

EXPLORING THE NEW English/Language Arts IRP's



An English teachers' conference sponsored by BCTELA, and S.D. #71



BCTELA



COMOX VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monday, February 11, 2008

Mark Isfeld Secondary

1551 Lerwick Rd., Courtenay, BC

(Registration Form on page 5)

SCHEDULE

8:30 – 9:00	Registration / coffee
9:00 – 10:00	Overview of IRP with Gail Hughes-Adams (Min. of Ed) and Leyton Schnellert (BCTELA)
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 – 12:00	Session A and C
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch (on site)
1:30 – 3:00	Session B and C (continues)

The conference will open with Gail and Leyton giving us a guided tour through the new curriculum including its organizers and learning outcomes. New concepts such as Achievement Indicators, Key Elements and Considerations for Delivery will also be introduced. Links will also be made to lesson design and assessment.

Gail Hughes-Adams is a Curriculum Coordinator at the BC Ministry of Education and is responsible for the English Language arts curriculum from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Her goal is to foster and develop supportive professional relationships between educators and the Ministry. **Leyton Schnellert** represented BCTELA as a member of the working group for the 8-12 IRP and the editing teams for both the K-7 and 8-12 ELA IRP's.



Session A (10:30-12:00)

- A1 Powerful Pictures Books for Painless Strategic Teaching** – (Grades 4-9) – Lisa and Marty will utilize engaging picture books (fiction, non-fiction, biography and historical fiction) that leave students wanting more. Engaging picture books will be presented along with thinking strategies linked to the new English Language Arts IRP, for reading, writing and purposeful talk across the curriculum.

Presenters – **Lisa Cooke** teaches grades 7 to 9 Humanities, Science and Literacy Support, and **Marty McCrerrick** is a District Literacy Resource Support teacher and District Teacher Librarian for the Comox Valley School District.

- A2 Blogging into the New Literacy** – Here's the 'what' and the 'how' for teachers interested in exploring technology in the classroom. Heather will share how she uses blogs and other web tools in her senior English classes to encourage critical thinking and a new form of classroom communication that students as “digital natives” are wholly accustomed to using in their lives outside of school. She will provide hands – on instruction for implementation, from learning how to 'socially bookmark' with “delicious” to creating your own blog.

Presenter – **Heather Corman** is an English teacher in Courtenay and president of the Comox Valley English teacher's LSA. She enjoys thinking of ways to integrate technology into classrooms to create rich, relevant educational experiences for students.

- A3 Oral Language in BC classrooms** – This workshop will introduce practical strategies for developing and assessing oral language skills and strategies. Participants will consider key aspects of the new curriculum and how these translate into classroom learning. Handout will include practical strategies and assessment materials.

Presenter – **Dr. Sharon Jeroski** is a BC educator with special interest in assessment and evaluation, English language arts, the integration of technology to improve learning, and action research.

- A4 “How to Read Literature Like a Professor”** – “If she comes up, it's a baptism.” This workshop will introduce participants to this rich and engaging book by Thomas Foster and demonstrate how teachers can make their short story and novel units deeper and more interesting for students by understanding symbolism, archetypes and other patterns that recur in the literature we study with our students.

Presenters – **Dave Allen & Steve Stanley** are members of the Comox Valley English teachers LSA and teach English full-time. They have been using the ideas from this book in their classes with excellent results.



Session B (1:30-3:30)

- B1 See the Story** – Come explore the exciting world of graphic novels. The interplay of the graphic novel format opens fresh opportunities to build literacy skills that support the new IRP. A brief history of the genre and hands-on activities will provide everything needed to bring graphic novels into your classroom. The focus will be on texts suitable for Grades 8 through 12.

Presenters – **Susan Ma** is a researcher and lecturer on graphic novels. She can regularly be found thinking, talking and writing about graphic novels and manga at Christianne's Lyceum, UBC, Vancouver Kidsbooks, the BCTELA's Update and at the Canadian Children's Book News.

Celia Brownrigg is a curriculum coordinator on the BCTELA executive and is studying teacher-librarianship while working at Vancouver Kidsbooks and teaching on call in Vancouver and Coquitlam.

- B2 Ideas to Talk About:** Oral Language Lesson Plans for Grades 4-12

Dave and Patty will share their ideas for how to engage students in various speaking activities. These include using picture books, film, and graphic novels to have students “talk the story”; impromptu speeches and sales pitches; debates; and formal speeches.

Presenters: **Dave Ellison** is in his twelfth year of teaching. Along the way he has coached debate teams and students in speech meets. He is currently president of BCTELA.

Patty Holmes has worked for 26 years in K to adult ed. classrooms, with a decade's concentration in upper intermediate. Currently, she works as a resource teacher supporting diverse learners in intermediate classrooms. She is also active with City Stage New West, working to bring professional theatre to New Westminster. Patty is a conference coordinator for BCTELA.

- B3 Integrating Curriculum for English 11 and Social Studies 11** - This workshop will introduce participants to the Honours Liberal Arts course at Mark Isfeld Secondary. Discussion will be held on the philosophical implications of integration at the senior secondary level and many ideas will be shown for doing so successfully. Students in this class receive credit for English 11, Social Studies 11 and Comparative Civilization 12.

Presenter – **Shawn Holland** is a Comox Valley teacher and member of the LSA. He has been teaching this course for several years, and has nearly ten years of experience at the secondary level.

- B4 Using Aboriginal Fiction in the English Classroom**

Aboriginal history composes much of the history of British Columbia. This session will focus on ways to incorporate aboriginal literature into day to day classroom activities as well as novel studies. Cindy will also relate the successes, as well as the challenges of using aboriginal literature in culturally diverse classes.

Presenter- **Cindy Miller** teaches English Language Arts at Fort St. James Secondary School in BC's Central Interior.



Session C (10:30-3:30) (all day)

- C1 Designing Engaging Units using Backwards Design** (all day) – So many best practices... how do you put them all together to create engaging, pedagogically-sound units that will help your students learn what they need to? Come and spend the day with us- learn about inquiry and backwards design, modeling and gradual release, assessment-to-instruction – put it all into a framework for a unit you can use. To get the most out of this session, bring a topic for a unit and sample texts you might use, and any brainstorming you have already done.

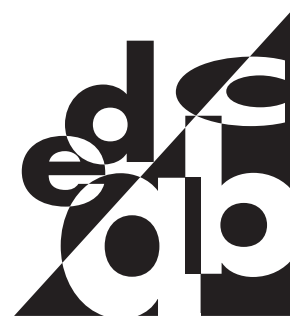
Presenters- **Leyton Schnellert, Joanne Panas, and Nicole Widdess** are long-time members of Richmond's Strengthening Student Literacy Network, a grassroots teacher-research group. Nicole currently teaches grades 6-7 and is a passionate advocate for literacy learning. Joanne is a part-time teacher at McRoberts Secondary in Richmond as well as being an educational consultant, a writer, and co-editor of BCTELA's journal Update. Leyton currently is an Adjunct Faculty Associate at SFU, and has been a middle and secondary teacher.

- C2 Creative Writing** (all day) – Susan and Bill will spend the day with teachers working on your personal writing skills in poetry and prose and teaching strategies and activities you can use with your class. You will have time to write as well as to discuss ideas and projects you can use the next day.

Presenters – **Bill and Susan Stenson** are the founders of the highly acclaimed Claremont Review which recently celebrated its fifteenth year of publishing the finest work by young authors. Susan Stenson's senior English and Writing students have won the League of Canadian Poets' National Poetry Prize from 1999 to 2006; she has been a co-editor of The Claremont Review since 1993. Susan's most recent collection of poetry, *My Mother Agrees with the Dead*, was published in 2007 with Wolsak & Wynn. She has been published in every important literary journal in Canada, on CBC radio, in The Poetry in Transit Program and has won the Arc poetry prize, This Magazine's Literary Hunt, The League's National prize, and the Rona Murray Prize for Poetry among others.

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REGISTRATION FORM

Copy this registration form and fax to Pat:
Fax 250-334-4472

Name: _____ Fax No.: _____

School & District #: _____

Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

Please register me for the following workshops (insert numbers of desired session for each time slot)

1st choice A _____ B _____ or C _____ (all day)

2nd choice A _____ B _____ or C _____ (all day)

Out-of-district participants, please fax registration and either send cheque or pay at the door.

Cheque payable to SD71 & BCTELA please mail to: Pat Doleman - SD71
607 Cumberland Road
Courtenay, BC V9N 7G5

- ☐ Out-of-district - \$20 (lunch& snacks)
- ☐ BCTELA membership - \$35 (mandatory charge)
- ☐ I would like a coil-bound copy of the ELA 8-12 IRP. - \$15
- ☐ Please do not add my name to the BCTELA list-serve.

Total \$ _____

☐ Cheque is in the mail

☐ I will pay at the door