



TESL New Brunswick
January 2022
Winter Newsletter

What's Happening?

Message from our new President:

Hello TESL NB members,



My name is Erica Thomas and I am the incoming TESL NB president. I have been asked to write a brief paragraph introducing myself and now I know how my students feel and how long "a brief paragraph about yourself" actually takes to write. I have been in the EAL field, working at the UNB English Language Programme, for the past 23 years. I honestly stumbled into the field out of necessity for a summer job and have never looked back. I have taught students of all ages and proficiencies and like many of you sometimes all in the same class. I have also had the opportunity to present PL workshops overseas and attend many conferences and conventions closer to home. I love what I do, there

will always be challenges, but the students and the support of the professional community make it all worthwhile. I am looking forward to the new year and I am truly looking forward to working with you and for you in my new role. As I wrap up this brief introduction, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Donna for her hard work and dedication over the past two years. I have some big shoes to fill.

Best Regards, Erica Thomas

Message from our Past President:

Dear TESL NB members,

As this is my final message as I step into the role of past president, I would like to start by saying thank you to the members of TESL NB, and especially to the Board for the support and mentoring given to me over the past 2 years. I found being president a gratifying experience where I had the opportunity to develop new skills. I also appreciated connecting with TESL NB members and learning about the challenges faced by you in your professional roles. I'm glad we were able to offer professional learning opportunities which were of interest to many. One of the highlights of last year was the Atlantic TESL conference we co-organized with TESL NS. In closing, I'm happy to pass the torch to Erica Thomas as your new president whom I'm sure she will do a great job. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2022.

Take Care. Donna



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MAGMA: Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) helps students and their families

~ by Olivia Finnamore, Settlement Worker, MAGNA

At the Multicultural Association of the Greater Moncton Area (MAGMA), settlement workers in schools (SWIS) support school-aged children and families as they navigate and adjust to New Brunswick's school system. Our responsibilities include helping parents register their children for school, shopping with families for school supplies, doing bus orientations, facilitating meetings between school staff and family Working Hares, and delivering lunch orientations to teach parents how to make healthy Canadian lunches.

One of our main focuses is continuing to



check on students regularly throughout the academic year. For students with more developed English language abilities, we may help them with issues of bullying, racism, making friends, etc. For newer students with lower language abilities, we may support them by tutoring them and ensuring they are adapting well to the new environment and expectations. If students express specif-

ic interests, they are referred to MAGMA's youth inclusion coordinator, who will organize activities based on demand. In the past, MAGMA has had video game days, music nights, movie nights, and sledding days, among many other events.



SWIS also offer cross-cultural training to classes from kindergarten to grade eight that teaches students about embracing differences. The purpose of this training is to create more inclusive schools. The training is done either remotely or in-person and can be delivered to individual classes or multiple classes.

Beyond our work within schools, we offer a weekly program called Homework Hotspot. Supported by volunteers, Homework Hotspot is an evening of tutoring and socializing for students. It gives students extra support by working with them at their language level. Pictured are the wonderful group of students who have been participating since September.

For more information on cross-cultural training or on the work of SWIS overall, please contact Olivia at olivia.finnamore@magma-amgm.org.

GET TO KNOW A TESL NB MEMBER!

Name: Shannon Despres

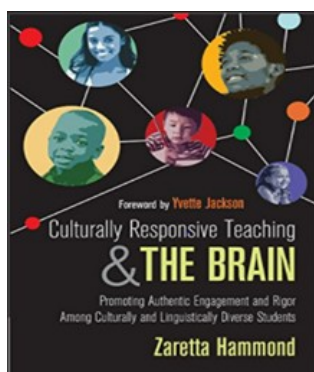
Position: Educational Support Teacher English as an Additional Language

My favourite thing about my position is having the opportunity to contribute to the lives of many educators and students. In my current capacity, I help faculty and other colleagues link research to practice, develop course materials and assessment plans, develop technology guides and improve the EdTech at school.

Something I recently learned as an educator is how important it is to take those extra steps in educating myself on being culturally responsive. It is equally important to find a way to pass that knowledge on to others. As I gain awareness in this position, it is important for me to enhance student learning through, inclusive discussions, culturally diverse literature, and building a positive learning environment for all. Attention needs to be given to our changing world and all individuals need to feel appreciated and respected.



A book I recommend is for teachers who are taking the steps to further their understanding of culturally and linguistically diverse students is *Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students*, written by Zaretta Hammond. This resource voices understanding and builds on current



background knowledge by guiding readers to challenge our comfort zone and cognitive thought. Hammond (2015) said "Intention is the starting point for preparing yourself for improving your culturally responsive teaching practice. The act of committing to the process primes your brain and activates your will" (p. 55). To expand our thinking, we must be open to change within ourselves.

A goal I have over the next year is to work at developing a diversity club at my school. This is something that I feel will promote student voice and is a way to represent cultural values of our newcomers.

Something that inspires me is the increase of confidence that I see when students start believing that they can learn the English language. When students embrace the idea of perseverance this helps them take risks in speaking English.

Shannon has an additional book recommendation:

As an elementary teacher, I must also recommend a picture book.

The book *I am Enough* by Grace Byers captures the importance of loving yourself, while also supports being kind, and respecting others.

I like how this book encourages uniqueness and that we will always be enough.



2021 TESL NB Annual General Meeting



The Annual General Meeting of TESL NB was held, virtually, on Thursday, December 2, 2021, following an engaging and informative presentation of *The 6 Principles* by Anea Wilbur. The meeting was chaired by Donna Hoffman. Following the approval of the agenda and previous AGM minutes, the election of executive members was moved and accepted. The 2022 TESL NB Board is as follows:

President: Erica Thomas

Past President: Donna Hoffman

Co-Secretary-Treasurers: Darlene Whitehouse-Sheehan and Paula Kristmanson

Social Media & PR: Geoff North

Newsletter editor: Dawn McCluskey

TESL Canada Rep: Karen Spracklin

Member-at-Large (TESOL rep): Colleen Meagher

Member-at-Large: Chantal Lafargue

Member-at-Large: Cassie Clifford

Newsletter Editor's Introduction

Hi TESL NB members!

I accepted the role of TESL NB Newsletter Editor at the December AGM and look forward to becoming better acquainted with members and the organization, itself. I owe Kathy Whynot a big thank you for helping me navigate through the process and look forward to reaching out to TESL communities and their members for submissions to future newsletters.

I have been working in the LINC program at the YMCA of Greater Saint John for just over 10 years as an instructor and, for the past 6 years, as the PBLA Lead Teacher. Working in the LINC language learning environment continues to be a rewarding experience. I'm sure that this new role with TESL NB will be the same.

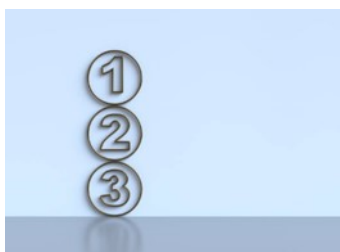
Dawn McCluskey



TESL NB's Teaching Tip

Don't forget the "Why"

One of the best ways to motivate your learners is to establish the relevance of what they are doing in class. Take time to explain why you are doing a specific activity. Break the activity down and go over all the different skills that are involved. Discuss how these skills can transfer into your students' personal lives, jobs, academic courses, etc. The more English language learners know why they are doing a particular activity and how it can help them, the more they will be eager to participate and open to learn.



To help with this, follow up each of your classes or units with the following **Big Three** questions

1. What did we do?
2. Why did we do it?
3. What did you learn?



Submitted by Geoff North

Coming soon! TESOL International Convention 2022

Join English Language Teaching professionals, either virtually or in-person, at the upcoming TESOL International Convention and English Language Expo. For details and information on how to register, connect with the link <https://www.tesol.org/tesol-convention>

MEET OUR KEYNOTE

TESOL 2022
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
& ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXPO
PITTSBURGH, PA, USA
HYBRID 22-25 MARCH

EMBRACING THE BALANCING ACT: ELT PROFESSIONALS EMPOWERING THEMSELVES
GABRIELA KLECKOVA | 23 MARCH | 8:00-9:00 AM US ET

INSPIRING INNOVATION
EMPOWERING ELT PROFESSIONALS

tesol international association
www.tesolconvention.org
#TESOL2022

TESL NB

TESL NB is a professional organization affiliated with [TESL Canada](#) that aims to support ESL and EAL teachers and instructors working in a variety of institutions in the province of New Brunswick.

TESL NB provides ESL/EAL educators with a venue for professional networking and professional development opportunities.

We welcome new members. Visit www.teslnb.ca/join-us/ to find out more.

LET'S CONNECT!

- www.teslnb.ca
- Facebook at TESLNB
- Twitter @TESL_NB
- teslnewbrunswick@gmail.com

Please reach out if you want to get involved or know more. We believe in the power and importance of professional connections.



YOUR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION



TESL CANADA
Teachers of English as a Second Language - Canada

TESL Canada is happy to announce the **\$250 TCEF Professional Learning Participation Grant** to support **two** TESL Canada members to participate in an in-person or online professional learning opportunity (e.g. registration for a webinar or conference, a short professional course) as well as the **\$500 TCEF - TESL Scholarship** to support a TESL Canada member who is currently enrolled, or has interest in enrolling, in a TESL initial training program (Standard 1) or who plans to enrol in an advanced training program (Standard 2 or 3) in order to enhance their professional qualifications and expertise.

Please click [here](#) to find out the requirements and how to apply for the **\$250 TCEF Professional Learning Grant**. Please click [here](#) to find out the requirements and how to apply for the **\$500 TCEF - TESL Scholarship**. Or, scan the QR codes below:

Download the TCEF Professional Learning Participation Grant application:



Download the TCEF Scholarship application:



The deadline to apply is **April 1, 2022**