

SD61 ELL Teacher Newsletter

January 2023

Happy New Year!

Welcome back!

Our 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.

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. Her email is jbarber@sd61.bc.ca. 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.

Welcome and Learning Centre

All new eligible families should come through the Greater Victoria School District's new *Welcome and Learning Centre*. We welcome all new immigrant and refugee students supported by our local community agencies. When in doubt, please reach out. Referrals can be made to Tanya Clarke, Administrative Assistant for the District Team and Referral Contact, by phone at 250-475-4157 or by email at taclarke@sd61.bc.ca.

We are here to welcome students and their families and to ease their transition into the school system. Community partners can now contact the Welcome and Learning Centre directly for assistance with student registration and school placement. By first attending this transitional program, students have the opportunity to participate in an intensive half day English language class with a low student-teacher ratio. Schools receive additional lead time to prepare for incoming students and to co-ordinate school-specific supports.

Vietnamese Canadian Experiences in BC

The BC Museum is working on diversifying their multimodal representations of local history. Local artist Chrystal Phan shares her own family's immigration story through paintings and video in a great new link on the BC Museum Learning Portal website, which will continue to grow:

<https://learning.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/pathways/vietnamese-canadian-experiences-in-bc/?view=look>

<https://learning.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/pathways/vietnamese-canadian-experiences-in-bc/>



Chrystal has just made the incredibly generous offer to donate most of her original paintings in this series as seen in the Learning Portal to the Greater Victoria School District! This has the potential to be very powerful for many of our students. Please have a look and stay tuned for more information and resources about the artist and her series of paintings on immigration to BC.

Professional Development for ELL Teachers with Tan Huynh

We are pleased to share that we have several more upcoming Pro D events with Tan Huynh this year. Although we can't have him back in person, we have 3 opportunities to learn with Tan Huynh via ZOOM. As we have shared out before, Tan has a great website "Empowering ELLs" that is a resource center for English as an Additional Language (EAL*) educators who want to empower their Multilingual learners (MLs) to achieve English proficiency, develop thinking skills, and possess effective social skills. On this site, you will find articles related to English language instruction supported by research and field-tested in his classroom and in those of content teachers with whom he works with.



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

Upcoming Pro-D opportunities with Tan Huynh

Friday, January 27

1:00- 3:00 PM

Part 3 of a 5 part series on supporting students with limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFE). Whether you have attended the other sessions or not, this will be a powerful and informative session for all.

Friday, February 17

1:00-3:00 PM

Part 4 of a 5 part series on supporting SLIFE.

Friday, April 26

3:00 - 4:00 PM

To be determined.

Professional Development for ELL Teachers: Elementary & Middle School ProD days

January 23 is the Middle School ProD day in SD61. There will be a selection of district options forthcoming for middle school educators. One option will be for ELL teachers and offered by Jen Barber, District ELL Support Teacher.

January 27 is the Elementary School ProD Day in SD61. There will be a selection of district options forthcoming for elementary educators. One option will be for ELL teachers and offered by Jen Barber, District ELL Support Teacher.

Free Asynchronous ProD



#118. Five time-saving co-planning strategies - TanKHuynh

We cannot co-teach without co-planning because the fruits of effective co-teaching are rooted in the seeds of intentional co-planning. Co-planning is an essential part of the collaborative instructional cycle (Honigsfeld & Dove, 2019). If you are new to co-planning or have a limited amount of time for co-planning, this post shares my personal top five most used strategies when co-planning.

📧 tankhuynh.com

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-families/>

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

Comprehensive and approachable guidance on time-saving co-planning strategies are offered in this article and episode on Tan Huynh's website, Empowering ELLs.

<https://tankhuynh.com/5-co-planning-strategies/>

The 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.

Holidays and Observances

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

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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.

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](#)

1.2 MB

Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria

Information about the ICA, including SWIS (settlement workers in schools) referral forms and contacts, has been shared a number of times. However, it couldn't hurt to share it again, so please see below for what these pdfs looked like in your email. The referral form is even a fillable pdf!

Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS)

SWIS WORKER NAME	CELL PHONE	EMAIL	PHONE Ext.# (250) 388-4728
Lisa Wang (Coordinator)	250-893-3812	lwang@icavictoria.org	2131
Julia Zhou	250-893-3809	jzhou@icavictoria.org	2149
Sondoss Elnegahy	250-886-0045	selnegahy@icavictoria.org	2137
Sabina Niraula	250-886-7709	sniraula@icavictoria.org	2142
Elie Kozma (Manager)		ekozma@icavictoria.org	2118

Important Links

Supporting Students with Refugee Experience

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/diverse-student-needs/students-from-refugee-backgrounds-guide.pdf>

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) 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/>



Jennifer Barber

Jennifer is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters