



PRINCIPAL CORNER for NOVEMBER 3rd **Engaging Children**

Every Thursday our students are released one hour early, providing us time to meet in our Professional Learning Community (PLC). Meeting weekly for 90 minutes with teachers provides us the opportunity to share best practices, analyze test data, develop curriculum and grow as educators through collaborative learning.

This year, we are devoting one Thursday each month to a book study. We are reading **Engaging Children: Igniting a Drive for Deeper Learning in K-8th**. Integral to our capacity to serve our students is the continued attention to our own learning and development. Reading this book together is proving to be incredibly enriching for all of us.

While we were meeting last week to analyze our schoolwide Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) data for Reading, Math, and Language Usage, Ms. Cornell shared a piece from the book, even though it was not our book study meeting. She said, "I've been reading ahead. Our next chapter is really great."

"We need to increase the amount of time kids spend deeply engaged because it proves intoxicating and has a real impact on whether children retrain and reapply what they have learned. Engagement is one of the most crucial learning tools we can help children develop. More important, however, engagement is a significant part of what makes us feel truly alive" (p. 15).

Our next chapter is titled, **All In: What It Means to Be Engaged**. The first quote is by Ken Robinson, a familiar name to many of us. "Human life is dependent on diversity, curiosity, and creativity." My interest is peaked. Ms. Cornell was right!

As interesting and thought provoking as it is to read this book, I find our discussions dedicated to each chapter deepen my understanding of how we set the conditions for true engagement in our classrooms.

With joy,
Susan Kilbane

**Congratulations to 8th graders Mary Bennett & Kate Mahoney!
They engaged in the Seattle Prep Math Olympiad last Saturday.**



Saint Cecilia Catholic School is a faith-based community following the teachings of Jesus that inspires an inquisitive mind and a lifelong commitment to learning, service and stewardship.