

Ecolacy

Welcome to all of EEPISA's newest members who joined us via the fall PSA conference at Stanley Park. And to all of EEPISA's oldies but goodies, welcome back to another school year. So much is happening with the environmental movement, and with environmental education in BC, that it will be an exciting year. We have had a beautiful fall with stunning colours and crisp days, except of course for the deluge during our outdoor sessions on October 19th! What was that Patrick said about nature never letting us down?! To our new members, please check regularly with the EEPISA website to see what is happening between Ecolacy emails that you may want to be a part of. <http://psas.bctf.ca/EEPISA/>

Please feel free to respond to this email with any feedback on the conference.

Upcoming Events

November 16-17, 2007. North Vancouver Outdoor School. "Environmental Learning and Experience" Workshop.

Teacher Professional Development Opportunity: "Environmental Learning and Experience"
This workshop (the first in a series around the province) will be held at the North Vancouver Outdoor School on November 16 and 17th (with an overnight retreat). All accommodation and meals will be provided to participants free of charge. Registration will be limited to 35 and will be by invitation only. The focus of the workshop will be associated with "theory into practice" related to the new Ministry of Education framework for Environmental Education. If you are interested in attending please contact: Dr. David Zandvliet (dbz@sfu.ca).

Winter 2007/08. EEPISA AGM and Visioning Session.

Bring your ideas for EE in BC next year! We are thinking of a New Year meeting to kick start 2008.

Fall 2008. EECOM is presenting their inspiring annual conference at Gros Morne National Park, Newfoundland. <http://www.eecom.org/english/index.html>

Recent Events

October 19, 2007. EEPISA fall conference "Get to Know Nature and the Outdoor Classroom" with keynote Robert Bateman at the Pavilion in Stanley Park.

250 educators and students gathered in Stanley Park to listen to an amazing speech by Robert Bateman to kick off our fall conference. We then moved through sessions with all of our partners to get to know a little bit more about the new ELE document being released by the Ministry this fall. After lunch, we headed outside to GET SOAKED and learn from some masters how to use the natural world as a classroom to inspire, engage and alter our students.

Partner Links:

[Robert Bateman "Get To Know"](#)
[Stanley Park Ecology Society](#)
[Vancouver Aquarium](#)
[North Vancouver Outdoor School](#)
[Langley Environmental Partners Society](#)
[Metro Vancouver Parks](#)
[Lower Seymour Conservation Forest](#)
[Young Naturalists' Club of BC](#)
[Wild Ed](#)
[Wild BC](#)
[Evergreen](#)

What's EEPISA up to these days?

- David Zandvliet has driven an update of the Ministry of Education's Environmental Education Curriculum. The new document, titled "Environmental Learning and Experience", connects sustainability to all subject areas from K-12. It will soon be available on our website to peruse and distribute widely. David is heading the creation of workshops to help teachers understand and implement the document. Some educators from different subject areas under David Barnum are currently working on connecting the pedagogical framework to PLOs and resources.
- EEPISA is planning our winter AGM and visioning session for 2008. Please contact anyone on the executive if you would like to be involved!
- We on the EEPISA executive would love to help you start up a Local Specialist Association outside of the Lower Mainland to share ideas, inspire each other and make connections with like-minded teachers. There is a movement afoot to get groups going in Courtenay, the Kootenays, Smithers, Prince George, Victoria and the Sunshine Coast. Email Patrick for more information pabrobo@shaw.ca.

Good Reading

The Golden Spruce by John Vaillant to get an easily accessible story about the issues and challenges facing us around logging in BC.

Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv to make you all want to take your own children, and your students, and get them lost in the woods!

Featured Links

- **Birds on the Bay** was developed by a local (Lower Mainland) environmental group, The Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society, and is a visually stunning resource about our local watershed/ecosystem. It would be an excellent addition to any school library/science class - upper intermediate or high school. It is FULL of factual information and beautiful photographs (including community mapping). <http://www.birdsonthebay.ca/atlas.htm>
- Are you looking for teaching resources that challenge students to engage in the environmental, social, and economic issues facing their communities? Visit www.resources4rethinking.ca and discover tools for active, relevant, and interdisciplinary teaching and learning.

www.resources4rethinking.ca is a new online database where educators and the general public can search for the highest quality, peer-reviewed, curriculum-aligned teaching resources on issues related to the development of an environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable society.

www.resources4rethinking.ca allows teachers to search by:

- Sustainability issue or keyword
- Subject and grade
- Language (English/French)

www.resources4rethinking.ca identifies hundreds of print, electronic, and audio/visual resources that teachers can use to facilitate engaging activities related to sustainability issues. Such resources may be published by commercial publishers, non-profit organizations, government agencies or teachers themselves.

RESOURCES FOR RETHINKING EXEMPLARY SUSTAINABILITY RESOURCES REVIEWED BY TEACHERS, FOR TEACHERS

Disponible en français | www.ressourcespourrepenser.ca

- [Walking the Talk](#) recently produced British Columbia Principles for Sustainability Education. Maybe we should all print these up and put them at the front of our daybooks! Their website is always a great source.

1. **Sustainability education is about good education.** It is learner focused and incorporates the stages of action...reflection...action...praxis.
2. **Sustainability education commits to new ways of thinking about – and being in – the world.** This means understanding and incorporating the concepts of “enough” and of “living like we plan on staying here.”
3. **Sustainability education needs to be integrated, not inserted.** It is not a subject but the lens through which all subjects need to be understood and taught.
4. **Sustainability education demands both leadership and collaboration.** Educators need to model the change we want to see. We cannot realise sustainability in education without support and leadership from faculty, staff, administration, and community. We need to participate in the valuable work that is going on, support and improve existing projects, and create meaningful partnerships. Working across sectors is challenging but worthwhile.
5. **Sustainability education encourages us to take risks and to address the hard questions.** Experimentation with uncertainty, ongoing discussion and adaptation, and critical thinking are all important. In our resource-based province, it's vital to address directly the personal risk felt by those who fear loss of their livelihood due to an increased focus on sustainability.
6. **Sustainability education draws from all cultural traditions.** BC has a wealth of cultures and traditions. We need to create education that acknowledges, learns from, and incorporates the sustainable practices of all of our cultural groups.
7. **The language of sustainability education must be simple and transferable.** Language reflects values. It's important that we all “use the same language to mean the same thing” across sectors and across disciplines.
8. **Sustainability education is about the individual and the collective.** It involves establishing a relationship between self and community. Through community-building, educators can facilitate learning experiences that will lead to individual self-actualisation and will help us connect more deeply to our surroundings.
9. **Sustainability education includes arts and culture.** The arts can play an important role in promoting reflection and messages that address both the individual and the collective.

10. **Sustainability education is dynamic, positive and contains hopeful messages.** An attitude of hope and excitement will spur people to change more than guilt or fear. We need to give people concrete tools they can use, and to celebrate our successes.

EEducators needed

Hello,

As part of my Master's of Education thesis research, I am seeking environmental educators to participate in an electronic survey. The questions focus on knowledge and abilities that are viewed as important for teaching environmental education. The survey is anonymous and requires 10-15 minutes to complete.

For more information, and to access the survey, please visit <http://qlink.queensu.ca/~5lnd/>

Thank you for considering this request, Best wishes,

Leah Dobrinski, M.Ed. Student, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

E-mail: 5lnd@queensu.ca

Please feel free to reply to this newsletter with any information you would like to share with EEPsA members, and send me an email at ecolacy@telus.net with ideas, suggestions or hellos. ☺

Selina Metcalfe

Ecolacy editor

“We do not inherit this world from our parents, rather we borrow it from our children.”