whistler conference

Friday, May 8, 2015
Whistler Hilton Resort

Transforming our thinking and practice
A conference for grade 4–9 teachers

Featuring:
Maureen Dockendorf curriculum changes for 21st Century learning
Tom Schimmer assessment and grading
Victoria Olson screencasting with iPads and passion based learning
Diana Cruchley revitalising student journalling
Brad Ovenell-Carter sketchnoting
Rome Lavrencic French and iPad technology
Stacey Sveistrup Core French activities

Participants will receive their choice of memberships in two of the co-sponsoring PSAs.

Register at mypita.ca
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Morning Workshops 9:30-11:45

The BC Education Story of Transformational Change

Learners at the Centre of BC Competencies, Curriculum, and Assessment

This proposed Ministry of Education redesign of curriculum, assessment, and reporting practices places the learner at the center and builds on the strengths each learner brings to innovative learning environments. Maureen will outline the proposed 21st century changes including the development of BC’s competencies that focus on educating the heart and mind to support success in life for all learners.

Maureen Dockendorf is Superintendent of Literacy and Numeracy for British Columbia’s Ministry of Education. Maureen has worked as a teacher, SFU Faculty Associate, Principal and Assistant Superintendent. She is currently leading a province-wide initiative entitled, Changing Results for Young Readers, and continues to work with BC’s Ministry of Education to redesign curriculum, assessment, and reporting practices.

Grading From the Inside Out

This workshop will explore how you can rethink the process of grading and reporting. Whether it’s through giving full credit for what students have learned, redefining accountability, or repurposing homework, you can make monumental shifts in the role summative assessment plays—even if traditional reporting methods are still in use. This session will also highlight the integral role played by assessment accuracy and student confidence.

Tom Schimmein is an internationally recognized leader and expert in the areas of assessment for learning, sound grading practices, student behavior, and educational leadership. Tom is the author of Ten Things that Matter from Assessment to Grading (Pearson, 2013). His new book, Grading from the Inside Out (Solution Tree), is scheduled for publication in 2015.

Screencasting for Visible Thinking and Learning

Explore the potential of visible thinking and learning with screencasting apps for the iPad. Apps like Explain Everything, Educreations, and ShowMe will be used to import and annotate files to create your very own screencasted videos for presentations, explanations, or directions. Victoria will provide concrete elementary examples of how screencasting can be used to empower authentic student learning and self-assessment skills. Get your students creating with screencasting!

Victoria Olson is a teacher and technology coach at West Langley Elementary. She co-founded #bedchat, EdCamp15, and the EdTech Mentorship Network. She is a Google Certified Teacher and Google Education Trainer. Victoria is an active member of her Personal Learning Network and advocates for online sharing of best pedagogical practices.

Worried About Teaching French? Worry not!

This Core French Workshop will focus on purposeful, engaging, and meaningful strategies. Games, songs, and sample mini units will be shared as well as activities that can be adapted for various themes. A literacy-based approach, some Intensive French methodology, and trend-and-true activities will be presented. Regardless of your abilities in French, you will go away with some new and fun ideas to use immediately in your classrooms.

Stacey Sveistrup teaches Grade 6 Intensive French at Franklin Elementary in Vancouver. She has spent many years teaching Elementary Core and Intensive French for the VSB. She is a member of the BCATML Executive, and has worked for Pearson Canada developing new Core French materials.

Afternoon Workshops 1:15-3:30

Sketchnoting

Typically, note-taking is a passive experience: we merely record what a speaker is saying and then, if we are diligent, we review and process our notes at a later time. Sketchnoting invertsthis; all the processing happens before a single mark is put on paper. This increases student engagement with the content. Sketchnoting is a powerful tool for all students, especially visual learners. This hands-on, how-to workshop presents the basics of sketchnoting. Participants will learn how to draw the essential components—lines, words, boxes and creatures—as well as tips and tricks for developing ideas visually.

Brad Owenhall-Carter is the Director of Educational Technology at Malgrave School, an International Baccalaureate School in Vancouver. He has led an international student body and faculty around the world with an iPhone, iPad, and MacBook Pro. A Google Certified Teacher and Apple Distinguished Educator, Brad has presented at conferences and schools across North America and overseas. He believes that the essence of technology has nothing at all to do with anything technological.

Reaffirming, Reworking, and Rethinking Our Assessment Fundamentals for the 21st Century

As educational priorities shift toward 21st century competencies, so too must our assessment practices. First, this session will highlight the assessment fundamentals of formative assessment and effective feedback that are reaffirmed despite the curricular shifts. Next, the focus will shift to reworking performance assessment and the self-regulation of learning to maintain relevance. Finally, the rethinking of assessing collaboration and creativity will be explored through the lens of competency-based instruction.

See Tom Schimmein’s bio in the morning session section.

Passion-Based Learning: Genius Hour and 20% Time

Want to get students excited to come to school, learn, and create based on their passions? Get ready to run Genius Hour or 20% time including planning, implementation, and logistical tips. Leave ready to run these passion-based activities with strategies for getting past obstacles, plus loads of resources!

See Victoria’s Olson’s bio in the morning session section.

Extreme Writing

Adding renewed excitement to your journaling time

In your writing program, journals help meet two of the biggest challenges in improving writing—building fluency and developing voice. But how do you keep your journal program fresh and engaging for students long enough to build fluency and voice? Diana has developed 24 unique strategies in a ready-to-go package you can use immediately with your students. Each provides a model for more examples you can create to add to your repertoire. Leave with an entire year’s program and a detailed handout in this engaging and practical workshop.

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning author and educator who has taught at both elementary and secondary levels. Her practical workshops are always enthusiastically received.

French Made Easy and FUN While Using iPads

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. Learn how to imbue your French lessons with technology by experimenting with tested apps and receive lesson plan ideas. This workshop will highlight Socrative, Pix Collage, Book Creator, iPads, and more. Delivered in English with some French braid, input and research offered by co-researcher Nancy Griffith-Zahner will also be shared. If you don’t have your own iPad, email psac51@bctf.ca to borrow one for the workshop.

Rome Lavrencic has taught Core French at New Westminster Secondary School for the last 19 years. He is the president of BCATML (Modern Languages), and is currently a member of the Ministry of Education’s review team for the new Core French curriculum. He has presented at the BCTF New Teachers’ Conference and internationally at the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers this spring with co-presenter Nancy Griffith-Zahner.

Registration Rates

BCTF members $125 until April 10, $145 starting April 11.
Non-BCTF members, out-of-province and administrators $145.
TTOCs, student/retired teachers, para-professionals, and SEAAs $65.
Register as a group of three or more and receive 10% off.
Space is limited so register early. Participants will receive their choice of memberships in two of the co-sponsoring PSAs.

Whistler Hilton Resort Rates

4050 Whistler Way V0N 1B4
604-932-1982 • 1-800-515-4050 • www.hilton.com • reservations@whistlerhilton.com
Rate code: MYP or myPITR conference
$140/night double occupancy standard room with two double beds or king/queen junior suite with kitchenette, rate valid for Thursday and Friday. $20 for each adult over double occupancy, $22 per night for parking. Reservations guaranteed with credit card or advance deposit.

Register at