

THE RIVER RUNS THROUGH US: A TELECOLLABORATIVE STUDY

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Telecollaborative communication provides enrichment opportunities for high ability learners. When combined with inquiry based learning focused on real-world problems, effective telecollaboration builds a capacity for the infusion of digital media into gifted and talented education (GATE). The presenters will share pedagogical perspectives from a study, supported by an Imperial Oil MT3 Project Grant from the University of Calgary, in which Grade 4/5 GATE students from a Calgary school engaged with Level 6 Australian students from a Brisbane school to examine water conservation and sustainability issues in their local river systems.

The presentation will appeal to educators and parents interested in celebrating the abilities of high ability learners to engage in distance learning through digital media that leads to innovative expressions of understandings. When using creative problem solving strategies and high-order critical thinking skills to explore dimensions of problems beyond curricular content, high ability learners provide educators with insights into effective strategies for teaching and learning through inquiry. High ability learners reveal that as investigators and disseminators of knowledge about local, national, and global water conservation and sustainability issues, they can develop the habits of mind of informed decision makers to effect positive change in their local communities.