

What is LIF?

The Learning Improvement Fund was granted for the Richmond School Board by the British Columbia Provincial Government . This fund is being used to help students at Palmer Secondary School with their English and English Language Learning courses. Our focus is primarily on helping students be successful in academic writing. The unique thing about this program is that **TWO** teachers are in the classroom at the same time helping your children.

What Do We Do For Your Children?

THIS SERVICE PROVIDES:

- Authentic assessment
- Individualized, one-on-one, writing skills development
- One-on-one assessment of essay structure skills
- Meaningful dialogue of essay writing skills
- Additional support for all students in the classroom
- Immediate feedback to students about their essay writing
- Monitoring of student progress through writing portfolios
- Two teachers assisting students in the classroom at the same time
- Morning, lunch time and after school writing support conferences
- Reading, writing, and speaking interventions for individual students
- Extra guidance for students with learning disabilities
- Intensive small group conversation practice
- Opportunities for ELL classroom teachers to do more one-on-one instruction and supplement lessons with necessary scaffolding
- Opportunities for collaboration among teachers to discuss ideas, lessons, and strategies
- Co-planning lessons with teachers to make sure the student's needs is being targeted
- Facilitation of split level classroom instructions
- Enhancement of student learning through different teaching styles

What Have We Done This Year?

It is no secret that writing is a fundamental skill that can be transferred into all areas of an individual's life. Moreover, with the increase in technology, many people are finding their lives are dominated by writing. With this in mind, it was an exciting year for Palmer's students. Ms. Goodwin spent the year focusing on different strategies to support paragraph and essay writing with the grade 8s and English language learners. For instance, Ms. Goodwin supported Ms. Calaciura's Humanities 8 class by conferencing with students on three of their paragraphs. Tracking their marks revealed that there has been a large improvement from their first paragraph because of the conferences and individualized feedback. Now that the grade 8s are writing essays, a large improvement in the following areas has been demonstrated: transition use, grammar, spelling, sentence variety, punctuation, and essay and paragraph structure. Go grade 8s, go! LIF doesn't stop there; Ms. Goodwin has also supported English 9-12 with a focus on English 11 students this year. She also supported students in ELL level 3 to prepare them for level 4 where they take regular English classes. This program has been in place for three years, and it is part of what makes Palmer so special: teachers love to work together to support as many students as possible.