

BCATML NEWS

New Articles & Updates | [Fall Conference](#) | [Annual General Meeting](#)

In This Issue..

President's Message

Annual General Meeting:
Constitutional Amendments

CASTL Corner

Fall Conference

BCATML's annual conference, *CELEBRATING LANGUAGES*, will occur once again on the annual PSA day.

Friday, October 24th

Conference will be held at the [Delta Burnaby Hotel & Conference Centre](#) located at the Grand Villa Casino. (Address: 4331 Dominion Street, Burnaby BC V5G1C7)



President's Message

Historically, the summer newsletter president's message begins with warm wishes and greetings to start off the new school year. Past presidents conveyed their hopes that your summer break was filled with plenty of sunshine and a chance to decompress and relax from the previous school year. It's a good tradition and one that I would like to keep despite the current labour dispute. There are many BCATML members who teach in the private or independent school system who are gearing up for the start of next week classes. It is my sincere hope they embark on the new school year with renewed enthusiasm and vigor for the learning ahead with their students.

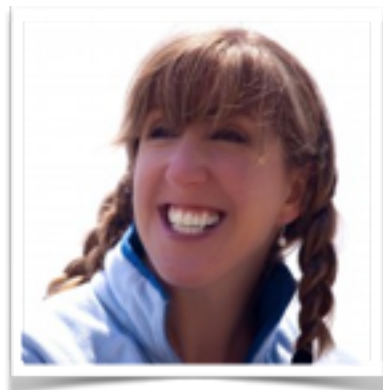
At the time of writing this address, both the BCTF and BCPSEA are at an impasse with contract negotiations with less than a week before public schools are to re-open. This is definitely a stressful time for us all and presents itself with many challenges and questions. How will the current labour dispute affect our teaching? Will it end quickly and satisfactorily? Will professional development go ahead? All 32 PSAs (Provincial Specialist Association) have reported to the BCTF that conference plans are moving forward as usual; job action or no. Hurrah!

BCATML's annual **Celebrating Languages** conference will be held Friday October 24th, 2014 at the Delta Burnaby Hotel and Conference Centre. We are proud to offer a wide variety of workshops in all our language areas, as well as incorporating technology into your teaching and classroom; and launching the BCATML iPad Inquiry Project! Furthermore, the conference committee elected to reduce the conference fees in order to assist all teachers during this difficult time. It will be especially difficult for our Association to "break even" with this conference, but we felt



Welcome, Stacia!

We are very happy to announce that earlier this spring Stacia Johnson of Port Hardy graciously and enthusiastically joined the BCATML Executive as our Elementary & Middle Years Representative.



She joins our ranks with a wealth of knowledge and over 20 years of experience having just completed her Masters in Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on digital literacies and connected language classrooms from the University of Victoria. She already makes for a wonderful team member!

providing this level of assistance was more important than finishing up in the black for the conference budget. I strongly encourage each of you to take advantage of the *early-bird registration rate* and register before September 30th. We have also harmonized the conference fee and PSA dues this year in hopes that all Pro-D committees will provide full reimbursement to all teachers attending our conference. This was a two-prong strategy with BCATML successfully passing a motion at the BCTF PSA Council meeting this spring which directed the BCTF to undergo a campaign across the province to have every Pro-D committee approve funding for joining any PSA. More details about the conference are found inside this issue. Mark your calendars for Friday October 24th. It will be our honour to host you again!



Over the past several years, we have been anticipating the release of our French and Other Languages curricula by the Ministry of Education. Earlier this spring, a French Curriculum Working Group Committee was struck between the Ministry of Education and BCATML Executive members Kathy Chmelyk (Past President), Nancy Griffith-Zahner (French Rep), Stacey Sveistrup (Vice-President) and myself; along with Henry Lee from the French Advisory Council. Unfortunately, due to job action earlier this spring and summer, the committee was not able to meet as scheduled to realign the draft curriculum. All hope is not lost though, as the meetings have been rescheduled for early October (assuming resolution to the labour dispute). At the BCTF Summer Leadership Conference last week, it was announced that the curricula for Français Langue Première and Français Langue Seconde et Immersion were both completed this summer and are awaiting to be uploaded to the Ministry's [website](https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca) (<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca>). The French and Other Languages curricula are still in progress with plans for consultation to the end of December. Representatives from the Ministry of Education, Laura Hawkes and Brent Munro, have both been invited to provide



an update on the BC curriculum transformation and on the Core French curriculum development at this year's conference. Their session will provide participants the opportunity to explore the curriculum design in an interactive manner.

And finally, on the topic of interactivity, BCATML has spread its wings in this technological era of 21st Century Learning. We have made strides in revamping BCATML's [website](#) thanks to the tireless efforts and vision of our webmaster extraordinaire Nicole Jarvis. Expect to see more tools and options for resources and sharing of ideas. We will also link to the newly launched BCTF [TeachBC](#) database of free resources for teachers by teachers. As well, BCATML has begun to tweet via ([@BCATML](#)) and post on Facebook (www.facebook.com/bcatml). We encourage you to use hashtags #BCATML, #PSADay and #langchat liberally now and especially during our conference to connect with other language teachers around the province and the world. For you Twitter "scaredy-cats", you will have an opportunity to send out your first tweet easily during the conference using one of BCATML's new iPads.

Our purchase of iPads as part of the BCATML iPad Inquiry Project is the first of its kind for our association. This ambitious project sees the creation of a roaming library of iPads for BCATML members to use in their language classroom for a short period of time before sending the devices to another school. In 2014-2015, we hope to see the creation of a second roaming iPad library. Both Nancy Griffith-Zahner and I will highlight the BCATML iPad Inquiry Project in our workshop at this year's conference and demonstrate simply some of the extraordinary tasks you and your students will be able to do. We will share some of the data we have collected along with student samples. This workshop will be highly engaging and members will be able to explore using iPads, even if it is for the very first time; in fact we encourage it!



I wish you all the best as you return to your classrooms this fall. May your school year be filled with renewed excitement, passionate learning and engaging discussions with other colleagues. It's been a great first year as your president. I look forward to serving you again.

A bientôt! A presto! 再见! ¡Hasta pronto! Bis bald! また近いうちに!

-Rome Lavrencic

E-BLAST!

Our new website is still undergoing improvements, but already looks awesome & has greater functionality,



thanks to *Webmaster Extraordinaire*, Nicole Jarvis



www.bcatml.org

[@BCATML](#)

CONFERENCE NEWS

BCATML Celebrating Languages
Friday October 24th, 2014
Delta Burnaby Hotel and Conference Centre

At last year's conference, BCATML saw its highest number of attendees in a decade! Perhaps this is because it was held at a school for the first time in ages? Maybe we had an excellent selection and variety of workshops to offer? Perhaps it was the low conference fee? Or maybe it is the hard work and dedication of the entire BCATML Conference Committee and Executive members. I say: All of the above! We had an excellent day of networking sessions and informative discussions. This year proves to be just the same, if not better, as we have tried to build upon the successes of previous years and made changes to this year's line up. We believe we have something for everyone at all levels. Be sure to visit our [website \(www.bcatml.org\)](http://www.bcatml.org) for any updates. Follow us on Twitter [@BCATML](https://twitter.com/BCATML) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/bcatml) using hashtags **#BCATML #PSAday #langchat**.

Conference Location:

BCATML is pleased to return for one year to the Delta Burnaby Hotel and Conference Centre, which offers excellent service at a low rate along with ample free parking for attendees. The hotel is easily accessible from Highway #1 and major routes allowing for carpooling and use of public transport.

Out of town guests are encouraged to reserve a standard Delta room by clicking [here](http://www.deltahotels.com/Groups/Delta-Burnaby-Groups/BCATML-Conference) online or by following <https://www.deltahotels.com/Groups/Delta-Burnaby-Groups/BCATML-Conference>. Rooms will be held until **September 18, 2014** before they are released to the public. Or call toll-free 1-888-268-1133 and quote **BCATML Conference** to get the conference rate (\$151/night excluding taxes and fees). BCATML will return to the Michael J. Fox Theatre and Burnaby South Secondary School in October 2015.



Conference Fees:

The current labour dispute has resulted in many BC teachers tightening up their purse strings. As a result, we have decided to forgo a keynote speaker this year to keep fees down. As well, we have harmonized the conference fee and PSA membership dues. Hopefully, teachers will receive full reimbursement from their Pro-D committees. Register before **early bird registration closes Sept. 30th at 11:59 pm** and take advantage of the lower rates (https://www.regonline.ca/bcatml_conference2014)! Conference pricing can be found [online](#). It is unlikely that the revenue generated this year will meet all of the conference expenses; but the conference committee felt we needed to make this event as affordable as possible; particularly this year where teachers have defended public education with their paychecks.

Workshops:

We had an excellent submission of workshop proposals this spring, and had to respectfully decline many submissions due to lack of space. We thank all of the educators in BC and outside of the province for their time and thought in submitting their proposals. Our selection of workshops and exhibitor displays will keep you creatively engaged and thinking about how your classroom and practices can be enhanced for the future. Expect to see long time favourites return like **Michelle Metcalfe, Wieland Petermann, Wendy Carr, Polly Dobie** & others like **Mami Saito, Ron Dorland** and **Russell Cunningham**.

Annual General Meeting:

Breaking with tradition, this year's Annual General Meeting will take place in the Grand Ballroom immediately following Session B and right before lunch. BCATML will present its reports, ratify a new budget, make two constitutional amendments and elect its new executive committee. Be sure to attend and learn about how your PSA (Provincial Specialist Association) works. Nominations for all executive positions can come from the floor. Let your vote be heard by attending this important short meeting!

Breakfast and Lunch service:

Attendees can expect a light continental breakfast upon arrival in the morning before the welcome address and recognition of the First Nations territorial lands. In order to serve lunch as quickly as possible, we have chosen a plated service this year - it's cheaper too! As language teachers we love to chat with one another, but this can delay the afternoon sessions. Commencing at 12 noon, attendees will be served: Wild mushroom and Boursin stuffed chicken breast, potato and pine nut pavé, celeriac purée and Merlot jus. Vegetarians (or those on dietary restrictions) will be served: Seasonal vegetable risotto, shaved Pecorino cheese with toasted almonds. A family platter of an assortment of cakes, cheesecakes and mousse cakes will be served at each table afterwards along with tea and coffee.

Exhibitors and Publishers:

We are very fortunate and grateful to see so many exhibitors and publishers coming and supporting our conference during these uncertain times with the labour dispute. Many favourites are returning as well as some new kids on the block. We hope you find time during the conference to visit our many exhibitor and vendor tables. Below is the list of confirmed exhibitors thus far. We hope you enjoy the offerings this conference provides you.



FALL CONFERENCE

Celebrating Languages

Friday, October 24th 2014 - Delta Burnaby Hotel & Conference Centre

Conference Program Overview

7:30 - 8:15	On-site registration opens; Continental breakfast
8:15 - 8:30	Opening address & Welcome
8:30 - 9:40	SESSION A
9:40 - 9:55	Nutritional Break
9:55 - 11:05	SESSION B
11:15 - 11:55	<i>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</i> (Grand Ballroom)
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch (Grand Ballroom)
13:00 - 14:10	SESSION C
14:10 - 14:20	Nutritional Break
14:20 - 15:00	Language Forum & Cultural Event

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The Annual General Meeting

This year, BCATML has decided to hold its Annual General Meeting in the Grand Ballroom immediately **after Session B before serving lunch**. The Annual General Meeting is a wonderful opportunity for all members to gather together and learn what has been happening around the province with respect to language matters and the work the Executive committee has undertaken. As well, we acknowledge the work of the entire Executive and Conference Committee members, and we honour those who will be retiring from BCATML. As always, the AGM is also where members are able to nominate colleagues (or even themselves) for any position on the Executive Committee. *But the AGM is not just about adminis-trivia*. We also have some fun by acknowledging all the attendees at the conference, as well as the volunteers, the vendors and the publishers who have made our conference possible. Don't forget, there are excellent door prizes to be won as well! Be sure to attend and make a new connection.

Amendments to the BCATML Constitution

Periodically, the BCATML Executive reviews the constitution and makes recommendations for amendments. This year, the Executive reviewed language concerning quorum at general meetings and the Annual General Meeting and has passed the following amendments to Article 4. The amendments are in **bold**. These amendments must be ratified by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote by the members present at the AGM. Please be present to cast your vote.

Article 4 - Meetings

1. The Annual general Meeting:

- a. The Annual General Meeting of the BCATML shall be held each year at a time and place designated by the Executive Committee.
- b. At least two weeks prior to the meeting written notice of same shall be given to all members.
- c. The business of the Annual General Meeting of the BCATML shall include the election of officers, receipt of reports, and any other business deemed necessary.
- d. A quorum at the Annual General Meeting shall consist of at least five (5) percent of the active members of the Association.**
- e. If within 30 minutes from the time appointed for the Annual General Meeting a quorum is not present, the eligible voters in person shall constitute a quorum in order to allow the meeting to proceed.**

2. General meetings:

- a. General meetings of the BCATML shall be held at the call of the Executive Committee, with two weeks' prior written notice.
- b. A general meeting may be called upon the request of 10 percent of the voting membership.
- c. A quorum at a General Meeting shall consist of at least five (5) percent of the active members of the Association.**
- d. If within 30 minutes from the time appointed for the General Meeting a quorum is not present, the eligible voters in person shall constitute a quorum in order to allow the meeting to proceed.**

BCATML Annual General Meeting - AGENDA
Friday, October 24, 2014 from 11:15 - 12:00 pm
Grand Ballroom - Delta Burnaby Hotel

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Adoption of the agenda and establishment of quorum
- 3) Adoption of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting Friday, October 25, 2013.
- 4) Recognition of
 - a. Executive Committee,
 - b. Conference Committee, and
 - c. Retiring members of the BCATML Executive
- 5) Reports:
 - a. President's & BCATML Activity Report
 - b. Treasurer's Report for 2013-2014 and budget proposal for 2014-2015
- 6) New Business:
 - a. Constitutional Amendments:

Motion: That Article 4 - Meetings paragraph #1 (The Annual General Meeting:) be amended to include:

d. A quorum at the Annual General Meeting shall consist of at least five (5) percent of the active members of the Association.

e. If within 30 minutes from the time appointed for the annual General Meeting a quorum is not present, the eligible votes in person shall constitute a quorum in order to allow the meeting to proceed.

Motion: That Article 4 - Meetings paragraph #2 (General Meetings:) be amended to include:

d. A quorum at a General Meeting shall consist of at least five (5) percent of the active members of the Association.

e. If within 30 minutes from the time appointed for the General Meeting a quorum is not present, the eligible votes in person shall constitute a quorum in order to allow the meeting to proceed.

- 7) Election of Executive Committee for 2014-2015
- 8) Other Business
- 9) Adjournment



Session “A”

8:30 - 9:40

WORKSHOPS at a glance!

FRENCH	Mastering Verbal Communication & Audio Comprehension in Core French -Nicole Jarvis (P, S)
SPANISH	Getting started with teaching proficiency through reading and storytelling: Three Steps to Storytelling in the Second Language Classroom (TPRS) -Michelle Metcalfe (P, S)
MANDARIN	A Hero's Journey -Kai Zhang (S)
JAPANESE	iPad Apps for the Japanese Class -Akemi Takizawa (P, S)
GERMAN	Dürer, Porsche, Erzgebirge : Interdisziplinäre Projekte im Deutschunterricht -Wieland Petermann & Ulla In der Stroth (P, S)
TECH	Practical Tips and Tricks for the Chinese iPad Classroom -Cynthia Xu (All Easier Corp - Better Chinese) (P, S)
PUBLISHERS (or FRENCH)	The Quebec Question -Polly Dobie (S)
GENERAL	Building Your Class Website- An Introduction to Weebly -Ron Dorland (Tech, G)
GENERAL	Quality Assessment in the Second Language Classroom -Monica Davidson, Barb Huva (S)

Target Audience: P = K-7 teachers, S - Secondary Teachers (8-12), G = General

Session “B”

9:55 - 11:05

WORKSHOPS at a glance!

FRENCH	Using Intensive French Methodology in a Core French -Andrea Dunlop (P, S)
SPANISH	Getting from Spoken Production to Spoken Interaction - Susan Kabotoff, Lauren Bell (<i>French and Spanish</i>)
MANDARIN	Infusing Cultural Understanding and Appreciation into Modern Mandarin -Ping Li (S)
JAPANESE	Curation, Useful Websites, and Web 2.0 tools for Japanese Classes -Stacia Johnson (P, S)
GERMAN	Ideen für die Arbeit mit heterogenen Lerngruppen -Ulrike Kugler (S)
TECH	BCATML iPad Inquiry Project - Rome Lavrencic, Nancy Griffith-Zahner (P, S, Tech)
PUBLISHERS (or FRENCH)	The Essential Question: “The Glue that Binds our Lessons” -Elizabeth Sacco (EMC Publishing) (S)
GENERAL	Update on BC Curriculum Transformation -Laura Hawkes & Brent Munro (Min. of Ed.), Claire Guy (SD35) (G)
GENERAL	21st Century Language (Punjabi) classrooms - Amandee Chhina, Gurpreet Bains (P,S)

Target Audience: P = K-7 teachers, S - Secondary Teachers (8-12), G = General

LUNCH

11:15 - 12:45

Lunch will be a plated service in the Main Ballroom immediately following the Annual General Meeting.

Session “C”

1:00 - 2:10

WORKSHOPS at a glance!

FRENCH	Songs, Music Videos, and Internet Activities in the high school French Classroom -Aileen Vildort (S)
SPANISH	Music in All Levels of Spanish, Interactive Workshop -Trevor O'Rourke (P,S)
MANDARIN	Technology in the Mandarin Learning Classrooms -Tina Tsai, Erica Huang (P,S)
JAPANESE	Enjoy! Learning Japanese with the new website “MARUGOTO Plus” -Mami Saito (P,S)
GERMAN	25 Jahre danach: 1 junge Deutschlerner? -Wieland Petermann & Antje Blume (guest speaker from Saxony!) (P,S)
TECH	Technology Integration in Language Teaching -Marco Hernandez (P,S)
PUBLISHERS (or FRENCH)	<i>Échos Pro</i> Takes Core French to a New Level -Wendy Carr, Stacey Sveistrup (P)
GENERAL	Update on BC Curriculum Transformation -Laura Hawkes & Brent Munro (Min. of Ed.), Claire Guy (SD35) (G)
GENERAL	Movie Talk and Embedded Reading: Enhancing the Comprehensible Input -Adriana Ramirez (S)

Target Audience: P = K-7 teachers, S - Secondary Teachers (8-12), G = General



Language Forums & Cultural Event

2:20 - 3:00

Back by popular demand!

Organized by teachers for teachers; a time of collaboration, sharing, and interaction, our Language Forums will be taking place at the end of our conference, from 2:20 - 3:00. Each language representative from the BCATML will be leading a session of discussion and facilitating the sharing of ideas from the wide, diverse range of expertise represented in our conference attendees. Perhaps you would like to debrief with other French teachers after attending the Ministry's workshop on the new curriculum? Or perhaps discuss iPad applications in the elementary classroom? Whatever your interest, the Language Forums has a group for you. And of course, live Tweeting during the forums is encouraged!

When the forums are complete, the Language Representatives will escort you to the ballroom for a dessert treat created by the Delta Head Chef, specifically designed to reflect the diversity of language spoken and taught in British Columbia. After a demonstration, the Chef will distribute recipe cards so that you can recreate his masterpiece in your own kitchen. And last but not least, our draws for exciting door prizes will take place at this time; our sponsors have always been extremely generous with their donations, and the door prizes are always exciting!

After a productive day of language exploration and networking, please join us in a celebration of our profession, and relax with your peers as we share ideas, thoughts, dreams, and a dessert treat or two.

WORKSHOPS at a glance!

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PAST PRESIDENT

Kathy Chmelyk

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Detailed Workshop Descriptions

Session "A" - 8:30 - 9:40

A1: "Mastering Verbal Communication and Audio Comprehension in Core French"

Nicole Jarvis

English/French/All grades

I've picked up some tips and tricks over three years of TIOC'ing and collaborating with various teachers. Games, strategies, and scaffolding to help students feel safe to engage in spontaneous dialogue and also practice grammar structures out loud.

A2: "Getting Started with Teaching :Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling: Three Steps to Storytelling the Second Language Classroom"

Michelle Metcalfe

English/Spanish/Elementary

Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS) is an innovative second language teaching methodology that has shown amazing results in the development of students' comprehension of the target language and their ability to communicate proficiently. This workshop is for second language teachers who would like to use TPRS strategies in their classrooms, but are not sure where to begin. Participants in this workshop will learn to use the

three key elements of TPRS lesson planning: How to engage student interest through the use of highly personalized questions and answers, how to use student responses to co-create compelling class stories with their classes and how to develop cultural understanding and literacy through reading. Participants will also have the opportunity to practice some of the basic techniques of TPRS such as using target vocabulary and structures to develop a story script, "circling" (a process of questioning central to TPRS), story-asking, using humour to create bizarre and memorable stories that promote deep and long-term language acquisition – all while keeping your classes in the target language 90% of the time from Day One! This workshop will help you to bring joy and magic to your second language classroom, no matter what language or level.

A3: " A Hero's Journey"

Kai Zhang

English/Mandarin/all grades

I would like to present a thematic unit to introduce the idea of *The Hero's Journey*, as there are many fascinating aspects of a hero that all cultures share in their stories, myths, books, and media works. This is

a tool that I use to help students understand that despite cultural differences, we also share elements that are similar. Students may also relate their own life experiences to that of a hero's.

The goal is to give students an opportunity to recognize patterns of the heroic myth. They will be able to recognize the heroic cycle in novels, cultures, and popular movies.

A4: "iPad Applications for Japanese Class"

Akemi Takizawa

I would like to share my ideas of how I used applications in my classroom. I will talk about "Quizlet", "Doceri", "Adobe Voice", "Dragon Dictation" and more.

PLEASE BRING AN IPAD IF YOU HAVE ONE.

今回のワークショップでは、私が使ってみたアイパッドのアプリのいくつかをご紹介します。もし、アイパッドをお持ちでしたら、是非ご持参ください。

**A5: “Dürer, Porsche, Erzgebirge:
Interdisziplinäre Projekte im
Deutschunterricht”
Wieland Petermann, Ulla In der Stroth
German/all grades**

Im herkömmlichen Schulalltag zwischen Kindergarten und High-School-Abschluss wird auch in Kanada vorwiegend an Fächern orientiert unterrichtet. Doch wo sind Verknüpfungen zwischen Unterrichtsfächern möglich, die das Deutschlernen befördern und die das Interesse am modernen Deutschland wachhalten? Die Teilnehmer können an Beispielen aus Geographie, Sozialkunde, Technik, Mathematik und Kunst erkunden, wo Überschneidungen mit dem DaF-Unterricht liegen. Es werden Projekte vorgestellt, die mit überschaubarem Aufwand

auf vorhandene Materialien zurückgreifen. Der Workshop frischt gleichzeitig das Arsenal an interaktiven Lehr- und Lernmethoden auf, was auch generell den DaF-Unterricht aufwerten kann. Am Ende sollen die Teilnehmer einige Ideen und einiges Handwerkszeug mitnehmen können, was sie an ihrer Einrichtung einsetzen können. Mit dem Effekt: Deutsch ist in der Schule präsent - und cool.

In this workshop we will look into opportunities how German instruction can be linked to other subject areas. Which projects are suitable for learners at different levels of proficiency? Examples from geography, social studies, and arts will be explored by the participants. Along the way, we will brush up some interactive teaching ways which will motivate students to communicate in the target language.

**A6: “Practical Tips and Tricks for the Chinese iPad Classroom”
Cynthia Xu (All Easier Corporation – Better Chinese Canada)
Elementary to Grade 10**

Come learn the top 10 tips and tricks to building a Chinese language learning environment with iPads and other devices. Led by Cynthia Xu, this session will walk you through the pedagogy behind the Chinese

class and the techniques applied to create a fun and communicative setting that enhances a student’s learning of Chinese grammar, character-writing, culture and more.

Tips will include iPad orientation student activities, classroom management secrets, and easy flipped classroom activities. Participants will learn what the best apps are for Chinese language learning and how to practically use them in the classroom.

**A7: “The Quebec Question”
Polly Dobie
English/French/Secondary**

There is so little understanding of why Quebecois Francophones seem so very different from Anglophones and Allophones in the rest of Canada in

terms of culture, language, and political views. This project sees the students examine key points of Quebec cultural issues and language through biographies, use of district databases and the CBC/Radio Canada archives, as well as other book/video resources. Student samples will be shown, as well as assessment/evaluation rubrics, and links to the draft curriculum.

**A8: “Building Your Class Website: An Introduction to Weebly”
Ron Dorland
English/all grades**

Want to build a class/personal website? In this hands-on workshop, you will add classes, students, create e-portfolios and learn all the tabs and functions, add multimedia, add Twitter feeds and connect to other classes. A website is the best thing you can do for your practice and classroom. PARTICIPANTS ARE ASKED TO BRING THEIR OWN LAPTOPS.

**A9: “Quality Assessment in the Second Language Classroom”
Monica Davidson, Barb Huva
English (examples in French and Spanish)/
Secondary**

Easy, useful, quality assessment ideas...let Barb and Monica help you! Using the Ministry Prescribed

Learning Outcomes, this workshop will provide examples of quality written and oral assessment that focus on rubrics and checklists that teachers will be able to take with them and use in their own classrooms. There will also be a discussion about how to set up a gradebook through the lens of second language PLOs. The delivery will be in English with examples in French and Spanish.

Detailed Workshop Descriptions

Session "B" - 9:55 - 11:05

B1: "Using Intensive French Methodology in a Core French Classroom"

Andrea Dunlop
English

Intensive French methods are extremely effective and can be used in any language class at any level. This workshop will introduce the ideas and the methodology (if necessary) and we will review teaching strategies for reading, speaking, writing, and listening. I can share how I assess progress and use practice DELF exams for evaluations.

B2: "Getting From Spoken Production to Spoken Interaction"

Susan Kabotoff, Lauren Bell
French/Spanish

In this workshop you will explore teaching strategies to get students speaking. This participation-oriented workshop will lead you through several mini-lessons

and the evaluation pieces to go with them. Handouts will include assessment criteria and rubrics for evaluation that presenters currently use in the classroom. Susan parle français et Lauren habla español. **You must be able to speak either French or Spanish to follow and participate in this bilingual session.** Bienvenue à nuestros amigos nuevos y antiguos.

B3: 在学习、运用汉语中理解、体验中国文化

Infusing Cultural Understanding and Appreciation into Mandarin Learning
Ping Li
Mandarin

二十一世纪的外语教学着重以有目的地沟通、交流为主导的教学原则。语言课程中的文化部分也随之变得越来越重要了。《21世纪全美外语学习目标》(1999)更是强调文化是语言学习最重要的语境。然而, 要让学生在非目的语的语境中学习一门外语、同时学习该语言的文化并非易事。那么, 如何才能帮助学生在学外语的同时形成对目的语文化的理解、发现本土文化与异国文化的差异并在互动交际中运用目的语以达到理解、体验目的语的文化呢? 把汉语的学习、运用和文化意识一起带入到日常课堂教学活动、交流中, 让学生在练习汉语交流、使用中, 接触中国文化, 体验中国文化的多样性,

从而用汉语表达对中国文化的理解和欣赏, 不失为行之有效的办法。本讲题将从“量体裁衣”设计主题、巧用文化对比、灵活融合文化因素等方面的例子说明创造得体的课堂语言实践和文化体验不仅可以丰富课堂教学、激发学生的学习兴趣, 而且还能够提高学生的语言运用水平、加深他们对中国文化的认识与了解。如何在汉语教学中有机地融入文化教学的实践还在不断探索中。本讲题意在抛砖引玉, 开展对话。

This workshop will address how to incorporate the Chinese cultural component into Mandarin learning in daily classroom situations with focuses on thematic design, workable cultural infusion into language application, and effective cultural comparison and contrast so as to enrich classroom activities, engage students in language practice and cultural exploration, and improve students' language skills/abilities while they are learning to appreciate the richness of Chinese culture.

B4: Curation, Useful Websites, and Web 2.0 tools for Japanese Classes

Stacia Johnson
English

This workshop will focus on curation for teachers and students, as well as, useful websites and Web 2.0 tools for Japanese classes. The following questions will be answered in this workshop: What is curation? Why it is essential to all teachers and students in the 21st century? What are the most popular curation sites? What are some useful sites and Web 2.0 tools for Japanese culture and language learning?

Stacia Johnson has been a high school languages teacher in urban and rural settings for the past twenty years. She has taught high school French, Japanese, and English. She has presented workshops at the BCATML conference and at the CCERBAL bilingual conference at the University of Ottawa. She recently completed her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, with a focus on digital literacies and connected language classrooms at the University of Victoria.

B5: "Ideen für die Arbeit mit heterogenen Lerngruppen"**Ulrike Kugler****German**

Heterogenität ist ein prägendes Merkmal aller Lerngruppen. Meist wird es von Lehrern als große Herausforderung empfunden, dass sich Lerner u.a. in Bezug auf Alter, Geschlecht, Interessen, Erwartungen, Motivation, ethnische, kulturelle und soziale Herkunft, soziale Kompetenz und psychische Entwicklung unterscheiden. In dem Workshop „Ideen für die Arbeit mit heterogenen Lerngruppen“ sollen die Lehrkräfte Werkzeuge an die Hand bekommen, die helfen, mit heterogenen Lerngruppen umzugehen. Die TeilnehmerInnen sollen Methoden der Binnendifferenzierung kennenlernen und ausprobieren, die sie im Deutschunterricht anwenden können. Wir wollen den Lehrkräften ermöglichen, Heterogenität nicht zwangsläufig als Problem zu betrachten sondern diese als Normalfall und Chance anzusehen.

This session will deal with heterogeneous classrooms and it is aimed at presenting some methods of internal differentiation. The participants are supposed to learn that heterogeneity is a normal feature of all learner groups and that it can even be an advantage. The participants will get to know and try out some methods for the German language classroom which are useful when working with heterogeneous learner groups.

B7: "The Essential Question: 'The Glue that Binds our Lessons'"**Elizabeth Sacco, EMC Publishing****English/Secondary**

21st Century learning suggests that as world language teachers, we create lessons framed by an essential question that promotes those all-important critical thinking skills. We strive to include it all: the four

B6: BCATML iPad Inquiry Project**Rome Lavrencic, Nancy Griffith-Zahner****English (with French examples)/all grades**

There is no doubt that technology is changing the way in which students learn: active, personalized and collaborative learning have all been impacted by the use of technology in the classroom. This workshop is designed not only for teachers who are familiar with using iPads in the classroom, but also for those who are interested in investigating the possibility of incorporating the use of technology in their classrooms. To this end, the BCATML has launched an iPad Inquiry Project, which will offer the opportunity for BC language teachers to borrow a mobile iPad lab and use it in their own classroom. We will explain the logistics of the iPad Project (how to submit a request, meeting technical needs, etc), ensuring that teachers find it straightforward and simple to book and use the mobile lab.

In six months, we have investigated various iPad applications for use in the classroom, and are excited to share our adventures (both triumphant and not-so-triumphant). Be prepared to tap, swipe, drag and flick on one of our iPads! Workshop participants will receive a list of tested iPad applications and their uses in the language classroom, plus tons of lesson plan ideas and practical applications. Nancy and Rome will also highlight "Socrative", "Pic Collage", "Book Creator", iPad camera ideas and more! You'll leave this workshop inspired and have new ideas to try with your class!

skills, the three modes, the standards and culture, all in a thematically organized context. The Goal? Pulling it all together in a well thought-out format that helps our students successfully acquire a non-native language. In this session we will explore how to successfully implement the use of essential questions from inception to assessment, highlighting activities from EMC's new World Language Program, *T'es Branché?*

B8: "Update on BC Curriculum Transformation"**Laura Hawkes and Brent Munro (Ministry of Education), Claire Guy (Assistant Superintendent, Langley School District)****English/all grades**

This session will provide an update on the BC Curriculum Transformation and on the Core French Curriculum Development. We will also give participants the opportunity to explore the curriculum design in an interactive manner. *This session will be repeated in C8.*

B9: "21st Century Language (Punjabi) classrooms"**Amandee Chhina & Gurpreet Bains****English/Punjabi/all grades**

This workshop will be based on using technology in Punjabi classrooms. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS BRING THEIR OWN LAPTOPS OR iPADS. This workshop will focus on Punjabi typing skills, comic strips, Prezi presentations, and PowerPoint presentations. We will also provide a variety of websites and online games to use as a resource in your classroom.

Detailed Workshop Descriptions

Session "C" - 1:00 - 2:10

C1: "Songs, Music Videos, and Internet Activities in the High School French Classroom"
Aileen Vildort
 English/French/Secondary

This workshop will present useful internet activities for the French high school classroom, including music videos, songs, and other internet resources. Activities can be adapted for use at various grade levels, from grades 8-12.

C2: "Music in All Levels of Spanish; Interactive Workshop"
Trevor O'Rourke
 English and Spanish/all grades

educators new musical skills and perspectives that can be incorporated into all levels of Spanish. From the basics of flamenco *palmas* to using music videos in order to enrich students' cultural understanding in direct relation to PLO's, this interactive workshop will invigorate curriculum ideas and presentation. ¡A explorar!

Looking to find new ways of engaging your students through music? This workshop is aimed at giving

C3: "Technology in the Mandarin Learning Classrooms"
Tina Tsai, Erica Huang
 English and Mandarin/all grades

the session, we will demonstrate the use of Google Drive for organization of documents and student collaboration as well as Google Form for surveys and self-reflections. In the second half of the session, we will demonstrate the use of language apps through a sample thematic unit, showing how technology tools are integrated into language learning. PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING THEIR OWN LAPTOPS/ TABLETS.

In this session, the presenters will address the use of Google Drive and language applications suitable for the Mandarin learning classrooms. In the first half of



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C4: "Enjoy!" Learning Japanese with the new website MARUGOTO Plus"**Mami Saito (Japan Foundation)****Japanese/all grades**

MARUGOTO+ (MARUGOTO Plus) is a website developed by the Japan Foundation where users can learn about Japanese language and culture alongside the contents of "Marugoto: Japanese language and culture", a course book which uses the JF Standard as a basis. The target is not only learners of Japanese who are studying using the "Marugoto: Japanese language and culture" coursebook but also those who have an interest in Japanese language or culture. In this workshop we can share the fun of learning Japanese. Learners can practice Japanese in order to achieve various 'Can-do' (things one is able to do using Japanese) goals based on the Japan Foundation Standard and can feel "real-life" Japanese while watching videos that help deepen your understanding of actual everyday situations. Also, they can find out more about Japanese society and everyday life and culture in Japan through images and real Japanese people's voices.

国際交流基金のサイト「まるごと+（まるごとプラス）」は、J F 日本語教育スタンダード準拠コースブック『まるごと-日本のことばと文化-』の内容に沿って、日本語や日本文化が学べるサイトです。『まるごと-日本のことばと文化-』を使用して日本語を勉強している人だけでなく、日本語や日本の文化に興味がある人も楽しめる学習サイトです。このワークショップでは日本語学習の楽しさについて確認できます。学習者は、J F 日本語教育スタンダードに準拠した「Can-do」（日本語を使ってできること）の達成を目標とした練習ができます。また、動画で具体的な場面の理解を深めながら、リアリティを感じることができます。さらに、日本の日常生活や文化、社会について、映像や日本人の声を通して知ることができます。

C5: "25 Jahre danach: 1st de Fall de Berliner Mauer noch ein Thema für junge Deutschlerner?"**Wieland Petermann, N.N. and Antje Blume, Guest Speaker from Saxony****German/Secondary**

Vor 25 Jahren fiel die Berliner Mauer. Für die neuere deutsche Geschichte ein markantes Datum – aber wie können wir das jungen Lernern eine Generation später noch bewusst machen?

Im Workshop werden einige aktuelle Materialien und methodische Vorschläge für den Einsatz im Unterricht vorgestellt. Außerdem stellen Lehrerinnen und Lehrer aus Sachsen ihre Sicht auf die Veränderungen seit 1989 vor und berichten darüber, wie junge Menschen jetzt das Ost-West-Verhältnis in Deutschland empfinden.

Die Teilnehmer können in authentischen Interviews im Workshop Antworten auf ihre eigenen Fragen bekommen und sogar Kontakte für Schülerprojekte zwischen BC und Sachsen anbahnen.

This session will introduce some ideas for classroom use which highlight the historic dimension of the fall of the Berlin Wall 25 years ago. How can students today relate to that event? Examples from contemporary Germany will illustrate the changes that have shaped modern Germany since 1989. Ideas for project work for students will wrap up the session which includes 20 language teachers from Saxony/Germany.

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C6: “Technology Integration in Language Teaching”**Marco Antonio Bequer Hernandez**
English/all grades

This workshop will deal with the creation and use of avatars in language teaching and learning as well as the use of some web-based learning tools such as concept maps that can be used to present topics and review for the exams. Webquests is another topic that will be covered.

C7: *Échos Pro* Takes Core French to a New Level
Wendy Carr, Stacey Sveistrup
English (with French Examples)/all grades

Engage your students with active language learning, an exciting technological platform with easy-to-access

videos, songs, and multi-media texts that motivate students to talk about what matters to them, *en français*. *Échos Pro* provides pedagogical support, key language and comprehension strategies, intercultural connections and much more. Participants will leave with new ideas and a complimentary sample package!

C8: “Update on BC Curriculum Transformation”**Laura Hawkes and Brent Munro (Ministry of Education), Claire Guy (Assistant Superintendent, Langley School District)**
English/all grades

This session will provide an update on the BC Curriculum Transformation and on the Core French Curriculum Development. We will also give participants the opportunity to explore the curriculum design in an interactive manner.

This is a repeat session from C8.

C9: “Movie Talk and Embedded Reading: Enhancing the Comprehensible Input”**Adriana Ramirez**
English/all grades

This workshop is applicable to all languages and teaching styles, and it is an essential component for those who have begun the switch to T.P.R.S. Understanding in actual context is obviously a prerequisite for language acquisition. When you try learning new words by memorizing them, you end up learning the form of the word but miss understanding its meaning. As long as you do not approach the learning of new words by encountering and understanding them in actual context, they will eventually become a useless, blurry image. The same is true for grammatical structures. Memorizing grammar rules without understanding how the structures are related to meaning is pointless.

A great way to work on understanding and acquiring the language is through pictures and videos. Used well, they can be the tool that provides the link between form and meaning. The main activity in Movie Talk consists of narration. The main point is that you, the teacher, provide spoken input that your students can understand with the aid of an entertaining video. This narration can be made through embedded readings. Embedded readings allow scaffolding the level of complexity of a text, building up from scratch so students can work their way up to reading more complex versions of the original text.

CASLT CORNER

Sandi Kostur, BC representative - CASLT National Council

Hello BCATML/CASLT colleagues! Bonjour! ¡Saludos!

On behalf of CASLT/ACPLS I extend my warmest greetings. As partners with CASLT, all BCATML members are able to take advantage of the benefits of CASLT membership. I encourage you to read the weekly "CASLT INFO" news brief where you'll find CASLT updates and a host of interesting and useful articles relevant to language teaching and learning. In addition, be sure to regularly visit the CASLT website at www.castl.org, a rich source for news and updates, teaching resources, research, professional support and contacts and a variety of other helpful information for language teachers. And of course you can look forward to receiving your regular issues of the Réflexions magazine.

In 2015, language teachers world-wide can look forward to a very special opportunity. Along with the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association (OMLTA) and the Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes (FIPLV), CASLT will be "Collaborating Across Languages and Borders" as the Languages without Borders conference goes international as the World Congress of Modern Languages. This unique event takes place March 26 – 28, 2015 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. For information and registration, visit the website.

As we prepare to return to classes, I wish you a successful, enriching and exciting school year.

Bonne rentrée!

Sandi Kostur
BC representative, CASLT National Council



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<p>▶ WHO?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Federation of Language Teacher Associations (FIPLV) • Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association (OMLTA) • Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) 	<p>▶ QUI?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fédération internationale des professeurs de langues vivantes (FIPLV) • Association ontarienne des professeurs de langues vivantes (AOPLV) • Association canadienne des professeurs de langues secondes (ACPLS)
<p>▶ WHEN? March 26-28, 2015</p>	<p>▶ QUAND? 26-28 mars 2015</p>
<p>▶ WHERE? Niagara Falls, Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sheraton on the Falls - Crowne Plaza Niagara Falls - Fallsview 	<p>▶ OÙ? Niagara Falls, Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sheraton on the Falls - Crowne Plaza Niagara Falls - Fallsview
<p>▶ WHEN? Check the Call for Workshops and Presentations!</p> <p>General themes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CEFR & Language Pedagogies - Technology & Social Media - Autonomy & Motivation - Indigenous Languages - Curriculums & Cultures 	<p>▶ QUAND? Vérifier l'Appel de soumission d'ateliers et de présentations!</p> <p>Parmi les thèmes généraux prévus :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CECR et pédagogies - Technologies et médias sociaux - Autonomie et motivation - Langues autochtones - Curriculums et cultures
<p>▶ WHY? To be part of the most exciting event of the year as a presenter, participant, or exhibitor!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100 sessions - over 1000 participants - professional development & networking - national & international education stakeholders - spectacular views & engaging social events 	<p>▶ POURQUOI? Pour faire partie de l'événement de l'année 2015 à titre de présentatrice/présentateur, participante/participant ou exposant!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100 séances - plus de 1 000 participants - formation professionnelle et réseautage - participation nationale et internationale - site enchanteur et activités captivantes

AUTHENTIC LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EXPERIENCE

By Tina Tsai

“ I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.” - Confucius

Inspired by Heidi Steele’s workshop at NCLC 2013 conference and BCATML executives, Rome Lavrencic and Wendy Yamazaki’s cultural experiences to Japan, I wanted to offer an overseas trip designed specifically for learners of Mandarin as a second language to deepen their language skills in real-life situations. This past Spring Break, I had the opportunity to travel with a small group of Burnaby South Secondary students to Taipei, Taiwan to visit KangChiao Secondary School, where we were put to the ultimate challenge of immersing ourselves fully in the local culture and language.

The purpose of the overseas trip was to experience an authentic living experience in a Mandarin speaking country rather than visiting it. Traveling aboard offers students a tremendous learning experience and life skills beyond the classroom. Often school trips were preplanned where students were rarely involved in the planning stage and were led by tour guides as instructed. In contrast, Burnaby South students were required to collaboratively



design an itinerary and prioritize what it is that they want to see, to learn and to do while traveling aboard. Without accompaniment by a tour company, students were responsible to work through the logistics and co-design the itinerary prior to departure. This included researching the importance of historical sites, looking at maps to navigate around the city, and making reservations to cultural activities. This challenged the students to take ownership in creating a unique learning experience that meet their individual needs and interests.

As a result of the group planning, our overseas trip consisted of an eleven-day immersive experience. Students attended high school classes at KangChiao Secondary in the morning, participated in cultural activities in the afternoon, and experienced living in the dorm at night.

Not going to lie, there were panic attacks prior to departure, and I wondered what I had got myself into. However, the trip was truly a rewarding experience. It was amazing to watch how students utilize their language skills when they are given the opportunity and freedom to do so. From a papermaking workshop, to pineapple cake baking to renting bikes to cycle along DaDaoCheng, students needed to negotiate meanings and converse in situational dialogues that the classroom simply could not simulate. Although born and raised in Taipei, I acted as a foreigner to ensure that the students were using their second language to tackle each task and to navigate around the city. It was an extremely humbling to experience the city that I grew up in through the planning and the eyes of my students.

Surely, the trip was not without any hiccups. There were days students got carsick, which led to a visit to the local pharmacy, purchased the wrong bus ticket, and couldn't follow the math lesson. But isn't this the best way to learn? Through confusion and discomfort, we turned every obstacle into a meaningful learning opportunity. A student noted in her reflection paper: "nothing ever goes exactly according to plan. Sometimes we'd get lost or take the wrong subway. All the dilemmas we encountered challenged us to problem solve and think quickly on the spot. We also had to be thoroughly prepared, being able to come up with a Plan B on the spot. This trip was a great learning experience, not only in terms of



improving our Mandarin but also improving our ability to plan, coordinate, and deal with unexpected events." Indeed, traveling abroad is not only to develop language and cultural proficiency but also to gain the necessary life skills to become a competent individual. I am proud of the accomplishments that my students achieved through this overseas experience.

The experience of traveling to Taiwan was much more rewarding than I had ever hoped for. All the successes of our journey wouldn't be possible

without the generosity and kind welcome of KangChiao staff and students, and the administrative support of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Vancouver. It is with fondest memories that we thank our new friends with gratitude for the learning experience of a lifetime.

A FRUITFUL YEAR IN THE MANDARIN FIELD

By Ping Li

As the 2013-2014 school year is over, I stop for a moment to look back on the so-quickly passed year and reflect with pride and wonder on the progress and achievements the Mandarin teachers have made.

In retrospect, I am happy to conclude that it has been a very busy and fruitful year of excitement, change, growth, hard work, success, and celebration. Here are just a few of the most noticeable things undertaken and fulfilled over the course of the year.

Building a Strong Mandarin Program and Community

The situation in this aspect is really encouraging and can be encapsulated in one phrase, "More enthusiasm and more involvement". One strong piece of evidence is that I have been frequently consulted for Mandarin curriculum implementation, new Mandarin program initiatives, Pro-D opportunities, student exchange programs, effective teaching resources and tools, etc. ever since I became a Mandarin representative. In this capacity, I have also been contacted by various organizations for Mandarin teaching/learning related events, workshops, conferences, and summer camps to meet the various needs of both teachers and students. I have also noticed an increasing number of teachers using the resources from Mandarin Teachers' Documents, a shared Google doc platform I created at the start of the school year for teachers to benefit from new pedagogies and practices and to find suitable extra-curricular activities and events for students to participate in.

May 4th witnessed the largest ever attendance of Mandarin teachers and students from both public and independent schools all over the Greater Vancouver area at the annual "Chinese Bridge" Mandarin Speech Contest, organized by the Education Office, Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Vancouver, Confucius Institute in Coquitlam and the Canadian Teaching-Chinese-as-a-Second-Language Association (see my article "2014 'Chinese Bridge' Speech Contest is in Full Spring" in our March edition). The pouring rain outside did not quench the spirits and enthusiasm of the contestants; nor did it affect the supportive teachers and parents. Most impressive was Ms Yap from Mulgrave School, who "walked" into the contest hall on crutches with a big smile on her face!



Natasha Carr-Harris from Crofton House School with Chinese Education Consul General Mr Yu.



Ms Chan from Pinetree Secondary School with her students Georgiy Sekretaryuk and Ryan Sharp.



Mulgrave School students.

The contestants from more than 30 schools divided by seven categories, the largest of which consisted of grade 8 to 10 students from non-Mandarin backgrounds, competed on the topic "Me and China", sharing their joy and challenge of learning Chinese, describing their amazement at and passion for Chinese culture, recounting their individual China stories with pride. Each story of "Me and China" was unique; each speech deeply touched the heart of everyone present. After all the excitement and applause, especially when the award ceremony drew to a close, I could not but pay a tribute to all the teachers behind the scene: it was they who had instilled in their students the love of Mandarin and the passion for Chinese culture. It was they who had spent hours of their spare time to provide those contestants support and encouragement. It was they who sacrificed their Sunday to take students to the speech contest to let them experience the fun of using Mandarin.



2014 "Chinese Bridge" Mandarin Speech Contest winners with Ms Holly Butterfield, vice chair of the Coquitlam Board of Education, Mr Tom Grant, superintendent of Coquitlam School District, Patricia Gartland, assistant superintendent of International and Continuing Education- Coquitlam School District and Mr Du and Mr Yu from the Education Office, Consulate General of the People's Republic of China.

Integrating Mandarin Learning with Cultural Exposure and Understanding

This year Mandarin teachers have been enriching language learning with many different cultural activities, field trips and events, which have created fond memories and valuable learning opportunities for students to immerse themselves in the products and practices of the Chinese culture.

A lot of schools across the Lower Mainland celebrate Chinese traditional festivals, esp. the Chinese New Year. The Chinese New Year celebration at my school, always a big hit, has become a much-anticipated annual school tradition. The following few pictures give a glimpse of how students from my school were involved in this year's celebration:



Playing Pipa, a Chinese string instrument.



Ribbon dance at a lunch celebration event.



Moscrop Secondary School in Burnaby hosted the 2014 Ethnic Minority Fashion Show, part of the 9th annual Taste of Asia Performance to celebrate cultural diversity. The event was a great success with hundreds of show tickets sold, and all proceeds went to the Children's Hospital. The audience was simply stunned by the colourful costumes worn by student models, each representing one of the fifty-five ethnic groups in China. As one audience member put it, "It's perfect to be able to enjoy another country's culture through the performance by Moscrop Secondary and at the same time know that I am supporting the Children's Charity as well."



Mulgrave School elementary students celebrated the Dragon Boat Festival in May this year by making and wearing their own dragon masks. (left)

(right) Grade 3 pupils performing a short play "Little Tadpoles Looking for their Moms"; a Chinese children's story adapted and directed by Ms Serena Qiang, who has been working on and revising the script for three years.



Blessed with the rich Chinese culture in Vancouver, our Mandarin teachers also take advantage of opportunities to expose students to various Chinese cultural activities. Dr. Sun Yat-Sun's Classical Chinese Garden in Chinatown is a popular venue as it offers various educational programs to suit the needs of different levels of students in accordance with BC curricula. According to its program coordinator Ms Susan Ma, the garden currently receives almost 6000 students over the course of a year, ranging from preschoolers to university students, local and international. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of Mandarin language learners visiting the garden this year. The popular activities are "Garden Tour, Talk & Tea", "Celebrating Chinese New Year", "Crossing Borders", "Master Fong's Fireworks Emporium", "Land & Sea Combo: Dragon Tales and Dragon Boat Paddling", and "Chinatown Walking Tour". The other school subjects that find a great connection with the Garden's programs are Social Studies, Comparative Civilizations, History, Science (chemistry, biology/plant programs), Physical Education (Taiji & Dragonboating), Tourism, ESL, Health Education (Mindfulness and meditation programs), Home Economics and Art. I cannot wait to take my students to enjoy the Peking Opera exhibition with unique costumes on display in September and October in the Dr. Sun Yat-Sun's Classical Chinese Garden this fall!

Our Mandarin teachers have also been actively involved in cultural activities and events. On June 28th, I was invited to attend The Vancouver Chinese Singers 30th Season Concert 2014 at the Vancouver Playhouse. Katherine Lu, a Mandarin teacher at Burnaby North Secondary School, is one of the founders of the Vancouver Chinese Singers Society. She has been devoting her time and passion to developing and sharing Chinese choral music repertoire over the past 30 years and has been the conductor for the society since 1997. It was truly a great evening with a lively ensemble showcasing a wide variety of Chinese choir music from different time periods and regions. As our Prime Minister Stephen Harper put it in his warm greetings to the singers, "You can take pride in your efforts to preserve your rich cultural heritage in Canada."



Grade 9 students had a taste of Taiji in the beautiful Dr. Sun Yat-Sun's Classical Chinese Garden.



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I would like to take this opportunity to extend a most sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU to all the Mandarin teachers in our province who, as conscientious and caretaking gardeners, have been patiently and painstakingly tending and toiling in the Mandarin field to help students grow and prosper.

I hope you enjoyed a most relaxing summer and come back to the 14-15 school year energized & refreshed!

-Ping Li

NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

The BCATML Newsletter is the official publication of the B.C. Association of Teachers of Modern Languages, a provincial specialist association of the B.C. Teachers' Federation. Three issues are published each calendar year.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The BCATML Newsletter is the professional journal of the BC Association of Teachers of Modern Languages. As such it:

- 1) acts as a communication vehicle for ideas, trends and new developments in the field;
- 2) supports a professional network of modern language teachers who are committed to innovative teaching strategies;
- 3) promotes the learning and teaching of additional languages through the BC curriculum.

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Articles submitted for publication should be sent with a covering letter that contains:

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Please also include, where possible:

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Submission Deadlines

Spring - March 1
Fall - Aug 1
Winter - December 1

suggested topics

Spring, Easter, Passover.
Back to School, Fall, Halloween, Dia de Los Muertes
Winter, Christmas, Hanukah, Solstice, New Year's, Valentine's

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