5-8 Action Research Project 2013
Scottsdale High Plan

Research Question
How does the consistent use of strategies that make thinking visible across grades 5-8 improve students’ comprehension and problem solving abilities?

Project Outline for SHS
- Help students to develop independent use of a variety of comprehension strategies using Gradual Release of Responsibility model and Comprehension Framework. This work will be implemented within both English and Maths.
- Explore how a literacy based comprehension framework can be adapted to support students in a numeracy context particularly with problem solving.
- Using our whole school focus around Formative Assessment – investigate how the use of Learning Intentions and Success Criteria can be embedded within this work.

Grade 7/8 English:
- Linked to Junior Literacy Project focused on reading comprehension and students establishing reading goals. Some groups of students to trial use of Literature Circles.
- Sherri to trial with her Grade 7 English class and to share this work with Junior Literacy team.

Grade 7/8 Maths:
- Develop a Framework of strategies and tools that will work in a Numeracy context.
- Plan learning sequences
- Could we develop a model of Numeracy Circles following a similar model to Literature Circles, with a focus on problem solving?
- Belinda to trial with Grade 7 Maths class and with Grade 8 Maths class (team teaching with Geoff S)

How do we measure our work?
- Within each class we select 2 or 3 students to be case studies so that we closely monitor and track their progress.
- Need to include student voice
- Evidence – anecdotal, observations, student interviews, student writing, data, testing, work samples
- Junior Literacy Project already has range of data including Pat R, observations, work sample, student reflections etc
- Numeracy??
- Use of video for observations.

Working with Primary Schools
- Could we develop a North East Comprehension Framework?
- We need to develop shared language
- We need to have consistency in the strategies that we are using Grade 5-8.
- Use of Learning Passports as a transition tool?
- What will be the possibilities for some school visits between the primary and high schools to help build shared understanding, observe practice and gain an insight into each context?
- Grade 7’s – how can we collect some information from them to understand what has been helpful for them in their transition to high school, which aspects of their learning are they enjoying, which aspects of their learning or the way we work in high school are they finding challenging?