



TESL New Brunswick Newsletter June 2024

What's Happening?



Photo submitted by Erica Thomas

Hello TESL NB Community,

Another school year is at an end. I'm sure, for many of you, the last couple of weeks have been a bit hectic. In turn, some of you may just be gearing up for a busy summer. Either way, sit back and catch your breath for a minute and catch up on some TESL NB happenings here in our June newsletter.

I want to send out a big Thank You to those who were able to make it to our May PL event. It was a spectacular opportunity to meet new people, discuss current EAL trends, and to listen

to two insightful presentations. You can learn more about the PL event here in the newsletter.

To everyone in the TESL NB community, have a happy and healthy summer. Take time to relax and enjoy the things you love and if you are the type of person who feels guilty "doing nothing", just put the fun stuff (like go for ice cream) on your To-Do list.

Have a wonderful summer. "See" you in September.

Kind Regards,
Erica Thomas
TESL NB President



Photo Submitted by Dawn McCluskey

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Get to Know a TESL Member

Submitted by Jean Charlebois



Photo submitted by Jean Charlebois

Current Position:

I am a CLBPT Assessor at the Collège Communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

I embarked on my TESL journey with a Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language, followed by a Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies with a TESOL concentration from Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario. While in Ottawa, I gained hands-on teaching experience in the LINC classroom across various school boards and settlement agencies. My research endeavours at Carleton University delve into the potential benefits of utilizing games, video and otherwise, for language acquisition both in and out of the classroom. If anyone is interested, my research is being presented at BC TEAL's 2024 Conference this summer.

What is Language Assessment?

While I have worked as a curriculum designer, researcher and, more recently, a language assessor, I will always identify as a language teacher. As such, I view assessment as encompassing "all those activities undertaken by teachers and their students to provide information for modifying teaching and learning activities" (Black & William, 1998, p.2). It is important to note that assessment involves both students and teachers. Despite my current role focusing less on classroom activities, I still consider myself a language teacher within the TESL community. An essential requirement for CLBPT assessor training at CCLB is several years of ESL classroom experience, which I encourage my assessment colleagues to draw upon in their assessment practices.

Why is my job rewarding?

As I handle many online CLBPT requests for New Brunswick and PEI, I am privileged to be one of the initial connections for newcomers to Atlantic Canada, which is a profoundly fulfilling responsibility. I am grateful to play a role in students' learning journeys by identifying their current position in the learning process while collaboratively determining their goals and pathways forward with their teachers.

What is my personal goal?

As a burgeoning professional, I am keen to explore all facets of the TESL field. I aim to integrate assessment insights gleaned from assessments I conduct with my classroom expertise from my teaching positions. I aspire to integrate my assessment procedures and teaching practices to enrich my holistic growth as an educator by embracing diverse elements of teaching and learning. As I look forward to developing my TESL career, I am excited about this alignment of testing and teaching in my classroom.

TESL NB Professional Learning Event

TESL NB's May Professional Learning event, hosted in Fredericton, was well-attended and enjoyed by all. The event provided a valuable opportunity for EAL professionals to meet, learn and share ideas. The day was filled with collaboration, conversation, lunch, prizes and a special visit to the Lord Beaverbrook Art Gallery.

Two very informative and well-delivered presentations highlighted the event. Special thanks and recognition go to Zohreh Rad (*Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Pedagogy*) and Zyrene L. Estallo (*They don't teach you that in school*) for sharing their knowledge with us.



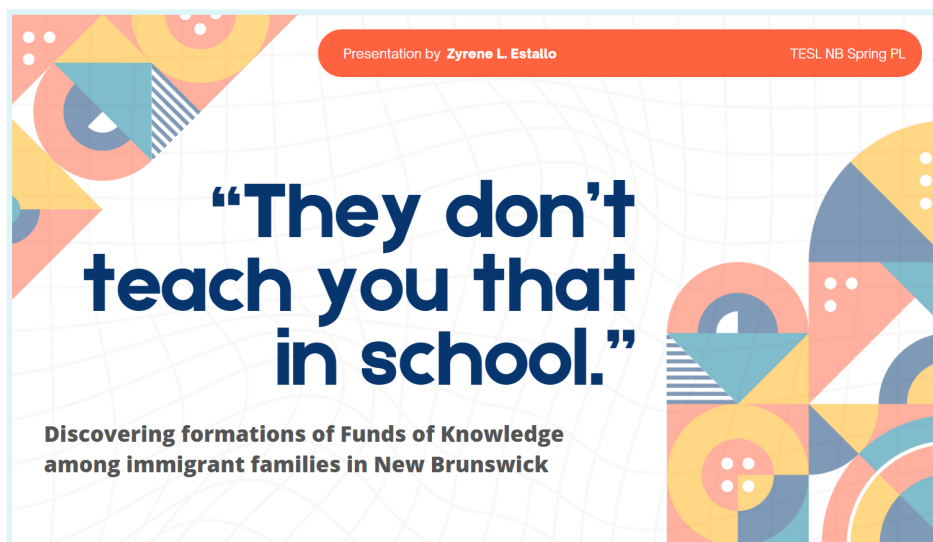
Thanks also go to Paula Kristmanson, Erica Thomas and all of the organizers for their work toward making this event a success.

Be sure to check out additional photographs of the event on page 7 of this publication.



Stay Tuned !!!

The Fall issue of the TESL NB Newsletter will highlight Zyrene's presentation "They don't teach you that in school."



Supporting Multilingual Learners with Special Needs

Presented by Zohreh Rad - narrated by Patricia Ables, TESL NB member

Imagine being a child in a country where you do not speak the language, with teachers who do not know anything about your previous schooling nor the challenges you faced while learning in your mother tongue. Sounds daunting, doesn't it?

This happens more and more often in schools in New Brunswick and PhD student Zohreh Rad, a multilingual language learner herself, decided to focus her research on what teachers and support staff can do to help young newcomers in our province. With a Bachelors in Education with specialisation in English Language Teaching and a Masters in Education specialising in Inclusive Practices, it is obvious that Zohreh is passionate about creating an inclusive educational environment that supports all learners, especially those who face additional challenges, such as language barriers and special needs.

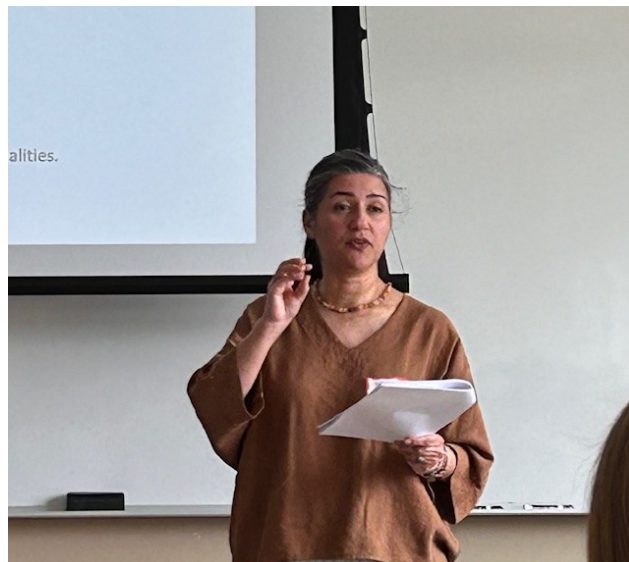


Photo submitted by Paula Kristmanson

Zohreh started off by providing background information about the *Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Pedagogy* as currently applied in the public school system in New Brunswick. This was very useful, especially to those who teach outside the school system and may have been less familiar with the concept. Zohreh proceeded by highlighting the issues faced by EAL students and what teachers and other staff can do to support them, stressing how difficult it can be to pinpoint whether a foreign student's struggles stem from target language acquisition or (un)diagnosed learning disabilities.

In addition to the pertinence and perfect timing of her work, Zohreh made her presentation even more engaging by actively involving the audience, incorporating time to first discuss the importance of culture in small groups and then share the results with the entire group. Towards the end of the session she provided our small groups with a case study of a student dealing with a language barrier and dyslexia and we again discussed our findings with the rest of the group. It was very interesting to hear what people thought and how they approached the issues at hand. It is always incredibly inspiring to have a room full of teachers bouncing ideas off each other and the idea of giving us the opportunity to work with the information presented was simply brilliant!

Continued from page 2

Zohreh also provided us with several handouts including the case study mentioned above (with possible solutions) and a very thorough overview of how to support Multilingual Language Learners and Students with Special Needs based on her extensive research. After reading this part of her research, I can't wait to see her published work after graduation.

Some takeaways from this session are that it is extremely helpful when teachers are familiar with the cultures and languages of their students and to include those in their teachings, encouraging students and teachers to share so they can all learn from each other. Of course, one has to keep in mind that sometimes it may be too painful or stressful for students to retell events from their home country and therefore students should never feel any pressure to talk about topics they are not comfortable with.

We know that breaking instructions and activities into smaller steps and providing visuals is very beneficial to most students, and it was stressed that for those who are acquiring a new language while also having special needs this is even more important. Lastly, collaboration among teachers is always invaluable and there can never be enough opportunity to discuss our challenges and successes with our peers so that we can become more successful at helping our students.

All in all, a very intriguing and useful presentation and I wish Zohreh all the best while she is wrapping up her studies and am looking forward to hearing more from her in the future!



Photo submitted by Paula Kristmanson

TESL NB's Teaching Tip

Be Welcoming

It is vital to create a welcoming environment from the very start of your students' day. The more your students feel welcome, the more they will want to be in your class and actively participate. This welcoming environment can also ease anxiety or stress that some students, especially those newer to the language, might often experience.



To help with this, greet students as they come into your classroom. Smile and say “good morning/afternoon”. Ask them how they are doing; ask them if they did anything fun the previous evening. If possible, have daily activities ready for students so that they have something to work on prior to class. Having a variety of activities, including vocabulary and visual supports can be encouraging. Try your best to have students look at these activities together, so that the first student does not feel isolated.



Once class begins, greet everyone with another big “good morning/afternoon”. Do this each day. Students will come to expect this and will gain confidence and comfort coming into the class. These daily routines that are set up to make students feel welcome will put many at ease, particularly if the students are at a lower language proficiency.

Submitted by Geoff North





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.

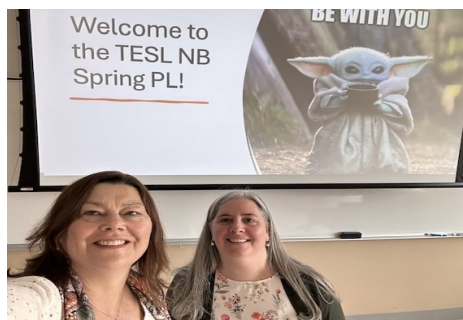
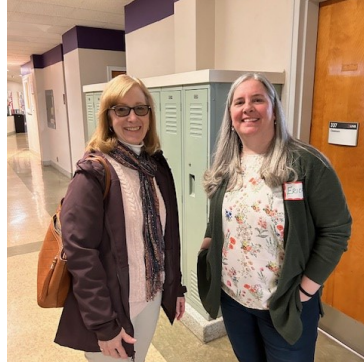
LET'S CONNECT!

- www.teslnb.ca
- Facebook at TESLNB
- X @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.

TESL NB Professional Learning Event

May 2024



Photos submitted by Paula Kristmanson

