

Looking back and reaching forward with PRIDE

By Amanda O'Regan-Marchand, Executive Staff Officer, Professional Learning

Happy June, dear colleagues.

As you are preparing to conclude your year, your PL team would like to offer you some ideas for reflection and also some potential seeds to plant for next year, for those that take comfort in planning for the next school year.

Reflecting on your year can be an important part of your transition to summer mode. When I was a classroom teacher, I would invite students to complete a learning reflection during each reporting period and at the end of the year. I found it to be a great tool to inform my practice moving forward from that point in the year. In the Well Teacher article in this issue, there are a few ideas for looking back as you close your year. Here are a few questions you can use to guide your reflection.

- ➤ How has your practice grown this year?
- ➤ What actions did you take that strongly aligned with your beliefs and values? (Steve Barkley)
- ➤ Finish the sentence – The students really responded to ...
- ➤ How has your thinking grown or changed this school year?
- ➤ What is something you accomplished this school year that you are proud of?
- ➤ What have been some of your challenges this year, and how were you able to overcome them?
- ➤ What did you learn from your students this year?
- ➤ What did you learn about yourself this year? (Steve Barkley)
- ➤ What do our students need us to learn?
- ➤ Which coaching practices were most useful / least useful to you?
- ➤ What is something that makes you feel hopeful right now?
- ➤ What are you most curious about in your practice?
- ➤ If you could remind yourself of one important thing at the beginning of next year, what would it be?

These questions were borrowed from <https://blog.esc13.net/25-end-of-year-reflection-questions-for-teachers/>. You can visit the site to see the rest of the questions and feel free to engage with them as you look back on your year.

June is PRIDE month, and during the summer communities throughout Nova Scotia will be celebrating PRIDE. We want to share some resources to add to your toolbox for supporting youth who are members of the 2SLGBTQAI+ community and their allies and families. There are a lot of decisions being made around us that can make us question our role as teachers and what we can or should be sharing. In conducting research for this

article, I came across the following information from the federal government and other organizations:

The government of Canada has launched its first Federal 2SLGBTQI+ [Action Plan](#): Building our future with pride, which outlines six actions that the government plans to put into place to support its citizens who identify as 2SLGBTQI+ community.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada has launched a gender-inclusive language toolkit, <https://psacunion.ca/psac-kicks-pride-season-launch-gender-inclusive>, which explains different terms related to gender orientation and sexual identity in a very accessible way.

[TeachingTransgender.org](https://teachingtransgender.org) has developed an educational toolkit that is downloadable and designed to build skills for supporting our youth who identify as transgender and to cultivate safe spaces for those youth who silently identify to possibly find a place where they can share this piece of their identity.

Lastly, PHE Canada also has a great number of [resources](#) for incorporating inclusive language and activities into the Physical Education learning space, where activities and the physical space can sometimes be one of the most challenging for our youth. This month's Pathways to PL giveaway is another tool that can be added to your Transgender Toolbox if you are the lucky winner!

Thank you for reading and your PL team wishes you a fulfilling yearly reflection and a much-deserved opportunity for rest and a recharge this summer. We will meet again in September where we will have some new ways additions and changes to our offerings. Stay tuned!