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More from TESOL - Verena Foxx

Here's a valuable resource of photocopiable teacherless activities for beginning english language learners: **Out & About** by Amy Hemmert & Rick Kappra/Owl Publishing; ISBN 1-932383-03-04

This comprehensive, updated, easy-to-navigate resource has 13 units, 260 pages of reproducibles, and lots of great implementation ideas for multi-level low beginning classes.

The Teacher's Guide is downloadable from the distributor's website: www.altesl.com

S.W.I.S.* Workers in Schools

After nearly two decades of lobbying them, the federal government is providing funding to help set up additional support for some of BC's new immigrants and refugees.

The eleven school districts that will benefit from this funding are working towards creating a BC version of what Ontario calls SWIS* workers, starting September 2007.

* S.W.I.S. – Settlement Workers in Schools

Friday, October 19, 2007

ESL PSA Annual Conference



The World in Our Classrooms

Magee Secondary School in Vancouver

Presidents' Message

Sydney Dean, President

The end of the 2006 – 2007 year is upon us. We are preparing our students for next grades, provincial exams, and graduation. Some of us are preparing for first jobs, new assignments at different schools, new grades at the same school, new curriculum, or “graduations” of our own.

The members of the ESL PSA can boast of a successful year. Our greatest membership drive was a result the annual conference. **Sylvia Helmer**, our treasurer, suggested that we use some of our funds to support a member to attend TESOL convention in Seattle. Congratulations to **Brenda Johnston** whose article on Extensive Reading was in our last publication. **Catherine Eddy**, Manager of Vancouver’s District Reception & Placement Centre, is closing a chapter in her professional career only to open a new one of well deserved relaxation. I know that she will continue to support those of us in the field on occasion. Another benefit of having a healthy membership is the bursary in Catherine’s honour that will be bestowed on one of our ESL students this June. We congratulate you, Catherine, on a wonderful and remarkable career, which has been one of advocacy for those of our population without voice. Enjoy your “graduation”!

Our PSA has begun a political assault on the injustice against ESL students. We invited **Emilie Hillier** of the

Ministry of Education to attend our meeting. We spoke to her about the 5 year cap funding, the BAA courses for ESL students, the programming for ESD students, and other burning issues confronting ESL/D teachers and students and their families. The result of this meeting was that ESL representatives have been invited to a meeting to discuss BAA courses. Many members attended the BCSTA Forum on Immigration. Our voices were loud and eloquent. **Dr. Lee Gunderson’s** report on ESL in Vancouver awakened the press. ESL is on the radar. It is our collective duty to take advantage of this and make life for our students better.

Each year in May, we invite members from each of the regions of the province to meet in Vancouver to re-evaluate the goals and objectives of the past year. This spring, we had representation from the Greater Vancouver District, the Fraser Valley, the Cariboo-Chilcotin, the Okanagan and the Island. We decided to continue to address the goals of the previous year while stressing the Social Justice aspect of our job.

Although I am waning as the 2006-2007 year comes to a close, I am heartened by the focus on ESL and look forward to an exciting 2007-2008. I wish each of you a wonderful summer break doing whatever it is that you want to do. Enjoy and we will see you in September!

Sydney

Getting to know your PSA Executive

President

Sydney Dean

SD#40, New Westminster

Tel: 604.517.6220

sdean@sd40.bc.ca

Sydney Dean has been an ESL educator in New Westminster for the past 33 years. At present she works in New Westminster, both as an International Ed and ESL Coordinator and a teacher of Planning 10 for International and ESL students and a writing class for upper intermediate ESL students. Her ESL passion is developing programs to meet the diverse needs of secondary ESL students.

Vice-President

Jo-Anne Preston

SD#72, Campbell River

Tel: 250.287.8805

jo-anne.preston@crcn.net

Jo-Anne Preston has been a teacher and advocate for ESL and ESD students in Campbell River since 1986. As an itinerant ESL specialist, she teaches all levels of English, from K-12. She is particularly interested in assuring equity of service to students in districts with few ESL/D learners. Jo-Anne's voice on these issues is well represented on the ESL PSA executive (6 years) and as chair of the Campbell River ESL LSA (Local Specialist Association).

Secretary

Betty Kosel

SD#29, Vancouver School Board

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bkosel@gmail.com

Betty is a busy ESL teacher at Lord Byng Secondary in Vancouver. After many years of teaching, and advocating on behalf of students and colleagues, she is looking forward to her new position as (secondary) ESL Consultant at the VSB. In her spare time, she can be found dancing up a storm or attending a play or movie. Having recently returned from a trip to Cuba, she is hoping to do more traveling soon.

Treasurer

Sylvia Helmer

SD#39, Vancouver School Board

Tel: 604.713.5251

shelmer@vsb.bc.ca

Sylvia Helmer supports teachers of ESL learners by collaborating with colleagues through a wide range of professional development opportunities and by teaching university courses. She sees learning as a journey that can inspire and empower both students and teachers. Sylvia practices Tai Chi, enjoys folk dancing and loves to read.

Newsletter Editor

Verena Foxx

DS#39, Vancouver School Board

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Verena Foxx, a former ESL student herself, is a long-time ESL teacher & advocate (BCTF, VESTA and the VSB). She has worked with teachers at the district, union and university levels. Currently, as VSB ESL Consultant and PSA News editor, Foxx attempts to communicate information and issues to and amongst members.

"After all, when you come right down to it, how many people speak the same language even when they speak the same language?"

Russell Hoban

BCTF Liaison
Anita Chapman
achapman@bctf.ca

Members – at – Large

Kristi Clifton
SD#52, Prince Rupert
kclifton@sd52.bc.ca

Kristi Clifton coordinates the English Language Development Program in SD 52 (Prince Rupert) which serves ESL learners and large numbers of ESD aboriginal students. For more than 20 years Kristi has lived on the North Coast and participated in a variety of aboriginal education initiatives. She is also a co-author of the *Talking Tables Kindergarten Language Development Program*.

Marlene Eccles
SD#27, Williams Lake
marlene.eccles@sd27.bc.ca

Randy Henderson
SD#57, Prince George
hendy441@telus.net

Randy Henderson is our northern most member of the ESL PSA Executive - hailing from Prince George. Randy has been very active in promoting ESD programs provincially and spearheads the programs in School District 57 (Prince George). In his spare time, Randy also sits as a Table Officer with the BC Hockey executive promoting Canada's favorite game.

Kristin Housez
SD#39, Vancouver School Board
eslpsa-khousez@sharv.ca

Kristin is a certified ESL teacher with 20 years of service and experience teaching E.S.L. learners (primary to secondary). Currently, she is Vancouver's District Reception & Placement Centre's Assessment Teacher.

Kristin's continuing concerns include:
What kind/s and how much service do funded E.S.L. learners and delisted ESL learners receive before and after the expiry of the five year cap?
How is this service recorded on both the student's permanent school record and on the student's report card(s)?

Charlotte Roderman
SD#36, Surrey School Board
lottaroderman@hotmail.com

Dale Shea
SD#43, Coquitlam
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Dale Shea has been teaching for 22 years; 18 of them in ESL. He is currently the ESL Coordinator in Coquitlam. Dale's best moments in teaching are ESL student success stories. His most embarrassing moment? - Teaching for an afternoon with a french fry stuck to his hind end!

Past President

Joy Wild
SD#39, Vancouver School Board
joywild@hotmail.com

Joy continues to be fascinated with discovering contexts and activities that enable ESL students to understand their world and communicate with others. Singing as a technique for teaching English is of particular interest. She enjoys outdoor activities - backcountry hiking and skiing, camping, gardening. Other interests include travel and meeting people from different cultural backgrounds, reading, music and being a grandmother.

2007 ESL PSA Conference
October 19th

Conference Chair - Sydney Dean
Site Co-ordinator - Ann Hunter
at Magee Secondary

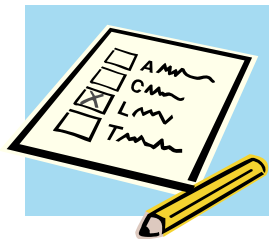
Notice of 2007 ESL PSA AGM

The Annual General Meeting
of the ESL PSA will be held on
Friday, October 19th, 2007
at our provincial conference at
Magee Secondary School
in Vancouver.

The agenda includes an election of officers for the ESL PSA.
Plan to attend the AGM so you can have a say
in the running of your PSA.

The following positions are up for election:

- ★ Vice President (2 year term)
- ★ Treasurer (2 year term)
- ★ 2 Members-at-Large for a 1 year term
- ★ 3 Members-at-Large for a 2 year term
- ★ Conference Chair 2008



If you are interested in running for one of these positions, or would like to
nominate someone please contact Joy Wild at 604-433-2354 or email
joywild@hotmail.com.

Things are Looking Up – Despite it All!

Sylvia Helmer, Treasurer

We are rapidly approaching another year-end both in terms of the school year and in terms of the fiscal year for the PSA's budget. What normally happens early in spring is that we are provided with an estimate of the BCTF Grant for the PSA for the coming fiscal year. This proposed grant is then ratified at the BCTF AGM. There have been some major disruptions of the "normal" evolution of events around both the AGM and our finances but to think ever optimistically, the *proposed* grant amount is \$5,420.50. This is \$196.00 higher than last year!

Why is such a small amount cause for optimism? The grant is based on our membership – a per capita rate - and membership is slowly on the rise again. We have had a serious decline in membership, mainly due to the cancellation of our annual conference in October of 2005. [I am sure we would rather just forget that painful but necessary job action which forced the cancellation of many PSA Conferences]. By contrast, this year we had a hugely successful conference, an opportunity to replenish our coffers a bit, and that all-important chance to regain both lapsed and new members. [The conference report was published in an earlier newsletter.]

The executive is also taking various steps to ensure that all available monies are stretched to maximum potential to support ESL learners and teachers. As I am sure everyone knows, all members of the executive are volunteers, who

contribute their time and energy for many additional hours a month to move forward the goals of the PSA. To have as wide a representation of the issues as possible we have successfully recruited executive members from outside the major population areas, including Campbell River, Prince George, Prince Rupert and Williams Lake. To save on costs of travel and accommodation, we meet face-to-face only three times a year and conduct a teleconference for another three meetings. Efficient, and very reasonable printing costs of our newsletter, thanks to a new venue, also help to keep costs down.

How well we are truly doing financially as an organization will not be available until the accountants complete year-end reports, due soon after June 30, 2007. However, a well-attended conference, cost saving measures as noted, together with increases in our BCTF Grant – the actual count of members is significantly higher now than the numbers used to generate the estimate in early April – signal a positive outlook in terms of our continued ability to further the important advocacy work for ESL teachers and learners in this province.

A full report will be available at the ESL PSA Annual General Meeting, at the ESL PSA conference on October 19.

See you all there!

Research Project: ESL Teacher Preparation and Professional Development in B.C.

Dear Colleagues,

As part of my graduate work in the Faculty of Education, University of Victoria, I am conducting a research study entitled *ESL Teacher Preparation and Professional Development in British Columbia*. The purpose of this letter is to request your participation in this study.

The purpose of this research is to gain greater insight into the preparation and professional development of ESL teachers in British Columbia. With ever-increasing numbers of ESL students, I believe that the findings of this research will illuminate the role of ESL teaching in our education system and serve as a starting point for further research into the role and significance of ESL teaching in BC's public schools. Also, by participating in this study, you will assist in providing a general landscape of the preparation and professional development of current ESL teachers. Through participation, you will have an opportunity to examine and become more aware of your own ESL teacher preparation and professional development. As well, this may identify areas of professional development you may wish to pursue further.

I am asking you to participate because of your role as an ESL teacher in your district. Participation in this research is completely voluntary and will entail completing a survey questionnaire (approximately 15 minutes). There are no anticipated risks to you by participating in this research. To ensure anonymity, no names of teachers or districts will be mentioned in my final report. To ensure confidentiality, all data collected will remain solely in my possession and will be kept in a locked filing cabinet at home until my research has been accepted and the oral exam has been completed. Upon completion of my thesis, all data will be destroyed. The only other

individual who will have access to the questionnaires will be my thesis advisor upon request. Once the surveys have been sent to me, it will be logistically impossible to withdraw the data.

The results of the study will be presented in the form of a master's thesis, which will be given to my thesis advisory committee. You may access the thesis by contacting me or by viewing a copy in the library at the University of Victoria. This research is being conducted under the supervision of Dr. Helen Raptis who may be contacted by phone at (250) 721-7776 or by email at hraptis@uvic.ca. If you wish to verify the university's ethical approval of this study, please contact the Associate Vice President, Research at the University of Victoria at (250) 472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca.

If you have any questions regarding this study, please contact me at (250) 538-1726 (res) or (250) 537-1156 (bus) or by email at bbbeards@uvic.ca. If you participate and provide contact information at the end of the survey, you will be eligible to win a \$50.00 gift certificate. If you agree to participate in this study, this form of compensation to you must not be coercive. It is unethical to provide undue compensation or inducements to research participants. If you would not participate if the compensation were not offered, then you should decline.

By returning this questionnaire, you are consenting to participate. Please return the completed questionnaire to 189 Cormorant Crescent, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 1G8 by June 30, 2007.

Your support in this study is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Boe Beardsmore

Please note: This survey can be found in the centre of the newsletter, with a self-addressed envelope.

Flyswatter – a Game

Thanks to Sybil Faigin, Vancouver

1. **Get** two ordinary fly-swatters
2. **Draw** pictures in a random pattern on an overhead. Alternately, write words that the students are learning to read.
3. **Project** overhead onto a back board, a white board, or on a blank wall. Two students stand in front of the projections holding up their fly swatters.
4. **Teacher** or designated student shouts out the name of a picture or word. Whoever hits the picture or word first with their fly-swatter wins that round.



Enjoy this lively game with lots of laughter!

Be an ESL PSA Conference Presenter

“The World in Our Classrooms”

Submit Call for Presentations to sdean@sd40.bc.ca

ESL Websites to know about and to pass on to others...

Dave’s ESL café: www.eslcafe.com

ESL Games: www.eslgames.com

1000s of songs: www.songsforteaching.com

Song lyrics: www.lyrics.ch/

Karin’s ESL party land: www.eslpartyland.com

Database of award-winning children’s lit: www.dawcl.com/search.asp

Welcome Kits for Newcomers - a Vancouver idea -

If you have Reception level students in your elementary intermediate classes &/or later-to-literacy students at the secondary level, here's a way to support these students to help them through their initial adjustment period with some "cognitively demanding" work.

In Vancouver, we have taken clear plastic storage boxes with lids, and filled them with following materials listed below. Cost of materials for the kit: approximately \$30 (excluding the main teacher resource* book):

WELCOME KITS

*Main Resource : **Newcomer Program** with Activity Copymasters & Teacher's Guide by Judy Haynes (K-2; 3-7); Prentice Hall.

Additional Pieces:

- ✓ Construction paper to make a name card
- ✓ Tools to work with – scissors, felt pens, crayons, glue stick, pencils, erasers, ruler
- ✓ Extra lined and unlined paper for drawing & writing
- ✓ Work Booklets (photocopied sections from the Newcomer Program)
- ✓ Dictionaries – Bilingual Picture Dictionary; English Picture Dictionary
- ✓ Easy Fiction & Non-Fiction Books – at the students' levels (recommendation: National Geographic collection of high content/low vocab books)
- ✓ Magazines
- ✓ Other
- ✓ Home language books
- ✓ Math computation work sheets
- ✓ Language picture cards
- ✓ Tangrams, origami, etc.
- ✓ English tape: Welcome to our school
- ✓ Home Language Greeting with overview of school, schedules, routines, holidays, etc.

Teaching to Diversity

www.bctf.ca/TeachingtoDiversity

This joint project of BCTF Research, the Special Education Association, the Learning Assistance teachers' Association and the English as a Second Language Provincial Specialist Association, is a web page designed to help teachers teach to diversity.

Resource Inventory

- Glossary of terms
- Provincial policies/reposts
- Pro D
- Links
- Online Journals
- Monthly Highlights
- Discussion group
- Pilot projects
- Parent support

Add this link to your "Favourites" as a great resource.

Ministry Documents

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/esl/

Find all BC Ministry of Education documents relevant to working with ESL learners:

- **ESL Policy Framework**
- **ESL Policy Guidelines**
- **ESL Standards**

and more...

