

# SD61 ELL Teacher Newsletter

September 2022

## Welcome back!

Our new District Principal for ELL is David Hovis. He has extensive experience overseas as both an educator and administrator in the Greater Victoria School District. We are lucky to have him at the helm! His email is [dhovis@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dhovis@sd61.bc.ca).

Our District ELL Support Teacher is Jennifer Barber, to whom you can direct your queries related ELL. This includes but is not limited to questions related to the September startup checklist, AIP development and assessments. Please look in our Shared Google Drive entitled "ELL/ESD Teacher Resources" for the Annual September Checklist for ELL Teachers, oral language assessments for all levels, a tutorial on how to develop and maintain the ELL AIPs.

## ELL Assessments and AIPs (Annual Individual Plan)

Thankfully, the language assessments and the majority of the 2022-2023 ELL AIPs for our returning ELL students were completed in the spring. Assessments and AIP development is now only needed for brand new ELL students to our school district. Please work to identify new students who may require supplementary language support at your school.

Here are a few ideas about how to do this:

- Communicate with the teachers at your school and ask them to let you know if they have a new student who may require supplementary language support
- Look in these students' school files located in the office for evidence of previous supplementary support
- Call the students' previous school if they transitioned from out of district in BC
- Meet the student

Please reach out if you have questions about AIP development and assessments. ELL teachers and case managers are currently working hard to ensure that they provide an accurate ongoing count of their fundable (5 years or less) ELL students to their admin and admin assistants at their schools. Periodic counts of ELL students will take place until the September 29 final due date for all school districts in the province. So, please be sure to keep

your school office informed of your confirmed numbers and let them know if you still have forthcoming assessments scheduled for next week.

## Important Links

### Shared Google Drive

Did you know? There is a shared Google Drive entitled "**ELL/ESD Teacher Resources**" containing assessments, writing prompts, a video tutorial on AIP development and the **Annual September Checklist**. Current and past GVSD ELL teachers should have access. Please reach out to Jennifer Barber ([jbarber@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jbarber@sd61.bc.ca)) if you need help accessing this helpful drive.

**BC ELL Standards** - just Google this title to see the pdf online.

### Strategic Plan

The GVSD Strategic Plan for the next 5 years is on the district website, along with the Operational Plan for the current school year. All of the goals and strategies relate to cultural responsiveness.

<https://www.sd61.bc.ca/our-district/plans/>

## ProD opportunities this year with Tan Huynh

Tan Huynh has provided exceptional Pro-D to teachers across BC for years and, indeed, around the world! We are pleased to share that we have booked five virtual learning sessions with Tan this year. In the meantime, you can take a look at his website here:

<https://www.empoweringells.com/>

### Upcoming Pro-D opportunities with Tan Huynh

**Friday, October 21, 2022**

**10:30-12:00 PM**

Students with Interrupted Formal Education Part 1 (framework from Dr. Helaine Marshall):  
Building Relationships

**Wednesday, November 23**

**3:00-4:00 PM**

Students with Interrupted Formal Education Part 2 (Framework from Alex Shevrin Venet)

**Friday, January 27**

**1:00- 3:00 PM**

Tan's top suggestions for structuring content-based output

**Friday, February 17**

**1:00-3:00 PM**

Co-planning equitable assessments

3:00 - 4:00 PM

*To be determined.*

## Free Asynchronous Webinars

### **A Systematic Approach to Teaching K-12 Newcomer English Learners**

<https://www.ballard-tighe.com/webinars/>

### **Best Practices for Serving English Language Learners and Their Families.**

This is a very comprehensive and informative asynchronous webinar on culturally responsive teaching. Though it is based in the US, the majority of the content is directly relevant here as well.

<https://www.tolerance.org/professional-development/webinars/best-practices-for-serving-english-language-learners-and-their>

## Co-Teaching and Co-Planning: Quick Strategies For Making Adaptations

### **Recommended Resources**

Tan Hung's Empowering ELLs website listed above is a wonderful resource to use and share with colleagues. On his homepage, look on the right side for "Collaboration".

#### **To simplify the wording of more complex text:**

- <https://rewordify.com/>
- This is a helpful resource for simplifying wording of more complex text.

#### **Newsela**

This is a US-based newspaper, written for educational purposes. Every article is available at five reading levels. Therefore, this is a great way to differentiate reading in the classroom. While this resource has not officially been sanctioned by GVSD, it is possible to print off interesting articles at different reading levels for students.

<https://newsela.com>

#### **Academic Language Function Toolkit**

- <https://sweetwaterschools.instructure.com/courses/1080113/files/31344925>
- This is a great resource for the teacher to use when supporting students. This document provides numerous sentence stems and frames (and more) to help students with their writing.

#### **Free SIOP Training and Resources (Sheltered Instruction):**

- <https://padlet.com/allysonleann/SIOPMU2020>

**Here are some other strategies:**

- Use adapted or translated texts. If they are doing a novel, see if it can be found in his home language. If not, see if there is an adapted version (for kids) or an audiobook version.
- Literature Circles with graphic novels like ABC or Persepolis are great.
- Ask the student(s) to write in his home language, and translate it into English afterwards. Make sure you are assessing the content of the ideas rather than the writing style or grammar (rubrics are great to help with this).
- Offer paragraph and sentence stems to help students.
- Poetry is great for ELL students because it is free from rigid grammar rules.

<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/canada/2022>

<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/canada/2023>

Check out the CBC Kids website for excellent visuals and information about celebrations around the world, or how people celebrate spring in different ways.

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/index.html>

The UN has an established a list of International Days. Note that March holds a number of days relevant to multilingualism and the elimination of discrimination.

<https://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/the-feed/8-new-year-traditions-from-around-the-world>

New Year's traditions around the world, with visuals and simplified language.

## ELL Local Specialist Association

Anyone interested in joining the new ELL LSA is encouraged to contact Jennifer Barber at [jbarber@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jbarber@sd61.bc.ca).

The ELL LSA will be a local Chapter of the PSA (Provincial Specialist Association), called BCTESOL. Their website contains a wide array of relevant resources and information for ELL teachers.

<http://bctesol.ca/resources/>

## Mentorship

Did you know that the GVTA has a mentorship program with release time? Anyone interested in being an ELL mentor or mentee is encouraged to contact Lena Palermo before September 26.



## Teacher Mentorship Program

Did you know that the GVTA offers a mentorship program for Victoria Teachers?

Are you an experienced teacher able to mentor early career teachers and teachers new to a position? Are you an Early Career Teacher (first five years of teaching) or in a new teaching position wanting to be paired with a mentor?

We're accepting applications for Mentors and Mentees!

**Deadline is September 26th at 4pm**



To apply use the QR code or this website link

<https://sites.google.com/gvta.net/gvtateachermentorship/gvta-teacher-mentorship>

For more information please contact Lena Palermo at [lpd@gvta.net](mailto:lpd@gvta.net)

## Our Local Community Partner Not-For-Profit Agencies



ICA, VICCIR, VIRCS and more

Brochures, posters and referral forms provided by our community partner agencies.

[Download](#)

1.3 MB

Now accepting applications for  
**Fall 2022**

**GET PAID TO LEARN**

# GAME CHANGER

Employment Project for Immigrant Youth  
**IS BACK!**

If you are an immigrant young adult (17-29 years) looking for skills training and job search support, we have got you covered with our Game Changer Employment Program.

**Fall Session: October 11, 2022 to December 2, 2022**  
**Classes: Monday to Friday (9:00 am to 4:00 pm)**



### Blended Learning

Program will be delivered both online and in-class  
**Note:** CLB 4 / LINC 5 or higher is required.



**Contact our Immigrant Employment Youth Specialists:**  
Sanketh Venkataram or Rachel Jang  
**Email:** [gamechanger@icavictoria.org](mailto:gamechanger@icavictoria.org) **Call:** 250-388-4728



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