



Keynote, Inclusion

PR-0288	Tomorrow's Empowered Teacher: How the Four Boys Revolutionized ...	Oct 24, 2025 8:30 am to 10:00 am
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Participants: 152 / 1000

Session Information

Every teacher has a handful of students they'll never forget. For Samantha Woods, there were four—and they changed everything. In this compelling "TedEx"-style keynote, veteran educator and Kaizen Education Services and Brain Hub Academy founder Samantha Woods shares the real-life stories of four unforgettable boys who challenged her thinking, cracked her heart open, and ultimately transformed how she teaches, leads, and lives. Their struggles in the classroom—impulsivity, disorganization, emotional outbursts, missed potential—weren't about motivation or behavior. They were about missing executive functioning skills.

Backed by brain science and over 30 years of experience, Samantha weaves a powerful narrative that reframes what it means to support students in the 21st century. This isn't about adding one more thing to your plate. It's about shifting the lens—so we see behavior differently, support learning more effectively, and stop burning ourselves out trying to fix things that can be taught.

You'll laugh. You might cry. But most of all, you'll leave empowered to lead a quiet revolution—one brain at a time.

Key Takeaways for Educators:

- Executive skills aren't just academic—they're foundational to behavior, learning, and mental health
- Why even our brightest students flounder when these skills are missing (and what we can do about it)
- How to shift from "Why won't they?" to "What's missing?"
- How supporting your own executive function helps you model resilience for students and colleagues alike

About the Instructor

Samantha founded Kaizen Education Services to transform traditional education. For over 25 years, she has explored how brain science intersects with learning, behavior, and mental health. She has built a movement around one radical idea: executive functioning skills aren't optional - they're essential. Through her signature program, The Brain Hub Academy, Samantha helps educators and parents move from frustration to clarity by teaching the real-life, brain-based skills that drive academic success, emotional regulation, mental health, well-being, and, most importantly, resilience. Her workshops and coaching sessions are known for being practical, energizing, and rooted in lived experience, not just theory. She believes educators can't pour from an empty cup and that schools need more than referrals - they need solutions that actually work in the classroom. Samantha is now sharing her neuroscience research and program with corporate groups who recognize that neurodiverse children turn into neurodiverse adults whose tremendous potential often goes unexplored in workplace settings. Samantha is a self-proclaimed Brain Nerd and Positive Disruptor who is rewriting the narrative on school and workplace success. Her mantra? Small changes lead to big improvements. Her mission? To make executive skills education accessible, inclusive, and empowering for everyone, no diagnosis required.

PR-0313	Breakout 1 - The True Life of Teaching in the 21st Century: Five ...	Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
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Participants: 32 / 70

Session Information

"Teaching in today's world is rewarding—but it's also relentless. Between changing curriculum demands, rising student needs, and the ever-present pull of technology, many educators feel they're simply surviving, not thriving. In this breakout session, we'll explore the five essential pillars that help teachers move beyond burnout and build true resilience.

Together, we'll shine a light on the often-overlooked foundation: executive functioning skills—the brain's operating system for attention, planning, flexibility, and emotional regulation. While most mental health programs focus on managing symptoms, executive functioning addresses the root skills that keep teachers (and their students) grounded, adaptable, and thriving.

What you'll gain in this session:

- A deeper understanding of how executive functioning drives resilience, well-being, and sustainable teaching practices.
- Real-life stories and strategies you can apply immediately in your classroom and personal life.
- A fresh perspective on mental health: shifting from reactive supports to proactive, brain-based skill-building.
- Practical tools to strengthen your own executive skills—because you can't pour from an empty cup."

About the Instructor

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PR-0314	Breakout 2 - Mythbusting ADHD & Executive Skills: Empowering Educ...	Oct 24, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
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Participants: 46 / 70

Session Information

ADHD and executive functioning are still widely misunderstood—even in schools. Too often, students with these challenges are mislabeled as lazy, unmotivated, or disruptive, when in fact they're navigating invisible brain-based skill gaps that require support, not stigma.



Central Okanagan Teachers' Association

This breakout session cuts through the myths with a clear, research-based lens on what ADHD really is—and how executive skills form the foundation for learning, behavior, and mental health.

What you'll gain in this session:

- Clarity on common myths vs. realities about ADHD and executive functioning.
- Insight into how many “behavior problems” are actually skill deficits in disguise.
- Practical, classroom-ready tools and strategies that can be woven into everyday teaching without adding to your workload.
- Resources to strengthen your own executive functioning—because supporting students starts with supporting yourself.
- Building your team: how understanding your colleagues executive brain functioning can make all the difference.

Format: Interactive discussion, myth-busting activities, and hands-on resources that you can bring straight back to your classroom. Leave with strategies you can use tomorrow, and a renewed confidence in your ability to empower diverse learners.

About the Instructor

Samantha founded Kaizen Education Services to transform traditional education. For over 25 years, she has explored how brain science intersects with learning, behavior, and mental health. She has built a movement around one radical idea: executive functioning skills aren't optional - they're essential. Through her signature program, The Brain Hub Academy, Samantha helps educators and parents move from frustration to clarity by teaching the real-life, brain-based skills that drive academic success, emotional regulation, mental health, well-being, and, most importantly, resilience. Her workshops and coaching sessions are known for being practical, energizing, and rooted in lived experience, not just theory. She believes educators can't pour from an empty cup and that schools need more than referrals - they need solutions that actually work in the classroom. Samantha is now sharing her neuroscience research and program with corporate groups who recognize that neurodiverse children turn into neurodiverse adults whose tremendous potential often goes unexplored in workplace settings. Samantha is a self-proclaimed Brain Nerd and Positive Disruptor who is rewriting the narrative on school and workplace success. Her mantra? Small changes lead to big improvements. Her mission? To make executive skills education accessible, inclusive, and empowering for everyone, no diagnosis required.

Professional Development, Awareness

PR-0304	Ask a School Psychologist	Oct 24, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
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Participants: 5 / 35

Session Information

Choose your own adventure by filling out this quick 2-question poll: <https://forms.office.com/r/zr6NkpUBXA>. This session can begin with a brief overview of School Psychology and Psychoeducational Assessments and then dive into specific questions related to the field. Some questions may include "Is it a myth that students cannot be assessed before Grade 3?" or "What can I do when one parent does not want an assessment?" Feel free to add questions to the poll or bring your questions to the presentation!

About the Instructor

Kaleigh Best has been a School Psychologist with SD23 since 2017. She received her BSc at UNBC and her MSc in School and Applied Child Psychology at the University of Calgary. She is passionate about supporting students, families, and teachers where they are at. In her free time, she enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband and 5-year-old daughter.

PR-0309	Teacher Student Boundaries	Oct 24, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
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Participants: 5 / 35

Session Information

This session will help teachers better understand the expectations placed on professionals to create and maintain boundaries between themselves and their students. Ethical and professional principles and codes will be presented and analyzed. Cases of teacher misconduct will also be analyzed.

About the Instructor

Dr. Long teaches at KSS. He is also an Associate Lecturer at the University of Alberta where he teaches two undergraduate classes in the Faculty of Education: Ethics and Law for Teachers and the Contexts of Education.

PR-0310	Teaching Controversial Topics	Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
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Participants: 11 / 35

Session Information

Teaching topics that stir up emotions and trigger cognitive dissonance in our students is always a challenge. This informative and participative session will provide teachers with some knowledge and tools in order to overcome this challenge. Participants will better understand how they might more effectively engage students in learning these topics while also keeping themselves safe from potential disciplinary action.

About the Instructor

Dr. Long teaches at KSS. He is also an Associate Lecturer at the University of Alberta where he teaches two undergraduate courses in the Faculty of Education: Ethics and Law for Teachers, and the Context of Education.

PR-0321	Post Critical Incident Team - what is it and why should I know ab...	Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
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Participants: 2 / 35

Session Information

The Post-Critical Incident Team is composed of counsellors and other school personnel who provide support to a school community—or across multiple sites—following a critical incident. In this 90-minute session, Cheryl and Heather will provide an overview of the post-critical incident process, grounded in both



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research and practical experience. Participants will explore the variety of roles involved in responding to a critical incident, gain clarity around expectations, and better understand how they, in their role within the school, will be supported throughout the process.

About the Instructors

Heather and Cheryl are members of the School District Post Critical Incident Team. Both are counsellors within the district, serving a variety of needs within their roles at Middle and High School.

PR-0325	Professional Boundary Issues: Teacher/Student Relationships	Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 2:30 pm
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Participants: 0 / 35

Session Information

Sometimes the standards of conduct between students and teachers are ambiguous. Teachers place themselves in jeopardy when boundaries are crossed. This workshop helps school staffs and TTOCs identify the boundaries and provides them with support and resources. Reference will be made to the BCTF Code of Ethics.

About the Presenter

Natasha Schroeter

Professional Development, Behaviours

PR-0295	Rethinking Challenging Behaviour - An Introduction to Collaborati...	Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
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Participants: 35 / 35

This is a virtual session. Room 006 will be open for attendees to use, along with the presentation being streamed on the projector.

Session Information

Working with children and teens who demonstrate challenging behaviours can be difficult, stressful, and complex. Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) is a compassionate, evidence-based, trauma-informed approach that provides a philosophy and tools to understand and address challenging behaviour. CPS is used in schools and programs across North America. Research has shown that CPS builds executive functioning skills in students, reduces oppositional behaviours, and teachers report reduced stress when using the approach.

This session is an introduction to CPS. This session helps educators reflect on their understanding of challenging behaviour and interventions to support students with challenging behaviour. Participants will learn about how the CPS approach explains challenging behaviour and how CPS can address these behaviours. This session will help educators decide if CPS would be an effective approach to include in their practice and provide the information and resources to learn more.

If you would like more information about CPS prior to the session, please visit <https://thinkkids.org/>.

About the Instructor

Matt Stickl is a teacher, parent and Think:Kids CPS Certified Trainer in Collaborative Problem Solving. For the past four years he has been teaching in a Student Services role in a K-9 school with the Calgary Board of Education. Prior to this, he taught for eight years in adolescent mental health and addiction treatment programs.

While working in a program partnership with Alberta Health Services, Matt was exposed to CPS as an approach to address challenging behaviours. After exposure, training, and seeing the effectiveness of CPS, he worked to become the only Certified Trainer in Western Canada. Over the last four years, Matt has delivered CPS training sessions for educators, mental health professionals and parents across Alberta while working part-time as a Student Services teacher. You can learn more about Matt and his work at www.newlightlearning.ca.

Professional Development, Career Education

PR-0303	Health Care Careers	Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
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Participants: 2 / 35

Session Information

Providing teachers with up-to-date information about careers in health care so they have the information needed to support their students.

About the Instructor

Sarah Lauman is the Coordinator, External Partnerships with Interior Health

Professional Development, Drama

PR-0292	Drama LSA Meeting and Workshop	Oct 24, 2025 8:30 am to 2:30 pm
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Participants: 9 / 50

Session Information

Membership to ABCDE: Learn about the benefits and resources available through the Association of BC Drama Educators, including workshops, festivals, and support for Drama programs. Show Discussions: Share and discover new play ideas, musicals, and show formats that have worked well in our schools. Let's discuss how to adapt these for different grade levels and settings. Lesson Plan Sharing: Bring your best Drama lesson plans and activities! We'll exchange tried-and-true teaching strategies that engage students of all grades, from improv exercises to performance projects. Collaborative Planning: We'll have dedicated time to collaborate and share expertise, assessment strategies, and creative projects. Whether you're looking for feedback or inspiration, this will be a great chance to learn from each other.

About the Instructor



Lee Schwartz is the Drama/Theatre Production Teacher at GESS.

PR-0294	Basic PA Setup and Sound Design For Teachers	Oct 24, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	Participants: 0 / 35
Session Information			
This workshop aims to simplify setup and use of PA systems, whether it's in the classroom or another part of the school. Topics covered include types of speakers, microphones and other devices, as well as troubleshooting a system when it isn't cooperating.			
About the Instructor			
Jeffrey Saunders is a current music teacher at RSS, presented multiple times at BCMEA conference, former pro-d chair for COMEA.			

Professional Development, ELL

PR-0320	Elementary ELL Specialists Sharing Session	Oct 24, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	Participants: 1 / 35
Session Information			
This is a yearly opportunity to gather as ELL teachers to share out stellar resources you are using! Please come prepared to share a (K-5) resource that you have found helpful in your teaching role. This could be a physical resource or even an AI site you have been using to adapt assignments for your students.			
About the Presenter			
Paula has had various roles in our District over the past 31 years, including French Immersion classroom teaching, FSL, LAT, Music and ELL. She values opportunities to gather, share and collaborate with her colleagues!			
PR-0322	ELL BCTESOL 2025 Virtual Fall Conference - For Paid BCTESOL Atten...	Oct 24, 2025 9:00 pm to 2:00 pm	Participants: 0 / 40
About this Session			
Teachers who are attending the BCTESOL 2025 Virtual Fall Conference have this space to meet and attend sessions virtually. Only teachers who are registered for that Conference should select this session. Conference information can be found here : https://bctesolconference.ca/			
Schedule:			
09:00 AM - 10:15 AM - Dr. Andrea Honigsfeld - Part 1: Going beyond translation			
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM - Break			
10:30 AM - 11:45 AM - Dr. Andrea Honigsfeld - Part 2: Content Area Language and Literacy Strategies			
11:45 AM - 12:20 PM - Lunch Break			
12:20 PM - 12:30 PM - Prizes			
12:30 PM - 01:30 PM - Dr. Andrea Honigsfeld - Part 3: Collaborative Instructional Practices			

Professional Development, Inclusion

PR-0289	Psychological Safety and Conflict Resolution in Action: Lessons f...	Oct 24, 2025 8:30 am to 2:30 pm	Participants: 8 / 35
Session Information			
Conflict is a normal part of classroom life, but when left unaddressed it can undermine learning and well-being. Klassens Tid, a weekly class meeting widely used in Denmark, offers a structured, research-informed approach to fostering empathy, inclusion, and psychological safety among students. In this session, participants will explore how Klassens Tid can be adapted for Canadian classrooms to give students a voice, address tensions constructively, and strengthen class community. Drawing on qualitative research and national well-being surveys from Denmark, we will examine how regular class meetings support conflict resolution and improve student belonging. Educators will learn practical strategies for designing sessions that invite participation, promote respectful dialogue, and build shared responsibility. Through interactive activities, participants will experience a sample Klassens Tid circle and reflect on how it might reduce bullying and micro-conflicts in their own classrooms. The workshop will connect theory to practice by integrating socio-emotional learning principles and classroom management strategies already familiar to BC teachers. Attendees will leave with adaptable tools and facilitation guides to implement Klassens Tid in Grades 4-9.			
About the Instructor			
Dr. Nina Gregoire is a mediator and social scientist with expertise in psychological safety, conflict resolution, and well-being in group settings. She holds a PhD in Social Psychology from the University of British Columbia Okanagan and has extensive experience delivering training and workshops on communication, emotional intelligence, and conflict management. Dr. Gregoire has published research on empathy, power dynamics, and organizational health, and her practice focuses on helping families, workplaces, institutions, and communities develop durable strategies for reducing conflict and fostering inclusivity. She is also the founder of The Resolve Lab Inc., where she supports clients through mediation, facilitation, and psychological health and safety consulting.			
PR-0293	The ABCs of AAC: AAC Inclusion in the Classroom	Oct 24, 2025 8:30 am to 2:30 pm	Participants: 40 / 40



Session Information

This full-day workshop is designed for classroom teachers, inclusion/resource teachers, certified education assistants, and related professionals who want to build their skills in implementing Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) in the classroom. Whether you are brand new to supporting students using AAC or an AAC veteran, you'll leave with practical, day-to-day strategies and greater confidence in supporting AAC learners.

About the Instructor

Leah Clark, a Speech-Language Pathologist with over 16 years of experience and the current AAC Consultant for SD23, brings her expertise and passion for AAC to every training she delivers. She will be joined virtually in the morning by SET-BC educators, Iren Heer and Arika Klassen, who will present on integrating literacy with AAC users.

Professional Development, Inquiry

PR-0319	Let's Get Curious! A Hands-On Day of Inquiry & Student Empowermen	Oct 24, 2025 9:00 am to 2:30 pm
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Participants: 7 / 35

Session Information

Are you looking to shake things up in your classroom and help your students take ownership of their learning? Join us for a fun, hands-on professional development day all about inquiry-based learning, a powerful approach that boosts student agency, confidence, and engagement.

We'll dive into practical strategies that work across all grade levels and subject areas, and you'll walk away with ready-to-use routines and tools that make inquiry feel doable and exciting, not just another thing on your plate.

Hear from fellow teachers who've been exploring inquiry and see how their students have grown in identity, ownership, and voice. You'll even get to hear directly from students about how inquiry has changed the way they learn, and how they view school.

This day will involve active participation by all who attend, as the best way to learn about inquiry is to experience it in action! If you teach in a team, this is a terrific opportunity to co-plan something cross-curricular!

Come curious. Leave inspired. We can't wait to explore with you!

About the Presenters

Kristi and Lindsey are part of SD23's Learning and Innovation Team. They have been actively pursuing learning around inquiry for the last 10 years, and have supported many teachers implementing it with their learners. They strongly believe in holding up learner agency through growing students' sense of identity, belonging, inquiry, and efficacy.

Professional Development, Movement/PE/Dance

PR-0300	A Teaser of the Outdoor Council of Canada Field Leader Workshop	Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
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Participants: 3 / 35

Session Information

Are you interested in learning practical strategies for conducting safe and engaging outdoor educational experiences for your students, serving as an excellent introduction to the Outdoor Council of Canada Leadership program? We are excited to share the effective tools and invaluable tips we've developed and utilized throughout our careers. As experienced Park Interpreters, we bring to the table a combined experience of 50 years spent guiding, leading, and teaching diverse groups in a wide array of outdoor environments, ranging from the rugged west coast of Canada to the varied landscapes of the east coast, whether on the water, on the land, or in the mountains. **The session will be primarily outside, please dress accordingly.** The OCC Field Leader program is designed to help participants develop a strong understanding of critical topics, including motivation techniques, the importance of vision and planning, comprehensive event planning strategies, hazard identification and risk mitigation, effective team-building activities, expert group management skills, and the value of reflection and continuous improvement.

About the Instructors

Combined 50 years of Park Interpretation, Alison has been an Alpine Club of Canada volunteer leader, and Mountain guide with youth groups. Rose has delivered programs and events in the Okanagan, Rocky Mountains and Ontario/East Coast wilderness. Both presenters are active and avid outdoor enthusiasts.

PR-0315	Line Dancing in the Classroom	Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
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Participants: 24 / 35

Session Description

Discover how line dancing can spark energy, focus, and teamwork. This session teaches simple, fun, kid-friendly beginner routines you can use in your Phys Ed classes. No dance experience required, just bring your enthusiasm! Teachers leave with 4-5 "ready to go" dances and ideas for how to integrate them into PE, indoor recess, brain breaks, or even school assemblies.

About the Presenter

Shelly Hanson is very passionate about line dancing and brings both energy and fun to every class. She has been teaching dances at various venues in Kelowna, the recreation center, and private events, and is now sharing her expertise with educators. Line dancing helps students build coordination, confidence, and teamwork while keeping movement fun and inclusive. For teachers, it offers stress relief, laughter, and connection, making it a refreshing way to recharge. Shelly will be teaching two workshops: one focused on incorporating line dance into physical education, and another designed for teacher wellness.

PR-0316	Line Dancing for Teacher Wellness	Oct 24, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
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Participants: 27 / 35

Session Information



Central Okanagan Teachers' Association

Teachers give their energy to students all day - this session is about refilling their own cup. Join us for a lighthearted, high-energy workshop where line dancing becomes a form of stress relief, self-care, and community connection. Participants will learn easy-to-follow dances to upbeat music, and discover how movement can boost mood and well-being. This session is designed for fun, laughter, and leaving refreshed - no pressure, no perfection, just joy through movement.

About the Presenter

Shelly Hanson is very passionate about line dancing and brings both energy and fun to every class. She has been teaching dances at various venues in Kelowna, the recreation center, and private events, and is now sharing her expertise with educators. Line dancing helps students build coordination, confidence, and teamwork while keeping movement fun and inclusive. For teachers, it offers stress relief, laughter, and connection, making it a refreshing way to recharge. Shelly will be teaching two workshops: one focused on incorporating line dance into physical education, and another designed for teacher wellness.

PR-0317 Cultivating Wellness: A Mindful Walking Experience for Stress Rel...

Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 2:30 pm

Participants: 21 / 35

Session Information

This session will take place at Gellatly Nut Farm between 10:45-2:15 (30 minutes for lunch). Participants will embark on a gentle, 90-minute walk over flat terrain, creating space for mindfulness and reflection. Before the walk, we will focus on identifying simple, practical strategies to find moments of stress release during the school day. After the walk, we will share and collaborate among participants to generate ideas and approaches tailored to their individual wellness needs. In addition to personal wellness development, this session will emphasize the importance of community support by guiding participants in identifying people at their school who can help support their wellness plan. Together, we will explore how peer support networks can enhance resilience and promote ongoing self-care.

About the Presenter

With 15 years of teaching experience, including 5 years specializing as a social-emotional wellness teacher, Charity Franczak brings a wealth of knowledge and a passion for fostering holistic wellness in educational environments. Recently certified as a yoga instructor, Charity integrates mindfulness and movement practices into her approach to support educators in managing stress and promoting mental well-being. Her session will focus on practical, accessible strategies for cultivating personal resilience and building supportive wellness communities within schools. Charity is committed to empowering educators to prioritize their health while nurturing a positive, balanced professional life.

PR-0323 Olympic Weightlifting and Powerlifting in Middle and High School

Oct 24, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Participants: 10 / 20

Session Information

Come join us in learning about basic techniques to teach your students or athletes how to safely and correctly perform the basic movements in both weightlifting and powerlifting. This session will be active so come ready to move. **About the Instructor** Kim is a retired powerlifter who competed for Canada on many occasions. She teaches weight room at RMS and would love the sport of powerlifting to grow in the Central Okanagan. Mike Godwin is the MBSS football coach, a wrestling coach and an experienced weightlifter. He also wants to see more schools teaching students how to lift.

Professional Development, Music

PR-0305 Enhancing Teaching with Music Writing Software

Oct 24, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Participants: 2 / 35

Session Information

This session will focus on using the music-writing program MuseScore to enhance your lessons, build platform skills, create worksheets, and write small songs for your band. Bring a score and explore how to use this powerful program to enhance and supplement work in your classroom. Please bring your own device with a current version of MuseScore to this session.

About the Instructor

Dave McGarry is a high school band director and festival organizer who explores ways to build student ownership, collaboration, and musicianship in the ensemble setting. He enjoys sharing practical strategies that help students grow as confident and expressive performers.

PR-0306 Building Ownership and Musicianship Through Small Ensemble Skills

Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Participants: 2 / 35

Session Information

Discover how chamber music strategies can transform full ensemble rehearsals into spaces of deeper student engagement and growth. This session offers practical ways to build ownership, listening, and collaboration by embedding small ensemble skills, such as score study, interpretive decision-making, and peer reflection, directly into band rehearsals. Walk away with simple, adaptable techniques that help students move beyond the notes on the page and perform with confidence, expression, and shared artistry.

About the Instructor

Dave McGarry is a high school band director who explores ways to build student ownership, collaboration, and musicianship in the ensemble setting. He enjoys sharing practical strategies that help students grow as confident and expressive performers.

Professional Development, Other

PR-0312 Open Collaboration Space

Oct 24, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Participants: 1 / 100



Central Okanagan Teachers' Association

About the Session

A space to meet and work with colleagues.
Bring your own goals and work partners.
Please submit a Self-Directed Form to describe the work completed during these sessions.

PR-0324	CUPE Members - Register Here	Oct 24, 2025 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
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Participants: 26 / 1000

IF you are a CUPE member, please register for this session

Professional Development, Social Studies

PR-0298	Teaching the Holocaust: New Resources and Strategies for the Upda...	Oct 24, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
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Participants: 1 / 35

Session Information

Join the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre for an introduction to our newest resource: a bilingual, online teaching exhibition featuring over 160 Holocaust artefacts, photographs and testimonies. Supported by the BC Ministry of Education, the website offers teachers a comprehensive, accessible, and unique resource to meet the new learning standards of Social Studies 10 curriculum. Carefully curated primary sources illustrate the major themes of Holocaust study, engaging students with history through the powerful lens of individual experience. Twenty integrated student activities and an accompanying teacher's guide provide a rich resource for introducing the Holocaust and developing primary source literacy skills in middle and high school students. Bring your laptops and follow along as we lead you through the interactive features of the website, student activities and teaching strategies.

About the Instructor

Ellie Lawson is the Education Manager at the VHEC, responsible for the development, advancement and support of educational initiatives at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. She develops resources and delivers impactful programs for schools, educators, professionals, the public and adult learners. Ellie holds a master's degree in public history from Indiana University Indianapolis, with expertise in Holocaust and genocide history. Throughout her career, Ellie has collaborated closely with Holocaust survivors, as well as second- and third-generation descendants, and survivors of human rights violations, amplifying their narratives.

PR-0299	The Power of Perspective: Transformative Practices in Holocaust E...	Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
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Participants: 6 / 35

Session Information

Teaching about the Holocaust doesn't have to be overwhelming. Centring the use of fact checked, Canadian-based first-hand accounts and best practices in Holocaust education, this session will leave you feeling confident and prepared with a ton of free, ready-to-use resources!

The Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program collects, preserves and shares the first-hand accounts of survivors who came to Canada after the war. All of our memoirs, educational materials and professional development sessions are completely free for students and educators across Canada and are available in English and French.

About the Instructor

Michelle Sadowski is an educator with the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program, based in Toronto. With a master's degree in education and having worked in the field of education for 20 years, including eight years as a classroom teacher, she joined the Memoirs team in 2021. Michelle develops educational resources, facilitates teacher training workshops across Canada and is committed to helping educators confidently teach Holocaust history through survivor memoirs, applying a trauma-informed lens to ensure appropriate and meaningful learning.

PR-0307	Pemmican: The Original Superfood	Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
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Participants: 15 / 35

Session Information

Pemmican is a traditional Indigenous food source that played an important role in the survival of many Nations. It was also the lifeline of the fur trade in Canada. In this session, participants will be taken through the process of how to make pemmican 21st century style. It will include a hands on demonstration, as well as a recipe and guide for classroom use.

About the Instructor

Laura has been teaching for 20 years. Drawing on her culinary arts and socials background, she is passionate about immersing food and hands on experience into the classroom.

PR-0308	Role Play in the Social Studies Classroom	Oct 24, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
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Participants: 9 / 35

Session Information

Are you looking for ways to increase student engagement and retention, especially with historical events and concepts? This is an interactive session where participants will engage in active role play based on the social studies curriculum. Using a combination of trivia, simulations, and some common games, we will explore and discuss the merits of role play and how to incorporate it into your own practice. Participants will also leave with specific simulation outlines and tools that align with the curriculum. The materials provided will have a focus on Socials 9/10 topics, but we will discuss how to create and adapt experiences for various age groups and cross-curricular topics.

About the Instructor

Laura has 20 years of teaching experience in a wide range of subject areas. Her journey has brought her from teaching all four core subjects at the secondary



level to branching out to Outdoor Education Leadership and Culinary Arts, among others. She draws on all of these disciplines in her attempt to create unique experiences in the classroom.

Professional Development, STEM

PR-0290	STEM in Non-Traditional STEM Spaces	Oct 24, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
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Participants: 13 / 35

Session Information

Join the WWEST STEM Curriculum Team in some hands-on, BC Curriculum linked lessons that can be used by students in grades K-12 in non-traditional STEM spaces. Think Physical Education or English Language Arts from K-12! Our goal is to provide ready to STEM-infused lessons and assessment plans for use in your classroom, without the need for extended research and trials. Our team includes educators who understand, envision and integrate these, and similar, principles of learning in the lessons that WWEST creates, and shares with students and teachers. All of our lessons are linked to BC Education curriculum and reflect the needs of individual learners and classrooms we have worked with across BC/Yukon. Students are certainly the center, as we provide our outreach lessons in an equitable manner, so all participants are able to experience hands-on STEM learning, that we hope sparks curiosity and a sense of belonging in STEM related education and future career opportunities.

About the Instructor

Rebecca has over 20 years of K-12 teaching experience. As part of the WWEST educator team, she provides participants with a variety of ways to incorporate technology and STEM learning across non-traditional STEM spaces. (For example, Physical Education or English Language Arts).

PR-0296	Coding in Motion: Sphero Robotics for the Classroom	Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
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Participants: 5 / 35

Session Information

Bring coding to life with Sphero robotics in this hands-on Pro-D session for grades 3-8. Experience activities like programming a maze challenge and using speed and distance to connect math and geometry. Most activities will use visual block coding, with a preview of how text-based coding can extend learning for older students. See how Spheros support computational thinking, inquiry, and problem-solving in ways that connect across ADST, Math, and Science. Leave with classroom-ready lessons and the confidence to run your own engaging Sphero activities that build collaboration and critical thinking in your classroom. No coding experience? No problem - we will scaffold for all levels!

About the Instructor

Jen Garner is the Geering Up STEM Outreach Coordinator for the School of Engineering at UBC Okanagan. She has 12+ years of experience in educational outreach and non-traditional learning environments. Jen works closely with a team of UBC Engineering students to bring STEM into SD23 classrooms and communities around the Okanagan.

Professional Development, Technology

PR-0291	Making Quality Hand-outs for Any Subject Easy with Canva	Oct 24, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
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Participants: 35 / 35

Session Information

With so much on a teacher's plate already making your own Hand-outs can be a huge extra burden many teachers don't even bother, either buying them online, using other teachers or making them once decades ago and photocopying them till the clip art looks like it was from a horror film. I've been told by several people that my Hand-out's look pretty nice so I'm happy to share my tips and tricks to save you time and effort. Laptops are encouraged, this session is being hosted in a computer lab.

In this session, you'll :

- Gain full access to Canva free forever.
- Make your own Hand-Out on Canva (Which will be a template you can work from)
- Get tips and tricks of why Canva makes life much easier compared to other tools
- Get handy tricks like;
 - Dynamic pdf editing,
 - Simple and clean document storage using Canva
 - Digital document signing and more

About the Instructor

Aurey Harris is a Teacher of Electronics, Robotics and Math from Kelowna Secondary School with many hats including, COTA social justice chair for 2 years, running the Diversity Club, Dungeons and Dragon Club and Robotics Club at KSS for 3 years. They have a background in Sciences Majoring in Psychology and Minorng in Computer Science. Gamification and digital integration in a classroom environment has always been an important part of their pedagogy.

PR-0297	EVERFI Digital Resources 101 for K-12 schools	Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
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Participants: 3 / 35

Session Information

EVERFI's Free Digital life skill resources for your classroom



Central Okanagan Teachers' Association

Check out this "EVERFI 101" session.

During this session attendees will gain an in-depth understanding of EVERFI's digital library of critical-life skill resources and how to seamlessly integrate these free resources into their classrooms.

EVERFI's 25+ engaging resources cover topics, including Financial Literacy, STEM, SEL, Health, Career Exploration and Sustainability.

All resources are developed with subject matter experts, aligned with the BC curriculum and are available at no cost.

Educators will leave this session feeling confident and enthusiastic about implementation of these no cost digital resources with their students.

Suitable for Grade 2-12 teachers.

About the Instructors

Hailing from Edmonton, Alberta, Jesus has been working with educators in Western Canada for the last five school years at EVERFI.

PR-0301	AI for Educators: Inclusive, Time-Saving Strategies	Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
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Participants: 20 / 35

Session Information

Teachers across BC are balancing growing demands for inclusion, differentiation, and culturally responsive practice, often with limited time and tools. This hands-on workshop is a low-barrier introduction to using generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT) to draft and refine lessons, adapt for diverse learners, redesign assessments, and strengthen inclusive practice. We keep it practical, and no tech background is required. We will cover AI basics, address common myths and concerns, and outline ethical, EDI (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) and cultural safety protocols. Bring your laptop. You will try live prompts, critique AI drafts, and turn them into classroom-ready materials. You will leave with your own personal prompt bank and access to a shared cohort prompt bank, plus concrete, time-saving strategies you can use immediately. **About the Instructor**

Courtney is a Master of Education candidate specializing in AI in inclusive education. Her work explores how tools like ChatGPT can help amplify student voice, support differentiated learning, and enable equity-centered planning, while actually reducing workload, not adding to it. She's currently studying what effective collaboration looks like, both between educators and in partnership with AI. With a background in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and a practical, efficiency-focused mindset, her sessions are hands-on, conversational, and grounded in the real challenges BC teachers are navigating.

PR-0302	Leveraging Digital Tools to Foster Critical Thinking and Collabor...	Oct 24, 2025 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
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Participants: 3 / 35

Session Information

This workshop is designed for high school educators who want to explore how digital tools like Padlet and Figjam can enhance critical thinking (CT) and collaboration in their classrooms. Drawing from my action research, this session will showcase how these tools impact students' CT skills and offer practical strategies for integration into social studies classes (and beyond).

This workshop aims to provide high school teachers with the knowledge and tools to foster critical thinking and collaboration in their classrooms, ultimately preparing students for success in the 21st century.

About the Instructor

Tara Grant is an experienced educator and leader with over 20 years in British Columbia's education system. She holds a B.Ed. from SFU and an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from UVic. Tara has served as the English and Social Studies Department Head, leading initiatives in curriculum integration, literacy programs, and online learning during COVID-19.

Passionate about fostering student engagement, Tara specializes in curriculum design, professional development, and innovative teaching strategies, with a focus on literacy, assessment, and differentiation. A credentialed Literacy 10/12 marker, she has led numerous workshops to enhance pedagogy and student outcomes.

Tara is completing her Ed.D. at the University of South Carolina, researching the role of educational technology in developing critical thinking. She also teaches at Queen's University and collaborates with industry professionals through her work with MineralsEd, bridging education and real-world applications.

As a learning strategist, Tara brings a research-based approach to create dynamic and impactful learning experiences, making education more relevant and accessible across schools, universities, and businesses. Her focus on discussion-based environments empowers students to take ownership of their learning.

PR-0318	Encouraging Our Students To Be Digital Content Creators	Oct 24, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
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Participants: 5 / 35

Session Information

In a digital world, there is a focus on content consumption, without a regard for how that content is created. The focus of this session is to examine how and why it is important for students to learn how to create digital content in the classroom as a way to showcase their learning, and have an impact outside of the classroom. This session will look at the pedagogical concepts behind student content creation, and then look at tools that teachers can use to integrate these methods into their lessons.

About the Instructor

With 13 years of experience in the classroom, and 5 years of working in big tech, Justin brings a unique view how technology can be used in the Secondary classroom to increase student engagement and success. At Mount Boucherie Secondary School, Justin teaches AP Literature 12, Pre-AP Literature 11, as well as English 9 and Creative Writing. In addition, he is the school's Technology Coordinator and works with staff to build technological best practices.