

CrossCurrents

TIE-BC

4/1/2017

Spring



TEACHERS of
Inclusive Education
British Columbia

Message from the President

By Debra Swain

Greetings to all TIE-BC members. I hope the longer and warmer days are bringing much needed energy to everyone. Currently we are all enjoying spring break or about to enjoy or have just returned from Spring Break. The push to the end of the year is about to begin. We will all need lots of energy to go through the IEP's and make comments on the students' growth this year. It is always a busy but taking time to see the way our students have responded to Educational Interventions is always interesting.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the Crosscurrents conference this year. We had a very successful conference and many commented on how much they enjoyed the sessions. Michele Garcia Winner gave a timely and interesting Keynote address and provided everyone with the tool to conduct Social Behaviour mapping. She is very engaged in her research and seems to continually challenge herself to meet the needs of all students but especially those who benefit from support with social communication skills.

For those of you who plan to attend Crosscurrents 2018 next year, Kim Barthel will be our Keynote speaker. Kim is a world-renowned speaker, teacher and occupational therapist, most active in the fields of relational trauma, sensory processing, attachment and neuroscience. Supporting multidisciplinary settings in many cultures, Kim has a passion for helping figure out why people do the things they do. (www.kimbarthel.ca). I am looking forward to Kim's presentation and I hope to see many of you at our conference next year.

A Message from the Members and Chapters Coordinator



This year, TIE-BC welcomed 11 local chapters from throughout British Columbia. These local chapters provide professional development opportunities members from their districts and help to keep members aware of the changes and changes within the field of Inclusive Education.

Back in December, we were fortunate enough to have gotten together with local chapter presidents for a day of professional development and networking. We had a wonderful presentation on Growth Mindset from Kristin Wiens, one of the speakers from Crosscurrents.

At Crosscurrents, we had 8 of 11 Chapters represented as Chapter Delegates. These are the wonderful women (and men when we have them) who introduce the speakers, check people in at the door of each session and collect the evaluation forms. Without their support, Crosscurrents would not run as smoothly as it does. A huge thank you goes out to the 16 women who volunteered their time this year. Your help and support are greatly appreciated!

Teachers of Inclusive Education-British Columbia is always looking for districts from around the province to join us as local chapter. We are always looking for ways that we can get the information out to all of our members is just one of those avenues. For more information of becoming a local chapter, please visit our website www.tiebc.com or email tiebcmembers@gmail.com. We look forward to working with you all!

~Sarah Brooks

We have had a very positive year. The current TIE-BC executive worked very hard to put on the conference. Without the dedication of the wonderful group of educators, Crosscurrents would not exist. We will be saying goodbye to Jacqui Ferguson, Jessica Hill, Tracey Walton, Carol McAndrew, Mary Berg, Christina Dalglish, Bev Brown, and Stephanie Koropatnik. The new TIE-BC elected exec who will join us for 2017-18 are Jo Cornthwaite, Gail Wolanski, Laurie MacHale, Maureen MacLachlan, Karissa Crawley and Elaine McEachern.

I also want to thank the Chapter delegates who assisted with our conference. We rely on them to ensure our speakers are introduced and that everyone's evaluations are collected. Having the personal touch of someone in the room to oversee things makes a big difference to the speakers.

Besides the conference, TIE-BC supported a book-study lead by Sarah Brooks. Mindset in the classroom by Mary Cay Ricci was the book chosen this year. Sarah created a blog and hosted online conversations on the chapters. The book-study was well received by our members.

The other thing we are participating in as a PSA is the BCTF Super Conference being held on October 20 and 21, 2017. We are sponsoring 4 speakers for the conference. This will be large conference with many of the PSAs participating.

As we move forward after the significant win in the courts and the restoration of our class size and composition language, we have an opportunity to work with other educators to ensure our students receive the support they need. This will mean working with our local executives, with Local Specialist Associations and with our colleagues to review the language, and to understand how to monitor its implementation. Already there are many more teachers working with students since the Supreme Court decision was made. More students are receiving support and it looks like things will be even better after spring staffing is complete.

Reflections on Cross Currents 2017 Conference

By Conference Chair, Carol McAndrew

Cross Currents Conference 2017 was rated as one of the best in many years by participants. Our new title and logo were unveiled – Teachers of Inclusive Education, BC and were warmly received. Our speaker line up did not disappoint. Michelle Garcia Winner provided a dynamic Keynote address to set the tone for the conference around social thinking and how to map this out. Highlights included Shelley Moore's sessions around Inclusion, Kim Barthel sessions dealing with Trauma, Regulation and Relationship as well as sessions around Mindfulness, Sensory Processing, Managing Anxiety and Self-Regulation. The free Bonus sessions were well attended with topics around Neuroplasticity of the Brain, Eye Gaze in the Classroom, Variety Club and what it has to offer and Insights into Behaviour. Those who attended the Wine and Cheese enjoyed networking and some down time over a beverage and apples.

There is a great deal of work goes into organizing and facilitating a conference like this. I want to take the opportunity to thank all the executive members who worked tirelessly to make this event a success. As volunteers, this is no mean feat.

It is important to note that sessions filled up early this year resulting in the closing of some. Also, the hotel room block filled up before the deadline. The hotel does try to accommodate those who book late but keep in mind that our association only can get a finite numbers of rooms in the room block for a conference rate. The hotel continues to offer free parking and

*Congratulations to the winner
of the free registration for
Crosscurrents 2018: Nicole
Phelan of Nanaimo!*

WIFI for the conference and that is a significant saving to participants. Some participants have questioned conference fees. These are set by the BCTF as Cross Currents is a sanctioned Provincial Specialist Association event. Anyone who is not a BCTF member does have to pay a higher rate for the conference. The executive do try to keep costs down and did not increase fees this past year. It is of interest to note that costs of food are always on the rise so keep in mind that the breakfast you receive as part of your conference fee cost us \$21.00 per person attending and for coffee breaks it is \$16.00 per person attending.

I would also like to thank our continued sponsors, SW Audio Visual, and Vancouver Island University.

We value participants' feedback and want to thank those who gave us ideas for speakers and topics for future conferences. The winner of the complimentary registration for 2018 was Nicole Phelan from Nanaimo. Congratulations.

I will be leaving the executive and the role of conference chair this July. I have enjoyed my many years on the executive and encourage you all to think about getting involved at the provincial level. You are afforded the opportunity to meet people from around the province and work collaboratively to explore and shape the future of Inclusive Education in British Columbia.

Chapter Reports

Thank you to everyone who sent in their chapter reports. In this edition of CrossCurrents, I am pleased to share them with all of you so you can see what else is going on around B.C.!

Annual SEAS (Saanich SD63) Report 2016-2017

Members: Currently, we have 12 members.

Wed. Mar. 2, 2016 (5 members in attendance)

Discussed the difficulty of sending a delegate to Crosscurrents due to costs of TOC coverage as we are committed to supporting classes.

We will be applying to STA for priority funds to use for a book club, cover some of the costs for a TTOC for delegates, or purchase of resources that we can share.

Ida von Schuckmann and Sally Williams discussed the book "Executive Dysfunction in School-Aged Children" and strategies to help them.



Picture from Saanich.ca

Wed. Apr. 27, 2016 (8 members in attendance)

Joan O'Leary shared with us sessions that she attended at Crosscurrents 2016

Amy Lampard showed us how to use the app Adobe Voice (now called Spark Video) which is great for students with written output difficulties. Students take pictures and record their voice to describe the picture. They can add various slides and it makes a wonderful presentation.

Wed. June 22, 2016 (8 members in attendance) Year-end social.

Wed. Nov. 30, 2016 (4 members in attendance) We had planned our AGM but decided to wait until the next meeting when there were more members in attendance. (Ida, Val and Sally are planning to step down from their positions. Ida will remain on the executive as Past President, Sally and Val will step down with Val remaining in a mentor role for the new treasurer. Fiona, Vice President will be running for President at the next meeting. Currently, she is assuming many of the responsibilities. Ida and Fiona to go as delegates to Crosscurrents 2017.

Wed Jan 25, 2017 -(in Committee) Donnie Peterson, our STA rep.- Spoke to how changes in new teacher time affects Support Teachers affective Feb. 2017. We also reviewed the parts of the collective agreement from 1998 that affected Support Teachers, and discussed how we will keep notes about issues that would be in contravention of it starting in September. We let Mr. Peterson know some of our concerns regarding caseload size, covering classes, and new students with IEPs starting without giving teachers a heads-up. He thanked us for bringing this to his attention as it helped him to advocate for our needs.

Submitted with respect by:

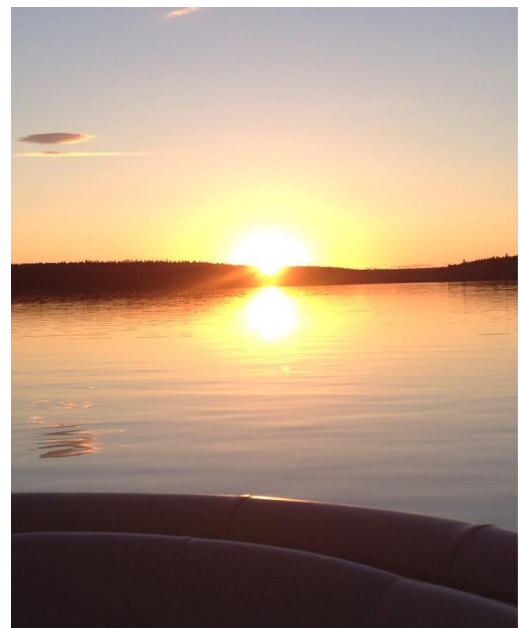
Ida von Schuckmann - President

Fiona Mosher - Vice-President

Cariboo Chilcotin SEA

Our little group of dedicated teachers and Educational Assistants have been working together to better our educational goals and practices. We meet once a month and enjoy the company of one another. A quick snack, our amazing moments that are occurring in each of our schools and then a great deal of discussion. This year we have been working on a book which has been quite informative. Shelley Moore's "One Without the Others: Stories of Unity Through Diversity and Inclusion." We are finding that it is perfect blend of research and narrative and is inspiring for us all. It has been a great topic of discussion. We are taking some of our students and looking at their needs both inside the classroom and out in the schools larger community. How can we help them? How can we help our colleagues? What are we doing in our classrooms and in our practices? So many questions for us to answer.

Our club, with the request of one of our colleagues Jessica Hill, asked Professional Development to bring in a fantastic speaker who focuses on the brain and how we engage it. Our speaker was Terry Small, B.Ed., M.A., who is a master teacher



*Picture: Sunset over Chimney Lake
(approx. 25km outside Williams Lake)*

and Canada's leading learning skills specialist. He is the author of the Brain Bulletin with over 34,000 subscribers worldwide. Terry has presented on the brain for over 33 years to organizations around the world. His knowledge, warmth, humour and dynamic presentation style have made him a much sought-after speaker at workshops and conferences. His discussion was awe inspiring and a real eye opener for all Who attended. We would like to thank both Jessica and Ryan Hanley for bringing him to our district. Our small group is thankful for one another and our time together.

Respectfully,

Jacqui Ferguson (President), Tracy Walton (Vice President), Marianne Okrainetz (Treasurer), Anita Davidson (Secretary), Jessica Hill, Rae Perry, Holly Watkinson, Lacey Dawn Testawich, Cindy Stockhill Grant



Picture from sd61.bc.ca

Chapter Report for Greater Victoria Teacher's Association TIE-BC Local Chapter (SD 61)

This year we have had one speaker, and we attempted to have a speaker from the Ministry of Education, but both times she had to cancel last minute. In October we had the AAC and visuals specialist in our district, Cheryl Warmenhoven come to our meeting and present what resources were available within our district including visual schedules, check lists and step by step directions for things such as Fire Drills. We are hoping to set up workshops for our members with Kristin Weins who

would present on mindfulness as well as one with Fran Bitonti who is an OT and has a number of workshops we can pick from. We have a large membership this year with 25 people having paid their dues, with a newly elected executive of 5 people.

Chapter Report from the Surrey LSA is called ASSET.

This school year ASSET has been meeting monthly. Meetings focused on issues such as the changes in the referral process, students needs, mentorship and the interim staffing additions due to the court case winning in November. We were successful in having two speakers sponsored by SD36/STA to present at our Focus Day in February. Dr. Linda Uyeda workshop was on Teaching with the Heart in Mind and Constable Troy Derrick workshop was on Insights in First Nations Culture.



Picture from surrey.ca

Nanaimo Special Education Association (Nanaimo SEA) 2016-2017

Chapter Report to the SEA General Meeting

Officers:

President- Jo (Joanna) Cornthwaite

Vice-President- Nancy Sheehan

Treasurer- Emily Baker

Secretary- (Rotating Assignment)

Members-at-Large:

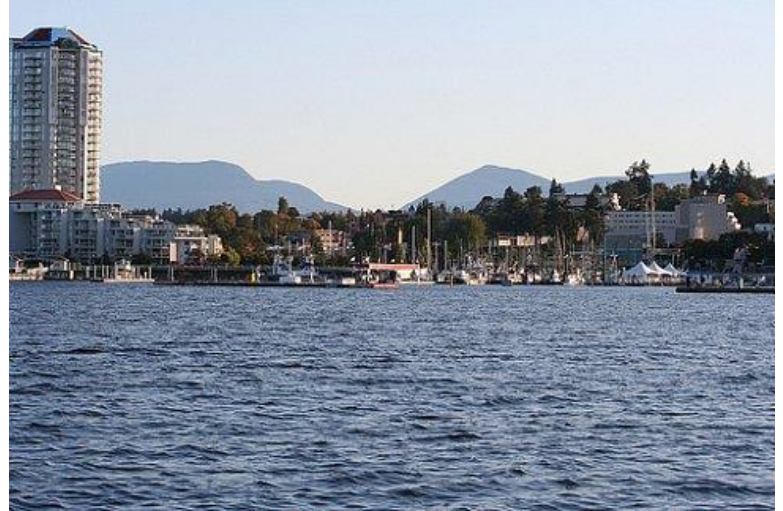
Kerry McBride Debbie Taylor

This year the chapter has focussed primarily on our role as Special Education Teachers in relation to the changes that have occurred in district level assessment and reporting throughout the academic year, including the introduction of student portfolios.

First, we examined the role we as Special Educators play in helping our classroom teachers maintain student portfolios and shared some effective ways to show student learning and progress for our students with IEPs.

We also looked at how Special Education Teachers support the reporting process and how to accurately document student progress when many of our students are ungraded.

Finally, we intend on examining student participation in the assessment process and how to engage our students with an IEP and support them in understanding their progress and areas for improvement, for both academic and non-academic goals.



Picture from discover-vancouver-island.com



Picture from vancouverisland.com

Sunshine Coast Local Special Education Association Chapter Report

Our local Chapter is comprised of 21 members who are full and part time teachers. The members consist of support services teachers, specialized (alternative) program teachers, and reading/numeracy teachers.

Our Goals this school year:

1. Collaboration, Sharing and building capacity, with a focus on the redesigned curriculum.
2. Mentorship to teachers new to Support Services positions, this will be done through monthly meetings when we gather as group and through the local SCTA mentorship program
3. Technology: New district licence for co-writer and snap-n-read, to help facilitate this in the schools

Update on Goals from the Constitution:

There are many things taking place where we are addressing our goals, such as:

- As a group we meet monthly at a Support Service Teacher meetings for either full or half days. This provides time for new updates around the district, time to collaborate and support each other. We are lucky to have a District Principal who recognizes the importance and value of this time together. A focus of part of these meetings has been learning how to input IEPs into MyEd.
- The District Technology Coordinator has offered workshops and support whenever necessary to help Support Services Teachers. This has been through instructing on how co-writer and snap-n-read work at monthly meetings and coming to classrooms to support class wide or individual students.
- We have a mentorship program through the SCTA that provides support and then we have time at our monthly meetings to mentor each other.
- As a group we constantly strive to be aware of new educational developments and resources and share with each other.
- Our monthly meetings also provide us a time to meet as a LSA, to have a voice together and make any needed recommendations to the local SCTA.
- Our school district has literacy plan and this year it is The Collaborating About Reading Engagement (CARE) Project, which is intended to develop a network for sharing values, mindsets and strategies for reading supports across the district. Each team is comprised of the Principal, Support Services Teacher, one primary teacher, and one intermediate teacher. These meetings have been facilitated by our Early Learning Coordinator and special literacy experts, including Mariam Trehearne, Adrienne Gear, and Faye Brownlie. KidsBooks and Strong Nations were invited to make special presentations about their resources and various books. Each elementary school received \$500 to purchase books from each vendor!

Langley's Chapter Report

Membership has increased to 27 members for the current school year (2016-2017).

We had a very successful turn out for a discussion around push-in vs pull-out and coaching possibilities in the fall. We met in a restaurant where apples were provided and members that attended could enjoy a beverage of their choice while sharing. A resource teacher from within the District shared how she provided PUSH-IN support, and a District Coach attended and shared how having two teachers in the classroom was a benefit to the classes. A follow-up discussion this spring is being planned to discuss how to be more effective with our push-in support.



*Picture from
sd36.bc.ca*

Our District is being audited this year and Resource Teachers have been feeling quite stressed about completing IEPs and ensuring the relevant supporting documents were in place for all of their students. The end is in sight but it's been a rocky couple of months and we're looking forward to the Crosscurrents Conference for new ideas and strategies in addition to joining fellow professionals in a supportive atmosphere.

Vernon Special Education Association

Our association continues to be a small but mighty group of dedicated teachers. We meet monthly to collaborate, share ideas and resources, and support each other. We have tried to encourage other teachers to join us by announcing a topic of interest for some of our meetings.

In November, we discussed Trauma Informed Care.

In January, we discussed Executive Functioning skills, especially sustained attention.

We did have some extra attendees and more people who expressed interest but just couldn't make it. Perhaps our April meeting, at which we will be sharing the highlights of the Cross Currents conference, will be well attended!

We have held two successful conferences in the past several years, but have decided to try booking one really motivating speaker next year to cut down on the organizing tasks for our small group, but still provide great pro-d for our members and other interested teachers. We hope to choose and book our speaker next month for the following school year.

Gail Wolanski
President

*Picture from
tourismvernon.com*



L.A.T.A.-S.E.A. Peace River North Sd#60

An annual update for our Northern Chapter!

Elaine McEachern, President

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Email: emeachern@prn.bc.ca

LATA-SEA Fort St. John Chapter Executive Members:

Vice President: Sharon Hoecherl

Secretary: Seanagh Strebchuk

Treasurer: Marjo Rivard-Lorincz

This has been a year of change...

and the Supreme Court Ruling is breathing life back into Learning Support. For the first time in a long time, it doesn't feel like "triage" - it feels like **Supporting Learners**. Many thanks to our tireless union for decades of diligence, strength and support. We wouldn't be looking at "Restored Language" without you!

Infusing Aboriginal Content, ADST & experimenting with the New Curriculum fosters collaborative relationships & new skills.

- **ABORIGINAL CONTENT:** Collaborative Model of Support (CMOS) continues! Fostering relationships between ASW & LATs, BCTF Speakers & Teachers, District Ab Ed Office & Classroom Teachers on NIDs...
- **ADST:** Hour of Code, Beyond an Hour, Maker Days, Maker Way, Tinkering, Genius Hour, Coding Clubs, LittleBits, Schools with a Maker Focus, coaching, team-teaching, Pro D Days! • LAs continue to Foster the Culture of Collaboration:
CMOS is part of our Learning Support culture in SD60.
Collaboration and Coaching funds from District & PRNTA (Union) Mentoring/Visitation help us grow capacity!





Learning Support is always about making sure you're heading in the right direction, together.

Our new team at LATA-SEA is growing together. We're inexperienced and kind-hearted. We're unfamiliar but determined. We get discouraged by speed bumps, but try again.

Elaine McEachern, President
School: 250.785.4511
Cell: 250.263.8123
Email: emceachern@prn.bc.ca

**LATA-SEA Fort St. John Chapter
Executive Members:**

Vice President: Sharon Hoecherl
Secretary: Seanagh Strebchuk
Treasurer: Marjo Rivard-Lorincz

Members at Large:

Dorothy Froese, Mary Tremain,
Cathy Coles, Celeste Van Breda

Other Members:

Lorna Winnicky, Michelle Dressler,
Tanya Corstanje, Jennifer Robertson,
Rachael Bason, Lana Clarke

At the TIE-BC Presidents Meeting

Elaine felt a little overwhelmed by the experience levels of the other presidents. A girl has to start somewhere, however, and I really appreciated the opportunity to connect with other presidents.

The DSM-V changes were informative, but I didn't feel qualified to adjust the Special Ed Policy & Guidelines language, so I just shared with colleagues & didn't adjust any wording.

Celebrating Each Other:

- News from our district: We're very pleased with the effort schools put into their submissions for funding from SCC win. More support for kids = More happiness and success for all!

Learning Support At The District Level

- What does the SCC win (\$559000) mean for staffing?
 - Over 15 FTE positions were created!
- Increase in LAT time for our school alone = .6!

Thank you again for all those who submitted their chapter reports! After an amazing conference, it is great to read about all the things going on in other areas of the province. I hope you have all had a relaxing Spring Break and are ready to keep offering inclusive education opportunities for our schools and our students. Remember to check out our website at <http://www.tiebc.com/> for important information about TIE-BC news and events.

More prize winners from Crosscurrents

Gavin MacDonald	One night stay and two breakfasts at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport
Kirstin Singbeil	Wintergreen extra prize
Worksafe	Silene Herbert
ITTT	Drawn at the AGM
Nelson	Alexsandra Taylor
Tobi Dynavox	Jailynn MacNeil
Variety	Cindy Hudson
Social You	Drawn at the AGM
Artel	Tracy Walton
Odin	Emily Dewar
Scholastics	Sarah Morrison
Pivot Point	Anita Davison
Eaton	Drawn at AGM
Canucks	Trinity Southworth
Vancouver Island U	Shannon Bauer + Drawn at the AGM
Foothill	Jenny Ohl
Jump Math	Denise Spencer+ Anne Lam
EMC Mortgage	Drawn at the table
Sterling	Karen Lengle
Davis & Johnson	Drawn at AGM
Text Help	Drawn at AGM
Special Olympics	Caroline Murray
SD42 Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadow	Callista Vagt + Gavin MacDonald
Insight	Drawn at AGM
Ministry of Children and Family	Unclaimed
McGraw Hill	April McKnight
Portage & Main	Kelsey Callander
Spectrum	Suzanne Sabernaik
Wintergreen	Keri Stephens