



NOTES for ESL

The Newsletter of the ESL PSA
of the B.C. Teachers' Federation



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Vice President's Message

By Marc Tremblay

Where has this year gone? School is out and it's time to say goodbye. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the ESL PSA executive who have continued to work so hard throughout the year. After almost a year of job action which culminated in a 3-day withdrawal of services and legislated back to work with Bill 22, teachers all across the province have

continued to deliver support and services to a diverse population of student learners as best they can. Your ESL PSA has continued its work in improving the quality of ELL education in British Columbia. Together we will continue to promote a greater awareness of ELL and the needs of ESL students and educators as well as to stimulate improvement and quality ELL education throughout the province.

I would like to leave you with some accomplishments of the ESL PSA. On your behalf, we held a mini-conference, Scaffolding Instruction for English Language Learners Across the Grades, with Elizabeth Coelho on May 2, 2012. Elizabeth is the author of [Adding English: A Guide to Teaching in Multilingual Classrooms](#). The mini-conference was well attended and the delegates were given several opportunities to participate actively.

Friday and Saturday May 4-5, there was another opportunity to engage in enriching professional development. ESL: English as a Sustainable Language featured keynote speaker, Andy Hargreaves, a long-time advocate for K-12 education, as well as many concurrent sessions of interest to ELL Educators.

The 2012 ESL PSA Vision Day was held on May 7. As in previous years we were delighted with the number of school districts represented. The purpose of Vision Day is to set goals for the following year and to evaluate accomplishments to date and set new goals for the ESL PSA. (More details about Vision Day are elsewhere in the newsletter.)

As noted in the last newsletter, March 2 and 3 were spent at the New Teachers Conference in Richmond, an annual event hosted by the BCTF. Our role there is to support this conference by offering a session and hosting a display table where our newest colleagues can learn more about our PSA. I believe this is another area of advocacy which we must continue to keep in mind.

The ESL PSA Conference committee has been hard at work and there are some 'teasers' of information elsewhere in this newsletter. The Annual Conference will be held on October 19, 2012 at West Vancouver Secondary School in West Vancouver. This is our 22nd Conference and one you don't want to miss. Friday morning features our keynote speaker, Dr. Margaret Early, associate

Professor in the Department of Language and Literacy Education (LLED) at the University of British Columbia. As in the past, there will be our AGM, door prizes, lots of good munchies and the popular Chocolate Fountain.

As we close another school year I hope this finds you well and enjoying your work with your ELL learners across this province. I wish all of you a relaxing, rejuvenating summer and I look forward to seeing you ALL at the October conference.



Marc Tremblay,
ESL PSA Vice-President

Remember the Chocolate Fountain???



Vision Day 2012

By Marc Tremblay

The 2012 ESL PSA Vision Day was held in Vancouver on Monday, May 7th. A total of 22 participants were in attendance from across BC.

During the day everyone was given opportunities to share their roles and responsibilities. Participants were asked to share their biggest successes and challenges in their roles, and were asked to discuss whether the need for ELL and Aboriginal Learner support is increasing or decreasing. After much discussion it seems fair to say that in some districts support to students and funds are readily available. While the same couldn't be said for all school districts, it appears that there is an inequality in the delivery of service among school districts and that funds allocated from the Ministry are not always forthcoming.

Our two core questions for the day were:

1. [How can the ESL PSA continue to expand its support of your work with additional language learners?](#)

The three main points from Vision Day were:

- [Resources](#)

Sharing materials, resources for starting teachers, blogs, website, lesson sharing, and online collaboration

- [Communication](#)

Among ELL teachers to stay strong and connected and with our mainstream subject teaching colleagues to help them understand issues surrounding ELL and get them resources to better serve our students in their classes.

- [Advocacy](#)

Support each other and the needs of our students; we need a strong voice and some clout with decision making bodies and we need to promote our reality and needs to the people who make decisions about the students and on our behalf.

2. [What should we call our PSA now that the opportunity and need to change our name, and logo, has arrived?](#)

Although ELL is the name change right now, participants do not feel that this is the most appropriate acronym. Some believe that people will be more confused if we move away from ESL. Finally, substituting the 'S' in ESL to something new so that the acronym stays the same was well received by most participants. No final decision has been made. No change will occur until the ESL PSA AGM on October 19 at the ESL PSA Conference. Subsequent to Vision Day a smaller committee will move our deliberations forward as part of the Teacher Inquiry Project for which efforts we have received a small grant from the BCTF.

“I’m More Than a Colouring Person”

Empowering English Language Learners

22nd Annual ESL PSA Conference
an affiliate of BCTF

October 19, 2012

West Vancouver Secondary School
1750 Mathers Avenue, West Vancouver, BC V7V 2G7

Keynote presentation by Dr. Margaret Early



Margaret Early is an Associate Professor in the Department of Language and Literacy Education (LLED) at the University of British Columbia. She has taught in multilingual elementary and secondary schools in the U.K. and Canada. She was previously an ESL consultant for the Vancouver School Board and the BC Provincial Coordinator for ESL. Her research focuses on the development of academic literacies in multilingual school contexts, including the possibilities of digital resources in this regard. The results of a national research project (www.multiliteracies.ca), for which she was the Principal Investigator, on the development of multimodal and multilingual literacies were published in a book, co-edited with Jim Cummins, entitled: *Identity texts: the collaborative creation of power in multilingual school*. Dr. Early is also a member of an LLED research team undertaking ongoing work in schools and teacher education institutions in Canada, rural Uganda and Kenya. In addition to North America, she has given keynote, plenary, and conference presentations in diverse locations in Africa, Asia, Central America and Europe.

Everyone is welcome to join us and to take part in a great day of sharing, and socializing. Most of all, we hope you will feel inspired.

Conference Teasers.....

The conference will offer a wide variety of workshops for elementary and secondary teachers. Here are some of the upcoming sessions:

Language Learning Games for ESL Students

By: Zoe Higgs

This session is intended to give you practical suggestions and ideas for implementing educationally-sound games into your everyday teaching. Games make EVERYTHING more fun, and can have a significant impact on the learning and engagement of both ESL- and non-ESL students alike.

ESD Oral Language Assessment Tool

By: Sue Enfield

English Second Dialect (ESD) support teachers in conjunction with the University of Victoria have spent five years developing and refining an Oral Language Assessment Tool Kit for the identification of ESD students.

This tool is based on the BC ESL/D Performance Standards, and meets ministry requirements as proof of assessment in an audit. It has a student questionnaire, and an accompanying kit. The questionnaire has various exit points, and takes a maximum of 20 minutes. The assessment is geared toward K- Gr. 5 students.

Project Based Learning with Technology

By: Lydia Dooley

Use project-based learning and technology for the diverse and inclusive classroom. This workshop includes computer demonstrations, hands-on activities, and sample projects. Whether you are enrolling or non-enrolling, elementary or secondary, this session will benefit you and your students.

Academic Literacy in the Primary Classroom? Yes!

By: Donna Neilson

Our primary classrooms are language-rich in experience, but is that enough? This workshop is designed to help teachers understand the importance of introducing academic language to our young English Language Learners. Participants will be introduced to specific aspects of the SIOP methodology that support the inclusion of both academic content and language learning.

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

ESL PSA 22nd Annual Conference

**“I’m More Than a Colouring Person”
Empowering English Language Learners**

Friday, October 19th, 2012

West Vancouver Secondary School

West Vancouver, B.C.



<http://ellpsa.ca> (under “conferences”)

Notice of 2012 ESL PSA AGM

The Annual General Meeting
of the ESL PSA will be held on
Friday, October 19, 2012 at our
Provincial Conference at
West Vancouver Secondary School.

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.

Several positions are up for election, including:

- ◆ Conference Chair
- ◆ Webmaster
- ◆ Newsletter Editor
- ◆ 1 Member-at-Large
- ◆ And others....

If you are interested in running for one of these positions or would like to
nominate
someone, please email Marc Tremblay at mt4919@gmail.com