

First Nations Special Education CONNECTIONS



Newsletter of the First Nations Special Education Toll-free Resource Line

Vol. 9, No. 3 March 2009

Do you work with First Nations students in British Columbia?

Do you have special education questions?

If so, you are invited to contact the First Nations Special Education Resource Line! The Resource Line is a free service for BC educators and parents.

The Resource Line is designed to help you brainstorm approaches, guide you toward helpful resources, help you to understand assessment documents, and share the latest information on special education.

When you call, you will reach the Resource Line Coordinator, Holly Smith. Holly is available to answer your questions, Monday to Thursday, 12:30 to 4:30 during the school year

Contact the Resource Line:

Toll-free 1-877-547-1919

hollys@fnesc.ca

Connections is the newsletter of the Resource Line. Back issues of *Connections* are available from

www.fnsa.ca/resource-line.htm

The Resource Line is a collaborative project of the First Nations Education Steering Committee and the First Nations Schools Association, made possible by financial assistance from the Department of Indian Affairs.



Online Professional Development

Too expensive to send all staff out for professional development?

This special issue of Connections explores many of the online avenues available for bringing professional development into your school. They can assist your staff to keep up with the latest trends in education and enhance quality 'practice discussions' in your staff room.

From short video clips to full day webcasts, it's all on the web!

Holly Smith,

Special Education Resource Line

Reading Rockets

Webcasts www.readingrockets.org/webcasts/

Listen, watch, and learn from top experts in the field of reading. Each webcast features a 45 or 60-minute video program that you view from the Reading Rockets website, plus recommended readings and discussion questions. Some webcasts include PowerPoint slides. Use the webcasts as the centerpiece of staff development workshops or watch them for your own professional development.



Podcasts & Videos www.readingrockets.org/podcasts/

You can download the following Reading Rocket video and audio podcasts to your computer, iPod, or other media device.

Meet the Author - Reading Rockets' interviews with top children's book authors and illustrators are an excellent way to introduce students to the creators of children's books. Not just for children, these interviews are also enjoyable for parents, teachers and librarians.

Meet the Experts - Learn about educational topics directly from authorities in the field. Watch exclusive interviews with prominent professionals. Topics include how to identify learning difficulties, develop reading skills early, and the importance of phonics.

Watch & Learn - Reading Rockets goes inside the classroom and captures effective techniques for teaching all aspects of reading. The video clips are from Reading Rockets' PBS television series *Launching Young Readers*.

Colorin Colorado

Webcasts www.colorincolorado.org/webcasts/



As part of the Reading Rockets' Professional Development Webcast Series, Colorin Colorado offers programs featuring experts who study English language learners (ELLs). Colorin Colorado webcasts offer an exciting new way to learn about teaching ELLs. Each webcast features a 45-minute video program, which includes recommended readings, suggested discussion questions, and a PowerPoint presentation.

Podcasts & Videos www.colorincolorado.org/podcasts/

Meet the Experts Colorin Colorado and the American Federation of Teachers present a new series of podcasts, featuring interviews with leaders in the English language learner education field from across the country. You can download our video or audio podcasts to your computer, iPod, or other media device.

LD Online

www.ldonline.org/educators

Whether you are a general or special education teacher, principal, specialist, or paraprofessional, you play an important role in helping children with learning disabilities achieve their full potential. LD Online has gathered resources to assist you in your job, including multimedia presentations, research articles, and instructional strategies for teaching students with LD or ADHD.



AdLit.org

www.adlit.org/media

AdLit.org is a national multimedia project offering information and resources to the parents and educators of struggling adolescent readers and writers. The featured video/multimedia presentations include: Meet the Authors, Meet the Experts, In the Classroom: Assessment, Comprehension, Content-Area Instruction, Curriculum Instruction, Education Reform, ELLs, Families & Schools, and Fluency.



PBS TeacherLine

www.pbs.org/teacherline/

PBS TeacherLine's high-quality, standards-based graduate level courses offer teachers the professional development opportunities they need in an accessible online format that makes learning fun, flexible and collaborative. You can earn graduate credit, PDPs, or CEUs while gaining strategies and resources to bring directly to your classroom.

HealthyEatingAtSchool.ca

www.healthyeatingatschool.ca/

This site has many useful topic sections:

- ✧ Take Action - inspire your school community and get the ball rolling when it comes to healthy eating at school
- ✧ Resources - information and resources that help modelling healthy eating and active living habits for students
- ✧ Community Partners & Associations - building a supportive environment that emphasizes healthy foods and reinforces positive messages requires the efforts of many people at many levels, including school staff, families, and community partners and associations
- ✧ Research & Reports - access to research articles and reports on the importance of healthy eating on student performance and well-being
- ✧ Nutrition Policies - guidelines for developing your own nutrition policy and examples of school nutrition policies across BC
- ✧ Success Stories - schools share their successes and challenges in implementing a school nutrition policy

Knowledge Network



As British Columbia's educational broadcaster, Knowledge Network offers programming that enriches and educates, while creating life-long learning opportunities through meaningful television and the Internet. Educators will be interested in the following Knowledge Network online resources for professional development.

www.knowledge.ca/dyslexia/index.html

Deciphering Dyslexia: A look beyond the myths of dyslexia. This site includes, the Knowledge Network documentary as well as audio, video and pdfs to help teachers, parents understand the basics of dyslexia, diagnosis, intervention and facts and fiction. This is a powerful documentary that illustrates the stigma of dyslexia through the personal stories of four individuals. It focuses on the importance of early detection and intervention.

www.knowledge.ca/fas/index.html

FACE Webcast: The Motherisk Program and Healthy Child Manitoba welcome you on behalf of our federal, provincial and industry sponsors to this special webcast presentation of the Fetal Alcohol Canadian Expertise (FACE) Research Roundtable held in Winnipeg, Manitoba on September 7, 2007.

www.knowledge.ca/autism/index.html

Autism: The Road Back. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex and mystifying disability, and for parents of children diagnosed with it, its unknowns can be overwhelming and frightening. As an added feature to the TV documentary, Autism: The Road Back, this Knowledge Tool provides valuable information for individuals and families dealing with the challenges of ASD.

www.knowledge.ca/literacy/index.html

Success in Literacy is an online resource for professionals, individuals and parents to develop skills and acquire knowledge that will help children, youth and adults achieve success in literacy tasks. It is presented in partnership with the International Dyslexia Association British Columbia Branch.

www.knowledge.ca/bctf/index.html

Challenge and Change is a conference sponsored by the British Columbia Teachers' Federation and the BC Alternate Education Association that explores some of the complex social issues preventing success in school.

www.knowledge.ca/takingcare/splash.html

Taking Care: Child & Youth Mental Health. Mental illness is on the rise for BC's children and youth. This multimedia resource offers practical tools to understand the challenges and access support.

www.knowledge.ca/beyondmemory/index.html

Beyond Memory, is a powerful documentary, presented in partnership with the Alzheimer Society of BC, about the journey of dementia as told through the stories of five BC families. Each of the individuals is featured at a different stage of the disease, and together they paint a poignant picture of the journey through dementia and its impact on their loved ones.

www.knowledge.ca/longlivekids/index.html

Long Live Kids is an online workshop designed to help address the concerning health issue of childhood obesity.

wipeout.knowledgenetwork.ca/index.html

Wipe Out: In pursuit of extreme skills and thrills, three young men suffer traumatic brain injuries. Watch their stories. Wake-up to the realities of brain injury and the urgency of its prevention.

www.childrenofthecode.org/

Children of the Code – A Social Education Project. A public television, DVD and web documentary series including over one hundred interviews with leading neuroscientists, psychologists, reading researchers, educators, historians, economists, technologists and policy leaders. 67 videos are now online. This is an excellent resource to promote practice talk in your staff room.

Curriculum Services Canada (CSC)

www.curriculum.org/csc/learning.shtml

Curriculum Services Canada is the pan-Canadian standards agency for quality assurance in learning products and programs. This not-for-profit develops, implements, and accredits learning opportunities across Canada and internationally. It works closely with the Ontario Ministry of Education.



CSC's web-based professional learning services include:

- Webcasts and Podcasts
- Web Conferences
- Web Meetings
- Onsite Facilitation
- Online Courses

Special Education Technology-British Columbia (SET-BC)

www.setbc.org/lcindexer/



The SET-BC Learning Centre provides a wealth of classroom resources and training modules on assistive technology.

Provincial Outreach Program for Autism and Related Disorders

www.autismoutreach.ca/

This body provides consultation, training and support services to all public and independent schools across BC, with a primary focus on increasing the capacity of school district staff to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Registration on this website gives users access to eLearning lessons and videos demonstrating best practices for students with an ASD.

Provincial Outreach Program for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

www.fasdoutreach.ca/

FASD Outreach aims to provide web services so that teachers, parents, students and others increase their understanding of FASD. Through consultation with teachers and other experts in the field of FASD, we use this website as a vehicle for providing information about the effects of FASD on student learning and behaviour.

The eLearning modules combine PowerPoint, narration and video clips and/or photo's to help you understand a particular topic. To view the 24 eLearning Modules, click the eLearning Modules Guide link just above, click the blue eLearn button in the right sidebar, or use the menu at the top of this page and click eLearning. There are modules under "Learning About FASD", "Planning Instruction", "Creating a Positive Classroom Climate", "Teaching to Strengths and Needs", "Developing the IEP", and "Assessment Networks".

FASD Learning Series 2008-09

www.fasd-cmc.alberta.ca/home/videoconferencingSeries.cfm

This year's FASD Learning Series offers free education opportunities tailored to meet the unique needs of individuals and family members/caregivers affected by FASD, support service providers, healthcare providers, educators, legal and justice services, and professionals in the research and evaluation field. Learning sessions are available via videoconferencing across Canada, allowing individuals the opportunity to receive information and education in their home community.

Microsoft Office Online

office.microsoft.com/en-us/help/HA010451011033.aspx

Explore the many resources Microsoft Office Online has to offer students, teachers, and parents. Find ideas for managing schoolwork, templates for college planning, writing papers and more. Check out free training courses.

Adult Literacy

Literacy Basics

www.nald.ca/literacybasics

Literacy Basics is a free, self-directed online training website for Ontario literacy practitioners. This innovative training website was researched, written and designed by Community Literacy of Ontario (www.nald.ca/clo). Literacy Basics contains the following training modules: Assessment, CIPMS, Employment Ontario, Essential Skills, Evaluation, Exit and Follow-up, Instructional Strategies, Learner Recruitment, Learner retention, Marketing, Self-Management, Strategic Planning, and Volunteer Management.

While Literacy Basics was designed for Ontario literacy practitioners, others will find the website valuable. The Literacy Basics training modules will be valuable if:

- You are a literacy practitioner in other parts of Canada or the world
- You want to know more about adult literacy training
- You are a volunteer or a volunteer manager outside of the literacy field
- You are involved with adult education or education at the elementary or secondary level
- You are considering working or volunteering with adult literacy learners

Ontario Association of Adult and Continuing Education School Board Administrators (CESBA)

www.lbspractitionertraining.com

CESBA offers a good range of resources and additional web-based modules to provide support and training for new and experienced Literacy and Basic Skills practitioners.

Modules on the CESBA website include:

- Literacy and Basic Skills 101
- Approaches to Adult Learning and Adult Learners
- Working with Adults with Learning Disabilities
- Planning the LBS Program
- Delivering Effective Training
- Professional Issues for LBS Practitioners

Laubach Literacy Ontario

www.laubach-on.ca/Trainingpost

Laubach Literacy Ontario offers training modules for practitioners and tutors on its "Training Post" website. Visit this site for a variety of tutorials to enable tutors to learn both new techniques and reinforce existing skills. The topics are clearly marked at different levels - beginner, intermediate and advanced. Navigate to "Modules" (www.laubach-on.ca/Trainingpost/tutor.htm) and find the modules specifically designed for tutors. Topics include everything from duet reading and the Cloze exercise, to goal setting and lesson planning, to the Gunning Fog Index.

Trainers of tutors will find tutorials specifically geared for them, including information on topics such as "adult learning principles", at the same "Modules" link.

Dates for your Calendar

Don't miss local special education related workshops and conferences! The **Special Professional Development issue of Connections** is available online at: www.fnsa.ca/resource-line.htm.

MARCH 2009

March 6, Prince George. Educational Spring Fling: 5th North Central Zone Conference. Featuring: Ian Jukes (keynote & presenter,) Adrienne Gear, and Gary Anaka. Excellent variety of workshops for all grades and subject areas. Venue: Prince George Senior Secondary School. Brochure and presenter information will be available December 2008 at, www.bctf.ca/NorthCentralZone. For more information contact Deb Vandal at dvandal@sd57.bc.ca or 250-562-7214

March 6, Vancouver. Experience the "Power Within Leadership Event" Live in Vancouver! Featuring Michael Phelps, Dr. Mehmet Oz, Patrick Lencioni & Many More Great Speakers! Learn how to improve personal leadership skills, interpersonal communication strategies, stress management, team building and much more. 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. At General Motors Place. Education Discount Available, register for only \$129 (plus Tax.) Call Toll Free 1 866 883-6568 or visit www.powerwithin.com/pdf/VANCORP_Jk.pdf

March 7-8, Delta. Therapy and Choice Theory training. For registration forms and prerequisites call Educere Consulting at 604-946-1967 or djclifton@dccnet.com

March 12-13, Vancouver. Special Education Association's 34th annual Crosscurrents Conference will be held at the Westin Bayshore Hotel. Keynote: Martin Brokenleg, Circle of Courage. Workshops/Exhibitor tables for Regular and Special Educators. Online information/registration: www.bctf.ca/sea
Contact person: sfewster@telus.net

March 28, Surrey. The Adult Educators' (AEPsA) "Meeting Adult Students Needs" conference will be held at the Surrey Conference Centre. For more information contact Victor Guenther, AE president victoriojameseducation@hotmail.com