

Fostering Creativity: Individual and Institutional Growth Mindsets

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Upper Canada College, Toronto

UCC's Mission

- To ignite boys' curiosity, imagination and passion.
- To support diligence, innovation and excellence in all they pursue.
- To encourage compassion and integrity throughout their lives.
- To challenge them to make a difference.

This is our mission.

We believe in boys.

2

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What is a growth mindset?

And....what is a fixed mindset?

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Why a growth mindset?

- ◆ Fosters a hopeful model that focuses on learning
- ◆ In a growth mindset school, teachers model learning
- ◆ Helps students engage in feedback to help plan next steps in learning
- ◆ Helps students understand themselves as learners
- ◆ Helps students develop self advocacy skills

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What other thinking reflects a growth mindset?

- ◆ Adam Cox: Executive Functioning
- ◆ Mary Gordon: Roots of Empathy
- ◆ John Hattie: Visible Learning
- ◆ Tony Wagner: Creating Innovators

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How do we do this?

- ◆ Student led conferences
- ◆ Art Portfolios Grade 6
- ◆ Report card comments
- ◆ Faculty learning goals and reflections

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Growth mindset focus for students boys

- ◆ Help move conversations from “marks” to “growth”
- ◆ Help boys value growth at a time when they are changing
- ◆ Find avenues for boys to tell their stories
- ◆ Help boys develop a sensitivity to others and the learning process of others

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Why a baby?



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What did we do?



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What do you see?




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What do you remember?



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What did the boys write about?



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What do you see the baby doing?

- ◆ She communicates by making sounds and faces. Some things that she would do if she was sad is she would make a screaming crying noise and scrunch up her face. If she was happy she would smile and make laughing noises. When Henry and Doug were playing peekaboo with her she was staring at them and smiling. She would stare at people for a long time, often.

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What have you learned from Taylor?

- ◆ I learned that you won't learn stuff without making mistakes, such as she tries to walk but can only stand for a few seconds and practice makes perfect you cannot learn things instantly.

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What else did we observe?



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Next Steps

- ◆ We will have 4 visits next year but SKYPE between visits.
- ◆ We will split the classes into two smaller groups.
- ◆ We will work with their film class and have the boys produce, write and pod cast, a "growth mindset" program to be shared with others. (IBSC Richmond VA@)

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What are the institutional dilemmas or tensions?

- ◆ Grades required for entry into post secondary programs

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Other possibilities?

Share your innovative practices

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