



TESL New Brunswick Winter Newsletter February 2023

What's Happening?



A Message from our President Happy 2023!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and you've hit the ground running in 2023. For the first time in a long time, I have made a New Year's resolution. This year I have made a promise to myself to stay connected. All too often we get caught up in work and the daily grind and the connections that we value so much

get neglected. This year I'm going to change that.

Speaking of connections. Don't miss out on a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with colleagues or perhaps make some new connections. Take a look on page four of the newsletter for information on an upcoming, TESL NB hosted, in-person, professional learning session!

I wish you all the best in 2023 and best of luck to those of you who have made New Year's resolutions!

Kind regards,
Erica Thomas
President of TESL NB Inc.



Photo Credit: Dawn McCluskey

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the TESL NB
president1

Get to Know a TESL Mem-
ber.....2

TESL NB's Teaching Tip...3

TESL NB Professional
Development Day.....4

TESL NB Webinar.....5

Other PD Opportunities.....6

Your National Organiza-
tion.....7

Contact Us.....7

Get To Know A TESL Member

Submitted by Yulia Roherty



Current Position: LINC and Literacy Instructor, Newcomer Connections, YMCA of Greater Saint John

I have been teaching English as an additional language for almost 25 years, both in Canada and abroad, 12 of which have been at Saint John Y. Before I started teaching at the YMCA in 2010, I taught English for Academic Purposes at Saint John College (English and academic preparatory college). At the same time, I completed my TESL certification through UNB.

What is ESL Literacy?

At our language school we believe that every newcomer deserves a chance for formal education, regardless of their background, age or level of ability. That is why we offer language instruction in two separate streams. We have regular LINC classes, and Literacy classes – for those refugee clients who were displaced due to a war and whose education was interrupted, incomplete or non-existent. A lot of such clients were born and raised in refugee camps, having to survive, and without any hope for education. Some of them would not know how to hold a pencil, what to bring to class or how to learn. Imagine, you are 65 years old and today is your first day at school. How would you feel? Needless to say, learning will be a long process with a lot of obstacles.

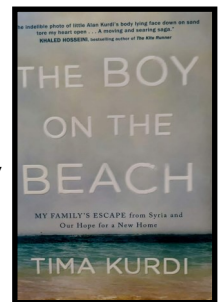
Why is my job rewarding?

I have been working with refugees and literacy learners since my very first assignment at the YMCA in the LINC Program. Over the years, I have taken special courses, in order to understand my learners better and use the right strategies, teaching methods and approaches with them. My job is not easy, but it is extremely rewarding. I look at my students holistically, and I teach each and every one of them from my heart. I put myself in their shoes every day of the week. Love, patience and compassion are important qualities for a literacy teacher. My students have a wealth of worldly knowledge which is humbling to me. Their stories of survival will break and enrich your heart at the same time. They have so much respect for their teacher, and I want them to succeed. We work together at achieving this goal.

What is my personal goal?

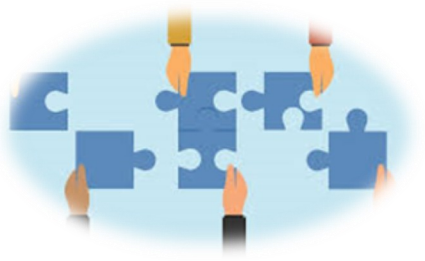
In the past few months I have been pondering one question: what will it take to establish world peace for all? While we welcome more and more new refugees into our country and give them our best efforts, it is a never-ending “human river”, or so it seems. There are millions of displaced people in the world who are grateful for our kindness, but they want to return home, to the life they used to have. But if they choose to stay, how can we keep them happy here, in this foreign land?

One book I have recently read and would like to recommend is “The Boy on the Beach” by Tima (Fatima) Kurdi, an immigrant to Canada who tells a saga of her family’s escape from Syria. It is an incredible story of strife and survival. It has expanded my knowledge of the middle-eastern culture, and I’ve even learned a few Arabic words! This book has helped me understand my students better, their feelings, dreams and aspirations. Here’s a quote from the book:



“War destroys lives. It leaves behind terrible wounds that turn into scars – on the flesh and in the mind. It also steals pride and dignity. And it steals the most from the people who can afford it the least.”

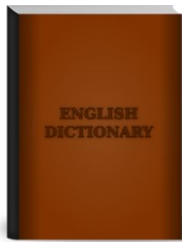
Being an immigrant myself and having experienced the challenge of adapting to a foreign culture, I would like to be the kind of teacher that can guide her students along the path of their new beginnings and new hopes.



TESL NB's Teaching Tip

Use It or Lose It

When it comes to vocabulary acquisition and retention, one must use a new word to not lose it. In other words, vocabulary is retained the more students interact with it. When students are learning new vocabulary, take time to review and use the words in various ways with them. By saying, hearing, reading, and writing newly learned vocabulary, students are more likely to remember it, and as a language learner's vocabulary grows, so does their fluency in, and comprehension of, the language.




To help with this, have students keep track of their new words in a separate section of their binder or notebook - like their own personal dictionary. Depending on their proficiency, encourage them to avoid translation and instead write their own English definitions of the words. Encourage them to also write the words in sentences in order to give them context and show how they are used grammatically. Encourage them to draw picture representations of the words and try to make personal connections to them. The more they do with the new word, the more likely the word will stay and become part of their ever-growing lexicon. Explain to them that they will need to use it, or they will lose it.

Submitted by Geoff North

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

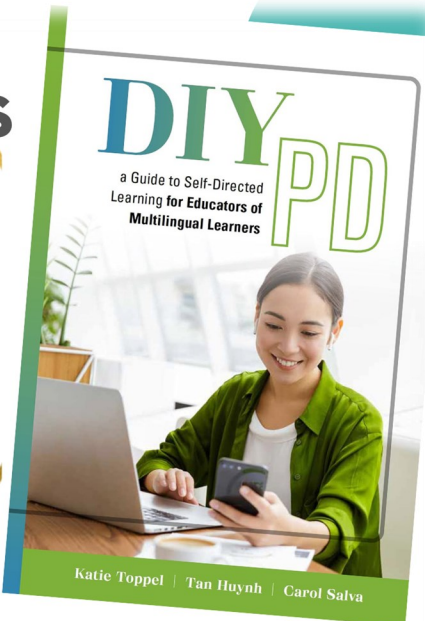
TESL NB invites you to...



PRESENTS

TESL NB

DIY PD:
A GUIDE TO SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING FOR EDUCATORS OF MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS



MAY 6, 2023
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM,
FOLLOWED BY LUNCH


UNIVERSITE DE MONCTON

\$25 MEMBERS
\$60 NON-MEMBERS

FEE INCLUDES A COPY OF
THE BOOK AND LUNCH

REGISTER NOW

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/2P85P68F](https://tinyurl.com/2P85P68F)



with special guest
DR. CAROL SALVA

Purchase tickets through Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-guide-to-self-directed-learning-for-educators-of-multilingual-learners-tickets-547698048607>

Dear TESL Members

We are pleased to be able to offer a webinar entitled, **Harnessing the Transformative Power of AI in English Language Teaching**. The webinar will take place **on Saturday February 18, 2023 (1:00 – 2:00 AST)** and will be presented by **Ismail Fayed**, who is the TESL NB representative to TESL Canada and the Project Director for Educational Technology & Assessment at Yorkville University. To register, please contact info@tesl.ca and you will be sent a zoom link. Additionally, all attendees will be sent a digital PD certificate for their professional portfolios.

Thank you,
Erica Thomas, President TESL NB



TESL NB Webinar

Harnessing the Transformative Power of AI in English Language Teaching

Date and time: Saturday, February 18, 2023 (1:00 – 2:00 AST)

Presenter:

Ismail Fayed - TESL NB Representative to TESL Canada
Project Director, Educational Technology & Assessment
Yorkville University

Abstract

Since December 2022, many educators have questioned the validity of existing academic practices and assessments and warned of a significant threat to academic integrity using AI tools like Open AI and ChatGPT. Others have seen this as a game-changing opportunity for better educational practices. English language teaching is at the heart of this situation, where technology is an equally crucial new opportunity and a challenge that could change many of our practices in ELT.

AI chatbots or Open AI technology uses advanced technologies like Stable Diffusion and GPT-3 to produce original and creative new content. Most shared reports discuss how AI systems generate ideas and relatively original smart content using a set of related parameters. This could be personalized to the writer's specifications in no time! Since there is no previous work for the student to copy, and, thus, not being detected as not original to most plagiarism tools. Most of these reports still ignored the considerable potential of these tools where practicing the language skills could be moved to a different unique level.

In this webinar, the presenter will give some background details about the recent release of AI autoregressive language models in developing authentic teaching and learning opportunities. The webinar will summarize how AI models work, how to use them, and how to integrate them into teaching and assessment with examples. The webinar will also highlight possible recommendations for better and proactive academic assessment planning to avoid the risks of AI generic content or academic misconduct.



More Professional Development Opportunities

TESL Ontario

Check out these Winter events @ www.teslontario.org

Wednesday, February 22 – *Multi-Sensory Learning in an Online Context*

7:00-8:00 PM ET

Saturday, February 25– *Elevate Your Game Through Communities of Practice*

10:30-11:30 AM ET

Tuesday, March 7–*Online Learning from a Learner's Point of View*

7:00 PM-8:30 PM ET

Wednesday, March 22–*From Task-Based to Action-Oriented Learning*

7:00-8:00 PM ET

Sunday, March 26–*Lifting Poetry Off the Page*

3:00-4:00PM ET

TESOL International Conferences



<https://www.tesol.org/tesol-convention>



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

February 8, 2023

Dear TESL Canada Members,

Please find below the link to vote in TESL Canada's 2023-2028 strategic plan approval process:

<https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/TDVCZ8R>

Background Information:

We have completed the strategic planning process and would like to ask for your approval of the 2023-2028 strategic plan. Our committee started with brainstorming strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in January 2022 and from those we asked which values stem from each point raised. From there, we combined the set of values we had determined with the values of the 2015-2018 strategic plan and asked membership to rate their top choices. After membership voted on the most important values, we asked which goals would be able to enact these values and once again asked membership to vote on the most important goals. Resulting from this, we now have the strategic plan you see in front of you, linked below. We want TESL Canada to be the most democratic it can be, so we ask you to vote for whether you approve or reject this strategic plan, along with any feedback you have.

<https://mcusercontent.com/7d66c5f319c9217e9b0d2bd99/files/a846723c-2924-efaa-64f3-4684c0719dd9/TESLCanadaStrategicPlan2023.pdf>

Donald Moen, Ed.D. | President
TESL Canada

From *TESL Connects*, February 2023

