**Jane McGonaigal (TED talks)**

**Gaming can Make a Better World...**

Jane was very convincing in this TED talk video. She is a proficient public speaker who appears to be connected with and inspired by her work. I don’t feel it’s my place to state whether or not gaming can save the world however I definitely believe that some of the positive aspects about gaming could be applied to education to make it a more engaging and authentic field.

The “epic win” is an idea that is so extraordinarily positive you have no idea achieving it was even a possibility. She showed an image of a “gamers” face that shows concern, optimism as well as surprise. I truly believe that we do not give kids enough, if any, “epic win” opportunities/possibilities in education. We are so focussed on providing rubrics that we limit true potential. I understand that there is a valid argument for a rubric system because we work in a field in which many educators don’t believe in the intrinsic motivation of children; a motivation that compels them to want to learn. This is an unfortunate reality. I fundamentally believe that children, rather all human beings, want to achieve and be successful and will, in fact, do so it they believe it’s a possibility. Children will also be inspired to collaborate if they can believe in the value of each other. Our current school system leaves kids feeling beaten instead of inspiring them to try again in a manner that encourages them to apply the knowledge they have gained from their failures. This requires that learners and educators TRUST each other. How can e begin to create an environment of trust in all of our classrooms?

Jane speaks of gamers as super empowered, hopeful individuals who are individually capable of changing the world. How is it possible that we are not thinking that this should be the underlying goal of our education system? Instead we often stream kids and convince them of all of the things they are not good at before they even leave their kindergarten classrooms. Research has shown that children in grade two have concretely decided whether or not they are good mathematicians. We are working in a system that does a great job of convincing children that there are limits to their potential, when we should be creating the mindset that Jane speak about, mentioned above. Finally, Jane is inspiring when she addressing the fact that we shouldn’t want to predict the future but rather MAKE the future. In conclusion, we need to rethink the way we interact with students on a day to day level that will inspire them to rise above and try again.