



Professional Development News

Volume 5, Issue 1

January 2009

2008 – 2009
PD Committee

Welcome to our Winter Edition

- Jacquie Schierer, Chairperson -Hellings
- Dan Burgess – SDS
- Guillermo Bustos – TOC
- Christine Carriou – Devon Gardens
- Donna Jenner – Annieville
- Paul Leroy – Special Programs
- Paul Steer – 1st Vice-President, DTA

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BCSSA FALL CONFERENCE

On November 26th I traveled to Victoria for a two day conference put on by the B.C. School Superintendents Association. Val Windsor and I were invited along as part of the Delta team which consisted of our Superintendent, and 13 other education partners. The quality of the speakers was amazing and the food at the Empress was fabulous. We were inspired by the opening keynote speaker Wade Davis, who is a Canadian and travels the globe for National Geographic. His pictures and stories were thought provoking as he linked the topic of "Students Today - Global Citizens Tomorrow" to issues

facing so many cultures today. We then had the pleasure of working with Michael Fullan on what he calls "The Six Secrets of Change". Shirley Bond spoke to us as we had lunch and then we continued with Michael Fullan. On Friday we did some work with Bruce Bearisto who is the Superintendent in Richmond. Bruce eloquently synthesized Thursday and had us work at creating district plans with our team. At lunch we heard the B.C. Regional Chief Shawn Atleo who spoke very passionately about aboriginal issues and education. We ended the conference listening to Sally Armstrong relate many

moving stories about Afghanistan. You might remember Sally from our last District Day when we were inspired to donate money to hire teachers in Afghanistan through the "Breaking Bread for Women" program. Sally mentioned that Delta had raised significant funds and that program continues to grow throughout the world. Despite the two days being full and exhausting mentally, I really enjoyed the conference and the opportunity to meet colleagues and parents working on behalf of Delta's students.

*Jacquie Schierer
Pro-D Chairperson*

Professional Development Forms available online on First Class under PRO-D icon or DTA website www.deltateachers.org

LOCAL SPECIALISTS ASSOCIATION (LSA)

Presently Delta has eleven LSA's, several being resurrected this year thanks to the determination of many teachers interested in worthwhile professional conversations. The DTA P.D. committee oversees the LSA budget to fund their meetings and also contributes to conferences and workshops they have planned.

LSA CHAIRPERSONS

2008 – 2009

Alternate Ed	Anne Howlett
Delta Art Teachers	Julie Lymburner
Delta Music Educators	Jeanie McKay
ESL	Sandra Chan
French Immersion	Christine Carriou
Kindergarten Teachers	Jacqueline Loewen
Learning Assistance	Beth Sparks
Mainstream	Leora Fisher
School Psychologists	Peter Yang
Speech/Language Pathology	Diane Scheuneman
Teachers Librarians	Cindy Martin

F'All Aboard 2008

I had the privilege of being invited to the fourth annual Teacher-Librarian's conference that was held at Seaquam on November 20. Lorna Clare and her many helpers put together a wonderful evening that was enjoyed by most of Delta's librarians as well as several special guests. Steve Cardwell gave a short opening address then Simon Truelove one of the trustees welcomed everyone. Other trustees that attended were Janet Shauntz, Laura Dixon and Brenda Schneider as well as Judy Marshall and Nancy Gordon. There were two workshop presentations and then a fabulous dinner created by the Seaquam culinary program. The first workshop was presented by Maryam

Moayeri from UBC who gave us some good tips on short and effective searches on the internet. The second workshop was presented by Emily Naylor of Kids-books which showcased terrific new books for grades K to 12. Everyone enjoyed visiting with one another and all attendees were able to take away free book bags, pens, paper and magazines as well as many door prizes. Philip Milligan received a special thank you for organizing the library and food at Seaquam. The conference skilfully promoted literacy from the perspective of teacher-librarians. Thank you to the teacher-librarians for the invitation.

Jacquie

REMINDERS

Regular PD – All applications need to be submitted to the DTA office *14 days in advance* of conference/workshop

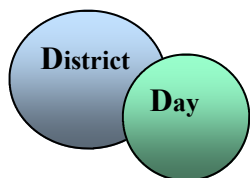
Credit Courses – *New Application Forms* You must apply at least **14 days in advance** of the course beginning date. Please submit course info including costs along with your application. Once you have completed the course you need to send in proof of completion in order to be reimbursed.

National/International – There are three deadline dates for applications: **May 10, October 10 & January 10**. Please see application for more details.

Receipts – All receipts and or proof of completion need to be sent in **after** the workshop/conference has been completed. To clear up any confusion, we do not reimburse until **after** we have received that information. Although you may have received a receipt prior to the workshop/conference taking place, the DTA requires proof of your attendance at the event. Such information should be submitted after the event is completed.

Deadline for sending in receipts for reimbursement is June 26, 2009.

PD funding is based on the school calendar year July 1 – June 30



Delta District Day

DISTRICT DAY 2009 – February 20TH AT SOUTH DELTA SECONDARY

The Steering and Program Committees have been meeting once a month or more to finalize speakers for workshops, organize food, displays, advertising and a variety of other details. South Delta Secondary is very excited to be hosting the big event with several teachers and the custodian sitting on the committees. We are trying a new format this year as well as trying to uphold the District's "Green" initiative. There will be other reminders about D.D.D. but here is a look ahead...

WHAT'S NEW?

8:30 start - our Keynote is Dr. Martin Brokenleg who speaks passionately about our at-risk youth.

THREE SESSIONS – NO LUNCH BREAK!

Instead of breaking for lunch there will be two "nutrition" breaks and the day will end at 1:30 when the sessions are completed. Displays will be available until 2:00.

Dr. Brokenleg - will be giving two keynote addresses and will facilitate a small group session

later to answer questions and to dialogue about issues that participants may have as a result of his presentation.

We are working very hard to ensure the our District Day conference is a resounding success – we will keep you posted!

GOING GREEN! - Please bring your own water bottle and/or coffee mug to help keep garbage to a minimum.



"Time May Change Us..."

Research it, consider others' findings, take your favourite extracts to corroborate your own beliefs, then run for the hills: and the thesis, "Teaching Methodology X stinks."

White marks on my 'birdie' finger, I got angry at a workshop in September. Essentially, the presenter had criticized a tool I had been using in the classroom for 14 years. The BCTELA workshop on Friday in October was with the same presenter, and just as I unclenched my teeth from my flesh, they realized they were running short of time – no questions please.

The emotional process was like a bad breakup: first the anger and hurt, followed by the indifference, then the objectivity (the last step of

nostalgia would never be in the cards).

By the time the second day rolled round of BCTELA's workshops, no longer angry nor defensive, I had revised the above thesis enough to consider the possibility that I was wrong.

The presenters on Saturday projected themselves into our classrooms today, then 25 years into the future. Kathy Gould Lundy, Karen Hume, Linda O'Reilly and Marzena Michalowska applied current brain research as well as discussed emerging trends in the classroom and the workforce, while predicting what comes next. I was rapt throughout the day and had a chance to try out a new thesis on the presenters in a smaller setting.

When we're told how to do our job – that we must change – it's difficult not to be defensive. When we are shown where we are going as a society, how and why we're getting there, as in the Saturday BCTELA workshop, it's difficult not to be defensive, yet it's difficult not to change.

Jeremy Glass is an English teacher in Delta who has recently returned from a teaching sabbatical. He is grateful to the Delta School District which has enabled him to work with students and teachers in seven different countries.



"P.J. Pro-D" by Susan Jeffery

I'm in my pyjamas, a cup of tea in my right hand, and I'm staring intently at my computer screen. No, I'm not getting ready to watch the latest George Clooney DVD; I'm participating in a Professional Development workshop.

A webcast on Balanced Assessment is about to start. Unfortunately, it's originating in Ontario where the time is now a fairly decent hour of the morning but an ungodly one here in BC. This, so far, is one of the few drawbacks I've found to 'electronic Pro-D'; otherwise, I enjoy being in my own home, relaxed, and ready to learn.

Luckily there are no technical glitches with this particular webcast: my computer is 'recognized' (I had previously registered on the website), it has the necessary requirements for displaying the live-stream video, and the presenter seems fairly tech-savvy and ready to solve any on-the-spot technical issues. It can be very frustrating and completely defeat the purpose of electronic Pro-D if technical glitches get in the way of learning. Remember those panicky moments in front of impatient students when the VCR didn't work...?

I'm taking notes on a sheet of paper as the presenter speaks. There are accompanying documents which can be downloaded from their website; however, I find what this person (whom my District could never afford to bring in for us) fascinating and want to jot down some quotable statements that I'll be able to impress my colleagues with later at school --- at a decent hour of the working day. There might be a way to take notes on my computer as the webcast is going on, but I don't know yet how to do this and I'm not confident enough to try. Another potential problem to 'at-home' Pro-D ---there's no techie here at home to call on if I mess up the live-stream webcast!

As the presenter speaks in one frame of my computer screen, the PowerPoint she's presenting to the live audience (not in their pyjamas...) appears in another. She has a laptop in front of her on the podium, probably to ensure the PowerPoint slide that the on-line participants see is the one she's discussing. The only thing I can control is the volume. If I needed to get another cup of tea, I would have to miss part of the presentation; there is no pause button in this type of electronic Pro-D delivery.

I've also experienced electronic Pro-D (yet again in my pyjamas...) via video-clips. www.cyber-profs.org/ is a great website which offers approximately 35 videoclips in French on topics ranging from classroom management to lit circles. I can pick and choose which video-clips I want to watch and when. This 'à la carte' electronic Pro-D can be viewed repeatedly or paused if I need another 'cuppa' --- the ultimate in 'convenient learning'!

The only thing missing from this webcast on Balanced Assessment is my colleagues --- not that I want them to see me in pyjamas --- but the collaborative dialogue would definitely help me process what I'm learning. Hopefully, this webcast will be turned into a videoclip on the Ontario association's website later on and I will be able to review it with a handful of colleagues. Or, next time I could choose a Pro-D webcast that originates in a 'BC-friendly' time zone, organize a group of interested colleagues to view the webcast together, and then have some professional discussion around the topics discussed in the webcast. I wonder if they'd consider making it a 'pyjama Pro-D' session...?

BCTF Teaching to Diversity Website

<http://www.bctf.ca/IssuesInEducation.aspx?id=10564>

This website has been designed to provide access to information, resources, and contacts for teachers and all those who support the needs of learners in the B.C. public school system.

The pages focus on information relevant to meeting the needs of students who receive Special Education, Learning Assistance or ESL services but who are for the most part included in mainstream classrooms. Find out about current resources for a variety of issues, find easy-to-implement strategies and many ways to include all students in learning.

The BCTF acknowledges the considerable contributions to the development of Teaching to Diversity by members of three Provincial Specialist Associations: the Special Education Association, the

Learning Assistance Teachers' Association and the English as a Second Language PSA.

The following are some of the highlights of the website:

Resource Inventory – the bulk of the web site's information is stored here and includes: Information regarding profiles of learner needs; Ministry of Education designations; documentation (IEPs and School Based team); assessment of student learning; lesson plans and a plethora of resources related to specific disabilities; adaptations and modification; strategies, collaboration and teamwork; transitions.

ProD – Expanding your knowledge base and expertise takes a concerted effort. Listed in this section are a wide variety of choices including after school or full day workshops, special conferences or seminars, University courses

and on-line courses.

Links – Links on a variety of topics - Parent Support Groups, School District Student Support Services, Colleges offering Teacher Assistant training or special education post secondary courses, Sports and Leisure activities for students.

Parent Support – This section, as well as others in the web page, may be useful for parents. Listed are many parent focused resource materials, books, videos and support groups.

We welcome your input as we seek to meet your needs. To suggest content, contact the web site Content Coordinator Marilyn Miller at mdmiller@uniserve.com. To discuss the concept or direction of the project, please contact Charlie Naylor at cnaylor@bctf.ca.