



**TESL New Brunswick Fall Newsletter
November 2024**

What's Happening?

Message from the TESL NB President

Dear TESL NB Community,



Photo submitted by Erica Thomas

Happy fall everyone! I hope your summer was all you wished for and more and the start of the school year was smooth. Welcome to another fantastic TESL NB newsletter and the first of this academic year. As educators, we are strong proponents of life-long learning and glean new ideas and skills to use in our classrooms for the betterment of the field of EAL and most importantly the benefit of our students. If you are looking for some new ideas, opportunities for upskilling, or even financial support for a professional learning opportunity, then you have come to the right place.

This fall, TESL NB is pleased to be offering **two bursaries of up to \$500** per bursary recipient. Check out page 3 for the details. Don't miss out on a great opportunity.

Our **AGM date** has also been set for **November 28th**. Join us for a free PL opportunity, get to know more about TESL NB and the executive, learn how you can get involved, and be entered to win some great prizes. There is more information about the aforementioned items and so much more in this newsletter so enough from me. Grab a cozy blanket and a nice hot beverage and enjoy your newsletter, you deserve it.

Kind regards,
Erica Thomas
TESL NB President



View from "The Bluff", Sussex

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Attention Members! Save the date!

TESL NB's Annual General Meeting is coming up soon. Enjoy a Professional Development presentation, an opportunity to win prizes and more!

We look forward to seeing you there. See details below:

TESL NB

- Enjoy a free PL presentation.
- Find out more about TESL NB and how you can get involved.

WIN PRIZES!

You could win...

- a one-year free membership renewal
- one of two \$25 gift cards
- resource material

SAVE THE DATE!

Nov. 28th

and PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PRESENTATION

Presentation 6:30 - 7:15

AGM 7:15 - 8:15

TESL NB

They Don't Teach You That In School

Presented by Zyrene Estallo at the TESL NB Spring Professional Event



Reviewed and submitted by **Abd Darouzy**

Abd Darouzy is an English teacher and a member of Editors Canada. He is also a certified Arabic translator licensed in both Canada and the UAE.

On a lovely morning at UNB, Fredericton, Zyrene Estallo delivered an interesting presentation on immigrant integration in schools, titled *"They don't teach you that in school: discovering formations of funds of knowledge among immigrant families in NB"*.

This presentation is highly relevant to language teachers working with immigrant students. It delves into the challenges these students face in their new school environments and explores strategies for promoting successful integration.

Introduction and Research Questions

Estallo began by framing the conversation around three key research questions:

1. How do immigrant students experience the school environment?
2. What challenges and opportunities exist for immigrant integration in schools?
3. What steps can schools take to foster successful immigrant integration?



Literature Review and Methodology

The literature review was thorough, touching on critical concepts such as acculturation, integration, and hybridity, while also introducing the "Funds of Knowledge" framework, which underscores the importance of recognizing and incorporating students' cultural and experiential knowledge into their educational experience.

Methodologically, the research employed a case study design, involving interviews and observations to capture the lived experiences of immigrant students.



Findings and Recommendations

The findings revealed a number of challenges immigrant students face, including cultural and language barriers, as well as the impact of the physical school environment. However, opportunities for positive integration were also highlighted, especially when schools implemented identity-centered practices and actively involved parents in the process. Estallo stressed the importance of fostering inclusive spaces where immigrant students can express their multifaceted identities and build connections within their new communities.

Among the key recommendations were:

- Increased parent participation in school activities and decision-making
- Adoption of identity-centered teaching practices to support students' cultural and personal development

Conclusion

The presentation was both insightful and interesting, offering a comprehensive look at the immigrant student experience while also providing actionable strategies for educators. Her emphasis on the need for schools to adopt inclusive, identity-affirming practices was particularly resonant, aligning with current discussions on equity and diversity in education.

Overall, Estallo's presentation was an enlightening contribution to the discourse on immigrant integration, offering valuable perspectives for language educators aiming to create more inclusive learning environments, which is timely in the light of the rapidly increasing numbers of immigrants choosing to call New Brunswick home.

Attention TESL NB Members

Fall 2024 Bursary Opportunities



The Association of New Brunswick Teachers
of English as an Additional Language

Fall 2024
Bursaries

Application Requirements:

- Be a current member of TESL NB in good standing.
- Submit a 200-word letter outlining how this event or training will enrich your skills.
- Attend, in person or virtually, a conference, professional learning event, training or course related to the field of EAL.
- Bursary is to be applied to registration, and/or travel and lodging if the event is face-to-face.
- A receipt is required for payment.
- Bursary recipients will also be asked to submit a write-up for publication in TESL NB's newsletter to share what insights you gained from your experience.

TESL NB is offering two **\$500 bursaries** to attend a virtual or in-person conference, professional learning event, course or training related to the field of EAL

Application due date:
December 15th , 2024

Application forms can be picked up at:
<https://teslnb.ca/category/bursaries/>

Should you have any questions, please contact teslnewbrunswick@gmail.com.

Please submit all required documents by e-mail to teslnewbrunswick@gmail.com by December 15th , 2024.
Subject: Bursary

teslnewbrunswick@gmail.com 

TESL NB's Teaching Tip

Self-Measurement in language learning



How does a student really know if they are learning? Tests and quizzes will give some information, but how can we encourage students to improve their ability to self-monitor and assess their own learning? Creating a low stakes exercise that will give them “measurable data” may help them identify areas of growth, as well as highlight specific skills in which they may need more focus. This type of exercise is beneficial to do at a time in your unit after several weeks have passed.

1. Identify a number of skills that you have been working on with your students. For example:

Pronunciation, verb tenses, using complete sentences, self-correction, listening comprehension, explaining an idea, choosing a language focus, reducing translation, spontaneity, etc.

Note: The above skills are very broad. A more specific list and/or fewer learning targets may be more appropriate for beginners.

2. Take the skills and place them on some visual representation that may be meaningful and potentially serve as a metaphor for growth or achieving a goal (i.e., Using a growth chart with each skill at a different height -having the more complex at a higher level, a staircase, plants growing, or a bar graph to name a few examples).



3. Get the students to record on their diagram a mark out of ten for each skill (ten being the highest), **at how they performed at the beginning of the unit.** Do not give specifics of what the numbers mean.

4. Have the students add up the numbers to give themselves a total. Having ten items will make this task easier. The student should write this number somewhere on the visual. If possible, have the students discuss their numbers with a partner. Why did they give themselves those particular marks? What do the numbers mean? Why are some lower than others?

5. Then, give your students a new sheet with the same visual, but with the current date on it. They should give themselves a grade of where they feel they are for each skill now (and by not looking at their previous sheet). Ask them to add the scores. More often than not, the scores in the second round are higher than the first round. They can share this information with a fellow student. What do the numbers mean? What is a ten for them? This is a time to recognize that change has happened. The teacher can help to lead a discussion helping the students recognize that change is a relative thing for each person, since each number may mean something very different to each student.



6. Celebrate the change. This is important because it can be very difficult at times for the learner to notice change.

This exercise and teaching tip is an easy way to introduce complex self-assessment topics, and it may serve to encourage your students, if after some period of time they are discouraged or don't know if they are learning or not. In the end, the numbers may be arbitrary, but they are a tangible way for the learner to begin to define the so many intangible components of learning a new language. Celebrating and recognizing these changes can help immensely with motivation.

Submitted by Colleen Meagher



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.



YOUR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION



TESL CANADA

Teachers of English as a Second Language - Canada

TESL Canada Membership

Just a reminder that all ATESL, TESL SK, TESL MB, TESL NB, TESL NS, and TEAL NL members are automatically TESL Canada members and that a portion of your provincial association membership fee (\$16/member) also gives you a TESL Canada membership.

In addition, please note that TESL Canada is the only national certification endorsed by these provincial affiliates. You can find out more about TESL Canada certification here: <https://tesl.ca/certification/tesl-canada-professional-certification.html>

If you have any questions about TESL Canada certification, please email admin@tesl.ca

Source: TESL Canada website [About Membership - TESL Canada](#)

For more information about TESL Canada conferences, publications, jobs and more, please check out the TESL Canada website @ <https://www.tesl.ca>



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