

# From the Principal's Desk

March 8, 2016

## FLATIRONS INNOVATIVE LEARNING LAB: "FILL"

### *What is it?*

It is a special place in the building for students and staff. It is a place where learning can be flexible and collaborative. It is a place where students will have an opportunity to own their learning through choice (whether it be; in where they sit or what they create). It's a place to collaborate in small and large groups. It is a place for "making" and "creating." Students will have opportunities to write and produce videos, record a song, build something that shows their learning, or work on a group presentation. It also has a "portable" component, so teachers have the ability to bring "it" to their classrooms and arrange the classroom as needed.

### *Who is it for?*

It is for all students and staff. It will be used during school and hopefully for clubs like Robotics after school.

### *Where is it?*

It is across the hall from the second grade classrooms.

### *Why did we build it?*

This idea came from the staff and parents thinking together about creating a "what if" space. What if we created a space that looked different, felt different and brought together separate parts into a whole. What if we had the ability to bring creativity, technology, art, science, music and student-directed learning together? What could we accomplish?

### *What are teachers saying?*

"I believe the Flatirons Innovative Learning Lab - iLab will transform how students learn at Flatirons."

"I feel incredibly lucky to be part of a project that prepares our students for their future."

"It will increase collaboration and creativity."

"It feels amazing to be part of a community that supports education. I am excited to move forward with our community and use this space."

### *When will it be open?*

We want to start using it this year. We have been working on it all year long. New stuff is arriving all the time. We already have small groups using the space. When we are ready to have an official opening we will let everyone know.

### *What are all the boxes in the front hallway for?*

We need "stuff" for student projects. Think pipe cleaners, PVC pipe and yarn. Think about students being able to "make" or create something on their own, or in a small group that answers a question or explains their thinking or solves a problem. . .and all the low tech materials are right there in one place.

### *What happens next?*

The Lab is changing everyday as new pieces that have been ordered show up. This is a joint project between the Flatirons' staff, Flatirons community and the school district, BVSD. Last week the district started working on installing an "art room" type sink. Sunday morning a parent spent four hours prepping the room for painting. The iLab teacher committee meets regularly to monitor progress and make decisions to keep the project moving.

### *How can I help?*

Check out the "Parent Survey" at <https://docs.google.com/a/bvbsd.org/forms/d/1sGgBWmW4sxcNcsFzK4-P58A2gQR902XffqooglxhOng/viewform> . Let us know if you would be willing to help get the iLab open or if you have expertise that you would be willing to share with students once the iLab is open. Talk to your children about the iLab and ask them what they know. Any burning questions? Send Scott an email [scott.boesel@bvbsd.org](mailto:scott.boesel@bvbsd.org).

Scott