

Saanich as Researcher Summary
Prospect Lake School

Prospect Lake Book Club Selection – **Regie Routman: Writing Essentials**

One of our school goals at Prospect is to improve student writing. We selected this book to discuss and share ideas from, hence using the same “writing” language with all students in our school. Her book covered 12 writing essentials for all grade levels - recognizing that in early primary much could be demonstrated orally. Most of us enjoyed the book, some of the key pieces we liked was the importance she placed on modelling and writing with/in front of the class and thinking out loud. Her focus is on "less is more" ie. writing for a shorter period of time but writing regularly (goal is daily) and finding meaningful ways for kids to write/giving them more choice of topic - make sure writing is meaningful and choose your topics carefully.

At our second meeting we all came back with a lesson plan that we had tried from the text. We discussed what had been beneficial and what didn't really work.

In our final meeting we viewed some of the DVD that came with the book and visited the websites that were provided. We discussed assessment practices and “where to now” for next year, as we are keeping the same goals. It was agreed that although the book was good, it was more theory based and offered less practical uses.

We would like to thank Saanich as a Researcher for the funds which allowed us the opportunity to purchase and use this resource. It was very useful and a resource that we will continue to use next year as we develop and build our writing program at Prospect Lake.

Laurel Evans