

SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

CROSSCURRENTS

NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2014

Student Scholarships due June 1st

Special Education Association of British
Columbia Student Scholarships

link: <http://www.seaofbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/SEASudentscholarships2012.pdf>

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Crosscurrents Magazine is the official publication of the B.C. Special Education Association, a PSA of the BC Teachers' Federation.

Crosscurrents Magazine publishes original articles concerning issues related to special education. Practical and theoretical articles are sought. Potential contributors are encouraged to submit reviews of strategies, methodologies, publications, research, and historical and philosophical studies as well as reports of the effectiveness of innovative programs. The opinions expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, the SEA, or the BCTF. For information regarding this magazine or to submit articles, letters, etc., please contact the Editor for the Special Education Association of BC at:

seabcpublication@gmail.com

Please submit items as Microsoft Office (Word) documents. Please submit articles for the Fall 2014/15 issue to the Editor @ **seabcpublication@gmail.com**.

CORNER



CHAPTERS

S.E.A. of Langley BC (S.D. # 35)

Submitted by Arden Thomas, Chapter President

The Special Education Association of Langley ended our 2012-2013 school year with a change in the executive. Our past president stepped down in April and there was discussion about dissolving the Association, as interest by our membership seemed to be waning. Arden Thomas took over from Debbie Maloway and the decision was made to give it another year to see if we could turn things around.

By the beginning of October of this school year we gained a few members, to a total of 34 Resource Teachers from the previous 22. At a District #35 Meeting of Resource Staff, we told the membership that our sessions would be a combination of business and practical ideas so that everyone would feel that they could come away with some ideas after each meeting. We also pledged that we would subsidize three of our members so they could attend the 2014 Crosscurrents Conference.

In November we offered sessions on creating a virtual tour for new or anxious students that come into schools. The attendance was minimal but we weren't disheartened due to the very specific nature of the skill being learned. Our treasurer requested that she be replaced at this time and Amanda Leach took over the books from Rebecca Preuss at our January session.

Our January, February and March Sessions were led by one of the District Psychologists and were based on the book "lost at school" by Ross Greene. These sessions saw a fluctuating attendance of between 6-12 people. Our April session is in the planning stages but our goal is that we will come away from the session with to use in our practice as soon as possible.

The executive of SEA Langley is challenged is to continue to come up with new strategies and speakers that will pique the interest of our membership. Our aim is that Resource Teachers in our District are continually refreshed and re-energized in the realm of the Resource Room, and that they will have a renewed interest in maintaining our Special Education Association of Langley.



SD 46 Sunshine Coast

On the Sunshine Coast, our chapter is going strong. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to meet monthly. Many of our Support Services Teachers are LSA members and are included in these meetings. We use our meetings to address issues affecting our members and offer opportunities for members to share their ideas, passions and concerns.

This year's focus is the model of Universal Design for Learning to support our students in the most inclusive setting in their school. In an effort to build capacity, we are addressing many concerns. We are using class reviews to create classroom profiles, using the RTI (Response to Intervention model) in our School Based teams and determining how to effectively support our students. (Adaptations, Pullout, collaboration in the classroom setting or intensive intervention). We believe in helping Special Education teachers teaching in the classrooms to support inclusion. We, as an LSA in the past have brought speakers in and this year are supporting our members to pursue professional development opportunities through conferences and workshops, Inquiry Projects and graduate studies.



Boundary Special Education Teachers Association #51 Reported by Kari Orme

Our district has some new members in the special education department, although many of the teachers are not new to teaching just to this department. The district was able to allow some TTOC coverage so that teaching members could:

- meet during school hours
- brainstorm and share language needed
- discuss IEP report writing format and developed a form used across the district so that we were all able to read and understand a student's file that may transfer within the district. This had been a problem in prior years as every school was using different forms. The consistency of a blanket format is very helpful to our members.
- collaborate and write in groups with the advantage of mentorship from the more experienced members. Navigating through the BCESIS report system could be overwhelming without the sharing of members knowledge of shortcuts, required information and how to input our information.

CHAPTERS CORNER

CONTINUED

Special Education Association of Okanagan- Skaha 2013-14

We have had a very unusual year this year in our Chapter. Due to personal reasons, the President stepped down this fall. Our Treasurer then moved to Calgary. We advertised throughout the membership for nominations or volunteers and did not receive any. When our first two meetings of the year were called, we had only 4 and 3 people attending. We have not been successful yet in acquiring people to fill these positions.

- email sent out to members: does anyone have a copy of the dvd "Strategies for Organization" by Michelle Garcia Winner?
- Secretary update of our mailing list
- Mailout of the SEA Awards and Scholarships note
- DVD presentation: "The Brain that Changes Itself"
- President's report from last year / Elections / Social Time
- Information on how to order the WIAT and how to access Pearson webinars sent out to members
- Ablenet Technology updates sent out to members monthly
- Email out the info about the Pearson Webinars – for Speechies there is a CELF5 webinar offered
- Email out about CP camps available through CPABC
- Email about books to share:
 - The Brain that Changes Itself by Norman Doidge; neuroplasticity
 - Overcoming Dyslexia by Sally Shaywitz, MD; reading intervention
 - The Mind's Eye by Oliver Sacks; neurology – fascinating items on his own face blindness and other stories
 - Born on a Blue Day by Daniel Tammet; autobiography of an autistic savant
- Invitation to join LATA emailed
- Notes from Cris Rowan's workshop emailed to OT/PT

We are hoping to have our next meeting April 10 – those who attended CrossCurrents are asked to present what they heard.

I'm afraid that's all I've been able to do single handed here. I'm hoping that we might see a change of heart and someone will step forward to take on a leadership position soon.
Thora

Sooke Chapter Summary Report

I would say that this year I have had a definite decrease in the number of members out to our events. (average 8 – 10). They simply don't have the time and / or energy.

We started the year off with a Fall meeting with a presentation from a doctor of optometry who was speaking to the causes behind persistent reading difficulties, attention problems. He used the Dr. David Cook book "When your child struggles – The myths of 20/20 vision".

The Winter meeting focused on the problems of finding "high interest – low literacy" resources that are of value to boys and girls. We are working on a listing of resources that have been of use to our members.

Our Spring meeting will have a speaker from our district come to address the problem of "anxiety" in our students and how we can best deal with it in the classroom setting.

Liz Postle, Intermediate Integration and Learning Support

App Review



Sometimes it's difficult to keep up with the newest apps available. This is a great (FREE) app to help you find other great apps! Browse through hundreds of available apps by categories (such as communication, schedules, timers, etc.) or sort by name, price and rating to find the app that's right for you. It will also contain links to any information regarding specific apps and available reviews written by experienced users. When you've found the app you want, simply click "download" to be redirected to the iTunes store for easy downloading

Toolbox



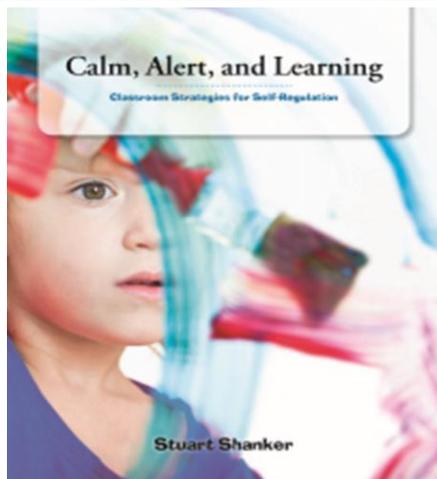
[Apps to hook boys on reading](#)

Do you have a boy who loves video games but is not so keen about reading? Nosy Crow, one of the pre-eminent developers of interactive book apps for kids, designed storybook apps that will particularly appeal to boys. [Read more](#)

[The Teacher's Resource Guide-Fourth Edition](#) has answers to the most common problems that have teachers saying, "What do you do with a student when he . . . ?" or "I've got this student who" The *Teacher's Resource Guide-Fourth Edition* is one of the most comprehensive resources of its kind today and includes the 250 most common learning and behavior problems. Each behavior has an extensive list of intervention strategies. [Read more](#)

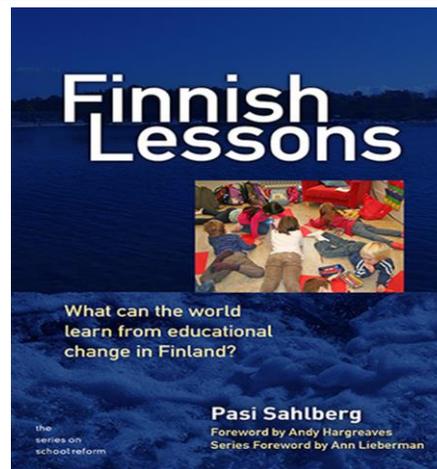
BOOKS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Picks



[review](#) Stuart Shanker.

Research indicates that self-regulation, the ability to monitor and modify emotions, to focus or shift attention, to control impulses, to tolerate frustration or delay gratification, is important to children's success in school. This book looks at the five major domains of self-regulation: what they are, how they work, what they look like in the classroom, and what can be done to help strengthen students' self-regulation.



Ever wondered how Finland managed to build its highly regarded school system? Look behind the headlines to find out how it works and how it evolved. Get the insights and facts you'll need to contribute to building an effective, lower cost educational system at the local, national and global level. [Learn more](#)