachers		D.E.A.D- Drop everything and Draw (give teachers a time frame for trying a literacy activity, with some way of providing us feedback from teachers and hopefully students)
Re-focussed staff on what literacy was and reinforced the importance of graphic organizers	To support the school goal of helping students achieve a mark of C or better (ex. ELD in Content Area courses)		Involving students (peer tutors, Success, tutorial leaders) by training the leaders with some graphic organizers to use with grade 8 students in tutorials

Reproduced graphic organizers on the T-Drive for the use of all staff, and presented examples of how these were used in our own classrooms.			Collaborative time-build a Collaborative group that works on a literacy activity (i.e. from PITA conference)
Demonstrated use of Inspiration and Wordle, and allowed teachers time to process and practice using these with support from teachers experienced with the program			Determining the variability and accessibility of appropriate answers to questions. (examining variability of teacher expectations of student answers)