

Literacy Through the Arts!

November 24, 25 and 26, 2009
Yellowknife, NWT

Learning through the Arts (LTTA) has become the largest arts-based education program in the world and is transforming lesson plans and curriculum teaching in 400 elementary and secondary schools across Canada and 14 countries around the world.

The program's comprehensive format incorporates ongoing professional development of teachers, professional development of artists, writing of lesson plans, curriculum development, in-class delivery and continuous assessment. LTTA offers lesson plans for all academic subjects.

Come and enjoy an introduction to Learning Through the Arts by joining us for "Literacy Through the Arts" – November 24, 25 and 26, 2009 in Yellowknife. This conference will assist educators in integrating and infusing Arts into the important Literacy teaching and learning with students (K-12) and all through a northern Aboriginal perspective.

For more information on Learning Through the Arts and all of their education programs, check out...

www.ltta.ca



LEARNING THROUGH THE ARTS
APPRENDRE PAR LES ARTS



Literacy Through the Arts!

Session Descriptions

All of the sessions in the “Literacy Through the Arts” conference will provide opportunities for teachers to accumulate skills and knowledge in how to use the arts, especially traditional art forms, in the teaching of literacy.

PLENARY A - Taking My Art to School!

Session Leaders:

Anastasia Hendry, Haida; Fabric Artist; Learning Through the Arts, Aboriginal Program Coordinator for Western Canada

Shelley MacDonald, Mi'kmaq; Dramatist; Film-maker; Core Artist, Learning Through the Arts

Aaron Paquette, Cree; Visual Artist; Principal Artist, Learning Through the Arts and LTTA Mentor Artist

John Scully; Media Artist; New Media Programming Manager, Learning Through the Arts

Ann Patteson, Singer; Director of Research for LTTA

This session will be for artists only. We'll share how to partner with schools and teachers and to make links with the curriculum while adding vitality to learning through art-making with students.

PLENARY B – Education, Culture and Employment – Teacher Inservice (K-12 Arts Curriculum Review and Update)

Session Leader:

Rita Mueller, Director of Early Childhood and School Services, GNWT

This session will be for teachers only. We'll share information about the current K-12 arts curriculum used in the NWT. As well, we will share an update on the K-12 Alberta arts curriculum revision.

A DRAMATIC DIFFERENCE: ACCESSIBLE THEATRE STRATEGIES TO HELP THE RELUCTANT READER

T1 and repeated W1

Session Leader: Shelley MacDonald, Mi'kmaq; Dramatist; Film-maker; Core Artist, Learning Through the Arts

Make a dramatic difference in your students' lives! This experiential workshop provides hands-on techniques for engaging students in literacy pursuits. Explore drama games, tableaux, improvisation and story telling and see the dramatic difference simple theatre strategies can have on reluctant students. **In addition to offering take-away drama strategies that you can use immediately, the artists will also show you how drama can be integrated across the school curriculum.**

CHILKAT WORKSHOP: THE ART OF STORYTELLING THROUGH ANCIENT ART

T2 and repeated W2

Session Leader: Anastasia Hendry, Haida; Fabric Artist; Learning Through the Arts, Aboriginal Program Coordinator for Western Canada

Making a Chilkat blanket was a time-consuming process that requiring a year of hard work. They were highly sought after by northwest coast First Nations nobility long before the first explorers came to that region.

Traditionally, only the wealthy could make or own a Chilkat Blanket. Both men and women played a role in the creation of the blankets and both considered it a great privilege to wear one. The men designed the pattern and made the pattern board and loom. They provided goat hides for wool. The women gathered cedar bark, prepared the yarn and wove the blanket. The Button Blanket is a symbol of the culture, tradition and history of the Northwest Coast First Nations people.

Traditionally the Chilkat Blanket was used to show Clan representation. Participants in this session will use a story/legend from the NWT to learn how to retell that story through the NW Coast Chilkat art form.

The symmetry and balance of the blanket will “unite” the class in their story. This art form will be used to tell the story. Participants will create a story in segments, after which the segments will be assembled to complete the story. Groups will share the story after assemblage. The complete “blanket” is a collaborative work that contributes to the wealth and the unity of the class.

Ties to similar blanket art forms used by NWT will be explored. Connections will be drawn between oral and written traditions in the fostering of literacy.

CREATING SOUNDSCAPES

T3 and repeated W3

Session Leader: John Scully; Media Artist; New Media Programming Manager, Learning Through the Arts

Music and sound are natural partners in helping students receive language. They are also a powerful catalyst to self-expression. Help students synthesize the themes found within a text and create their own themes by making soundscapes using the program GarageBand. Learn to explore the elements of fiction through sound.

ECOLOGY AND LITERACY

W5 and repeated Th4

Session Leader: Aaron Paquette, Cree; Visual Artist; Principal Artist, Learning Through the Arts and LTTA Mentor Artist

Environmental issues will be explored through 3-d sculptural work. See how tapping into students' love of the land can spur them on to writing.

ABORIGINAL LITERACY - CREATING A NEW IMAGE FOR ABORIGINAL LEARNERS (K-7)

Th1 and repeated Th5

Session Leader: Shelley MacDonald, Mi'kmaq; Dramatist; Film-maker; Core Artist, Learning Through the Arts

History has revealed that Aboriginals learned by watching and doing, thus creating a nation of visual and experiential learners. Languages were oral, not written, therefore art and dance, became one of the first literatures. There are ways to bridge some of the gaps that exist in literacy today, by creating new images with words painted in colour, history, tradition, and language. Using pictographs, movement and theatre games, we can reach across, one word at a time.

Graphic Novels: Visual Storytelling

W6 and repeated Th3 and Th6

Session Leader: John Scully; Media Artist; New Media Programming Manager, Learning Through the Arts

Storytelling based in pictures makes students much more receptive to reading. Using Comic Life software, we will explore the power of the Graphic Novel to excite and engage readers. Help your students become more expressive writers by linking their creative writing process to digital photography and visual communication.

Button Blanket

W4

Session Leader: Anastasia Hendry, Haida; Fabric Artist; Learning Through the Arts, Aboriginal Program Coordinator for Western Canada

The Button Blanket is a symbol of the culture, tradition and history of the Northwest Coast First Nations people.

Each Button Blanket is unique among the different First Nations groups of the Northwest Coast. Each First Nations has clans, crests and designs unique to their traditional territories. For example the Bear can have a variety of meanings such as strength, motherhood or teaching, depending on the territory/nation from which you come.

Participants will be read a NWT Aboriginal story. Using this North West Coast art form, participants will create a symbol for their textile art. Design, sewing, math and literacy are all components of the creation of this unique art form. At the end of the process, students will describe their design and its importance as it relates to the story.

Great “Un”-expectations

Th2

Session Leader: Aaron Paquette, Cree; Visual Artist; Principal Artist, Learning Through the Arts and LTTA Mentor Artist

Words and pictures help us create meaning out of chaos! Using the simplest tools, students will tell stories - learning the development of setting, character, plot and dialogue, or interpretation through poetry. It's easy, fun and the results are often as surprising and unique as our own stories!

Tuesday...T

Wednesday...W

Thursday...Th

Venues

We are pleased to share that the two (side by side) venues that will host Literacy Through the Arts will be the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and the Northern Frontier Visitors Centre. Both venues are on 48th Street directly across from the Explorer Hotel.

<http://pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca>

<http://www.northernfrontier.com>

Registration

Registration for this unique conference will take place through the NWTTA PD office and will be processed by Colleen Eckert (NWTTA PD Coordinator). Registrations will be accepted by fax at f. (867) 873-2590.

Colleen Eckert

NWTTA PD Coordinator
Box 2340
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2P7

Phone (867) 873-5759
Fax (867) 873-2590
Email pd@nwttta.nt.ca
Email colleen_eckert@learnnet.nt.ca

Fees



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Thanks to the generous funding support from The Salamander Foundation and facilitation expertise through the staff of Learning Through the Arts, this unique conference in collaboration with Education, Culture and Employment and the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, has **no** registration or conference fee.

Lunches

Lunch each day (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) will be provided on site at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. Lunch each day is from 1:30 to 2:15 pm.

Nutrition Breaks

Nutrition breaks will be provided each day in the morning and afternoon. For sessions located inside the Prince of Wales Heritage Centre, it is important to note that food is only available and allowed in the upper level restaurant. Water is permitted in other areas.

Please consume your morning coffee or tea before entering the Prince of Wales Heritage Centre.

Registration Deadline and Capacity

The deadline for registration is Friday, November 13, 2009. Session spaces are limited so early registration is wise to guarantee your participation.

Hotel Information

For those who may be traveling into YK for this conference, we have provided some information below for hotels within walking distance of our venues as well as those that are farther away.

Chateau Nova - Downtown Hotel

Address: 4401 – 50th Avenue Convenient downtown location. 80 tastefully appointed rooms with high speed internet access. Papa Jim's Roadhouse on 3rd Floor. Business Centre and Boardrooms. Fitness Centre & steam room. Relax at Chateau Nova!! Call

toll free 1-877-839-1236.

Phone: (867) 873-9700; Fax number: (867) 873-9702

Mailing Address: Box 250 Yellowknife NT X1A 2N2

Website: www.chateaunova.com

Email: jbruce@chateaunova.com

We have set aside a block booking at the Chateau Nova that conference participants can access using the Code 5759 for \$120.00 plus taxes per night. This code will work from October 5 to Friday, November 5, 2009 as long as there are rooms still available in the block booking by the end date.

The Explorer Hotel - Downtown Hotel

Address: 4825 49th Street

Located on the edge of downtown Yellowknife, features scenic views of the true north with all the luxuries of home. On site restaurant, lounge & full conference facilities with ample free parking.

Phone: (867) 873-3531; Fax number: (867) 873-2789

Mailing Address: Postal Service 7000 Yellowknife NT X1A 2R3

Website: www.explorerhotel.nt.ca

Email: reservations@explorerhotel.ca

Yellowknife Inn - Downtown Hotel

Address: 5010-49th Street

In the heart of downtown, this hotel is located in the largest mall in the NWT. We offer complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport and full conference facilities. For rates please e-mail us or contact our sales department at (867) 873-2601 ext. #7295.

Phone: (867) 873-2601; Fax number: (867) 873-2602

Mailing Address: Box 490 Yellowknife NT X1A 2N4

Website: www.yellowknifeinn.com

Email: yksales@yellowknifeinn.com

Other Yellowknife Hotels

Super 8

Address: 308 Old Airport Road
Friendly 66 room clean comfortable hotel with complimentary breakfast, cable,
airport shuttle. Centrally located near shopping, medical and entertainment facilities
enroute to Airport.

Phone: (867) 669-8888; Fax number: (867) 669-8801
Mailing Address: 308 Old Airport Road Yellowknife NT X1A 1V1
Website: www.super8yellowknife.com
Email: sales@super8yellowknife.com

Nova Court

Address: 476 Range Lake Road; Location: Downtown Area
Phone: (867)873-6686; Fax number: (867) 873-6687
Mailing Address: 476 Range Lake Road Yellowknife NT X1A 3Z3
Website:
Email: dryden_shelter@ssimicro.com

For information on other hotels and for a bed and breakfast listing, please consult
the Northern Frontier Visitor Centre...

http://www.northernfrontier.com/01_TravelDirectory/service.asp

Literacy Through the Arts

Facilitators



Dr. Ann Patteson

Dr. Ann Patteson is the International Director of Research for *Learning Through the Arts* (LTTA) at The Royal Conservatory. Ann is also the Chief Researcher for Canada's National Arts Centre education programs. She has been an arts educator at the college and university levels, most recently at the Faculty of Education, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. She is a musician and visual artist with an extensive background in performance and studio teaching.



Sgaan Jaada (Anastasia Hendry)

Sgaan Jaada (Anastasia J. Hendry) is a textile artist who is surrounded by works of creation that are an immense influence on her work. Her robes, tapestries and sketches portray the essence of North West Coast peoples and she uses traditional and contemporary techniques to educate, inform and inspire. Sgaan Jaada's education began over 30 years ago when she inquired of her Nonnie (Grandmother) as to how to make a button blanket, what they represent and the history. She has done a number of art shows and workshops. She works in other mediums such as deer skin, cedar bark, moose hide, antler, rawhide, shell to mention a few.



Shelley MacDonald

Shelley MacDonald is a performing artist, educator and filmmaker from the Mi'kmaq nation who began her career in Toronto as a writer/performer with Second Look Community Arts using theatre to excite and educate audiences.

Shelley has trained and performed with the Vancouver Theatre Sports league and has a degree in Theatre from Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. She has performed, written and directed shows for the Vancouver Comedy Fest and Fringe Festivals across Canada.

Her real passion is arts based projects with youth. She spent the last 10 years as an Aboriginal and community outreach worker for the Vancouver School Board developing theatre and film projects with the Gitksan and Musqueam Nation. She co-founded a community based Aboriginal Mentorship program for young women in partnership with Simon Fraser University in December 2003. The Girlz group has completed three films. Trailblazers, Girlz'n the hood, and Mental: The power within our stories. These films have screened at different conferences, including the World Peace forum for the United Nations, and on APTN.

Shelley's Television credits include Cold Squad, the ABC television series "Masters of Science Fiction" and various news segments for Aboriginal Peoples Television Network.



Aaron Paquette

Aaron Paquette is a young artist with immense talent. Apprenticing under both an accomplished Stained Glass Master on one hand, and one of Canada's premiere Master Goldsmiths on the other, Aaron has infused both elements of his training into his paintings. This signature style is recognizable at a glance and is one of the reasons he is quickly becoming recognized as one of the great up and coming artists in Canada. Aaron has been featured in a number of shows, including six solo exhibits. In addition to painting, Aaron has also curated a Traveling Exhibit for the Art Gallery of Alberta and looks forward to continuing his work as a Guest Curator for the Gallery in the future.

His work has been featured in magazines across Canada and he is poised to take his work to an international audience. Aaron is currently working on three books: a poetry collaboration, a how-to for beginning artists, and his long-awaited study on present conditions and feelings of First Nations people living in Alberta (long-awaited by his publishers, at any rate).

On working with LTTA Aaron states, "It hasn't been easy, but whatever I've put into it (which is a lot!), I've gotten back in more ways I can count. I may be partnering with teachers to give young minds new techniques for learning, but I always feel that I'm the one getting the education."



John Scully

John Scully received a degree in photography from Ryerson University and has worked as a visual artist, freelance editorial photographer and a teacher for more than fifteen years. John is the LTTA New Media Manager and has coordinated the LTTA national media arts programs for five years. He teaches media arts and media literacy workshops across the country. He is also proud to be a red head.



Rita Mueller

Two years ago, Rita moved into the position of Director of Early Childhood and School Services for the Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Education, Culture and Employment. She moved to the Department of Education from Chief Jimmy Bruneau Regional High School in Behchoko. Rita began her teaching career at CJBS in 1994 where she worked as a teacher until becoming the principal of the school in 1998 (until Sept. 30, 2007).