

NOVEMBER 3, 2010



DISTRICT COUNCIL

EDUCATION SERVICES' REPORT

In October, all Educational Service Officers in Ontario were offered training within their Regions. I attended the training session in London for Region 3. We discussed the Roles and Functions of the Educational Services Committee (Provincial), the Educational Services Officers (District level), and the OSSTF Structure & Website. The Educational Service Officers were re-introduced to the OSSTF Resource Bank which includes numerous workshops and speakers on various topics. Participants were given time to discuss and collaborate on successful practices at the District level with regards to Professional Development.

I recently attended the 2010 ESC Conference – “*Tools & Toys...Technology in Education/Outils et jeux...Technologie en education*” in Toronto. It was a huge success, with over 460 participants attending. Below is a summary of some of the speakers and workshops I attended.

Keynote Speakers: Mr. Jesse Brown, Journalist and Broadcaster

Jesse Brown is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster specializing in Social Media and Digital Rights issues. As a regular contributor to CBC radio and television as the host of TVO's internet affairs program Search Engine, he has become an influential observer and critic of online culture. Recently, Jesse put his expertise in Social Media into practice: he is a founder to the user generated cartoon site *Bitstrips*, which in its first week online was described as “awesome!” by Wired Magazine. *Bitstrips* has been licensed by the Ontario Ministry of Education, and is being used to teach literacy.

Marc Saltzman, Journalist

Marc Saltzman was one of the first journalists in the world to break open the MP₃ phenomenon in late 1997 on CNN.com. Marc has reported on the high-tech industry as a freelance journalist, author, lecturer, consultant and radio and TV personality. Marc also writes various blogs and contributes to nearly 50 prominent publications.

Web Tools for Communication, Collaboration and Time Management in the Classroom

Presenter: Josh Gray, Thames Valley DSB

Josh Gray spoke about the numerous uses of Google Applications. Google Documents allows teachers to download/upload to or from a Word document so students have access to class work, and assignments at all times wherever there is internet access. Two or more students can simultaneously work on a group assignment from their own homes via the chat feature. Using Google Calendar, teachers may create multiple calendars. These may include a calendar for each class with class work and assignments attached. Google also has a Presentation Application for creating powerpoint-type presentations as well as a Spreadsheet Application. Mr. Gray's presentation/notes can be viewed at <http://www.tvdsb.ca/webpages/grayjl>.

Understanding Internet-Related “Who Are You” Safety and Privacy Issues

Presenter: Paul Preney, Greater Essex DSB

The internet is a wonderful medium enabling students, school staff and human society to interact with one another worldwide in real-time. There are real dangers that the internet poses for everyone, but especially for teachers using it within their lesson plans. This workshop was designed to inform participants, using non-technical language, what a number of these dangers are, how they operate and what can be done to avoid these issues in order to keep such exercises safe. He reminded us that all IP addresses are globally addressable. Just as you can address a letter to someone’s house, on the internet you can address anything and send it to anyone at anytime. He warns that if a device is open to network, it is open to attack by any other device that also is connected to a network. Encryption and an “s” in the https: address line ensures identity and security. Mr. Preney went on to inform participants that anyone can independently verify any website.

Staying Safe in a Wired World

Presenter: Rob Nickel, Cyber-Safety, Cambridge

Former OPP Undercover Detective Sergeant, Rob Nickel, helps teachers understand what dangers lurk online from predators to cyber bullies. In this outstanding workshop, participants can help teach our children those dangers and keep them safe online. Rob gave a different perspective on internet safety by using examples from past investigations and his understanding of the criminal mind used on the internet which gave his audience the upper hand in protecting themselves and others in cyberspace. He is the author of the book **Staying Safe in a Wired World – A Parent’s Guide to Internet Safety**. He reminded us that predators are not always a ‘creepy looking’ man who lures children in public places with the use of candy and puppies. He showed us how, in a matter of minutes, a predator could take general common information posted on a website profile, and find a young child’s house, what they look like, what their interests are and even where and when they go out of town. He touched on numerous types of technology such as cell phones, computers, email, chat rooms, skype, instant messaging, self-created websites, blogs, cyberbullying, Trojan software and types of anti-virus and internet monitoring software. All participants at the conference were given a book free of charge.

All materials from the past conferences can be accessed by contacting me or the District 10 Office.

I would encourage each Branch President to submit the name and contact information of their Educational Services Representative to Carolyn at the District Office as soon as possible, as planning is in the works for a District Education Services Committee meeting in the near future. I am looking forward to working together with the Educational Services Representatives from each Branch to gain feedback for future workshops that we can provide our members. I am planning to conduct a member survey and hope to offer Professional Development opportunities this year. Any input or suggestions are welcome.

Submitted by,

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O.S.S.T.F. – District 10