



Delta Teachers' Association PD Newsletter

F A L L 2 0 0 7 E D I T I O N

Message from the Chairperson

I hope that you all had a good start up to the new school year. I have a year under my belt as the DTA PD Chairperson and feel busy but less harried! The PD committee has lost two of its past members; Lorna MacGregor who retired and Janice Choy who is teaching at U.B.C. We welcome Doug Roch to our committee who teaches at Ladner Elementary and recently came from Calgary. As a committee we have changed our policy as of July 1, 2007 to include funding of credit courses. As this is quite a change of past policy there have been a great number of questions of which I have been happy to answer. Some details remain to be worked out. One of these details is about the tax implications; we talked to the accountant who works for the DTA. T4 slips will be sent out to those receiving money for credit courses at the end of December. The committee feels that university programs are one of the best forms of PD there is and we wish all of our colleagues who have embarked on one Good Luck! Remember to share your learning – pass on those interesting books, relevant websites, articles, updated research and good ideas from the teachers you meet to those on your staff.

Although Delta's Professional Development days are common ones this year you are reminded of the importance of **teacher-centered and teacher-directed PD**. The BCTF sees the purpose of professional development as assisting members in:

- ❑ Building and strengthening themselves as a professional body
- ❑ Establishing and maintaining a professional relationship with students/parents
- ❑ Initiating curriculum and instructional reform directed to improve teaching and learning
- ❑ Developing, discussing, revising, and applying educational theories
- ❑ Improving the quality of professional practice through career-long professional development
- ❑ Engaging in professional and collegial conversations

Please enjoy this newsletter and share it with someone!

Sincerely,
Jacquie Schierer,
P.D. Chairperson



2007 - 2008 Professional Development Committee

Jacquie Schierer - Chairperson, Hellings
Paul Steer, 1st Vice President
Paul Leroy, Special Programs
Guillermo Bustos, TOC
Catharine Gilmour, Resource Centre
Dan Burgess, SDS
Reece Papin, SDS
Christine Carriou, Devon Gardens
Doug Roch, Ladner Elementary

International Conferences – Learning Abroad

Several teachers a year are approved to go to National and International Conferences that take place all over North America. One of the requests the committee makes of these teachers is to write a short synopsis of their learning journey. Last April Sherry Ghag attended a conference in Louisville, Kentucky put on by the **Council for Exceptional Children**. She found it extremely useful and will be presenting workshops in our district regarding behaviour programs, interventions and functional assessments that will incorporate strategies and research she learned about. Sherry believes she “made connections with practitioners and researchers from both Canada and the US which invited many rich and exciting discussions about practice throughout North America”. Jeanie Stubbs attended a conference put on by the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE) in conjunction with the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in May 2007. This conference was held in Saskatoon and offered a wide variety of bilingual workshops. Jeanie came away with many questions regarding connections between universities and high schools, educational theory-making and the practice of teachers teaching in classrooms across this country. After attending a wide variety of workshops Jeanie had this to say “what a fantastic opportunity! If you’ve never taken advantage of it (DTA funds), I encourage you to consider finding a conference that interests you, and a colleague and go.” Thank you Sherry and Jeanie for sharing your learning with us!





Is there PD for a retiree?

By Guillermo Bustos, TOC

At our first meeting, member of the PD Committee kept asking questions about retirement. After the usual: "It's great! I highly recommend it! I started pondering how I would pursue PD after retirement.

As a Social Studies educator this summer I had very interesting experiences: I visited some pristine Roman ruins south of Cadiz; walked in awe through Cordoba's mosque; walked around the quays in Seville where the Spanish fleets brought the riches of the Americas. Then in Normandy I visited the Bayeux tapestry, Juno Beach, Arromanches and the Canadian cemetery. In Berlin I was entranced by the Jewish Museum. What was special about these experiences was that, for the first time in my life, they had no context. I didn't buy any resource materials at the gift shops because I wasn't going to teach Socials any more!

So that's it? No more PD for me? Well no, I may be retired but my interest in education is ongoing. I keep reading professional newsletters, following the educational debates keenly and researching topics for resource materials that I feel are lacking in Immersion.

I have also registered for two courses with the Elder College of Delta, one on Shakespeare and the other on Opera. Learning for the sake of learning is such a joy!

So how is PD different? Well, there is not the Parents' Back to School Night or the Parents'-Teacher interviews prior to a PD Day. Nor do I have to explore with a committee for the contents of the day. And it's not just a day. The hard part is to develop a narrower purpose. When I was at school it was obvious why we did this or that activity on a PD day. Now I have to decide why I will pursue this course or another.

Other retirees have asked why don't I change course and pursue other interests to which I reply paraphrasing the old soldiers' ballad: old teachers never die, they just fade away.

.....

LSA Chairperson 2007 -2008

- Anne Howlett – Alternate Ed
- Jeannie Lucas – Music – Secondary
- Peter Yang – School Psychologists
- Cindy Martin, Lynda Caron – Delta Teacher-Librarians
- Jacque Haycock – Resource Room



" Fact's 'n Folklore"

1. How do I apply for credit course reimbursement?

The assumption I am making is that you submitted your request for PD funding prior to beginning the course and that your request was approved. Reimbursement is easy! Simply forward to the PD Committee through the DTA Office your receipt for payment of the course. This is to be done upon the completion of the course. It is similar to attending a conference: submit request prior to the event with proper documentation, have your PD contact person sign the form, forward the documentation to the PD Committee, attend the conference, and then submit your receipt for payment post event.

In both cases, *approval is based upon availability of funds, appropriateness of the event and the sum of money you are eligible to receive.* What is new this school year is that a credit course may be applied for as part of your professional development.

2. Are field trips with students covered by DTA funds?

The long and short answer is **no**. The short one is based upon past practices while the long one is a little more complex.

The Professional Development Committee has several mandates, one being the allocation of professional development money that is the result of the collective agreement signed by both the DTA and the School District. The DTA Membership at the DTA's Annual General meeting elects the PD Committee. The Committee is charged with the responsibility of making decisions based upon past practices. When funding requests that do not fall within historical precedents, the Committee debates the merit of the request. In the end, there is a motion to either accept or reject a colleague's request for professional development funding. At this point, the colleague is informed of the PD Committee's decision and future request of a similar nature are accepted or rejected based upon the initial decision. Over time, issues resurface, debate is held and policies may evolve. This was very much the case with the PD Committee accepting credit courses and PSA memberships as acceptable items to be considered for reimbursement. To date, expenses for field trips with students being eligible for DTA funding have been rejected.

3. Are PSA memberships covered by the DTA?

Always save the easiest ones for last. **Yes**, if they are included in the event fee. This change was made by the Committee in 2006/7.

Paul Leroy
Past PD Chairperson



PD Contact Training

On Wednesday September 19 twenty-three PD contacts from around the District met at the Resource Center. After a welcome from our DTA president Val Windsor many of the District Coordinators came in and spoke about their programs and answered questions. We had great discussions around professional development and went through the changes to the PD forms. In the afternoon Margaret Ross from the BCTF came and spoke on "Taking Charge of Your Own PD". As a group we discussed a variety of topics through processes such as "Appreciative Inquiry" and "World Café". The day was well received by those involved and hopefully the professional conversations will continue at the school level. Thank you to all the PD contacts who attended!

THINKING ABOUT POSITIVE CHANGE....

In September I went to a two day workshop on **Appreciative Inquiry** (AI) in Vancouver. Educators from all across the province attended including six of us from Delta. Participants were led through the different stages of AI by Dr. Gervase Bushe and teachers from the Vancouver School District. "Learning always begins with a question: a moment of inquiry. These questions represent attempts to learn that often result in efforts to improve performance, or to better a situation in some way" (F.Barrett/R.Fry). The **Appreciative Inquiry** process sets out to do this and is most recently being used to create positive changes in whole systems. **AI** is not new but has evolved out of action research from the 1950's. In David Cooperrider and S. Srivastva's original article (1987) they argue that action researchers tend to focus on problems that need to be solved and this reduces the possibilities of generating new theories and new images. "**AI** as a method of changing social systems is an attempt to generate a collective image of a new and better future by exploring the best of what is and has been" (G.Bushe). Cooperrider and Srivastva created four principles (1987): that action research should begin with appreciation, should be applicable, should be provocative, and should be collaborative. There are several steps in AI including sharing positive "stories"-engaging people collectively, brainstorming possibilities and designing a process that promotes change, these act as a springboard to a cultural shift. According to many groups that have gone through the **Appreciative Inquiry** the transformational changes that **AI** brings about are positive, powerful and long lasting.

Jacque Schierer
PD Chairperson

Good Professional Development Equals Good Adult Education

While experienced teachers of school-aged children are adept at planning, teaching and evaluating learning experiences for children and adolescents, there are nevertheless some significant differences between this group and adult learners that might be taken into account by anyone planning a

program of professional development. After all, teachers are *adults*, right? Given the following scenarios, consider the possible age/developmental differences between the two groups, and how they might influence program planning:

- **Experience.** Picture a queue of 30 10-year old students walking down the hallway on their way to the gym. In aggregate, they have about 300 years' of life-experience, and for many, their classroom experience has been one that they have shared with each other. Now, picture a queue of 30 50-old students walking down the same hallway on their way to the same gym. How much life-experience is there now? Of that life-experience, how much is shared experience and how much is unique to the individual? The 10 year olds are playing murder-ball. What will the adults be doing when they get to the gym?
- **Tastes.** It's lunchtime! The 10 year olds are back from the gym, eating their lunches at their desks. What did they bring today? Now the 50 year olds arrive for lunch. What do *they* eat? *Where* do they eat it? Who decides?
- **Caution.** Lunch is over. The 10 years old are sent into a classroom which is set up with art-paper, brushes, and an array of paints. There is no teacher in the room and no direction is given. What happens next? Now, the 50 year old enter the same scenario. Are there any differences in behaviour between the two groups?
- **Preoccupations.** One of the 10 year olds is off-task, daydreaming. What is he/she daydreaming about? Across the hall, one of the 50 year olds is also daydreaming. What might he/she be day dreaming about?
- **Options.** It's District Day in the Alpha-plus School District. The 50 year olds arrive and are handed a program listing all of the program offerings. Now, the 10 year olds arrive and are handed the same program. No direction is provided to either group. In each scenario, what happens next?
- **Needs.** Back in the classroom, the 10 year olds need to go to the washroom, but the teacher is teaching. In another classroom where the program presenter is presenting, the 50 year olds also need to go. What happens next? Is it the same or different?
- **Decision-making.** A group of 5 10 year olds is told they have 10 minutes in which to prepare a skit to present to the rest of the class; a group of 5 50-somethings are given the same instruction. No other information is provided. How will each group respond?
- **Motivation.** Ask the 10 year old why he/she is attending school. What will he/she say? Ask any 50 year old why they're attending a professional development session? How will the responses be different? Why might they differ?

In considering the potential differences between children, adolescents and adults and the implications of these for the planning, by teachers, of effective professional development experiences for their colleagues, it's probably also important to identify the similarities, as well as the differences among learners of *all* ages. What have we, as adult learners, as teachers, learned over the years that we might pass on to colleagues and others – as part of a program of Professional Development?
- Paul Steer, 1st VP DTA

Calendar of Upcoming P.D. Events

NOVEMBER 2007

November 3-4 Kelowna. UBCO offers a French and Spanish Immersion Weekend. \$350 includes tuition and three meals. Accommodation at the Manteo Resort is extra. Teachers can use their Tuition Fee Certificate toward the tuition fee. Call 250-807-8177 or visit www.ubc.ca/okanagan/continuingstudies

November 4-9 Ottawa. Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy. Get an insiders view of Canada's parliamentary system. Meet parliamentarians, and political, procedural and pedagogical experts. Explore key issues in parliamentary democracy. Develop and gather resources for teaching about parliament, governance, democracy and citizenship. Application deadline is April 30. Information at www.parl.gc.ca/education (Teachers Institute)

November 5-6 Ontario. 3rd annual National Character Education conference, Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville. Pre-conference: Robin Sharma and Craig Kielburger. Keynote speakers: Stephen Lewis, Dr Michele Borba, and Micah Jacobson. For conference information and registration visit www.ncec.ca

November 30 Delta. The Mineral Resources Education Program of BC is offering the K-3 Kids and Rocks: Geology and its Impact on Our World and Grade 5 Integrated Resource Unit on Mining workshops. 8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Registration is \$50 and is open to all BC teachers and TOCs (with an additional \$10 charge for out of district teachers.) Download the registration form at www.bcminerals.ca/pdf/Workshop-DeltaSD30Nov2007.pdf or call 604-681-4321 ext. 108 for more information.

JANUARY 2008

January 24-25 Vancouver. The BC Alternate Education Association 21st annual Challenge & Change Conference. Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre. For more information, contact: DJ Pauls, Conference co-ordinator at dj_pauls@sd34.bc.ca or at school at 604-859-7820, ext. 234.

January 31-February 2, Vancouver. The Early Years Conference 2008, Valuing all children. All children have the right to opportunities for realizing their full potential . Some children by nature of individual, family, or community circumstances are more vulnerable and will need extra support in achieving this. In order for these supports to be most effective, we must look through the eyes of the child. We must integrate our knowledge of the principles of child and family development with research and innovative practice. Special attention will be given to children in care and children with disabilities. For further information and downloadable flyer visit our website [Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.](#), or contact us at ipad@interchange.ubc.ca or 604-822-7542

MARCH 2008

March 2-4 Five sites. Interactive Innovations. Held at five sites connected via webcasting, the conference welcomes all educators, parents, and students. Themes include literacy, secondary learners, the first 10 years, equitable futures and leadership. Check out the website: www.interactiveinnovations.ca. Registration opens in early fall, 2007. To hold a space, email interactiveinnovations@shaw.ca. See you there!

March 13-14 Vancouver. Special Education Association of BC presents its 33rd annual Crosscurrents Conference at the Westin Bayshore. Keynote speaker Deborah Estes, "Brain Power." Workshops and exhibitors for Regular and Special Educators. Contact person: bjfoulds@telus.net

APRIL 2008

April 19-20 Kelowna. UBCO offers a French and Spanish Immersion Weekend. \$350 includes tuition and three meals. Accommodation at the Manteo Resort is extra. Teachers can use their Tuition Fee Certificate toward the tuition fee. Call 250-807-8177 or visit www.ubc.ca/okanagan/continuingstudies

April 25-26 Kelowna. Catalyst 2008, "Scientific and Environmental Literacy." Keynote speakers: Simon Jackson (Spirit Bear Youth Coalition Founder) and Bob McDonald (Quirks and Quarks). The Grand Lakefront Resort and Conference Centre, Kelowna. Co-chairs: kmorley@bcsccta.ca, grainey@bcsccta.ca. Check web site www.bcsccta.ca, for presenter, delegate, and exhibitor registrations.

R E M I N D E R !

To submit your official Professional Development receipts for the current school year to the DTA office for reimbursement once you have attended your conference/workshops.

Please note – receipts will not be accepted for payment after June 30, 2008