



Professional Development News

Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2011



Welcome to our Winter Edition



2010 -2011
PD Committee

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South Delta Secondary

Paul Leroy, Co-Chair

Special Programs

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Christine Carriou—*DMEC*

Sukhy Dhillon—*Hellings*

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Susan Jeffery—*Devon Gardens*

Richard Kirincic—

North Delta Secondary

Tashi Kirincic—*South Delta Secondary*

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North Delta Secondary

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Did you know...that all PD Forms are also available on First Class?

Follow the link: [First Class](#)→

[All Staff](#)→[Professional Development](#)→

[DTA Pro-D Info](#)→[DTA Pro-D Forms...](#)

and there you are!

E3: Encouragement, Eligibility, Entitlement

Professional Development is an expectation of all teachers. The Delta Teachers Association through the DTA Professional Development Committee encourages all Delta teachers to be actively involved in their own professional development. Now, more than ever, it's important that YOU know what you are eligible to receive. Our schools are becoming less generous with PD contributions for individual teachers while TOC costs and Workshop fees continue to rise. All of us can apply for financial assistance to attend conferences/workshops, to take academic courses, to visit a colleague during a regular school day, to participate in a Local Specialist Association, and to meet with colleagues to develop a group proposal for professional development. Additionally, most of us can apply for financial support to attend a National or International Conference. Most of these avenues are independent of one another so your eligibility for requesting support is extensive. There are deadlines for each funding avenue, so read the form or phone the DTA office for clarification. Please remember, eligibility does come with responsibility. If you are not familiar with the application processes for each funding opportunity, log on to www.deltateachers.org/ and follow the PD links.

Some of us say "life is too busy, work is too busy, too demanding, too time consuming". To help, let us share with you some of the limiting factors the DTA School based PD Contacts came up with as reasons to put off professional development for another day: Not enough time, school based PD is controlled by administration, seen/heard it all, need to catch my breath on a PD Day, would have to travel to somewhere, do not want to leave one's classroom, not relevant, not useful for my class, too much talk too little usefulness, too expensive, do not know what is on, working too hard, no time to reflect upon what I need, too many demands placed on teachers, the focus is on saving money not on best practices, school climate does not support development. This list was generated in but a few minutes and speaks to the realities facing each and every teacher. You are entitled to use any or all if it helps you justify your decision to ignore PD.....BUT you are also encouraged to change the status quo – to make it work for you. You are entitled to ongoing meaningful professional development. You are entitled to a voice in both school and District professional development. We encourage you to be heard. It is what we as teachers do best.

by: Paul Leroy and Dan Burgess, PD Co-Chairs

PLEASE CHECK OUT THE NEWLY DESIGNED DTA WEBSITE www.deltateachers.org/! You will find a wealth of information on the DTA page as well as all the forms.

Local Specialist Association (LSA) News

LSA CHAIRPERSONS 2010-2011

Delta Elementary School Counsellors' Assoc. (DESCA)	Arlene Bradley
Delta Teachers' Librarians' Assoc. (DTLA)	Tish Sladden
ESL	Annie Coblin/ Sandra Chan
Kindergarten Teachers	Jacqueline Loewen
Learning Assistance Teachers (LAT)	Susan Harrison
Mainstream	Jacque Von Schulmann
Resource Room Teachers	Karen Horner
School Psychologists	Peter Yang
Speech/Language Pathologists	Diane Scheuneman

SMART Board Café

PD for the ESL LSA in 2009-2010 had a technology focus. With DTA funding, we were able to provide a series of six SMART Board Cafés that were opened to LSA members and non-members alike. A diverse group of participants that included Elementary, Secondary, English, French classroom and support teachers met after school in the ESL Room at Cougar Canyon Elementary. The sessions were all fully attended and energy was high even for that time of day.

What's a SMART Board Café? Imagine a spread of snacks, water or juice bottles set aside on a table near name tags and handouts; four to five long tables with chairs positioned to face a SMART Board; participants with their laptops opened, some saving a copy of the evening's presentation from a flash drive, some opening up Notebook 10 (the SMART Board software); the presenter or presenters showing exciting SMART tools, interactive templates, and multi-media possibilities, just to name a few; the group dividing up and led by a facilitator, some to

other rooms in the school, for the hands-on part of the evening to use interactive whiteboards; and, just before the end, coming back together again for announcements, door prizes and to provide feedback and suggestions for the next café.

A big thanks goes to my Cougar Canyon colleagues Brigitte Sebulsky, Kim Allen, Lee Hobbs, and Preet Pannu for collaborating with me to present and facilitate at these cafés; and to Elaine McKenna for taking charge of the energy-boosting snacks. I'm also appreciative of SMART Technologies for their acknowledgment of our efforts by providing each participant with a SMART Board for Dummies book and the many pointers that were given out as door prizes. In addition, Jaimie Ashton, one of their Education Consultants, even came out to present at one of the cafés. DTA PD Committee, thanks for supporting this initiative. The SMART Board Cafés were definitely a PD highlight.

by Sandra Chan
ESL LSA Co-Chair

"With great power, comes great responsibility" ...Stan Lee

REMINDERS

Have you attended a course or conference and not received your reimbursement?
Please send in your receipts to the DTA Office, **deadline is June 30, 2010**

Do you know what the deadline dates are for submitting National/International Conferences?
July 1-Nov 30 submit by **May 10th**
Dec 1-Mar 30 submit by **October 10th**
Apr 1-Jun 30 submit by **January 10th**

Are you planning on attending a conference during the summer months?
All applications need to be in 14 days in advance, please have your application to the DTA Office by June 16th

Other things to note:

- PD funding is based on the school calendar year July 1—June 30
- You are allowed up to \$650.00 per year to a maximum of \$1300.00 over three years
- All applications need to be received by the DTA office **14 days in advance** with the exception of National/International
- Course information—including costs, date and location **must** accompany your application
- **You will receive your reimbursement once you have sent in your proof of completion and proof of payment**

SOLUTION TREE SUMMIT ON PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Attending the Solution Tree Summit on Professional Learning Communities in Ottawa November 15 to 18, turned into a double treat. North Delta Secondary chose to move the Aug. 12 Pro-D Day to November which gave me a four-day weekend and the possibility of being at the National Cenotaph in Ottawa on Remembrance Day!

Never have I felt more Canadian than standing among 30,000 other Canadians and witnessing the solemn pageantry unfold. Laying my poppy on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was a poignant moment which I won't soon forget. The next few days included a visit to the National Gallery, the Canadian War Museum and a full day at Parliament Hill, including a riotous "Question Period" with our favorite MP's facing off on numerous current issues.

The second half of the trip involved

four days of sessions with ten of the leading educators in North America. Their combined years of experience are well beyond 200 years and their lists of publications are equally impressive.

Richard DuFour and Rebecca Dufour, the masterminds behind "Solution Tree", gave inspirational presentations on sound educational practices, the most important being "collaboration".

Crystal Kuykendall presented her topic "Bringing Out the Best in All Students" by turning the 500 person gathering into a virtual gospel meeting with the audience responding with "You tell it sister!" "Go girl!" "Uh-h-h Huh-h-h!" all the while nodding in approval. She modeled the use of storytelling, humor and music to demonstrate how learning can be enhanced.

On day four, the summit was summarized beautifully by the very talented Canadian educator, Wayne Hully, who

could have been equally accomplished as a stand-up comic!

To summarize the content of four very full days, simply cannot be done. However, the one thread in common with all speakers was the value of collaboration as a means of increasing student achievement and obtaining better results. How glad I am, to see Delta School District doing the right thing with their move toward putting collaboration time into our school schedules!

This was one of the most worthwhile and pleasurable Pro-D Conferences I've ever attended.

May I express my deep gratitude to the Delta Teachers' Association Professional Development Committee and the administration at North Delta Secondary for collaborating to make it possible.

by: Genevieve Huchulak
NDS

APRIL IN ALBUQUERQUE

Why would anyone drive 200 plus kms to Seattle, get on a plane to Denver, run the several hundred meters to catch the plane to New Mexico and then repeat the process but in reverse 72 hours later? NIDA. Over the past ten years, the National Institute on Drug Abuse has held eight conferences with a common theme: evidence based treatment and prevention in diverse populations and settings. Over two days the thousand plus participants from most corners of North America were given a menu of riches: five plenary sessions and the choice of anywhere from four to seven breakout sessions. The organizers had each of us going from 8:30 to 5:30 each day. Both lunches were sit-down full course meals plus a speaker. The first day we were enlightened by Dr. Donald Warne discussing health disparities among American Indian populations. Friday's luncheon meal was accompanied by the wise words of Dr. William Miller, one of the

founders of Motivational Interviewing. For an hour and a half the participants were taken down memory lane as he presented a summary of 50 years of scientific researching documenting therapist effects on retention, adherence and outcome. What an energizer.

The overlying bias of the conference was to bring together a research scientist and a practitioner to the podium at the same time, hence the theme, blending addiction science and practice. Other biases were a reduction in hand-out and inclusion of young researchers and practitioners. If you go to <http://www.seiservices.com/blendingalbuquerque/topics.aspx> you can download many of the power point notes that were used at the conference. Unfortunately not all the notes are available. After two long days of information, I hit overload and sat back to just take in the session. Many of the presenters waved their speaking fee

and donated the money to participants that would have not been able to attend.

For me, professional development is a personal journey. My April in Albuquerque was a most rewarding professional journey; one that refreshed my understanding of the complexities of addiction and revitalized my commitment to work with my colleagues and the group of youth that find themselves completing high school in our alternate programs. April in Albuquerque was more than what I had anticipated it would be: it was not warm but it was educating. It was genuine professional development. I would encourage you, my colleagues, to make a mental note to watch for the next NIDA conference. Attend.

by: Paul Leroy—PD Co-Chair

Taking Art to the Streets



I had the opportunity to attend the National Art Teachers Conference in Toronto this Oct. with support from the Pro-D funding at my school and through the DTA. I was able to stay with relatives, to cut my costs, and I enjoyed exploring the city on the subway. Aside from the conference I also visited the Ontario Art Gallery, a number of smaller private galleries and the back alleys where I saw a great deal of graffiti art. This interest in street art started last summer after a guided tour of the back alleys of the downtown Vancouver Eastside. One of the conference highlights was get-together in a local pub after the first night where 10 of us representing both coasts, the prairies and central Canada, had a chance to talk.

The workshop I want to share with you was an excellent session on "Graffiti Art for the Classroom", presented by Richard Baxter, a Toronto teacher. He was hired for a middle school, where students were regularly suspended for

drugs, alcohol, fighting and truancy. During the first 2 years he started to notice the street art that was going on in the neighborhood and he began talking to local artists. He developed a program that taught Graffiti Writing as an art form and took his proposal to the administration at the school and district level. Then he went to the police and others who worked with youth. Once he had support he introduced it to his classes starting with a Pledge Form that students took home for parents to sign. They pledged that they would not use anything that they learned in class to deface or vandalize private property. Since initiating the section on Graffiti Art he has seen a marked improvement in the tone of the school. Student's designs from the classroom have spread onto t-shirts, skateboards and murals at the school and in the community. His students have been interviewed on CBC and the Rick Mercer Report. Richard was declared surplus after 8 years but is still interested to see "street art" become part of the classroom curriculum.

Through his workshop he provided us with an alphabet that was shared with him by a Toronto artist named Cron. He demonstrated how to work from linear letters into more elaborate writing with overlaps, 3-D, Force Field Lines and

decorations. Since then I have talked to my own students and researched other styles within Graffiti Writing and have introduced it to my own classes. I've had students from Grades 8 to 12 design their name in both the Straight and Wild Style letters, which they have finished with felt pens and some have scanned their names and finished them in PhotoShop.



I have also applied for and received funding from Envision for one of my students to

do a mural at the North Delta Secondary tennis courts. This is a different experience for Cole as he was caught vandalizing in grade 9 and had to do some community service. Now he's being given a wall to work on and the funding has paid for the paints and gas mask he'll use. This has also been added as a component of a "Delta Youth Arts Jam", involving visual and performing arts that will be hosted by the Delta Arts Council in June. Look for "sanctioned" Graffiti Writing coming to a wall near you.

by: Dave Stevens—NDS



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING PD OPPORTUNITIES

- 2011 Special Education Assn of BC **Crosscurrents Conference** March 17th & 18th, 2011 at the Westin Bayshore Hotel, Vancouver. This is a conference addressing special education concerns of regular classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, special educators & parents. Early Bird fees: All Participants: \$140 one day \$200 two days. *Early fees for on-line registration will be in effect until January 31, 2011.* Late Fees: All Participants: \$190 one day \$250 two days. For registration information visit our website at www.bctf.ca/SEA or contact Carol McAndrew via email at cemcandrew@gmail.com
- April 1—30 Victoria, BC. "BC Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy" April 2011. The Legislative Assembly of British Columbia offers BC teachers an exciting professional development program at the Parliament Buildings in our provincial capital. Learn about parliamentary democracy and become champions of citizenship education. You will return to your school with an enhanced understanding of our political system in BC. You will meet with the Speaker of the House, MLAs, senior public officials, and have a behind-the-scenes tour of your Parliament Buildings. You will have plenty of opportunities to collaborate and develop new classroom activities! Deadline for applications is February 1, 2011. Further information and to apply on-line visit www.leg.bc.ca/bcti.
- May 7 Vancouver, BC. "Investigating Our Practices 2011" 14th annual conference. Teachers from different educational contexts convene at UBC to share their investigations, understanding and questions. Deadline for proposals March 11, 2011. Registration fee \$25 (\$15 for students). Lunch and refreshments included. Scarfe Education Building, 2125 Main Mall, UBC. For more information, visit <http://eplt.educ.ubc.ca/programs/institutes/iop.php> or contact Judy Paley at judy.paley@ubc.ca 604-822-2733