

Association of Independent Schools & Colleges in Alberta Teachers' Convention: *"Better, Together!"*



FEBRUARY 16, 2018

MacEwan Conference Centre 2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, Alberta

2018 marks the 60th year of operation for the Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta, and to celebrate this milestone the association is holding a teachers' convention that is reflective of the diversity and quality of independent schools in Alberta. The AISCA Teachers' Convention will provide participants with high quality educational professional development opportunities. This is the first convention of its kind for independent school teachers, and is intended to highlight the reality that we truly are, *"Better, Together!"*.

Schedule of Events

8:00am - 9:00am	Registration and trade show open
9:00am - 9:40am	Welcome, presentations and remarks from dignitaries
9:40am - 10:40am	Keynote address - <i>The Threads of Trauma: Trauma Informed Education</i>, Kim Barthel
10:40am - 11:10am	Break and transition to breakout sessions
11:10am - 12:00pm	Breakout sessions #1
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch break and trade show opportunity
1:00pm - 1:50pm	Breakout sessions #2
1:50pm - 2:10pm	Break and transition back to main hall
2:10pm - 3:00pm	Keynote address - <i>Everybody Counts</i>, Alvin Law

Keynote Address

The Threads of Trauma: Trauma Informed Education

Kim Barthel



Trauma informed education is appropriately becoming an increasingly common topic of conversation in Canadian schools. Circumstances such as domestic violence, abuse, neglect and addiction are examples of what is happening within families that dramatically alters a child's development and impedes their capacity to learn. Join Kim for this workshop that illuminates the significance that trauma has on learning within our classrooms.

What will you learn from this workshop?

- An understanding of implicit memory and how we all develop attachment coping strategies designed for survival
- Concepts like triggers which elicit challenging behaviours, mirror neurons which help us relate, and regulation which is critical for being present to any situation
- Identification of the red flags in behaviour that are suggestive of relational trauma
- An appreciation for the deep impact trauma has upon learning and development

Keynote Address

Everybody Counts

Alvin Law



What is the value of a life? To Alvin Law, that's not a life insurance question. It's a thought that has followed him around since he was born...then written off! Alvin was one of Canada's first "Thalidomide Babies", labelled that way because of the infamous morning sickness medication that deformed thousands of babies in the early 60's. Every medical and rehabilitation expert agreed that being born without arms, Alvin's quality of life would be negligible. It appears they were wrong. Today, Alvin is one of the

most sought after professional speakers in Canada, and around the world. His achievements in life are awe inspiring and Alvin believes passionately that without key individuals seeing more, not less in his potential, his story would be radically different.

Alvin calls it... "Beyond Limits: Raising The Bar To Achieve The Impossible". It's his professional and personal mission statement and he attributes the idea to first, his parents, and second, his teachers. As Alvin puts it; "When people put faith in me, I put faith in myself and the value of my life shifted! Everybody Counts!"

Without letting out too much because his program has some surprises and it's without a doubt, an experience that you must be in the room to feel, Alvin will share his secrets and stories that he guarantees will touch your heart, your head and your soul and remind you that improving lives through education does matter. And so do you!



Breakout Sessions #1

11:10am - 12:00pm

Regulation Through Relationship: Nature's Antidote to Challenging Behaviour (K-12)

Kim Barthel

Beyond Access: Meaningful Participation for All Children (Elementary)

Krista Wennerstrom & Rachel Siderius

Metacognition in Math (Junior & Senior High)

Kellie Adams & Heather Scott

The Power of Play (ECS)

Robin McKittrick

Instructional Storytelling (Elementary; Middle School)

Melina Cartmell & Justine Pavelich

The "Other" is an Artist. Cross Cultural Communications Through Creativity (Grades 7-9)

Lesley Machon & Brenda English

Everything in the Universe Has A Name! (Elementary; ESL adult & child)

Carol Scarratt

Executive Functions: Who's the Boss? (K-12)

Tanya Keto

Breakout Sessions #2

1:00pm - 1:50pm

Regulation Through Relationship: Nature's Antidote to Challenging Behaviour (K-12) (REPEAT)

Kim Barthel

How Colour and Light Affect Classroom Life (K-12)

Andrea Carson

When Learning is (Purposely!) Hard (Junior & Senior High)

Marc Slingerland

Facilitated Problem Solving with Contingency Maps:

Using Visuals to Show Children the Outcome of their Behaviour Choices (Elementary; Inclusive Education)

Iris Curley & Ryan Matchullis

Kinesthetic Learning in Language Arts (K-12)

Neshali Weera

Google Gems and Other Engaging Tools - A Technology Update (Grades 4-12)

Hussein Akeileh

Enhancing Reading (K-12)

Kim McLean

The Nature of Self-Care (Yoga Poses and Meditation Mantras Not Included) (K-12)

Jennifer MacKay



Session Descriptions - Breakout Sessions #1

Regulation Through Relationship: Nature's Antidote to Challenging Behaviour - Kim Barthel

Teachers, students, staff, everyone we come across in our day - we all impact one another and affect each other's performance to some degree. This workshop will provide educators with an understanding of the primary foundation of behaviour management. It is not control through compliance. Magically, and scientifically, the most basic way to help children's brains so they can and want to learn is through attuned and reflective relationship.

What will you learn from this workshop?

- Begin to understand how relationships can affect and regulate behaviour
- Get introduced to the key learned attachment strategies, which can present as behavioural challenges, that we use to protect ourselves
- Appreciate there is always a reason for the behaviour
- Develop the basic attunement skills necessary for regulating another's state

Beyond Access: Meaningful Participation for All Children

Krista Wennerstrom & Rachel Siderius

Inclusion of all children, with developmental disabilities or other learning differences, continues to create both stories of success and stories of challenge. Understanding what professional practices the classroom team can implement to result in more positive experiences for all is essential. This workshop will engage participants in reflecting on their vision of what inclusion might look like in their classroom, what is currently working and where barriers exist. The emphasis of the workshop will be on interaction and exploration of practical tools to engage teachers, educational assistants and families in a process of using everyday classroom routines to identify functional educational goals and ensure each child's inclusion leads to meaningful participation at school and with peers.

Metacognition in Math - Kellie Adams & Heather Scott

This session will share our story about incorporating specific metacognitive tasks in the junior high math classroom on a daily basis. We will discuss how this practice has improved student learning and advocacy as well as improved instruction because of better student self-awareness. Although discussed through a junior high lens, metacognition in math is applicable to all levels.

The Power of Play - Robin McKittrick

Through use of puppets and other playful endeavours, we will explore the sustaining power and profundity of play.

Instructional Storytelling - Melina Cartmell & Justine Pavelich

Narratives and stories have long been an important traditional learning tool in many cultures across the globe, particularly in oral cultures. Learn how Waldorf schools apply storytelling and narratives as a primary mode to deliver curricular content for Elementary and Junior High in a way that meets the needs of the whole child while fostering creativity and imagination alongside current research on the use of narratives for teaching and learning.

The "Other" is an Artist. Cross Cultural Communications Through Creativity - Lesley Machon & Brenda English

As we live in increasing diverse communities, we confront the question of how to preserve the plurality of identities that run the risk of being homogenized by total assimilation. Canada has a tradition of understanding multiculturalism as a mosaic rather than a melting pot. Deciding to take this motif literally, I coordinated a multi-school art project so that different schools and cultures could work together on an "artful activism" project that would foster an understanding of social justice. Initially, there were obstacles but eventually there was support and the Glenbow Museum even put the project on display. This project engaged the Science School, an Almadina Language Charter Academy (Muslim), Notre Dame Collegiate (Catholic), Mother Earth's Children's Charter School (First Nations), the Reform Jewish community, and a local homeless shelter. The project also engaged a Rabbi, a Blackfoot First Nations chief, an LGBTQ activist, and a Muslim U.N. worker from Africa. By coming together to create art, the "them" divide collapsed into only "us". Each student discovers that the "other" has become an artist, like them. In this presentation I will share my experience of artful activism contributing toward social justice and offer ideas/means/activities for such projects to be further developed and expanded within the independent school community.

Everything in the Universe Has A Name! Carol Scarratt

Free yourself from a subject that may have previously held you captive and learn how to teach grammar the Montessori way! Meet the Noun and Verb Families, review all parts of speech, their functions, definitions, symbolic shapes and colours. You are guaranteed to have fun and have lots to take back to your class following this very popular workshop.

Executive Functions: Who's the Boss? Tanya Keto

Executive Functions (EF) are mental processes that help to connect past experiences with present action to guide goal-directed behaviour. We all have strengths and weaknesses in our executive functions; however, individuals with ADHD may experience increased difficulty in the development and use of these functions compared to same-aged peers without ADHD. These functions underlie activities such as planning, organizing, strategizing, paying attention to and remembering details, and managing time and space. When students struggle in these areas, it can result in behaviours that are often labelled as "attention seeking", "defiant", "showing off", "unmotivated" or "lazy", "emotional overreactions", and "inflexible" just to name a few.

Teaching students with executive functioning issues can be challenging, and understanding the how and why of EF deficits can significantly impact how we work with these students. This session will increase teacher's knowledge of how EF deficits impact learning and what teachers can do to maximize the success of these students. With a focus on cognitive neuroscience research and brain-based strategies that teachers can use to increase student engagement, motivation, and self-management, teachers will learn what EF is; development of EF; how EF deficits impact students and classroom dynamics; and how to best support students with EF deficits.



Session Descriptions - Breakout Sessions #2

Regulation Through Relationship: Nature's Antidote to Challenging Behaviour (REPEAT) - Kim Barthel

Teachers, students, staff, everyone we come across in our day - we all impact one another and affect each other's performance to some degree. This workshop will provide educators with an understanding of the primary foundation of behaviour management. It is not control through compliance. Magically, and scientifically, the most basic way to help children's brains so they can and want to learn is through attuned and reflective relationship.

What will you learn from this workshop?

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How Colour and Light Affect Classroom Life - Andrea Carson

The effects of colour and lighting in learning is an integral part of a multi dynamic classroom setting. It can often make the difference between a very successful day, versus one that is very difficult and exhausting. This session will look specifically at the use of colour and how understanding its workings can lead to wonderful success when nothing else seemed to "click". The session will also provide practical strategies for teachers and assistants that can be immediately implemented with relative ease.

When Learning Is (Purposely!) Hard Marc Slingerland

While not all trendy "neuro" claims live up to their billing, there is an increasing body of well-supported evidence from cognitive science with direct relevance to education. In this session we will delve into several of these topics, with a particular focus on introducing "desirable difficulties" that result in more lasting learning. (No prior knowledge of neuroscience is assumed.)

Facilitated Problem Solving with Contingency Maps: Using Visuals to Show Children the Outcome of their Behaviour Choices

Iris Curley & Ryan Matchullis

Contingency maps are concrete visual tools that can be used with most children to show pathways and outcomes of behaviour, teach replacement behaviours, and help children meet their needs and wants in socially appropriate ways. This presentation draws on research and classroom experience to illustrate the effectiveness of contingency mapping with early elementary students and students with special needs. Simple steps and examples provide audience members with tools to create workable contingency maps for their own students.

Kinesthetic Learning in Language Arts - Neshali Weera

It is important that students move and build with their hands in order to learn. But, how do you do that in a Language Arts classroom when the focus is on reading and writing? In this session, I will first quickly review the importance of incorporating kinesthetic learning in the classroom. Then, I will spend the majority of the time providing examples of lessons that incorporate movement and hands-on construction, that still meets the core objectives of the Language Arts curriculum.

Teachers will have the opportunity to try out a few of the lessons during the session, and be provided with a booklet of these lessons to take with them.

While the focus will be on junior high and high school lessons, many of the activities can be modified and used in elementary classrooms.

Google Gems and Other Engaging Tools - A Technology Update Hussein Akeileh

Using Google products along with other software to enhance students' engagement.

Enhancing Reading - Kim McLean

This session will present teachers with a reading "lesson plan" that can be used at all divisions and strategies that can be implemented across subject areas. This plan incorporates the high impact literacy approaches based on the work of John Hattie, Douglas Fisher and Nancy Frey. Teachers will walk away with strategies that can be used immediately in their classrooms.

The Nature of Self-Care (Yoga Poses and Meditation Mantras Not Included) - Jennifer MacKay

For many caregivers, the ability to love and care for ourselves as well as love and care for other people is hard, if not impossible. The physical, emotional, and psychological impacts of stress and burnout often leave us feeling overwhelmed, disconnected, and unable to cope in healthy ways. This presentation explains how our ability to engage in self-care is a product of our connections to ourselves and other people. Participants will learn how to create a strong foundation for self-care based on finding strength in vulnerability. This information can help them transform typical self-care from short-term distractions into long-term effective practice.



HOW TO REGISTER:

Register on-line through the Calgary Regional Consortium
www.crcpd.ab.ca

WHERE TO GO:

MacEwan Conference Centre
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, Alberta

WHO TO CONTACT:

Questions? Please contact the CRC Office
register@crcpd.ab.ca
(403) 291-0967

CONFERENCE COST:

\$125/person

*Please note: lunch is not provided at this Convention. Participants may bring their own or go to the food court at the U of C.

PARKING:

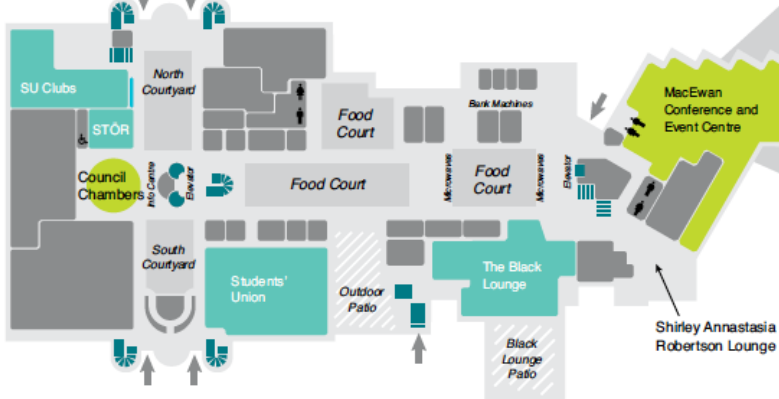
Lots 10 or 11 (\$7.00 per day)
Arts Parkade (\$10.00 per day)

MAP OF CONFERENCE CENTRE

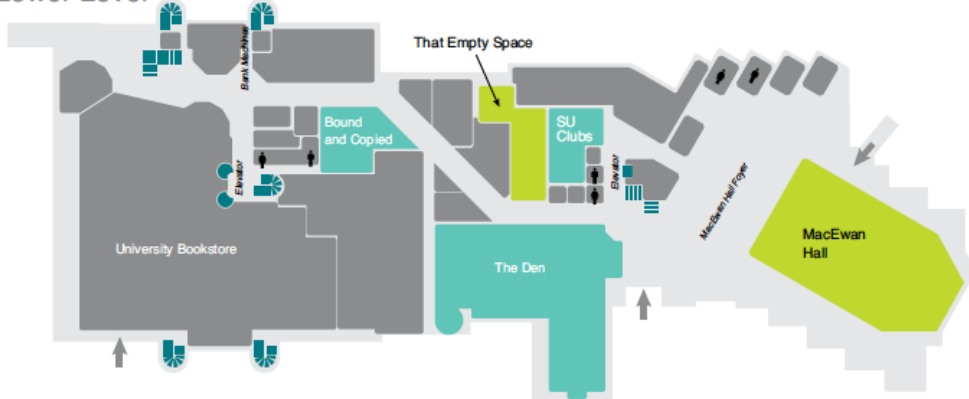


MacEwan
conference & event centre

Main Level



Lower Level



Third Floor (East)

