

From the Editors



Heather Knill-Griesser

We are delighted to share our fifth volume of *Passion in Professional Practice: Action Research in Grand Erie*. This edition is unique in that we have action research projects from Early Childhood Educators (ECE), a new group who are researching and improving their practice. Clearly, this is a voice that has not been heard and a group of educators who has not been recognized. While recognition is not the primary purpose of action research, it is a benefit not only for the knowledge base of teaching and learning, but also for the confidence of the researcher.

The Best Start program in Ontario will bring elementary teachers and ECE's together to provide seamless learning and parental supports. While the research is new, the collaboration is not new in Grand Erie as we have created Ontario Early Years' satellites and Launch Pads in our schools. These centres can become the Best Start early learning hubs to be instituted in the next three years.



Jackie Delong

Also in this volume are action research projects from teachers, administrators and support staff. Individual projects include researchers' questions on how they might improve their practice in Literacy and Numeracy, Special Education, Roots of Empathy and Tribes, as well as Launch Pads/ Ontario Early Years satellites. These projects, which range from classroom narratives to full research studies include veteran researchers with five projects but most are writing their first one.

We publish this at a time in Ontario when the provincial government is beginning to talk about and initiate support for action research/teacher inquiry. This is an exciting direction for those of us who have been struggling to find funding for research as we will be able to focus on encouraging and supporting action research. What still remains is accreditation for the action researchers.



Cheryl Black

Our thanks to the Grand Erie District School Board for their support for action research for over 10 years. Our thanks as well to Dr Jack Whitehead, Bath University, UK for his creation of the action research model where the individual is at the centre of the research and for his continuing inspiration and support for our work.

We hope that you will enjoy hearing the voices of early years' and school educators in improving early and ongoing learning. We celebrate their professionalism and willingness to share their knowledge in order to create a knowledge base of teaching and learning from the viewpoint of the practitioner.

Heather Knill-Griesser
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