



## Project Summary - Arts Based Lessons to Teach Responsibility and Problem Solving Through Habits of Mind JK-8

The subject/area of interest that our project addressed was the Arts, problem-solving based learning, and using the Habits of Mind in our teaching practice. We wanted to find and/or create a resource that we could introduce to all students and staff in our school. We looked for something that would be interesting for students, be powerful, be memorable, and be a starting point for teachers to introduce the Habits of Mind to their students. As well, to demonstrate to teachers and students the links between the Habits of Mind and the Learning Skills on the Provincial Report Card. The resource we chose was The Gems Mystery Festival. It involves setting up a crime scene and having students examine the scene, collect evidence, analyze the evidence during crime labs, match evidence with possible suspects, use problem-solving to come up with a solution, and present the solution using drama. As a result of our preliminary research, we came to the conclusion that to fully implement all of the Habits of Mind in our school, it would take 3-5 years. Therefore, we have adapted this program to incorporate 7 of the Habits of Mind that our staff felt were most important to introduce to our students, according to the needs of our school. The following is an overview of the Learning Goals and Success Criteria and how it matches the Habits of Mind that will be addressed during the lessons, as well as the links to the Learning Skills on the Provincial Report Card.

Learning Goal (of the Mystery Festival) - We are learning to use the Habits of Mind to gather and analyze evidence from a crime scene, use problem-solving strategies to find a solution, and present our solution through literacy and drama.

### Success Criteria (built around the Habits of Mind and Learning Skills)

Habit of Mind	Learning Skill(s)	Criteria
Thinking Flexibly	Initiative	- examine the crime scene in a variety of different ways
Thinking Interdependently	Collaboration	- listen to and build on the ideas of others
Questioning and Posing Problems	Independent Work, Self-Regulation	- what are all the possible scenarios of what happened
Striving for Accuracy	Self-Regulation	- support your choices and ideas with solid evidence
Gathering Data Through All Senses	Organization, Independent Work	- what do you see - what sounds could have been made during the action of the scene - feel for texture - possible smells and tastes
Managing Impulsivity	Responsibility	- think laterally, don't jump to conclusions too quickly - gather evidence slowly and carefully
Responding with Wonderment and Awe	Initiative	- school can be fun - use drama to present their findings

In September, staff and students can reflect on the Mystery Festival they participated in during June and revisit the Habits of Mind that were addressed. This would prove to be a great springboard / starting point for teachers to begin incorporating the Habits of Mind in their teaching and build it into the Success Criteria and Learning Goals in their daily lessons. As well, we plan to create/purchase posters of famous people who demonstrate use of the Habits of Mind as well as paint words/quotations with reference to the Habits of Mind on the walls of our School. This will be memorable for students and teachers and help build the language into our daily teaching/learning.