



Central Alberta Regional Consortium Presents:

## Support Staff Conference

### "It's All About Kids: Making a Difference"

Thursday, February 9, 2012

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Capri Centre 3310 50 Avenue, Red Deer

\$85 (includes continental breakfast and lunch)

Time		Session Title	Presented by:	Audience
9:00 - 10:15		Heroes in our Schools	James Trodden	
10:15 - 10:30	<b>Coffee</b>			
10:30 - 12:00 <b>Breakouts</b>		Building Connections	James Trodden	K-12
		iPad Apps for Education--Beginners	Charlene Thorne & Alfred Chu	
		Inclusive Practices	Jodi Goodrick & Alda Parker	EA's
		Making Music, Literacy & Movement Fun for Division 1	Tracy Stener & Christie Noble	
		Mental Health in the Classroom	Yvonne Walsh	EA's
		Empowered EA's: Survival Tool Kit	Cheryl Wowk	EA's
		Cosmos Services & Youth in Transition	Joanne Marcotte	
12:00 - 12:45	<b>Lunch</b>			
12:45 - 2:15 <b>Breakouts</b>		Making Music, Literacy & Movement Fun for Our Special Ones	Tracy Stener & Christie Noble	
		How to Organize a Pull-out Session	Kari Lotzien	
		Math Games & Manipulatives K-3	Sandi Berg	K-3
		Assistive Technology--General	Charlene Thorne & Alfred Chu	
		Teachability	Ken Boschman	
		Yes, Virginia, All Children Can Read!	Judy Anderst	PreK-12
		Building Connections	James Trodden	K-12
2:15 - 2:30	<b>Coffee</b>			
2:30 - 4:00 <b>Breakouts</b>		Special Needs in the Classroom	Kitty Parlby	Pre K-6
		In-Class Strategies	Kari Lotzien	
		Math Games & Manipulatives	Sandi Berg	4-6
		Substance Abuse	Ivy Daigle	
		Working with Stuck Kids	Ken Boschman	
		Empowered EA's: Survival Tool Kit	Cheryl Wowk	
		Tips for using Children's Literature to Support Literacy	Iris Loewen	K-3

### Keynote: Heroes in our Schools

In the day-to-day pressure of our lives, we can forget that as educators we are the difference that can change a child's life. James recalls all the heroes that stepped out and changed the course of his life. People with jobs in a magical building called a school are these heroes. Education is the difference and our jobs in working with children go beyond what we are supposed to do to that which we morally must do to help the youth around us. The next child that passes you by on the next day at school is the one that we need to make a difference for. In examining the lives of children, we begin to see how we, as educators, hold the key to changing lives and making a

difference. As James shares stories of incredible educators he works with and the difference they make in the lives of children, he never forgets that once he was that child and his heroes changed the course of his life.

**James Trodden** James Trodden has been an educator for 16 years. During that time he has worked on a First Nation in Saskatchewan, and taught High School Science. He has worked as an administrator for the last 7 years. He has been a principal of a high school for 'at risk' children. Currently he is the principal of a Middle School. His journey to the education system is a path that lead from fighting his own education to fighting for others education.

## Morning Breakouts 10:30 - 12:00

### 1. Building Connections with James Trodden

Building connections begins with your beliefs and expands to embrace students. What beliefs build strong connections for student success? How do you structure your days to allow for maximum student motivation? How do you overcome organizational barriers to help students? This workshop will deeply explore the ideas on student engagement presented in the keynote address. Participants will work to develop beliefs and skills to engage students in the classroom.

### 2. iPad Apps for Education--Beginners with Charlene Thorne & Alfred Chu

This session will review iPad apps in the following categories: social skills, safety, literacy, organization, communication and functional academic skills. Accessibility options and access for the iPad will also be discussed.

### 3. Inclusive Practices with Jodi Goodrick & Alda Parker

This session will focus on inclusive practices for students with learning and behavioral challenges. This session will be interactive, co-facilitated by Jodi Goodrick and Alda Parker and will focus on strategies for students at all levels.

### 4. Making Music, Literacy & Movement Fun for Division 1 with Tracy Stener & Christie Noble

This session is specifically geared toward assistants of students in Grades 1-3, and highlights music, literacy, and movement to support classroom activities. Come prepared to move, and have fun! Participants will leave with ready to use ideas and energizers!

### 5. Mental Health in the Classroom with Yvonne Walsh

The key issues of mental health - discretion, behaviour, incidents and techniques for dealing with depression, anxiety, bi-polar, self-harm to name a few. There will be time for discussion and questions.

### 6. Empowered EA's: Survival Tool Kit with Cheryl Wowk

This session will focus on "tools" or strategies for Educational Assistants to work more effectively with students who present with challenging behaviours in our classrooms. This "Tool Kit" will be composed of *practical* strategies and techniques designed to reduce stress for both the E. A.'s and students alike. Hopefully, if we know better, we can do better which in turn will lead to more successful outcomes with our special kids!

### 7. Cosmos Services & Youth in Transition with Joanne Marcotte

Explore what Cosmos has to offer youth, young adults and their families to support them in accessing their community (Red Deer & surrounding area): career services, volunteerism, education, recreation and advocacy. Generalized information to assist all youth with disabilities in navigating the many systems available to them at age 18 (income supports, residential options, decision making). And what no one is telling families, and they do need to know, around how rights, restrictions, and safeguarding change as their children become legal adults.

## Afternoon Breakouts 12:45 - 2:15

### 1. Making Music, Literacy & Movement Fun for Our Special Ones with Tracy Stener & Christie Noble

This session is specifically geared toward assistants of special education students, and highlights music, literacy, and movement to support classroom activities. Come prepared to move, and have fun! Participants will leave with ready to use ideas and energizers!

### 2. Organize a Pull-out Session with Kari Lotzien

Ensure your pull out time is effective, efficient and engaging. We will explore creative and unique ways to get the most out of your pull out time with students. Questions will include: Why a pull out vs. in-class support; how to achieve engagement with your students so that pull out time is effective; how to choose activities; and thinking outside of the box to get the most of your pull out session, creative strategies and opportunities.

### 3. Math Games & Manipulatives K-3 with Sandi Berg

Looking for ways to make math more hands-on and fun? During this session we will explore a variety of math games and manipulatives, both electronic and physical, that will help K-3 students make connections to the curriculum. Bring your own laptop if you have access to one!

### 4. Assistive Technology--General with Charlene Thorne & Alfred Chu

Write-up...

## Afternoon Breakouts 12:45 - 2:15

### 5. Teachability with Ken Boschman

This session is based on the work of developmental psychologist, Dr. Gordon Neufeld, Ph.D., who is the coauthor of the best-selling book "Hold on to Your Kids: Why Parents Needs to Matter More Than Peers".

It will describe what must come "with the student" for teaching to translate into learning, and how to harness the power of attachment for all students.

### 6. Yes, Virginia, All Children Can Read! with Judy

**Anderst** Strategies and resources to facilitate the above goal. Examples of materials to use, where to get more resources, the "keep it simple, stupid" principle, where to get help from other professionals, each other, and how to use existing resources differently.

### 7. Building Connections with James Trodden

Building connections begins with your beliefs and expands to embrace students. What beliefs build strong connections for student success? How do you structure your days to allow for maximum student motivation? How do you overcome organizational barriers to help students? This workshop will deeply explore the ideas on student engagement presented in the keynote address. Participants will work to develop beliefs and skills to engage students in the classroom.

## Afternoon Breakouts 2:30 - 4:00

### 1. Special Needs in the Classroom with Kitty Parlby

We will explore methods, tips and tricks to help those with developmental disabilities stay in the classroom and attend, as well as when to know when they need a break. Sensory issues, behaviour problems and attention will all be part of this discussion.

### 2. In-Class Strategies with Kari Lotzien

The "dance" of support in the classroom can be difficult to balance. When do you come in and "hold on tight" and when do you allow the student to "dance freely". This session will explore relationships in the classroom environment and how these really are the key when looking at supports. We will move from theory to specific strategies within the classroom setting. Participants will gain an understanding of how to modify tasks "on the fly" in class and how to manage challenges that may present themselves.

### 3. Math Games & Manipulatives with Sandi Berg

Looking for ways to make math more hands-on and fun? During this session we will explore a variety of math games and manipulatives, both electronic and physical, that will help Grade 4-6 students make connections to the curriculum. Bring your own laptop if you have access to one!

### 4. Understanding Addiction with Ivy Daigle

This session will address substance use, drugs and how they work. Ivy will cover common trends in youth, signs of problem use, stage of change, how to support youth who may be experimenting with substances as well as the services and resources available to those touched by this problem.

### 5. Working with Stuck Kids with Ken Boschman

This session is based on the work of developmental psychologist, Dr. Gordon Neufeld, Ph.D., who is the coauthor of the best-selling book "Hold on to Your Kids: Why Parents Needs to Matter More Than Peers".

It identifies the requisite capacities for learning and how to work around gaps and barriers with challenging students.

### 6. Empowered EA's: Survival Tool Kit with Cheryl Wowk

This session will focus on "tools" or strategies for Educational Assistants to work more effectively with students who present with challenging behaviours in our classrooms. This "Tool Kit" will be composed of *practical* strategies and techniques designed to reduce stress for both the E. A.'s and students alike.

Hopefully, if we know better, we can do better which in turn will lead to more successful outcomes with our special kids!

### 7. Tips for using Children's Literature to Support Literacy with Iris Loewen

In this session participants will be given useful tips for using children's literature to support student literacy. We will discuss reading readiness skills and practice with selected resources. A student's enjoyment of reading enhances their literacy skills.

## Meet the Presenters...

### **Judy Anderst**

Judy has 23 years with Wolf Creek School Division. She has experience in the areas of: Special Ed., Speech and Language, Early Entry intervention, English Second Language, Phonological Awareness, Foundations for Reading and Writing - Auditory Processing, Visualize Verbalize, Fundamental Skill Foundations for Motor Development, Brain Gym, Riggs Writing & Spelling Road to Reading and Thinking, Managing Severe Behaviours, Psychology 289.

### **Sandi Berg**

Sandi Berg, currently seconded to Central Alberta Regional Consortium as the Mathematics Lead Teacher Facilitator, is constantly searching for and testing out hands-on activities, manipulatives and games to help students make connections with the math curriculum.

### **Ken Boschman**

Ken Boschman is a Leduc-based registered psychologist who has over thirty years of experience with students and their parents. After retiring from Black Gold Regional Schools, Ken has been studying with Dr. Neufeld and was recently invited to join his faculty. Ken recognizes that most of what has worked, or not worked, in his relationships with children is explained by this approach.

### **Alfred Chu**

Alfred is an Occupational Therapist and is a consultant with REACH. REACH provides consultative services to students with complex needs in Southern Alberta school jurisdictions.

### **Ivy Daigle**

Ivy Daigle has been working for Alberta Health Services - Addiction and Mental Health for the past three years. She is currently a full time prevention consultant where she is out in the community to share information resources and provide educational opportunities to others on issues relating to substance use and gambling issues. Previously she worked as an addiction counsellor. In this role Ivy provided counselling, consultations and supports to individual experiencing addiction and mental health concerns.

### **Jodi Goodrick**

Jodi Goodrick, Assistant Superintendent RDPSD has worked in a variety of educational settings at all grade levels in Alberta, Saskatchewan and overseas.. Alda Parker, Educational Assistant, Inclusion Support Program, LTCHS has worked in a variety of educational settings within Red Deer Public Schools.

### **Iris Loewen**

Iris (B.Ed., MLS) an educator with over 30 years of experience as teacher and school librarian in three provinces. Currently she works as the Library and First Nations, Metis and Inuit Coordinator for Chinook's Edge School Division. Throughout her career, Iris has specialized in developing libraries for band controlled schools. She is the author of two children's books, "My Kokum called today" and "My Mom is so unusual." School libraries provide access to reading materials, materials of varied reading and interest levels and a place to explore all kinds of information, thus making them natural partners with classrooms in developing and supporting student literacy.

### **Kari Lotzien**

Kari has loved her career as an occupational therapist for the past 13 years. She is passionate about connecting children, families and learning teams to explore creative solutions to help kids succeed at school. She is also the proud mom of two children ages 11 and 9 who have also been amazing teachers in her life.

### **Joanne Marcotte**

Joanne Marcotte - is a dynamic, passionate speaker with over 15 years of experience in human services ranging from Crisis Intervention to Community Service Delivery and Advocacy for persons with disabilities. She has a Bachelor of Arts & Science with Double Majors in Psychology & Philosophy. In her current role she is a specialist resource on behaviour, staff development, abuse allegations, FASD initiatives and advocacy.

Blaine Findlay - is an engaging Life Skills Facilitator with 3 years of experience working with people ages 3 to 80 of varying abilities. He has a Diploma Psychology & Sociology and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

## **Christie Noble**

Christie Noble, recently retired, is a Music Specialist as well. She developed and implemented a music/literacy program for the Early Education Program at Mayfield School for over 10 years. She is dedicated to providing the best Musical experiences for the special needs students she teaches, with a dominant interest in Early Literacy. Together with Tracey Stener, she has published four books in the area of music and literacy and one book of energizers to supplement daily movement in the classroom, and does numerous presentations and workshops with children, educators, and parents for children throughout Elementary School. Website: [www.funlitmusic.com](http://www.funlitmusic.com)

## **Alda Parker**

Alda is an EA in the Resiliency Room program at LTCHS where she works with students on all areas of academics, as well as monitoring attendance and grades. Alda has over 22 years experience working with youth in many grades at several schools.

## **Kitty Parlby**

In January of 2000, Kitty's son was diagnosed with autism. She educated herself with highly motivated study and daily hands-on experience. She owns Autism Inspirations, a speaking and consulting business. Kitty is presently chair of the board of governors for Aspire Special Needs Resource Centre. She also runs an autism awareness and support website at [autismhaven.com](http://autismhaven.com)

## **Tracy Stener**

Tracy Stener is a Music specialist with Edmonton Public, who completed her Masters Education focusing on music, literacy and movement for Early Education. She is presently at Princeton School and Kirkness School in Edmonton. She is dedicated to providing the best Musical experiences for the special needs students she teaches, with a dominant interest in Early Literacy. Together with Christie Noble, she has published four books in the area of music and literacy and one book of energizers to supplement daily movement in the classroom, and does numerous presentations and workshops with children, educators, and parents for children throughout Elementary School. Website: [www.funlitmusic.com](http://www.funlitmusic.com)

## **Charlene Thorne**

Charlene is a Speech Language Pathologist and is a consultant with REACH. REACH provides consultative services to students with complex needs in Southern Alberta school jurisdictions.

## **James Trodden**

James Trodden has been an educator for 16 years. During that time he has worked on a First Nation in Saskatchewan, and taught High School Science. He has worked as an administrator for the last 7 years. He has been a principal of a high school for 'at risk' children. Currently he is the principal of a Middle School. His journey to the education system is a path that lead from fighting his own education to fighting for others education.

## **Yvonne Walsh**

Yvonne has been a Psychologist for 35 years. She has worked for various school divisions throughout Canada. She has more recently worked for Alberta Health Services - Addition and Mental Health as a Mental Health Liaison and Placement Coordinator for CFSA.

## **Cheryl Wowk**

I am recently "retired" after a 36 year long career as an Educator and Guidance Counsellor. Over the years, my passion and primary area of expertise has been working with severe emotional and behavior disordered students. The rewards often far outweigh the challenges when working with these "at-hope" students, a descriptor I prefer to the more commonly used term "at-risk". My belief is that every child born is a unique and special gift to be celebrated. It is our task to figure out how to create 'win/win' scenarios with the severe behaviour kids entrusted to our care.