



Wolf Creek Public Schools 21st Century Learning Symposium...A Great Opportunity for Learning!

On Monday, January 30, 2012, over 250 educators from Wolf Creek Public Schools and surrounding school jurisdictions gathered at Bluffton School for the Wolf Creek Public Schools 21st Century Learning Symposium.

"We had an amazing day! There were over 250 people in the school today and there was some great learning going on from the very start. We hope that participants gained valuable resources and insights into how their teaching practice can become more influenced by technology to help engage students in a more meaningful way," said Jay Cottell, Wolf Creek Public Schools Learning Technologies Consultant and one of the conference organizers. "Attendees also had the opportunity to network with other educators and build up a network of professional colleagues who they can utilize beyond just this one day."

The Symposium got underway with keynote presentation "Learning in a Digital World" by George Couros, Division Principal of Innovative Teaching and Learning for Parkland School Division. Mr. Couros spoke about trends in social media and society and focused on ways that educators can leverage them to prepare students to be true learners in this digital world. As a result, schools can be more exciting now than they have ever been.

Attendees then had their choice of close to 20 breakout sessions in a wide variety of topics, including: podcasting, green screen technology, Read and Write Gold 10, digital portfolios, iPads and apps in the classroom, robotics, Web 2.0 tools, digital citizenship, videoconferencing, SMART Board training, iPads for assistive technology, digital storytelling, Google apps, digital photography, and Twitter in the classroom.

"All but two of the breakout sessions were instructed by Wolf Creek staff members. Having these local experts share their knowledge with their colleagues not only makes sense fiscally, it also builds on the strong culture of collaboration within Wolf Creek Public Schools and makes the entire division better for the students we serve," commented Nolan Krauss, Principal of Bluffton School and another conference organizer.



Over 250 educators gathered at Bluffton School on January 30, 2012 to hear keynote speaker George Couros at the Wolf Creek Public Schools 21st Century Learning Symposium.

The Symposium's success was evident through the comments received from attendees. The following are some of the many positive thoughts about the Symposium:

Great opportunity for learning! Great chance to build capacity across the division.

There was a lot to be learned and I really wish I could have gone to all of the sessions!

This was a fantastic event all around. There is so much expertise among our colleagues - it was nice to benefit from their knowledge/experience without having to travel a great distance for a professional development opportunity. Well done!

The Symposium was very well organized, and I felt very welcomed by Bluffton staff. It was great to see so many educators interested in 21st Century Learning.

“Organizing the Symposium was a lot of hard work and I want to thank all of the staff at Bluffton School, the presenters from across Wolf Creek, the Wolf Creek Technology Services team, and of course the Wolf Creek Board of Trustees and other sponsors that made this all possible,” said Mr. Cottell.

The idea for hosting the Symposium started as a result of a Wolf Creek Public Schools Board of Trustees funded initiative focused on building jurisdictional capacity with the Understanding 21st Century Learning project. Funding for the event was also provided by a variety of other sponsors.

“Special thanks to the Wolf Creek ATA Local #3, the Wolf Creek Professional Development Committee, Alberta Technology Leaders in Education, Central Alberta Regional Consortium, SMART Technologies, Evolution Presentation Technologies, BCOM and Atomic Zombie in Edmonton, and our local sponsors: Stationery, Stories and Sounds in Rimbey, The Source in both Rimbey and Lacombe, and TanTec Electronics in Ponoka.”



Attendees at the Wolf Creek Public Schools 21st Century Learning Symposium received hands-on instruction in a wide variety of topics, such as robotics and green screen technology pictured here.

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