**Note:** The reflection for the Two Week Internship and the Winter Internship were completed at two different school.

**Two Week Internship Fall 2014**

**Reflection #1**

How a teacher opens a class lesson is important because as an educator, I would want my students to pay attention from the beginning of class until the end. My cooperative teacher opened a lesson by greeting the class, discussed what was planned for the day, and did a recap of concepts and/or any projects that were due. After class announcements, my cooperative teacher then introduced me to the class and I also spoke to the class and told them who I was, where I was from, and my education background. The beginning of a class is also important for teacher/principal(s) meeting other teachers. For example, myself and the other interns at my school met the principal who addressed very important issues before we even met our cooperating teachers. The principal briefly discussed the most important aspect is caring for the students more than anything else and how it can be challenging to work with a variety of students with different needs. I think it was a good idea that the principal addressed this at the beginning before classes started as I saw it as an important value for that school.

Further, how you open a lesson can also be related to why planning is important. The classes, for the most part, were very fast past and I also realized that it can be a struggle for teachers to cover all the materials they need to as it takes time for the students to switch from one class to the next and to get them settled down. I think planning is important, but I think over planning is more important in case not all the material gets covered during a class.

**Reflection #2**

What are some of the challenges in motivating students today? What motivated you when you were in high school?

I think there can be some challenges to motivating students, but it depends on a number of things. One thing I noticed is that students get bored easily when a teacher is mostly talking whereas once the students start doing more hands on work they showed more interest in learning. I think students enjoy when classes are varied in the way the lesson is taught and taught using different approaches.

I also think that students lose focus by talking too much sometimes during class when they are suppose to be working on a project or listening to a teacher talk. Furthermore, if students are not interested in what they are doing, they will ask to go the bathroom when they probably do not need to go. Cell phones can also create challenges since students use them to text although it was not really an issue in my classes so far.

What motivated me when I was in high school was my teachers because they were encouraging, helpful, and funny. I also enjoyed my teachers more so because of how much they cared about their students in comparison to just knowing the content. I feel like my teachers were very supportive and were always willing to give advice about anything. My teachers got to know students individually and that connection can help students motivate them and discover more about themselves.

**Reflection #3**

You are learning about educational relationships. What have you observed about the ways the teachers relate to students daily? what conclusions can you draw from teacher-learner relationship? How has it changed?

I am really enjoying my art classes because I get to talk to the students one on one and the students are well-behaved and my cooperative teacher I have really does care about them. I am glad I got the chance to talk with the students as some of the discussions relate to these questions. Your job as an educator is to teach, but educators are also still learners as well. For example, a few students told me of a chemistry teacher they had who makes students cry and so they do not really enjoy this teacher at all. The chemistry teacher also seemed to treat women differently as one student told me he said to the class girls cry too easily. The students also mentioned how this teacher was only teaching for the money (not because he enjoyed his job). I do not know this teacher, but if this is what those students experienced then it is a good example of why effective teaching matters and how teachers should treat their students.

It is important for teachers to connect with their students because some of them have trouble starting a assignment/project and need to be asked questions and encouraged to to get started. I think starting a assignment/project for many people can be challenging or they may just need some motivation. I was also to relate to those students as I also have had a bad experience with a teacher in my school years. I am really enjoying the art classes because the students are well-behaved and the teacher is effective in responding to situations in a positive way/respectful way. I am also glad that I get to talk to the students as I have learned a lot about them already and I am able to connect to them.

**Reflection #4**

What does it mean to 'think on your feet'? Why do you need to do this?

To "think on your feet' means to make a quick decision or give an answer quickly - the ability to come up with a solution for a problem as the problems happens. It is very important for teachers to be able to do this as teaching is not just all about lesson plans, but the ways teachers deal with unexpected problems/situations.

For example, today I had a student in my class who did not know what he wanted to sculpt and he was not really getting anything done in class so I asked him what does he like and he told me Math and Science. I then told him that he could make Science or Math a part of his art and I noticed he was wearing a shirt with bones on it so I suggested that he could sculpt bones/a fossil out of the small block he was using. After I said that to him, I saw him get more excited about the project and it seemed like it was something he was interested in because he wanted a new block right away. I also ask the students questions when they are unsure of what they would like to draw next or how to approach a project and this helps them get started and make class time productive.

I am also in the process of signing up for other classes or at least Social Studies and even French. My cooperative teacher wanted me to spend some time first with the Visual Arts students, but I am looking forward to seeing other subjects soon.

**Reflection #5**

Are your observations consistent with your memories of school and classrooms?

After a week of being at the school, I would say there are a lot of similarities between my observations and my memories of school and classrooms, but there is also a lot of differences as well. For example, when I was in high school I completed most of my courses through CDLI where as the high school that I am doing my internship at consists of approximately 800 students so I would my experience in that case is different. When I graduated from high school there were 9 students in my high school, but I did find a lot of the work/projects to be very similar to what I did in high school. I also sat in on a French Immersion class today although I never did French growing up because it was never offered at my school, but I did do some French while I was in University so I was interested even though it is not my teachable. I really enjoy learning to new subjects even though they may not be my teachables.

**Reflection #6**

So it is the second week of my internship and I am really enjoying it! I am getting to help the students with their work and I am also getting to know them individually. I also had a few students ask me about my university experience as some of them are still deciding what they want to do, and some students are now considering applying to Grenfell or Mun after I had the chance to talk to them about it.

On to the question for today:

what effective classroom management techniques have you observed being used by teachers? Why do you think these approaches were successful?

Some techniques that I have observed being used by teachers that are successful is how specific concerns of students are addressed. During one class there was a student who snapped back at the teacher so she handled the situation by asking the student to come outside of the classroom and addressed what the student did was wrong. This way was successful because the teacher could have addressed the concern in front of the class, but this would have probably embarrassed the student and put the student on the spot. In another class, there was also another student who has high anxiety and difficulty managing time so the teacher also talked to that student outside the class as well. This approach is successful because it allows the student to talk to the teacher and address the problem without the entire class knowing the problem as the student may need other support such as guidance. If a teacher were to address the problem in class then this would not have been a successful approach.

**Reflection 7**

What positives and negatives do you think planning brings?

I would say planning is important and brings positive outcomes. However, it can be difficult to stick with plans when unexpected circumstances occur, but this also a part of learning of how to be an effective teacher. Planning is essential, but there are usually some circumstances where lessons do not get completed on time so I think teachers have to be prepared for that as well. My cooperative teacher told me that it can be challenging to plan sometimes because you do not know the students at the beginning of the year and if they require special needs until later in the school year sometimes. However, there are staff meetings that help address these needs and what approaches are to be taken next. It can also be hard to stick to plans when there are so many students and only one teacher and this can be hard for the teacher to help students individually.

**Reflection #8**

How many different roles and responsibilities do you remember from the schools you attended? Are they the same in your introductory internship school?

There are many roles that are common in all schools such as fire drills. When the fire drill goes off, everyone has to leave the school and meet at a place reserved outside. In my internship school students must remain with the teacher that they have for that time period and the teacher has to take attendance. This procedure was the same in my high school, but it was also different because there were only a few students (like 10 - 15 students from k to 12) so it was not difficult to tell if someone was missing. A responsibility that was different from my school was the corridor duty, which a teacher is assigned to walk in the hallways and make sure that all students are in their classrooms. Some students hang out in the hall or stay in the washrooms so teachers check these areas in the building too. There are also more duties such as the cafeteria duty, which a teacher ensures no student is butting in line and that everything is under control. My school was very small so there was no such thing as cafe or corridor duty. There was also a lockdown drill at my internship school as well and this drill is important to ensure everyone is safe.

**Winter Internship 2015**

Reflection #1

I am about to enter into the second week of the internship and I have spent past week observing the classroom, getting to know my students and staff, and knowing their names as I am doing my internship at a different school school than my two week internship. My school is Corner Brook Regional High and it is a fairly large school with over eight hundred students in the school. The school is located on the West coast of Newfoundland and is close to Grenfell Campus. There are many teachers in the school and many of the teachers in the school have been teaching for almost fifteen years including my cooperating teacher who teaches Art and Drama. I will begin my first teaching lesson by presenting a presentation of my artwork and getting the students to discuss art that will help to describe, analyze, and interpret art. I think this is a good way to begin lessons because from talking with the students, some of them ask me questions about the meaning or art and understanding different styles of art.

Teachers can have a direct impact on their students. Most teachers enter into the profession to make a difference, to learn and to inspire, and they teach because they realize the value of education. As a teacher, having goals will shape every aspect of one’s teaching. One goal I hope to achieve is helping students to define art and why people make Art. I do not expect all students to pursue a degree in Visual Arts, but I hope to encourage students to ask questions that will students to think critically and creatively and develop an appreciation for Art. I think this is a very important goal to have because not all students see are art as a subject that is important or do not understand why Art is important to many people.

In addition, a personal goal for me is to maintain a balance between teaching Art and being an artist. Teaching Art to students is one thing, but making Art and being involved in the community is another. I plan to bring community profile to my work and to Visual Arts in general by engaging in art experiences outside of school, including galleries, museums, and community art projects. I am currently planning and taking charge of an Art club at the high school and I also hope to plan a visit to the Grenfell Art Gallery. I hope to help parents and the community to persuade them why children should make Art.

Another goal will be to become better at lesson planning for each grade level and different subject areas. Social studies is my second teachable, but I still think it is important for me to communicate with other teachers and seek help. For example, I did not do any history courses in high school so seeking help from another teacher will help to develop my learning and teaching skills. I also have one Drama class and I hope to teach the class at some point even though it is out of my teachable areas. I plan to teach the Drama class by preparing lessons with support from other teachers and students in the Education program. I hope to continue to be involved in many areas and organizations outside of the school as well.

A personal goal for myself would be to develop better classroom management skills by being more firm when setting classroom rules and expectations. I tend to be very gentle and I show my students that I care for them, but I think I also need to remember that it is ok to be firm when dealing with misbehaviour. I hope that I will be able to find my teacher voice and that the students will see me as a teacher and not a student.

Reflection #2

The purpose of grading let's us know how students are progressing and their understanding of the content that is being taught. From my experience, summative assessment has always been the form of assessment used the most because the documents/recordings of grades that provide proof of student academic performance. I think formative assessment is becoming important, but summative assessment is a form of assessment that can motivate students as it gives students purpose to achieve a better grade and because grades are important to further education. Grading student performance implies that you are measuring expectations against a certain standard and if this standard did not exist then a high-school graduate may wonder what is the point of it all.

Formative is also important (even though summative is more so used) because it is a part of the instructional process and can be used to adjust teaching and learning that can help both teachers and students. I think formative assessment is a way of guiding students to a specific criteria and goal setting and keeping a record of their progress to show how they achieve their grade in the end.

I think having a balance of summative and formative assessment creates a clear picture of student learning/achievement as long it is meaningful. The more we know about individual students and their learning process, the more that we (teachers) can adjust instruction to ensure that all students achievements are moving forward in their learning

Reflection #3

From my time as an intern and also as student in the K-12 school system, I believe there are many characteristics that constitute an effective teacher. When I was in high school I completed most of my courses were taught through cdli (distance education) where students used a computer to learn the course material and communicate with the instructor. My experience during high school was different from many because there was usually no teacher in the classroom for cdli courses and so, it really depended on you as a student to login to the portal for online classes. Looking back on the experience, I think it must have been challenging to be a cdli teacher because the teacher is not there in person and students have easier access to things like Facebook without the teacher seeing it right away. I remember one of my cdli teachers had a great sense of humour and if it was your birthday, he would get another teacher to sing happy birthday to you through the microphone. He always sounded like someone who was happy and he would always find a way to make us laugh. Some of our online teachers even came to our school to meet us or some of them we met on a field trip to St. John's. The teachers I had definitely cared about us and some of them I still keep in touch even after I left high school. I consider these teachers to be effective teachers because I left high school knowing that they cared about me as a person and not just a student.

During my time as an intern, I can see the importance of getting to know your students and how getting to know the students helps build a positive relationship. I would also like to note that it is important that teachers get along with each other because sometimes it can be challenging dealing with students. Teachers understand each other and so it is important to build positive relationships with colleagues as well.

From my past experiences, I am not surprised that the five top characteristics of effective teachers were: respectful, knowledgeable, organized, humourous, and patient as these are the characteristics that I would use to describe the teachers that I had when I was in the K-12 school system. Building positive relationships and maintaining mutual respect for others is what creates a positive school environment.

Reflection #4

From reviewing my goals set for my internship, one of the goals that I feel that I accomplished the most is creating a positive relationship with the students. The students have told me that they wish I was here teaching for a longer time and they have asked me to come back for their graduation. I think what led to the success of these goals was basically getting to know the students overtime and showing a positive attitude. In the classes, I always give feedback and help everyone as much as I can. I also use humour in the class and the students also have a sense of humour as well. I think what surprised me the most is the positive changes I see in some of the students from when I started my internship in January. I also learned an important lesson from working with other teachers and that is to not to take students with negative attitudes personally or feel as if one person speaks for the class. If you are helping the students in the best you can then you have already doing enough and sometimes it is just a matter of being understanding as some students may have serious issues going on their lives. There are days when teaching can be tiring and challenging, but I think the internship has been the best learning experience of becoming a teacher. I am going to miss little things like getting a high five or a fist pump every day as they walk out the door.