



# THE BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter for Northwest Regional Learning Consortium

Though NRLC's December learning opportunities are few, as we head into the holiday season, in January we are offering several sessions that you will not want to miss! NRLC is pleased to partner with the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority to bring Dr. Janet Mort to Peace River for a Gr. K-8 Mini Literacy Summit. See pages 3 & 4 of this newsletter for more information.

Be sure to visit our website often to check what we have to offer you!

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Could you survive a month living in poverty?

## POVERTY SIMULATION


DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE IN POVERTY

The United Way Poverty Simulation is a unique and powerful experience which replicates a month in the life of a family living in poverty.

**NRLC WILL BE HOSTING THIS EVENT :**

- Grande Prairie: January 30, 2020  
Registrations Ongoing  
<https://nrlc.net/program/4968>

Visit [www.nrlc.net](http://www.nrlc.net) for more details and registration




## BUILDING THINKING CLASSROOMS SERIES

with

Dr. Peter Liljedahl

December 11, January 23 & February 6, 2020  
9AM - 3PM

Venue: Eastlink Centre (Cooking classroom), Grande Prairie



## Here are some of the amazing learning opportunities in December 2019 :

[Children and Youths with Complex Communication Needs in the Classroom](#)  
[with Sarah Anderson & Brandis Short](#)

[Mathematics Leadership Cohort](#)  
[With Geri Lorway](#)

[Building Thinking Classrooms - Experienced Participant Cohort Series](#)  
[with Peter Liljedahl](#)

[Community Conferencing Facilitator Training Workshop](#)  
[With Caroline Missal & Sue Hopgood](#)

## January 2020 Learning Opportunities

[Joyful Literacy Mini Summit](#)  
[With Dr. Janet Mort, Chelsea and Nathan Reist, Darci Dheensaw and Christy Fennell](#)

[Teen Mentoring in Schools Collaborative Community Network](#)  
[with Caroline Missal & Megan Cox](#)

[Children and Youths with Complex Communication Needs in the Classroom](#)  
[with Sarah Anderson & Brandis Short](#)

[Building Thinking Classrooms - Experienced Participant Cohort Series](#)  
[with Peter Liljedahl](#)

[The Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® Flex Training](#)  
[with Mike Heckbert & Crystal Gaede](#)

[Grande Prairie Poverty Simulation](#)  
[with Kim Barker -Kay](#)

## January 2020 FRENCH Learning Opportunities

[Habilitation initiales des correcteurs - examinateurs D.E.L.F. PRIM - Niveau A1.1](#)  
[With Diana Boisvert](#)

For more information on our services and learning opportunities, or clarifications about registrations.

You can reach us at:

(780)-882-7988 or <https://www.nrlc.net/contact>

## JOYFUL LITERACY INTERVENTIONS K to 8

**Peace River, Alberta  
January 15 – 16, 2020**



Peace River Room, Sawridge Inn and Conference Centre  
9510 100 Street, Peace River

# Designing Classroom Experiences Where Vulnerable Children Flourish

**Over 80% of our K to 8 Children Read at Grade Level!**

All of our *Joyful Literacy* Team are actively engaged in meeting the needs of vulnerable children with proven success. Each one will describe day-by-day and month-by-month literacy strategies that you can implement immediately upon your return to your classroom.

## Program

The program will be a combination of Keynotes, workshops and panel presentations led by our team of five. Keynotes will be presented to the whole K to 8 groups as they will be topics that are applicable to all groups. Several times the whole group will break into a K to 3 group to be more specific about primary strategies and a grades 4 to 8 group to be more specific to intermediate issues.

The program will feature innovative, strategic and evidence-based interventions that are practiced daily by our presenters. This will be an 'active participation' workshop with lots of group discussions and table activities. Team attendance is encouraged so you can return to your schools to collaborate.

You will leave with a focused and cohesive classroom intervention plan and hundreds of practical play-based strategies that feature:

- A review of the most recent research base for literacy interventions;
- Planning to use a three-tier approach for vulnerable readers;
- Games and activities for mastering alphabet, phonological skills, sight word skills, and more advanced intermediate literacy skills;
- Presentation of a variety of practice centres for independent activities;
- An understanding of how the Blitz strategy works for students who are falling behind;
- Presentation and Practice of Razinski's fun and poetry-based fluency development lessons;
- The use of Mentor Texts as a powerful literacy base for reading and writing;
- Ideas for engaging parents and developing a summer reading program;
- A simple but powerful screening, assessment and tracking tool;
- Examples of effective literacy-based daily schedules; and
- **More!**



## Presenters: A Dynamic and Inspiring Team



Team Leader **Dr. Janet Mort** has created a powerful intervention system for primary grades. Instead of retiring she returned to university to determine how to help struggling young learners achieve literacy success. She systematically analyzed the prevailing Early Learning research; designed a strategy to apply the research in primary classrooms; and created an innovative assessment and tracking tool. Since then she has worked with over 100 teachers to apply the system in their classrooms.

She has documented the research and her system in two new books – *Joyful Literacy Interventions* and *Putting on the Blitz*. The results have been outstanding: The goal was to begin applying the system in kindergarten with the goal of ensuring that vulnerable children reach grade level in literacy by the end of grade three. Hard data demonstrates that

teachers are succeeding in achieving that goal in very vulnerable multi-racial classrooms where success rates had been historically low. Janet's system features a play-based environment where skills are embedded in practice activities in centres and each child's progress is tracked skill by skill. She will design the program and lead the team.

**Christy Fennell** is Assistant Superintendent in Peace River South School District (BC). She has played a key role in implementing the Joyful Literacy Framework system-wide in her district with great success. Five years ago only 49% of grade four students in her district were reading at grade level; now 85% are reading at grade level. Christy will be working primarily with teachers in grades 4 to 8.



**Chelsea and Nathan Reist** are a brother/sister teaching team in two kindergarten classes in the Mission School District (BC). They have been implementing the *Joyful Literacy* framework for the past two years in a play-based, theme-based approach to Foundational Skills. They will be working primarily with Janet and the K to 3 teachers. They are fun, dynamic and inspired in their approaches to early learning.

**Darci Dheensaw** has been a key part of the Lauwelnew Tribal School primary staff which has implemented the *Joyful Literacy* framework with great success grades K to 5. She is an expert in building practice centres and assessing, tracking foundational skills, blitzing and creating playful environments. She has been teaching in this indigenous school for 31 years. Only since the

implementation of Joyful Literacy has she seen this level of success in the primary classrooms (from a 40% success rate to an 85% success rate).



The registration link for the NRLC Website for the Mini Joyful Literacy Summit in Peace River:  
<https://www.nrlc.net/program/4995>



Alberta Regional Consortia

