

2024 Teachers' Convention Better Together REACHING NEW HEIGHTS Virtual

Keynote



Andrew Watson

President, Translate the Brain

CALGARY & VIRTUAL

Join AISCA this February and get ready to be inspired!

February 16, 2024 | 9:00am-3:40pm

Online

The Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta Teachers' Convention: Better Together is an annual highlight on the Professional Development calendar. This year's theme, *Reaching New Heights*, will both educate and inspire attendees.



Alberta Regional Professional
Development Consortia
Adult learning for students' sake



Association of Independent Schools & Colleges in Alberta



Calgary Regional
Consortium

Concurrent Sessions A | 11:00am - 12:00pm

A Leaf, A Brush, A Question: Making Connections Through Transdisciplinary Learning	<i>Cheryl Babin</i>	Elem, ECS
EAL Learning - Effective Teaching Practices	<i>Kathy Salmon</i>	All levels
Integrating AI into our Teaching Practice: Possibilities, Advantages and Limits	<i>Barb Deskin</i>	All levels
Intro to Morphology: What is it? How do I Teach it?	<i>Angela DesBarres</i>	Elem
Introduction to Mental Health Literacy Approaches	<i>Andrew Baxter</i>	All levels
Read 2 Write	<i>Tienneke Calder & Karri Johnson</i>	Elem, Middle
The Surprising Science of Classroom Attention	<i>Andrew Watson</i>	All levels

Concurrent Sessions B | 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Engaging Student Minds: Spelling and Vocabulary Games	<i>Tricia Pope</i>	Elem, Middle
Every Child Has Special Needs	<i>Christine Gregoire-Lauzon</i>	Elem, ECS
From Research to Classroom: Translating Broad Insights into Teaching Strategies	<i>Andrew Watson</i>	All levels
Lecture structurée: Progressions et outils pratiques pour enseigner efficacement la lecture dans la salle de classe	<i>Peggy Bonal & Cloé Tanguay Deblois</i>	Elem
The Nap'iki Diaries: Stories of Hope and Enlightenment	<i>Denise Peterson</i>	All levels
Using Drama Activities to Increase Literacy and Engagement	<i>Aliza Sarian</i>	All levels
Writing is Hard: How do I Teach Writing to K-3 Students?	<i>Angela DesBarres</i>	Elem

Concurrent Sessions C | 2:40pm - 3:40pm

Embracing Neurodiversity in the Classroom: Fostering Inclusive Education	<i>Dr. Amanda Smith-Demers & Colleen Drybrough</i>	All levels
Engaging Student Minds: Math Games	<i>Tricia Pope</i>	Elem, Middle
My Changing Body: Teaching and Learning about Puberty and Sexual Health	<i>Nicole Baker & Emily Rozitis</i>	All levels
Polish your Writing!	<i>Dr. Claude Oppenheim</i>	All levels
Regulate to Communicate: Adapting Your Classroom to Meet Your Students' Sensory Needs and Promote Communication	<i>Melissa McKinnon & Shikara Fahie</i>	All levels
The New ELAL Curriculum PAC (Planning and Assessment Companion)	<i>Angela DesBarres</i>	Elementary
Inclusive Tools and Strategies for Secondary English Classes	<i>Jodi Taylor</i>	High

KEYNOTE Thinking Creates Learning: The Essentials of Working Memory

Andrew Watson

It just makes sense: to learn, students have to THINK. This simple insight leads to important questions: where does “thinking” happen? How does it work? Why doesn't it work the way we – and our students – wish it did? To answer these questions, this talk will explore an essential cognitive function: working memory. Students use working memory to connect new information to their prior knowledge. They also use it to reorganize their knowledge into new mental structures. When teachers understand working memory – its function, importance, and limitations – we can anticipate, recognize, and solve the memory problems that hinder learning. Lively and practical, this conversation uses psychology research to make learning easier and teaching more effective.

A Leaf, A Brush, A Question: Making Connections Through Transdisciplinary Learning

Cheryl Babin

This session offers engaging ideas for how nature experiences can inspire investigations, connections to literature and artistic expression. Together we will explore sketching techniques, tips for getting students outside, and samples of our favourite picture books that bring the disciplines of ELAL together with Art, Science and more.

EAL Learning - Effective Teaching Practices

Kathy Salmon

All teachers are teaching EAL learners in their ELAL, Math, SS, Science, Wellness, Fine Arts, CTF/CTS courses. EAL learners are a diverse group of learners and depending on their profile and proficiency level they need a range of supports. This practical session will go over how to add a language intention to your learning intention, and strategies to teach language through content. Each subject has specialized language and teachers can learn ways to augment their practice with high impact strategies that benefit EAL learners.

Embracing Neurodiversity in the Classroom: Fostering Inclusive Education

Dr. Amanda Smith-Demers & Colleen Drybrough

Neurodiversity is a concept that celebrates a diverse range of neurological differences. As educators, it's essential to create inclusive classrooms where all students, regardless of their neurodiversity, can thrive. This presentation aims to shed light on the importance of understanding and embracing neurodiversity in educational settings.

Engaging Student Minds: Math Games

Tricia Pope

In this session you will be presented a variety of interactive games you can use to engage your students in basic number operations (+ - x ÷) and other math concepts. You will find your students bragging about you to others when you bring out these activities.

Engaging Student Minds: Spelling and Vocabulary Games

Tricia Pope

Proper spelling is still a skill that is held important amongst many education professionals even in a world where text messaging seems to be a vocabulary that is taking over. This lesson will present you a variety of engaging activity ideas that will amuse your students (LOL) while keeping your parents and administrators satisfied. This session is meant for students in Div I or II.

Every Child has Special Needs

Christine Gregoire-Lauzon

This presentation will discuss the various ways that teachers can implement tools and accommodations to help minimize disruptions that are happening within classrooms. My presentation will focus on behaviours that are associated with diagnoses such as ADHD, ODD and ASD. I will provide techniques that are used on a daily basis within special education classes that can be and should be adopted in all classrooms to assist all learners. Attendees will be given visuals to use in their classrooms.

From Research to Classroom: Translating Broad Insights into Teaching Strategies

Andrew Watson

We have talked about the science of working memory and attention. What do teachers do with this new understanding. This workshop – lively and practical – focuses on translating cognitive science into specific classroom strategies.

We will begin by looking at a specific classroom example: a classroom teacher working effectively with their students. With our new perspectives, what areas for improvement can we identify? What specific strategies would we use to accomplish those goals?

We close by applying these new ideas to our own classroom contexts, so that all teachers leave with new, practical ideas.

Inclusive Tools and Strategies for Secondary English Classes

Jodi Taylor

This session will address ways to design supports in advance of instruction that anticipate student diversity to utilize universal and targeted supports. We will talk about some practical tools to leverage student agency, intentional planning, and focused literacy instruction with older students.

Integrating AI into our Teaching Practice: Possibilities, Advantages and Limits

Barb Deskin

Artificial intelligence has become a hot topic in the last year, causing teachers to wonder what the future of education will look like. In this workshop, we will examine the impact that AI has had in our classrooms and explore the many possibilities that are available to teachers in this new era of learning. As we discuss our views on AI and its pertinence in the world of education, we will also delve into the different ways that teachers can take advantage of certain tools and pedagogical approaches.

Introduction to Morphology: What is it? How do I Teach it?

Angela DesBarres

In this session, participants will be introduced to Morphology. We will learn about what it is, the curriculum connections and how to teach it. This session will also offer suggestions for strategies and resources.

Introduction to Mental Health Literacy Approaches

Andrew Baxter

This session will provide an overview of mental health literacy approaches and examine how it can enhance understanding and attitudes of both students and educators when it comes to mental health, including knowledge about mental health states, comprehension of disorders and treatments, reducing stigma, boosting the effectiveness of seeking help, and taking actions to support positive mental health. Participants will be given a tour of the classroom ready resources and how to implement them in your educational setting.

Lecture structurée: Progressions et outils pratiques pour enseigner efficacement la lecture dans la salle de classe

Peggy Bonal & Cloé Tanguay Deblois

We have developed progressions and various tools for explicit and structured reading teaching. This workshop, conducted entirely in French, focuses on the structured teaching of phonological awareness, a prerequisite for reading, as well as explicit reading teaching in grade 1. It also covers phonics teaching for grade 12 and 3. We are presenting this workshop for the third time at the ACPI conference.

My Changing Body: Teaching and Learning about Puberty and Sexual Health

Nicole Baker & Emily Rozitis

Nicole & Emily will lead an engaging, interactive session exploring ways to improve accessibility, increase inclusion, and support diverse needs in the field of sexual education and physical development. This session will support teachers of all age levels with strategies, resources, and ways to facilitate developmentally appropriate conversations around health, puberty, sexuality, and consent, for both neurotypical and neurodiverse students.

Polish Your Writing!

Dr. Claude Oppenheim

A practical, hands-on workshop to learn easy ways to edit your emails, letters and other writing. You will gain the skills to impress parents, supervisors and colleagues by showing yourself to be polished and professional. You will be able to teach these techniques to your students too!

Read 2 Write

Tienneke Calde & Karri Johnson

This webinar emphasizes the need for integrated literacy instruction whereby foundational reading and writing skills are taught together, creating a more holistic learning experience. The research suggests that integrated instruction of reading and writing can help students develop phonics and decoding skills more effectively. In addition, explicitly teaching reading and writing together will enhance comprehension and strengthen writing fluency. This webinar will suggest an instructional approach and provide lesson samples that align with the K-6 ELA curriculum.

Regulate to Communicate: Adapting Your Classroom to Meet Your Students' Sensory Needs and Promote Communication

Melissa McKinnon & Shikara Fahie

This session will define "regulation" and "sensory processing differences" and describe how different children might present in the classroom. We will dive into how regulation is foundational to learning and one of the building blocks of language development (i.e., "the language staircase"). We will reframe what we know as "behaviors" through communication and regulation lenses.

We will outline steps to make your classroom neuro-diverse affirming through universal adaptations that will support students to regulate and meet their sensory needs (e.g., relating to different sensory systems). Additionally, we will also talk about general adaptations for students who can't rely on spoken words to communicate (i.e., access to Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)).

The Napi'aki Diaries: Stories of Hope and Enlightenment

Denise Peterson

Hear stories of gratitude and learning from a non-Indigenous woman privileged to have received decades of teachings and guidance from the Elders. Learn how the missteps, mistakes and misguided exploits made by a Napi'aki (white woman) found forgiveness and love in the hearts of the Elders.

The New ELAL Curriculum PAC (Planning and Assessment Companion)

Angela DesBarres

This session takes Elementary Teachers through the ARPDC K-3 ELAL PAC. This support document is a resource for K-3 ELAL teachers. Teachers will learn where to find it, how to maneuver through the document and how to use it in their English Language Arts and Literature planning.

The Surprising Science of Classroom Attention

Andrew Watson

All teachers have asked this baffled question: "why don't students just pay attention?"

Decades of neuroscience and psychology research have shown that – surprise! – attention is not one unified brain process. Instead, the behavior we call "paying attention" results from a just-right balance of three (yes, 3!) distinct mental functions.

When teachers foster those three cognitive processes, children find that ideal cognitive balance where they can focus: in the classroom, while doing homework, and at home.

Using Drama Activities to Increase Literacy and Engagement

Aliza Sarian

This interactive session will provide participants in K-12 classrooms opportunities to explore accessible drama and storytelling activities that build literacy and social emotional skills, foster student engagement, and support an inclusive classroom. Teachers will walk away with practical activities that can be applied immediately in their ELAL, foreign language, or social studies classrooms and beyond.

Writing is Hard: How Do I Teach Writing to K-3 Students?

Angela DesBarres

In this session we will look at the pieces necessary to teach writing to students in K-3. We will look at what the curriculum is asking us to do, what the research is saying and walk away with some ideas and strategies to make it less painful!