Inspiring & Empowering Our Educators

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Providing relevant and innovative learning opportunities is part of our ongoing commitment to both our staff and students, and in October 2017, Grande Yellowhead in collaboration with the EdTech Team, is proud to be hosting a world-renowned Google Summit in the breathtaking background of the majestic Rocky Mountains in Jasper National Park. This incredible professional development opportunity has been in the planning stage since September of 2016, after the division made the decision to switch to the G Suite for Education platform. Kelly Smith, Supervisor of Learning Services - Technology explains her team's excitement in hosting this incredible learning summit.

"Once we committed to changing over to the G Suite for Education platform, we understood that we needed to do more than simply provide the digital tools. To truly effect change and improve student learning, we knew that professional development for staff was key to ensure that they have a deep understanding of how to leverage these tools in their classrooms in meaningful ways. In order to educate in the 21st century, teachers, support staff, and administrators need to cultivate and maintain the student's interest in the material by showing how this knowledge applies in the real world. They must also try to increase their student's curiosity, which will help them become lifelong learners. Next they should be flexible with how they teach and give learners the resources to continue learning and collaborating outside of school."

The best way to do that? Hosting a first class Google Summit for staff. Smith continued. "These fast paced, high energy events are designed to inspire and empower educators to 'discover what's possible', and how they can make it happen for their students. Participants will focus on deploying, sharing and collaborating about learning beyond the walls of the classroom featuring G Suite for Education, pedagogy around citizenship in a digital world as well as other digital technologies." Attendees will include teachers, support staff, administrators, library media specialists, tech support staff, and anyone who is interested in finding out more about leveraging the G Suite for Education to support student learning.

Superintendent Lewis is very pleased to be able to host a Summit at Grande Yellowhead. "The level of engagement and skill development that these high intensity events foster will be invaluable for our staff, and will greatly benefit our students when staff excitedly come back to share their new tools in the classroom."

Grande Yellowhead anticipates that over 500 people will attend this year's event and although GYPSD staff get priority access, the division has opened up 100 seats to the public who can register at https://events.edtechteam.com/jasper2017. In addition to the two day summit, GYPSD is offering pre-workshop Google certification bootcamps for those interested in developing specific skills on Thursday, October 19th. Level 1 explores the core areas of G Suite to increase professional learning and leadership, efficiency in the classroom, and student learning and creativity. The session includes learning more about the Chrome browser, search techniques, Google Classroom, Google Drive, Docs, Slides, Spreadsheets, Forms, Calendar, Sites and Groups. Gmail, Hangouts, and YouTube are also included. The Level 2 bootcamp moves beyond the basics of Google Tools and participants will explore and create purposeful blended learning lessons while enhancing student understanding of topics and concepts. A post summit event, hosted by the Google Geo team, will be held on Sunday, October 22nd where fifty lucky applicants will have the opportunity to go up the tramway, learn how to use a 360 degree camera, and upload their photos to Google Earth. (Register at edtech.team/GoogleJasper).

Overall, an exciting and first class learning opportunity for inspiring and empowering our staff to succeed!

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EdTechTeam Summits