

Teach Like Finland- Deep Cove 2020

Members: Ashley, Matthew, Rebecca, Suzanne, Mallory, Erin, Shelley, Lexus, Martine, Alana, Ellise, Melissa, Nadine, Linda, Ida

21st January discussion notes:

- Shelley went to Helsinki, Finland last March. Has a slideshow of classes to share. Visited 6 different schools. What you read in the book is very much like what she saw.
- Martine: what can we implement from what you saw?
- School schedule is very flexible. Kids come at different times
- We read about stuff but we rarely get the chance to implement
- Lunch time: love how they do lunch and teachers in the room whilst the kids eat
- Ressources: they still use textbooks but there is a different framework. We have had the job of finding resources pushed onto us by the government. Our resources are out of date
- Shelley did see a lot of “read this, respond to this” type instruction. Very hard to do inquiry that way; especially when they don’t have libraries
- Class size ratios are similar or a bit bigger
- Start school at 7, but K is part of government funded preschool
- A much bigger respect for education there.
- Breaks every hour but not always outside
- How important play is. 5th Feb is Global School Play Day
- Built in collaboration
- Quick movement breaks: stand and talk compared to turn and talk
- Daily 5 literacy and maths routines to build independent work
- Building stamina

What can we try? Implement? Read Chapters 1 and 2 by the next meeting (late Feb).

February meeting

- Free lunches are a fundamental right and they are actually healthy
- Shelley’s visit was three weeks
- Those 15 minute breaks are so helpful
- Do they do all the “extras” (assemblies, shirt days)?
 - They had themes
- Do they have gym time? Shelley said she saw at some schools

- Extra curricular? Lots of it, thinks it is partly subsidised
- The importance of taking your lunch break. We need to unwind
- When you work that hard and stay late your productivity is down
- Knowing when you are the most productive
- Collaboration doesn't always have to be face-to-face
- Calm corner in the library?
- Work job for a break? E.g., a marker tester, organise supplies, etc
- Backpack walks? Action breaks with the exercise cards?
- Magic bags as a weighted tool?
- Lunch monitors?
 - How do we make it work better? So many kids don't want to do it
 - Family groupings?
 - 2 month rotation per intermediate class?
 - Adults in the room make a huge difference. Connecting with our kids is so important
- Next meeting: finish book. Lunch time in May after dance is over.