

# Story and the **Landscapes of Learning**

**Story and the Landscapes of Learning** brings together educators who are committed to teaching practices that respect and engage diverse learners. This year we feature sessions focusing on inquiry, diverse texts, indigenous perspectives, the new curriculum and stories of place and learning.

### **Featuring:**

Richard Wagamese, David J. Smith, Faye Brownlie, Sharon Jeroski, Leyton Schnellert, Carl Leggo, Dale Allender and many more!







**BC Teachers of English Language Arts** 

# Friday Morning Keynote: Get them talking, get them writing Richard Wagamese

8:30 AM-9:45 AM



Richard Wagamese Grades K-12

Richard Wagamese is one of Canada's foremost Native authors and storytellers. Working as a professional writer since 1979 he's been a newspaper columnist and reporter, radio and television broadcaster and producer, documentary producer and the author of thirteen titles from major Canadian publishers.

His novel, *Indian Horse*, arrived in February 2012. It was the Peoples' Choice winner in the national Canada Reads competition. In 2013 he published a new novel; *Him Standing*, for Orca Press and a new literary novel, *Medicine Walk*, with McClelland & Stewart was published in April 2014.

#### Friday Morning Sessions 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

# A1: Self and Story: Weaving words from heart and place

Richard Wagamese Grades K-7

A morning breakout session and conversation with author, *Richard Wagamese*.

Richard Wagamese speaker bio: see keynote above

# A2: Reading Stories, Writing Stories: Thinking in action

Faye Brownlie Grades K-7

Travel the story landscape with thinking-infused strategies that help all students read more thoughtfully and write more passionately. Learn whole-class reading strategies focusing on response to literature (with read alouds and small group texts) and whole-class writing strategies to develop narrative (e.g. clustering).

Faye is a long time BCTELA member, an avid reader, and well-known presenter. She is passionate about our collective responsibility to create readers who read and writers who write.

#### A3: Geographic Literacy: World-mindedness across the curriculum

David J. Smith Grades K-7

This workshop will present ideas and practical strategies for merging history, geography, and broad multicultural concerns into a balanced, three-dimensional package. A variety of materials and cooperative learning activities will be used, in which students, working in small groups, teach and learn from each other.

David J. Smith is a classroom teacher with over 25 years' experience teaching Middle School English, geography, and Social Studies. He is the author of 5 books presently used in schools across the world: If the World Were A Village, If America Were A Village, This Child, Every Child, IF: A Mind-Bending New Way of Looking at Big Ideas and Numbers, & Mapping The World By Heart.

## A4: What is a Poem Good For? Words of advice from a poet

Carl Leggo Grades K-12

What is a poem good for? This workshop emphasizes playing with language. Carl is a grandfather to four granddaughters who are leaning into language. Together they are learning about the ceaseless joys of music, images, emotions, and stories in poetry.

Carl Leggo is a poet and professor at the University of British Columbia. His books include: View from My Mother's House; Come-By-Chance; Teaching to Wonder: Responding to Poetry in the Secondary Classroom; Sailing in a Concrete Boat: A Teacher's Journey.

### A5: Counter Narratives for the Classroom

Dale Allender Grades 8-12

This session explores the curricular possibilities of counter narratives based on work with this genre in urban high schools. After this session, participants will be able to explain

the concept of counter-narrative and counter storytelling as an expressive and analytical tool in critical race theory, and identify texts for the classroom.

Dale Allender, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Language and Literacy at California State University Sacramento. Dale is also the director for the nine Annenberg Foundations multimedia productions for literacy teachers.

#### A6: Making Connections Through Diverse Texts: Walking through inquiry in secondary English classes

Denise Ferreira & Pamela Smith Grades: 9-12

This session will describe how students can engage in developing essential questions, in order to facilitate deeper learning of text, self, and humanity. We will use children's books as a starting point, discussing how the structure can be used to develop student learning and sharing student projects that illustrate their understanding through inquiry.

Denise Ferreira is passionate about helping students connect to literature and the world. She loves writing poetry and personal narrative and 'light-bulb' moments. She teaches English 8-12 at Byrne Creek Secondary in Burnaby.

Pamela Smith loves engaging with students through the process of analysis and inquiry. She is passionate about using diverse texts to reach new understandings with her students. Pamela teaches Secondary English in Burnaby.

#### A7: Our Stories, Our Worldview: How our stories shape who we are and how we think

Jon Carr & Jen Nixon Grades 5-9

This workshop will highlight a cross-curricular inquiry unit aimed at challenging students to think deeply about identity and their place in the world. Drawing on the curricular competencies, this workshop shows how students can use images, written/oral language, and digital media to holistically tell the story of who they are as individuals and as members of a community.

Jen Nixon is passionate about inspiring middle school students to think critically about the world and to find and follow their passions. Following her own passions has led her to work on human rights in Southeast Asia, develop curriculum (global education and photojournalism) and complete her Masters in Language and Literacy (critical literacy). Jen has taught Humanities and other subjects in the Sooke School District for 10 years.

Jon Carr is interested in how placebased education can help drive learning by involving the self, the family, the community, the land, and ancestors. Over the past 4 years, he has worked as an advocate for Indigenous learners and their families by developing curriculum, supporting students, and engaging communities.

# A8: Rocking the Page! A virtual writers festival, where writing knows no bounds

Terry Taylor, Richelle Johnston & Morgan Taylor Grades 4-12

Seven professional authors read in asynchronous videos and synchronous online workshops,

inspiring creativity. Students find joy writing poetry, stories and web content in seven classrooms and three school districts.

Richelle Johnson teaches English/ art/drama at Lucerne School in New Denver. Last year she pioneered online literature circles using Facebook to teach about digital citizenship with the theme of "identity." Richelle served as the talented project manager for *Rocking the Page*.

Morgan Taylor is a professional web writer with a zeal for biking. He regularly contributes to *theradavist*. *com* and was one of the professional writers featured in *Rocking the Page*.

Terry Taylor, an English teacher for 30 years, feeds her passions for creating powerful student learning by seeking artists as partners. She is thrilled to lead learning in SD 10 as the superintendent of schools.

#### A9: Language and Landscapes: Teens exploring place and memory

Glen Thielmann Grades: 9-12

In this talk & share session, various student projects from Gr. 9-12 classes will be shared, that relate to student identity and direct experiences with special places, historical fiction, cultural landscapes, environmental and geographic themes in fantasy literature.

Glen has taught a bit of everything on the Humanities side of the ledger in Prince George high schools. His work with students and educators focuses on experiential, technological, inquiry-based, and narrative tools for exploring learner identity.

# A10: Story Drama: Using drama to explore and share our stories

Laura Lancaster & Dale Jarvis Grades 4-7

The presenters will share their experience with Story Drama using drama structures to engage all students in exploring essential meanings in story and ourselves. Using The Decision: A story drama structure, created by Kristin Mimick and friends (2013) and based on the text Secret of the Dance by Andrea Spalding & Alfred Scow, participants will be guided through the design, format, and activities that explore the story, and ultimately, a decision affecting aboriginal cultural connectedness and identities. This experience leads into literature circles with a social justice theme.

Dale is a grade 4 & 5 teacher and vice-principal in SD63 (Saanich). Laura is a district Curriculum Coordinator in SD62 (Sooke). Dale and Laura love to collaborate and learn together around anything to do with engaging kids with books. They are members of a research study group exploring the possibilities for ELA teachers and their students as they reflect on issues of equity and cultural difference through reading and responding to postcolonial literary texts.

### A11: Transforming K-12 ELA Curriculum

Sharon Jeroski, Ben Pare, Susan McLean, Katrina Thomson, Jo Chrona, Denise Clark, & guests April Lowe, MJ Medenwaldt, Lexa Pomfret, Janis Practor, Carly Roy & Danielle Caldwell Grades K-12

Come hear about the most recent developments in our emerging K-12 ELA curriculum! We will share some of the thinking behind the new curriculum and any recent developments. Participants will also

explore early classrooms examples of what the curriculum could look like in day-to-day practice. This session will include lots of time to explore and ask questions – some of which we may be able to answer!

Sharon Jeroski is a researcher, writer, and speaker with special interest in assessment and evaluation, English language arts, and action research. Dr. Jeroski is currently directing development of *BC Core Competency Profiles* and analyzing results of *Changing Results for Young Readers*. She studied at UBC, where she received a doctorate in measurement and research methodology.

Ben Pare is currently the K-12 Literacy Program Consultant in the Burnaby school district and previously was a Department Head of English and ELL. He has enjoyed working on curriculum writing projects such as the development of the Performance Standards for Reading, the Critical Thinking Core Competency, and the new English Language Arts curriculum.

Susan McLean has been an English teacher for many years and has been teaching using literature circles for the past fifteen. During this time, she has attended multiple workshops on literature circles, assessment and inquiry, both at local, provincial and international levels, and presented at the local level. Her education includes a B. Ed., M Ed., Sp. Ed., ESL and FSL training. She has also been deeply involved with the provincial English PSA and is currently serving as its president.

Jo Chrona, part of the ELA K-9 and 10-12 curriculum development teams, is currently the Curriculum Coordinator for FNESC. In addition, she has worked with school districts in the development of the Positive Personal and Cultural Identify and Social responsibility core competencies. Jo has taught Hum

8/9, Comm 11/12, Eng 12, and EFP 12. Jo is a member of the Kitsumkalum Band of the Ts'msyen Nation. She is of the Ganhada (Rayen) Clan.

Karina Thompson is currently department head of English and ELL at University Hill Secondary in the Vancouver School District. Her educational background includes a B.A. and M.P.A and a M.Ed. as well as a diploma in teaching ESL. She is currently serving on the Ministry of Education's ELA 10-12 Curriculum development team.

Current department head and member of the Van Tech English and ELL department since 1998, Denise Clark has been a part of the curriculum and competency development team for ELA 10-12 and personal responsibility and awareness, we well as inquiry facilitator for the VSB. Denise teachers AP English Literature and Composition 12, and English 9 and is past executive and presenter for BCTELA. Denise has an M.A. in Language and Literacy Education, a B.A in Secondary English and a B.A. in English Literature all from the University of British Columbia.

# A12: Topic Choice and Inquiry in Communications 11 and 12 Classes

Rachel Reynolds Grades: 9-12

Topic Choice/Inquiry is an alternate semester long instructional format for English Communications students. This strategy focuses on promoting success for previously disengaged students. Students are immersed in an area of interest while completing the required provincial outcomes for Communications 11 and 12.

Rachel has been a senior English teacher for the last nine years. During her Master's of Educational Leadership, she studied disengagement in writing.

# A13: Connecting to place through literature and text

Selina Metcalfe & Jonathan Dyck Grades K-12

BCTELA and EEPSA want to help teachers explore their local place, through text, with colleagues. We wonder, how can teachers use BC literature to provide our students with connections to their local environments and cultures? What are the most effective Language Arts teaching strategies that we can use to connect our students to their local

place? We will share some resources and strategies that we have used in our classrooms to explore BC through literature. We'd love to hear your stories about reading and writing as a tool to connect yourself, and your students, to place.

We will also give an overview of the Program for Quality Teaching inquiry project entitled "Placebased literature and strategies for implementing pedagogies of place" we are running in 2015/16.

Selina Metcalfe loves language and loves landscape. She is extremely interested in how story, semantics and semiotics influence our

environmental ethic. She is the president of EEPSA, a Humanities teacher and Department Head, and a PQT (Program for Quality Teaching) facilitator for the BCTF. She has a graduate degree in Ecological Education and Diverse Learning Environments, and was the Faculty Associate for the SEEDs (Sustainability Education in an Environment of Diversity) module of PDP at SFU.

Jonathan teaches English 12, Math 11 and Social Justice 12 at Langley Education Centre, He completed his M.Ed. in Ecological Education and he is always looking for new ways to help his students become more connected to the places they inhabit.

### Friday Afternoon Sessions 1:15-3:15 PM

## B1: Self and Story: Weaving words from heart and place

Don Blazevich & Belinda Chi Grades K-7

Come and join two teachers as they take you through an interactive writing session highlighting ideas that you can use with your students. You will see how to use the 5 senses, similes and persuasive writing to explore poetry and creative writing. You will also learn how your students' work can be published and featured in BCTELA's student writing journal, Voices Visible.

Belinda Chi teaches a Grade 4/5 class in Burnaby. The focus in her classroom is building community and fostering a positive learning environment for her students to explore their writing.

Don Blazevich teaches Grade 2 and believes in developing the voices of young writers. Through explicit instruction and the gradual release model, his students learn to express themselves through descriptive, poetic devices.

# B2: Continuing the Story of Competencies and Curriculum: Educating citizens

Sharon Jeroski & Ben Pare Grades 8-12

In this interactive, hands-on session, participants will explore the explicit role of the core competencies (Communication, Thinking, Personal and Social Competence) as students continue their development as educated citizens, with choice and voice. We will work with drafts of the competency profiles, view illustrations of various levels of development, and learn from BC teachers how they are focusing on the competencies in their classrooms.

Sharon Jeroski is a researcher, writer, and speaker with special interest in assessment and evaluation, English language arts, and action research. Dr. Jeroski is currently directing development of *BC Core Competency Profiles* and analyzing results of *Changing Results for Young Readers*.

She studied at UBC, where she received a doctorate in measurement and research methodology.

Ben Pare speaker bio: See A12

#### B3: Geographic Literacy: World-mindedness across the curriculum

David J. Smith Grades: 5-9

This workshop will present ideas and practical strategies for merging history, geography, and broad multicultural concerns into a balanced, three-dimensional package. A variety of materials and cooperative learning activities will be used, in which students, working in small groups, teach and learn from each other

David J. Smith speaker bio: see A3

# B4: Playing with Text: The power of SmartLearning to engage and support young learners

Erika Warkentin Grades K-2

Participants will experience how the SmartLearning practices make it possible to playfully and meaningfully incorporate metacognition and self-regulation into lessons designed to empower and extend the skills and competencies of our youngest learners. Participants will leave with print material to guide their personal applications.

Erika is an early primary teacher in the New Westminster School district and a SmartLearning Trainer. Erika has taught in K-2 classrooms for more than 20 years and has a Masters of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Erika has led learning rounds and provided workshops for teachers across BC and Alberta.

#### **B5: New Curriculum, New Ideas**

Sandra McTavish Grades 8-12

Are you thinking about how to teach the new grade 8-9 ELA curriculum, including incorporating First Nations content? This interactive workshop provides you with engaging activities that can be used in any classroom. Participants receive a package including a complimentary book!

Sandra McTavish has worn many hats over the years including teacher/publisher/ author/ presenter. Sandra has a passion for contemporary Canadian literature especially First Nations authors. She has provided ELA workshops across Canada including BC, most recently in SD41 Burnaby.

### B6: Imbedding Inquiry with Literature Circles

Susan McLean Grades 4-12

This updated session incorporates new ideas from inquiry, as well as current thinking on literacy and assessment (including assessment for, of and as learning, student ownership, peer and selfassessment). It will demonstrate how to build community through effective collaboration, powerful inquiry processes and an inclusive culture. Additionally, it will address meeting diverse needs through differentiated instruction, Aboriginal understandings, neuro-diverse teaching strategies and social justice topics. Finally, it will provide engagement through student motivation, as well as structures and processes that promote active learning. Participants will come away with all of the handouts, criteria sheets and rubrics needed to successfully implement Literature Circles in their classrooms.

Susan McLean speaker bio: See A11

#### **B7: Middle Mosaic**

Faye Brownlie, Leyton Schnellert and guests Grades 4-9

This institute will help you develop your capacity to build students' capacity to engage with, honor and take up diverse perspectives and literacies and make a difference in their world. Explore approaches that nurture students' creativity, critical thinking, communication, social responsibility and personal responsibility. Examples and ideas from the *It's All About Thinking* series will be highlighted.

Then participants attend round tables where presenters share classroom ideas and examples. Round table

topics include texts sets, culturally responsive teaching, inquiry, universal design for learning, visual literacy, and literature circles.

Leyton Schnellert is an Assistant Professor at UBCO. His research and teaching focus on teacher inquiry, literacy and language learning, middle years philosophy and methods, and inclusive education. He has been a middle, junior high, and secondary school classroom teacher, and a learning resource teacher K–12. Leyton is a long-time member of the BCTELA Executive.

Faye Brownlie speaker bio: See A2

#### B8: Curriculum for ALL: Including students with developmental disabilities in English language arts

Shelley Moore & Kate Campbell Grades 8-12

Using planning frameworks (e.g. UDL, UBD, DI, RTI), this workshop will describe the process of how a secondary collaborative team planned an integrated poetry/social justice unit, which responded to a grade 10 English class with a variety of learners and included students with developmental disabilities.

Shelley Moore is a teacher consultant in the Richmond School District as well as a private consultant provincially and beyond. She is currently working on her PhD at the University of British Columbia and her research is exploring how teacher needs can collaborate to make curriculum accessible and meaningful to students with developmental disabilities.

Kate Campbell is a secondary resource teacher with a background in art instruction. She has developed a balanced, art-based inclusion model of programming and support

for students with developmental disabilities in secondary schools called ACCESS Learning. ACCESS strives to connect and the community, families, the school and staff to make a holistic and meaningful school experience for students with the most complex needs.

### **B9: Reconciliation through Story**

Jo-Anne Chrona Grades K-7

Explore how story and literature can be used to help children gain an age-appropriate understanding of the history of the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people over Canada's history using the First Nations Education Steering Committee's (FNESC) new *Indian Residential Schools and Reconciliation Teacher Resource Guide.* 

Jo-Anne Chrona speaker bio: See A11

## B10: Eco-Literacy in the 21st Century

Jonathan Dyck, Selina Metcalfe & Celia Brogan Grades K-12

Join us for a collaborative inquiry into place-based learning and 21st century education! How can we help students develop ecological literacy within the framework of language arts curriculum? Meet like-minded educators, share your experiences, and invigorate your practice!

Jonathan & Selina's bio: see A13

### B11: Creating Place: A writing workshop for teachers

Pamela Richardson, Sara Davidson & Ashley Cail Grades K-12

This is a creative writing workshop for teachers focused on the themes of story and place. When we nurture our own writing practice this helps us to inspire and motivate our students. Join us for this time to create and share in a supported and fun environment.

Pamela Richardson is on faculty at Royal Roads University in the School of Education and Technology. She is the co-editor of English Practice and loves nurturing spaces where poetry flourishes.

Sara Florence Davidson is a PhD candidate in the Department of Language and Literacy at the University of British Columbia. She has taught high school in the Yukon and rural British Columbia. She is coeditor of *English Practice*.

Ashley Cail is a recent graduate from the education program at UBC and has also completed a Masters of Arts in English. She is a co-editor of English Practice and is passionate about the beauty of literature.



# B12: Inspiring Minds: The power of SmartLearning lesson sequences

Ingrid Fawcett, Tammy Renyard & Heather Brown Grades 3-12

Participants will experience how SmartLearning lessons increase each learner's powers to learn and retain complex skills, competencies, and understandings. Using an inquiry approach, learners are immersed in text, and use layers of thinking tools and partner interactions to develop deep understandings. Participants will leave with print material to guide their personal applications.

Heather Brown recently joined SD61, Greater Victoria, as a vice-principal from a senior science teaching position in SD6, Rocky Mountain. Her intention is to develop lessons that foster deep conceptual understanding that allows for sophisticated synthesis and application. Heather has led workshops in senior and junior science for middle and secondary educators in B.C., and Alberta.

Ingrid Fawcett is a vice principal in the Greater Victoria School District. She has been a district learning coach, a K-12 classroom teacher, and a sessional instructor at the University of Victoria.

Tammy Renyard is a teaching vice-principal in SD61. She is passionate about side-by-side work with teachers, implementing lessons designed to deeply engage learners in the learning process with lessons that guide learners to develop powerful thinking and understanding. Tammy has led workshops and classroom-based learning rounds for middle and secondary educators in B.C., Alberta, the Yukon, and in the Northern Territories.

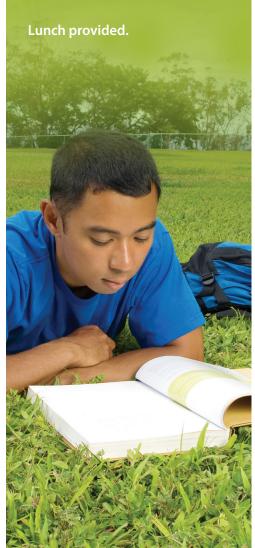
# Conference at a glance

**Conference Sessions at Matthew McNair Secondary** 

Friday, October 23, 2015 8:30 am-3:15 pm

Opening morning speaker Richard Wagamese

Choose 2 of 25 two-hour sessions with presenters from British Columbia and beyond.



# Story and the Landscapes of Learning

**BCTELA Provincial Conference** October 23, 2015

#### **Conference Host Hotel**

Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel 7551 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC (604) 273-7878

#### **Conference Host School**

Matthew McNair Secondary 9500 No 4 Road, Richmond, BC V7A 2Y9



www.bctela.ca

FRIDAY, OCT 23	
Morning	<ul><li>Opening keynote speaker</li><li>2 hour break out sessions</li><li>Vendor booths</li></ul>
Lunch	<ul><li> Vendor booths</li><li> Author signings</li></ul>
Afternoon	<ul><li> 2 hours break out sessions</li><li> Vendor booths</li></ul>
Evening	BCTELA Annual General Meeting

FEE SCHEDULE *	
BCTF members	\$200
Non BCTF members	\$250
Host district teachers #38	\$150
TTOCs/ Teacher candidates	\$125

To register, go to www.bctela.ca. Registration closes October 15, 2015 at 4:30 pm.

\* Conference fee includes a membership to British Columbia Teachers of English & Language Arts (BCTELA) provincial specialist association (PSA)