

ECAP: M.A.D- Make A Difference reflection

For this project we had a few ideas floating around and it took us a while to come up with and agree on one solid idea. In the end for our ECAP project, we decided to partner with a grade two class at Fairview community school in Nanaimo. Our goal with this ECAP project was to bring awareness to the importance of helping protect the environment. We decided to take the students to Buttertub Marsh to do a clean up and then the following week we went back into their class and did a “river” activity. From the feedback we got from the students, our mentor and the teacher of the class, both the clean up and the “river” activity went well and was very relevant to the class’s learning. This project was relevant to the class’s learning as the teacher is planning to cover environmental focused units based off of the curriculum. The teacher felt that our ECAP project was a great way to involve the students and get them excited about the upcoming units while providing them with some foundational knowledge. This project was also beneficial for our group members as future teachers since we didn’t really have a lot of knowledge related to the environment, although we were all excited to learn more about the environment and implement it into our practice. This project gave us that opportunity while making a small difference in the class, community and the world as a whole.

As we worked together as a group, I feel that over the five weeks we were able to build a community within our group. Due to this community that was built as a group, I feel that we worked well together with limited conflicts or issues. I am often a person who likes to have a plan and a set goal, due to this I found that working on this project was stressful for me since I felt out of the loop and that there wasn’t a clear direction or outline for this project. Although I found these aspects of the project to be particularly frustrating and stressful, I also feel that it was

an interesting learning experience for myself both personally and professionally because ultimately in a school setting we aren't going to get to choose who we work with and therefore are going to have to face and deal with conflict and different styles of working throughout our career. Ultimately, I feel that there was a lot of key learnings that took place throughout this process. This process I believe also helped me grow and develop as a beginning teacher since it taught me the skill of letting things go instead of trying to control and stick to a plan, which is something that I tend to struggle with though I believe is a necessary skill to have as a teacher. I have realized that within this profession, plans don't always work out and things quickly change, which is okay. Overall, from the feedback that we received from both the teacher of the class and our group mentor, I feel that this ECAP project was successful despite the short amount of time that we had to plan, organize and implement. In the end despite being reluctant about being placed in pods with a bunch of new people and having to learn how to work alongside them in such a way that was effective and efficient, I feel that I learnt a lot from each of them and this experience overall.