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.
- Resources: 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 Our resources are out of date.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.