



Conference of Independent Schools of Ontario

Teachers of English

Workshops

Anxiety in Adolescence: Strategies to Support Anxious Students in the Classroom

Session Leader: Gail Sweeney, The Bishop Strachan School

In this workshop we will learn about anxiety, what it is and the different forms it can take.

An emphasis will be placed on how to recognize an anxious student, what stress does to the brain, how it affects learning in the classroom and strategies to employ for students experiencing acute or longer-term stress. Gail Sweeney is a school child and adolescent psychologist who has worked with children and adolescents for over 25 years. She is on staff at BSS, supporting faculty and students in all three divisions. Gail was commissioned by the National Film Board of Canada to direct and produce a film on children with learning disabilities, from the student's perspective. This film, *A Mind of Your Own* (1999), can be found in university, high school and college libraries across Canada and still is being widely shown as a teaching tool for future teachers.

Supporting ELL Students in Core English Classrooms

Session Leaders: Eric Bailey & Holly Robertson, Hillfield Strathallan College

Supporting English Language Learners in Core Classrooms: This session will focus on helping core classroom teachers understand the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs) and the various accommodations that can be made to support them. It will address the challenges ELLs face in independent schools and how teachers can create a supportive environment. Topics will include everyday vs. academic English, providing supportive feedback, incorporating students' first language, and integrating language and content instruction

Podcasts for Students and Educators: How might students and teachers leverage podcasts for learning and connection with authentic audiences?

Session Leader: Celeste Kirsh, The Bishop Strachan School

Join podcast host, middle school humanities teacher, and audiophile Celeste Kirsh as we explore how we might use this medium to promote student excellence and teacher learning.

MS Mindfulness

Session Leader: Laura D'Angelo, St. Clement's School

This workshop will explore ways to create a warm and inclusive environment for Middle School students, specifically with girls in mind, with an emphasis on mindfulness and connection.

Participants will be provided with hands-on ideas and online resources to incorporate into classroom practices (both virtually and in person). Other helpful tools will be shared, including a few 'Mindful Moments' from Laura's book, *A Month of Mindful Moments: A guidebook and journal for girls*.

Learning Commons: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

Session Leaders: Darby Macnab & Jenny Conley, The Bishop Strachan School

Focusing on Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity in the Learning Commons: In 2019, the BSS Learning Commons conducted a Diversity Audit of our fiction collection. In this session, we will discuss what we learned, and we will present strategies and resources we use now to find books representing a broader range of voices. This is a sharing session. Participants are encouraged to bring their own ideas and specific books that address this shift in focus. We will also be showcasing past years of our Middle School Reads program, which exemplifies some DEI principles.

Teaching Spoken Word Poetry

Session Leader: Britta B., Spoken Word Poet

What is ‘spoken word’? What is the impact of supporting literacy and language through spoken word and introducing poetry as performance? In this session, Britta will share tips around engaging students to become confident writers, speakers and performers. She’ll also reflect on Black histories, futures, presence and perspectives, the importance of anti-Black racism education and why representation matters in the space between words, lines and stanzas. Come prepared with Lit. questions and ideas for best learning practices to discuss together in a sort of ‘open-floor’ exchange.

BIPOC Voices

Session Leader: Jennifer Goldberg

Join this conversation if you are interested in discussing which books by BIPOC authors teachers have been using successfully in our schools. Jennifer Goldberg, Head of English and Drama at Havergal College, will facilitate a conversation for participants to share text titles and approaches that support diversity, equity, and inclusion in the middle and high school English curriculum. (Note that this session is a repeat of CITE's winter PD offered in February.)

BIPOC Literature in the Classroom Winter Event - Summary

Hosted by CITE and facilitated by Jennifer Goldberg from Havergal College

CITE had a good turnout of over 30 teachers from various CIS Ontario schools attend the February 17 **BIPOC Literature in the Classroom** Winter Event. Thank you to **Chris Jull** from **Crestwood Preparatory College** for organizing and to **Jennifer Goldberg** from **Havergal College** for facilitating the evening. Jennifer is passionate about having DEI in our English curriculum and felt CITE is a powerful organization that allows teachers to unite and share ideas. We are especially grateful to Jennifer as she is just back from a maternity leave, only to return to teach during one of the most difficult periods teachers have ever experienced. Jennifer graciously took the time to create an evening where teachers could learn from one another and grow a list of titles. We even learned some of Jennifer’s cool Zoom tech tricks!

The purpose of the event was for teachers to think purposefully about what texts they are putting on their reading lists and to ensure that diverse voices and BIPOC authors are represented in our English courses. Teachers were assigned breakout rooms with teachers from different schools

BSS You Belong Summit Leaders - Student Panel - On Being Seen

Panelists from BSS Student Diversity Leadership Council

Do you see me? - Being visible and invisible in the classroom. Members of the BSS Student Diversity Leadership Council recently hosted the inaugural YouBelong Summit, attended by students from CIS schools across Canada. Join a panel of students from this council who are eager to share moments when they have felt seen in our classrooms, as well as moments when they have felt invisible.