



Manitoba ASCD
P.O. Box 69027, RPO Tuxedo Park
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3P 2G9

For more information visit our web site at
www.mbascd.ca
or contact Paulette by email at
mbascd@shaw.ca or
by phone at 204-510-7271.

MANITOBA ASCD PRESENTS

UPCOMING Speakers — please mark your calendars

Thursday February 16, 2012

Schools as Launching Pads To the Future



Her focus will be on current interdisciplinary focus areas such as sustainability, media literacy, and globalization. She will also address how to modernize each discipline area. Dr. Jacobs will demonstrate how to revise your current units and mapping lessons. She will help you document your plans. Join Dr. Jacobs for a provocative, timely, and engaging session on how to integrate contemporary curriculum into your school and move out of 19th and 20th century classroom practice.

Heidi Hayes Jacobs

Thursday May 3, 2012

Student Achievement: A Focus on Leadership



This presenter will:

- Build capacity among educators to improve instructional effectiveness
- Improve student learning and achievement
- Focus on excellence and equity
- Share research-informed strategies
- Emphasize holistic education
- Address issues related to parent and student engagement
- Emphasize diversity, human rights and inclusive education practices
- Ensure that schools serve the needs of all students
- Help education systems deliver on their promise to educate all children successfully

Avis Glaze

Eric Jensen

Thursday October 18, 2012

**Kieran Egan &
Gillian Judson**

Thursday February 19, 2013

Brain Matters: Translating Research to Classroom Practice

Based on Pat Wolfe's Manitoba ASCD Presentation - October 6, 2011

The first Manitoba ASCD Professional Learning Opportunity took place at the Canad Inn Club Regent. Pat Wolfe started out the day talking about caffeine and caught everyone's attention by informing us that caffeine does benefit the brain! Pat was a warm, engaging and humorous speaker who wove research into the foundation of how the brain works and its implications for teachers. Referring often to personal anecdotes, each participant of this event learned not only valuable tips for their classroom, but also for their personal lives.



Pat Wolfe

Did You Know?

- The brain is approximately 3 pounds and is the "greediest" organ in the body
- It utilizes ten times the oxygen than any other organ
- The brain is responsible for everything you do
- Exercise and healthy eating habits are critical for proper brain functioning
- To help delay Alzheimer's disease, you need to get exercise, exercise, exercise; adequate sleep; no stress; challenge your brain with something new and different

How the Brain Works

Pat provided slides illustrating brain imaging techniques allowing participants to see areas and functions of the brain. The four major lobes of the brain and the motor cortex were described in terms of the controlling functions of each area; the occipital lobe (visual), temporal lobe (auditory), frontal lobe (thinking), and the parietal lobe (spatial). One PET scan image illustrated two brains; one of reading silently, with questions to follow and the other was of an individual reading aloud. What were the findings? Each type of reading activity produced activity in different lobes in the brain, informing teachers to vary activities to activate many areas of the brain.

What is Learning & Memory?

Learning is the act of making connections; memory is the activation of the connections found in the neural networks or maps. Memory is the ability to reconstruct or reactivate the previously-made connections. "Practice makes permanent" and it is vital for teachers to try to present information in the most meaningful way in order for neurons to "fire together" and make connections. Information is lost if there is no connection. The more real-world examples that are utilized by teachers, the more likely the concept will be understood and remembered by their students. Memory will also be strengthened by linking previous learning to new information.

Attention – Meaning and Emotion

It is estimated that approximately 99% of all information entering through the senses is immediately dropped and "lost". To increase attention and memory in the classroom, two factors that teachers can infuse in their presentation of information to students is meaning and emotion. Students need to be able to make sense of the information and for it to be meaningful. Emotional "hooks", stories, drama/role playing are strategies that can impact attention and memory. These strategies would enable students to "experience" the feelings of a time period or situation. Classroom climates need to be emotionally/psychologically safe for students to take risks with these strategies. One caution is that "emotion" can have a negative role thus impeding learning, with the brain operating less efficiently if students don't feel emotionally "safe". Teachers often adapt presentations for students if they are anxious by offering opportunities to present in smaller groups, rehearsals, or videotaping. Many of us have done this as educators without even knowing that we are meeting the needs of the brain!

continued on page 3...

continued from page 2...

Strategies That Match How the Brain Learns Best

Interspersed through Pat Wolfe's presentation, participants were exposed to several strategies that they can utilize in their classes:

- Reciprocal Teaching – increases retention by 50% by both speaker and listener
- Storytelling - longer retention with a story, transfer to the "real world"
- Metaphor, Analogy, and Simile- past experiences for meaning
- Simulations and Role Play- emotional attachment, increased memory
- Reflect and Write – writing is more difficult than verbalizing
- Rhyme, Rhythm and Rap
- Visuals and Graphics- picture is worth a 1000 words
- Projects and Problem-based Learning
- Mnemonics
- Hands on

Pat concluded the day with the final slide of the day, "The better we understand the brain, the better we'll be able to educate it." As educators if we provide experiential learning, build on prior knowledge, use real world examples and revisit and reinforce learning periodically to increase consolidation, we are translating research to practice.

For more information, you can go to Pat's website at www.patwolfe.com or look for her latest book *Brain Matters, 2nd edition*.

Notes by Michele Polinuk, Lord Selkirk School Division

Submission Guidelines

- Articles can range from 1000-1500 words (4-6 pages) in length. Shorter submissions are also welcome.
- Please be sure to include:
 - Title of the article
 - Author's full name
 - Position and place of employment
 - Mailing address
 - Phone number
 - Email address (if available)
 - 2-3 sentences about the background of the author(s)

- All contributions may be submitted electronically to brendalanoway@shaw.ca.
- For articles, pages should be numbered consecutively, including the bibliography.
- APA (5.0) style is required for all in-text citations and the bibliography. Canadian usage and spelling is required.
- Charts, pictures or illustrative materials are encouraged, but will be included on the basis of quality and availability of space. Such materials should be sent as separate files and of a quality ready to publish.

Deadline for written submissions is March 15, 2012
For more information please contact: Brenda Lanoway, Editor
brendalanoway@shaw.ca

President's Message



Lorraine de Monyé

As an affiliate of ASCD, Manitoba ASCD exists to promote teacher professional growth and improvement in instruction, to promote indicators of exemplary practice for supervision and/or curriculum development, and to work cooperatively with other organizations seeking to improve education.

It is an honour and privilege to work with other educators in Manitoba to ensure that Manitoba ASCD is a non-partisan organization that provides exceptional professional learning to educators in Manitoba. This year we have a strong slate of presenters and look forward to the challenges that will be shared by Heidi Hayes Jacobs (February 16, 2012) and Avis Glaze (May 3, 2012).

Thank you for being a member of Manitoba ASCD. As a Board we are looking forward to serving you. Our Board is committed to on-going growth and welcome new members to our committees. If you are interested in serving on a Manitoba ASCD committee please let us know.

ASCD Manitoba Executive 2011-2012

President, Lorraine de Monyé, Independent Schools

President-Elect, Jayesh Maniar, Winnipeg School Division

Past President, Barb Isaak, River East Transcona School Division

Treasurer, Brad Burns, Pembina Trails School Division

Secretary, Brenda Augusta, River-East-Transcona School Division

Directors

Larry Budzinski, Manitoba Education

Jerome Cranston, University of Manitoba

Phyllis Geddert, Manitoba Education

Andrea Loepf, Louis Riel School Division

Bruce Neal, Independent Schools

Michele Polinuk, Lord Selkirk School Division

The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of ASCD

