

# Conference 2024 Breakout Sessions

## Schedule At a Glance

Friday April 26	
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	FRA Pre-session A
2:00 pm - 4:30 pm	FRA Pre-session B
2:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Check-in
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Trade Fair
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Welcome Social Mixer
Saturday April 27	
7:00 am	Check-in, Breakfast
8:00 am	Opening Greetings
8:15 am	Minister of Education
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Breakout Sessions
10:00 am	Trade Fair & Refreshments
10:45 am	Keynote Speaker
11:30 am	Networking & Trade Fair
12:00 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm	Plenary Presentation
1:30 pm - 2:40 pm	Breakout Sessions
2:45 pm	Trade Fair & Refreshments
3:30 pm - 4:45 pm	Breakout Sessions
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Candidates Meet 'n Greet, Banquet Dinner
Sunday April 28	
7:00 am - 8:00 am	Check-in, Breakfast
8:00 am - 12:00 pm	Meeting, Elections
12:00 - 12:45 pm	Lunch
12:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Meeting, Elections

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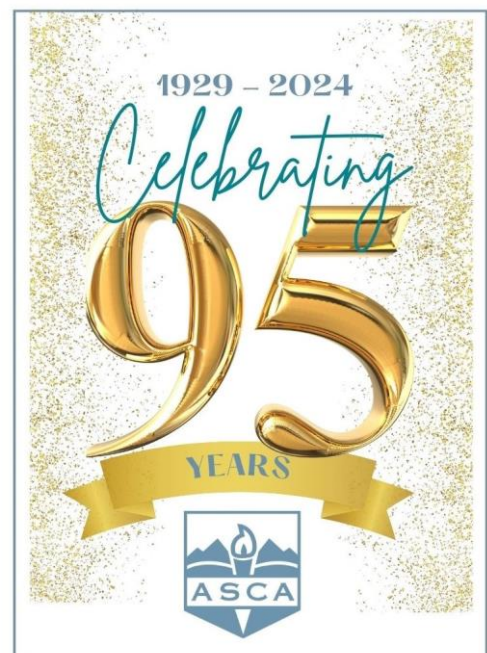
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Social media: #ASCAconf24



### Saturday 9:00 am – 10:00 am

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## Pre Sessions Friday April 26<sup>th</sup>

### JASPER ROOM

**12:00 pm - 1:30 pm**

#### **Fundraising Associations Fundamental Principles**

Fundraising Associations operate as legal entities with distinct rules to follow. This workshop will review the legislation and purpose of a Fundraising Association, its role and relationships with the school community, the role of the Board, and how decisions are made. This workshop is designed to guide new and existing Boards and Association members with a review of principles and some operations best practices.

**2:00 pm - 4:30 pm**

#### **Fundraising Association Financial Practices**

Fundraising Associations are separate, legal entities with distinct rules to follow, responsibilities to comply with and liabilities to consider. Following sound financial management and proven business practices are critical for continued success in the school community. Topics include – identifying financial risks, managing risk, basic financial practices, and how to make spending decisions. Discussion of resource documents, templates and sample financial documents and reports to assist the association in creating a sound financial management plan.

#### Alberta School Councils' Association



Brenda Kell has twelve years' experience with School Councils in a variety of positions. Six years as a Fundraising Coordinator, two years as a parent representative to the GATE Parents Association, one year as Vice Chair and three years as a School Council Chair permits her to understand a wide scope of school council issues.

Brenda has volunteered extensively in schools with a focus on classroom presentations demonstrating how Math and Science are integrated into other subjects. Brenda is a retired Electrical Engineer and her professional background is in regulatory affairs, strategic planning and best practices.

Known in her neighbourhood as the Lab Lady, Brenda breeds champion Labrador Retrievers and is always happy to "talk dogs".

## Conversation Exchange Friday April 26<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

### ROYAL IMPERIAL ROOM

#### **"Family Engagement" How do schools and school councils encourage family engagement in the school community to improve student success?**

#### Alberta School Councils' Association

The "conversation exchange" is a group table exercise to generate ideas and input for sharing.

School Councils can and do influence practices and actions promoting positive engagement in their school communities with the purpose of supporting and enhancing student success. During this conversation exchange, come prepared to share your ideas, experiences, successes, and challenges as representatives from school councils across Alberta learn from each other.

DIAMOND ROOM



Aimee Hennig

**Empowering Parents, Transforming Education**

*Navigating the Education System while Advocating for your Child*

In this interactive session, attendees will learn how to harness the power of effective advocacy to drive positive change within the education system and empower parents to become influential advocates for their children's education.

Through a combination of an informative presentation and interactive discussion, participants will gain practical strategies, tools and resources to effectively advocate for their children within the school system.

Aimee Hennig is a dedicated advocate for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Tourette's Syndrome, having navigated both the private and public-school systems for her son. With firsthand experience, she has worked tirelessly to ensure inclusive education practices, equitable access to resources and individualized support for all students. Aimee's commitment to all student's wellbeing makes her a powerful voice for neurodiversity inclusion in education.

EMERALD ROOM



Michelle Letourneau

**Promoting a Positive Relationship with Food at Home and School**

*Alberta Health Services*

The home and school connection is critical to supporting social and mental well-being around food. Join health professionals from Alberta Health Services to talk about strategies that support a healthy relationship with food. Learn how to make a positive difference in your school community through language, education, and policy.

Michelle is a Registered Dietitian with Alberta Health Services working in Public Health. She focuses on school health and is involved in resource development and initiatives that promote healthy eating in schools. Michelle consults with health care professionals and educators, and provides a variety of programs.



Matt Mitschke

Matt is a Health Promotion Facilitator with the Healthy Schools team at Alberta Health Services. He partners with school authorities and other stakeholders to implement effective and coordinated initiatives that improve wellbeing in schools using a Comprehensive School Health framework. Matt is trained in applied Public Health Sciences and has over 12 years of experience in school health promotion.



Suzanne Lynch

## School Council Purpose

### Alberta School councils' Association

Understanding the advisory role of school councils through a review of the legislation, exploring rights, responsibilities and choices including which topics/areas are open for discussion helps to guide school council and its work in the school community. Learning how to identify the work of school councils, how to frame a “personal issue” from a school council perspective and how to broach sensitive topics is essential for new and returning members.

Suzanne has been self-employed for 33 years as an aesthetician. She continues her passion for learning and personal growth, earning her license as a Realtor, and a diploma with Addictions and Community Service. She has a great love for helping others reach their true potential.

Suzanne has been an active member of her daughter’s school community and School Council, and volunteers in her community regularly. She enjoys developing interpersonal relationships with diverse groups.

Suzanne joined the ASCA team eight years ago and is excited to be working within school communities. Seeing parents engaged in their child's success, while supporting their understanding of School Councils and Fundraising Societies, is something she finds very rewarding.



Brenda Kell

## The Assurance Framework and School Councils

### Alberta School councils' Association

The Assurance Framework, introduced with the *Weighted Moving Average Funding Model* in February 2020 and implemented provincially in September 2020, is designed to demonstrate to Albertans that the education system is meeting student needs and that students are successful.

The Assurance Framework is based on the importance of stakeholder engagement (i.e., parents on school councils) in a more meaningful planning process. School boards are responsible for the engagement of the parents of their students, and to provide the opportunity for school council engagement in developing the education plan, results report, and other items critical to student success. Principals are expected to create similar opportunities specific to the local context of their own school communities.

All education partners share the responsibility for student growth - including parents and school councils!

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Shannon Ireland

## Conversations About Assessment to Guide Parent Understanding

### Alberta Assessment Consortium

This informative session seeks to illuminate parents on the integral role teachers play in crafting individualized classroom assessments tailored to their children's distinct needs and the new curriculum learning objectives.

Explore topics such as,

- assessing the new curriculum,
- the role of coaching and feedback,
- the need for differentiated assessment, and
- balanced assessment plan

The session aims to empower parents with a deeper understanding of the dynamic and ever-evolving educational landscape.

Shannon Ireland has been an educator for over 10 years. She is currently teaching French Language Arts at the junior high level, though she also has experience spanning across grades 2-9 in both English and French immersion programs. Shannon is beyond passionate about classroom assessment and is particularly fond of facilitating conversations regarding feedback and formative assessment. When she is not teaching, reading, or facilitating, she is chasing after her two young children.



Charlene Bearhead

## Residential Schools: Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites

### Royal Canadian Geographical Society

Join Charlene Bearhead - Vice President, Learning and Reconciliation for the Royal Canadian Geographical Society- to learn about what is happening with regard to Indigenous community searches for missing children and unmarked burial sites related to Indian Residential Schools.

We are living in an unprecedented time of truth seeking and relationship building between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples that gives us the opportunity to each find our own role in lived reconciliation.

You will get the most recent updates on the progress of the Office of the Special Interlocutor for Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites, access learning resources for schools and the general public, and consider how you might support your children's schools in continuing the journey of reconciliation.

Charlene Bearhead FRCGS- Vice President, Learning and Reconciliation at the Royal Canadian Geographical Society- is an educator, Indigenous education advocate and author with over 35 years of regional, national and international experience. Charlene is the co-author of the children's book series, *Siha Tooskin Knows* and contributor to multiple anthologies and reconciliation focused resources.

Most recently Charlene served as a member of the Indigenous Education Advisory Circle for the National Film Board of Canada and in an advisory capacity with Nelson Education. Previously Charlene served as education days coordinator for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, education coordinator for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, education advisor for the Canadian Geographic Indigenous People's Atlas of Canada and member of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights Indigenous Education working group. Charlene also served as the first education lead for both the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba and the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre at UBC.

## JASPER ROOM



Tiffany Efird

### Digital Literacy: How to Discuss and Advise Youth on Discrimination Online

John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights (Social Stride)

Whether you're a parent, guardian, teacher, or support worker, adults worry about what youth are looking at online, how they are interacting with others, what they are exposed to and how adults can support young people when they face discrimination online.

In this session, participants will develop a deeper understanding of the shape and relevance of online activities youth engage in, access to tools that support adult engagement to have conversations and guide safer internet use and build capacity to engage with mechanisms to report online hate or discrimination in both online games and social media.

Tiffany Efird is a writer, educator, and facilitator with the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights. Tiffany roots her work in creating safe, brave spaces where people can engage with challenging topics on hate and discrimination. She is driven to strengthen the cause of human rights in spaces that often do not receive the resources they need, such as rural and online networks.

## EDMONTON ROOM



Lisa Cole

### New Kindergarten to Grade 6 (K-6) Curriculum Update

Alberta Education: Curriculum Division

This session will provide you an update on current K-6 curriculum implementation. You'll also be guided through new.LearnAlberta.ca where you can view new curriculum and find available resources for students, parents, and teachers.

Lisa manages a brilliant team in the Digital Content Management & Delivery branch in the Curriculum Division at Alberta Education. Among other exciting initiatives, she has been aiding in the development of the New LearnAlberta application for over five years in order to support the teachers, students and parents across the province.

Karla is the manager of the Implementation Unit, in Curriculum Division at Alberta Education. Prior to joining Alberta Education, Karla was a teacher and then worked as an educational technology consultant for nine years. Outside of work, Karla enjoys paddle boarding, hiking and enjoying the sunshine!

Participants are encouraged to bring a device to explore online resources.



Karla Holt

## CALGARY ROOM



Leila Williams

### How is Alberta's Education System Funded?

Alberta Education

Join us for a presentation and discussion on the funding of Alberta's education system. There will be a variety of topics covered including:

- How school authorities are funded.
- The autonomy of school authorities.
- Flexible versus targeted grants.
- How funding flows from Minister announcement to the classroom.
- Transparency, reporting, and accountability requirements in Alberta.

Leila Williams is the Director of School Finance with the K-12 Fiscal Oversight Sector of Alberta Education. In this role, Leila oversees a team of dedicated professionals who are responsible for making payments to school authorities. Her team works with areas across the Ministry of Education on financial policy and publishes the Funding Manual for School Authorities. The historic enrolments and their coding that drive funding calculations also flow through Leila's area.

DIAMOND ROOM



Jacqueline Richmond

**Supporting Your Child's Success in Mathematics**

JUMP Math

In this presentation for parents, Jackie, a retired school principal, will give tips on supporting children toward excellence in Math. She will point parents to available math resources, outline a plan for supporting their child with math work at home and discuss strategies for success in Math.

Jackie has been an educator for over 35 years. She has spent the last two decades teaching in Edmonton Schools. She joined JUMP Math in the fall of 2022, as a Professional Learning and Teacher support specialist for Edmonton and North Alberta. She has taught throughout the school system, with most of her time spent in Junior High and High school. Jackie was also an Assistant Principal and Principal in Edmonton. Along with her B.Ed., Jackie has postgraduate training in Education Administration and is licensed as an educator and school leader in Alberta. Jackie strongly believes in JUMP's Math philosophy and methods of teaching and that every child can be good at math.

EMERALD ROOM



Margie Steingart  
(School Council Chair)

**School Council Samples of Practice - *What Is Our School Council Supposed to Do? Our Journey of a Collaborative Path Forward***

Hugh Sutherland School - School Council (Chinooks Edge School Division)

The school council at Hugh Sutherland School has dramatically changed because parents and administration have chosen to find a path forward together. Creating spaces for dialog has been key.

This presentation will focus on

- 1) what we wish we would have known to make our learning easier
- 2) how you might use our tools/ASCA tools as a starting point for growth
- 3) how to shape your school council conversations to be a place where parents enhance school culture beyond fundraising and lunch programs
- 4) recognize that school council growth is an ongoing work in progress, not a destination.

No single path is correct. It is key for each school to consider their unique needs and establish a method of dialog to bring the parent perspective to all aspects of the school. The goal is to engage parents, connect with classrooms and enhance the school. *The why and how will be unique.*

Margie has been a parent at HSS for 10 years but only recently understood the benefit of school council. Pam has a similar story. They now have a better understanding of how a functioning school council can help make schools a better place to work, learn and play. Jennifer is new to school council and has taken on the role as chair of the school's fundraising society. She is invested in learning how to contribute to HSS. Melissa is in her second term as school board trustee for Carstairs and is also a parent at HSS. She brings valuable insight to our learning and advocacy for school council growth at a division level. Dean is in his first year as principal at HSS. He is also a parent and community advocate and has filled that role for the past ten years. This group of invested parents have each taken a different path in supporting their kids and community, the best part of the story is when they all came together!



Pam Barker (School Council Vice-Chair)



Jennifer Massop  
(invested parent)



Melissa Copley  
(School Board Trustee)



Dean Nielsen  
(Principal)





Brenda Cryer

### School Council Purpose

Alberta School Councils' Association

Understanding the advisory role of school councils through a review of the legislation, exploring rights, responsibilities and choices including which topics/areas are open for discussion helps to guide school council and its work in the school community. Learning how to identify the work of school councils, how to frame a “personal issue” from a school council perspective and how to broach sensitive topics is essential for new and returning members.

Brenda was involved in school councils in Parkland School Division for 19 years. She was involved with four different school councils, sometimes two at once, as well as the COSC, and had the pleasure of starting a new school council for a new school. Brenda received a Special Recognition award from the Office of the Superintendent of Parkland School Division and is a recipient of the School Council Parent of Distinction Award from ASCA. Both of her children have graduated from the school system, but she has a passion to ensure the school system works in the best interest of the students.



Heather Boonstra

### The Work of School Council: It's *NOT* About the Meeting

Alberta School Councils' Association

School Councils often struggle with identifying the types of activities and work they should be doing in order to truly fulfil their legislated role. In this workshop, school councils are encouraged to examine what they are doing in relation to the Assurance Framework, their intended purpose and the intended result of their work, and then consider strategies to enhance school council's role in the school community, supporting the expectations of legislation and the Assurance Framework.

Throughout a more than 30-year career in the not-for-profit world, Heather has learned much from her community.

It is in that spirit of reciprocity that she is now working as an educator with the Alberta School Councils Association. Heather believes wholeheartedly in public education and will do her very best to support Alberta's school council volunteers in the work they are doing for students.

Sharing her energy and knowledge, she gets back tenfold from the dedicated, passionate group of parents and caregivers who are the experts in their children and what they need.



Sue Huff

### Emotion Coaching: A Transformative Approach to our Kids' Emotions

suehuff.ca

Over the past few years, parents and teachers have noticed a sharp increase in the level of anxiety, stress, and emotional dysregulation experienced by young people.

We know emotions are a part of being human, but when our kids are reacting in big and sometimes unpredictable ways, it can feel like we are out of our depth. That's because most of us weren't taught how to respond to other people's emotions in a way that actually helps them process their feelings effectively and come back to baseline quickly.

Emotion Coaching is based on the Emotion Focused Family Therapy (EFFT), which was co-developed by Dr Adele Lafrance, (PhD Child and Clinical Psychology). It has been shared with thousands of teachers and parents across Canada and the USA.

Now, it's your chance to learn this valuable skill to help guide your child through their emotions, strengthen relationships, improve communication, and expand your capacity to deal with big emotions, no matter who is experiencing them.

Sue is a Family Support Specialist (Eating Disorders) and workshop presenter who is based in Edmonton. Sue is also trained in mediation and conflict resolution and family peer support. She served for one term as a trustee on the Edmonton Public School Board and is married to a teacher. Currently, she splits her time between working in the mental health field and performing in theatre and film as an actor.



Andrea Paquette

## Empowering Classrooms and Engaging Parents: Stigma-Free School Program

### Stigma-Free Society

This interactive workshop is designed to empower classrooms and engage parents in supporting student mental health. Explore the Stigma-Free School Program, a comprehensive initiative fostering mental health awareness within classrooms, and learn how it not only benefits students but also provides invaluable resources for teachers, parents, and community members.

This session will highlight strategies for implementing the program effectively, while focusing on the Student Mental Health Toolkit. Gain insights into how to create stigma-free environments, promoting mental well-being for our youth. Don't miss this opportunity to discover ways to strengthen the home-school partnership for a healthier learning experience!

Andrea Paquette, President and Co-Founder of the Stigma-Free Society (SFS), is a passionate advocate, dedicated to eradicating societal stigmas. Leading SFS's nationwide expansion, she champions anti-stigma and mental health programs. As a renowned mental health educator, Andrea has engaged audiences at 850+ venues, sharing her story and instilling hope. Recognitions like the 2019 President's Commendation from the Psychiatric Association of Canada and Alberta Blue Cross's 2023 "Faces of Wellness" highlight her impactful work. Andrea's message resonates: "Despite our challenges, we can lead extraordinary lives."



Claire Kraatz

## Bridging Horizons: Empowering Parents for Climate Action

### For Our Kids (Alberta Chapter)

Embark on an interactive journey filled with engaging activities, expert insights, and collaborative discussions as we explore the critical imperative for climate action in our schools and communities.

Discover successful initiatives, navigate potential challenges, and contribute to a shared vision for a sustainable future. Together, we'll bridge perspectives, fostering an atmosphere of empowerment and collective action. Join us as we transform dialogue into tangible steps toward a greener, more resilient tomorrow.

Claire Kraatz is a former teacher with the Calgary Board of Education; she is a dedicated parent and passionate climate advocate. Currently serving as an organizer with For Our Kids, a leading national network uniting parents and grandparents in the pursuit of urgent climate action, Claire contributes to raising awareness and mobilizing parents for positive change. Claire's commitment to leaving a more sustainable world for her children fuels her advocacy, making her a catalyst for a cleaner and more connected future. Recognizing the strength in unity, Claire is eager to collaborate with other parents to propel action across the province of Alberta.



Adriene Pettit

Adriene Pettit is a teacher with Edmonton Public Schools who recently resumed part-time supply teaching following maternity leave. The love for her son and the bonds with her students have been powerful catalysts motivating her climate work. Committed to urgent, positive changes that benefit all children, she leads by actively embracing a sustainable lifestyle that enhances quality of life while reducing environmental impact. Adriene treasures her relationships and cherishes connections with the natural world and its inhabitants. By fostering kind and compassionate bonds with students, fellow parents, and community members, Adriene has become a formidable force for change, fighting for future generations. She works alongside Claire at **For Our Kids Alberta** and on climate initiatives in the Edmonton area.



Jillian Kowalchuk

## Parenting in the Age of AI

Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (AMII)

In an era where technology is evolving rapidly, parents often find themselves at the crossroads of excitement and apprehension. The recent surge in Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology, particularly generative AI, and its integration into everyday life has sparked intense debate and concern. Over the past year, the conversation has expanded beyond parental circles, drawing in educators, policymakers, and technical experts. With many diverse perspectives on the implications of children using AI tools and AI-assisted technologies, this dialogue often swings between two extremes: unconditional embrace or outright rejection of AI. However, the reality is far more nuanced. AI can have both positive and negative impacts, heavily influenced by how it is utilized.

This session aims to demystify AI, providing a clear and balanced understanding of what AI is, its ethical implications, and its current applications in educational settings. Together we will explore the fundamentals of AI in an attempt to make it more accessible for parents. We will also take a closer look at ethical questions associated with AI and briefly discuss how schools are currently utilizing AI and AI-assisted technologies. Finally, we will explore practical actions that parents can take to navigate this new technological landscape.

Jill started her journey as a junior high social studies teacher, dedicating seven years to the classroom. She holds a Master of Education degree from the University of Toronto, and now she's on an exciting path pursuing her PhD at the University of Alberta. Her research is all about understanding how teachers make moral decisions in this new era of smart machines and Generative AI. Jill also plays a pivotal role at the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (Amii). At Amii she is the K-12 Education Advisor, leading the AI in K-12 program. This program is all about empowering teachers with the knowledge and tools to bring AI into the classroom. Jill's work is not just about understanding AI; it's about making it accessible, exciting, and a part of the learning journey.

## Modernizing Alberta's Apprenticeship Education System: Opportunities and Innovations

Advanced Education

Join us to gain insights into exciting developments towards diverse post-secondary options, including apprenticeships.

Attendees can expect to learn about:

1. Today's apprenticeship system
  - Learn how apprenticeship education has changed in Alberta.
  - Explore its modern relevance in today's dynamic job market.
  - Discover how competencies learned in the K-12 system can be leveraged in apprenticeship education and the skilled trades.
2. Apprenticeship education credentials and post-apprenticeship pathways:
  - Learn about our new apprenticeship education credentials.
  - Understand how these credentials set students up for education and career advancement.
  - Find out how apprenticeship can empower your students to become successful as skilled professionals, entrepreneurs, mentors, and lifelong learners.
3. Beyond the Trades - Learn about expansion of apprenticeship education to occupations outside the designated trades.

Kathryn Andrews is the Director of Apprenticeship Education and Pathways with Alberta Advanced Education. Kathryn has worked in the Government of Alberta for more than 17 years in the fields of apprenticeship education, career development and supporting youth. She is passionate about helping Albertans pursue post-secondary education and finding a career they love.

Paul Hrynew is the Manager of Program Implementation with Alberta Advanced Education. Paul has spent six years with the Government of Alberta working with Alberta's skilled trades and



Kathryn Andrews



Paul Hrynew



Justin Gabinet

apprenticeship system. He previously spent 10 years in private industry - where he started his career as an apprentice himself -and is now grateful for the opportunity to expand and strengthen the same apprenticeship programming that launched his career.

Justin Gabinet is a Senior Program Coordinator with the Ministry of Advanced Education, where his passion for education truly shines. With a background as a dedicated CTS teacher for a decade, specializing in high school Foods, Justin brings a wealth of real-world teaching experience to his current role. As a Professional Human Ecologist, he deeply appreciates the interdisciplinary nature of education and its power to foster interconnectedness among learners. Justin's commitment to educational excellence and his unique blend of practical and academic expertise positions him as a valuable contributor to the broader educational landscape.

## Breakout Sessions Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm

### DIAMOND ROOM



Shauna Miller-Shaker

#### Building the Bridge Between Home, School and Community through Active School Travel

##### Ever Active Schools

School Travel Planning (STP) is a comprehensive initiative aimed at promoting sustainable and healthy modes of transportation for students. The program focuses on encouraging walking, cycling, and other forms of active transportation to and from school, fostering stronger connections between students, families, schools, and the broader community. Explore the exciting opportunities for school councils to engage and promote active school travel in your school community and learn the many benefits to students, teachers, parents and the broader community.

Shauna is a Health & Wellness Consultant with Ever Active Schools, focused on Active Travel and School Travel Planning. Ever Active Schools is a registered national charity designed to create and support healthy school communities. We engage and support schools through a Comprehensive School Health framework, which addresses health and education goals to improve the social outcomes of children and youth in Alberta.

### EMERALD ROOM



Kelly Maxwell

#### Optimize Conversations – at Home, at School, and Beyond

##### Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium

In this session, attendees will learn a few practical Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) skills to improve communication with children and everyone they interact with at home, at school, and beyond.

These skills are valuable in everyday conversations and meetings with family members, school staff, school council members, and work colleagues. Participants will gain practical tools and strategies to better understand and manage emotions and enhance their communication skills to create more respectful and effective interactions in all areas of their lives.

Kelly Maxwell, an elementary school teacher with 32 years of experience, is passionate about sharing her knowledge of Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) skills, which have transformed her mental health and improved her ability to connect more effectively with everyone around her - students, school community, and family members. Kelly's teaching style is candid and engaging, drawing from personal and professional experiences to bring her lessons to life. Her interest in DBT skills was sparked when seeking help for her son's schizoaffective disorder, and she quickly recognized their potential for addressing her students' emotional needs. The immediate impact on her classroom was profound. She is committed to sharing these practical and effective skills with anyone seeking better communication with the people around them. She is excited to share these skills with you.



Suzanne Lynch

## School Council Purpose

### Alberta School Councils' Association

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Dorcas Kilduff

## The School Council-Trustee Relationship

### Alberta School Councils' Association

Understanding this relationship is vital to assist you in successfully furthering your role in the school community. School councils should understand the role of the school board Trustee, and the Trustee should be aware of their role with school council. A Trustee is a valued partner who can share school board information with parents they represent, and school councils can provide valuable parent perspectives to aid in division planning and decisions.

Dorcas enjoyed her early career in the finance industry and was a small business owner of an insurance industry-related company.

In 1990, Dorcas also began working with school councils, and from 2002 worked with Alberta School Councils' Association as an instructor and a Table Representative, providing the parent voice at several education-related advisory tables. Dorcas had the pleasure to serve as the Provincial Parent-at-Large on the Minister's Review Committee of Outcomes of Learning K-12.

In 2007, Dorcas was elected to the Board of Trustees for Parkland School Division. Dorcas served **3 terms as Trustee, from 2007 until 2017** at the end of which, having sold their business, she joined her husband in retirement. Over the years, Dorcas has volunteered in her community in many capacities, most recently as a 6-year Director for the Spruce Grove and District Chamber of Commerce.

In April 2018, Dorcas was awarded the 2018 Friend of ASCA Award, and in the Fall of 2018, she joined the ASCA instructor team again. Dorcas has always considered being an ASCA Instructor more of an exciting hobby than a job, and welcomes the opportunity to meet, share with, and learn from school council members across this province.



Julian Fletcher

## Tourette Syndrome and OCD in the Classroom

[Tourette OCD Alberta Network](#)

This presentation provides information about the struggles students living with Tourette syndrome and OCD have in the context of learning and teaching.

The presentation outlines why people have tics, how tics present, their natural history, as well as the positive consequences for the students with tics when their peers understand what it feels like to tic in the classroom. The audience is given the opportunity to feel what it is like to have tics and OCD by participating in an empathy activity. This involves doing a simple poem copying task, while simultaneously coping with a tic, an OCD symptom, and an ADHD impulse. It enables the audience to genuinely empathize with the student struggling with these disorders, generating some great insights and talking points. General strategies for dealing with tic disorders and OCD in the classroom are also presented and discussed.

Julian Fletcher is the Program Coordinator of the Tourette OCD Alberta Network, which provides care navigation, education and support for families affected by Tourette syndrome and OCD. He was a high school teacher in his native UK, and other countries, for many years before coming to Canada. Since the end of 2019 he has overseen the development of the Tourette OCD Alberta Network. He spends his time meeting families affected by Tourette syndrome and comorbid conditions at the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary, as well as organizing continuing educational professional development for health care professionals, and developing the educational outreach program for schools.

*Attendees will need a pen/pencil and a piece of paper to participate in an activity.*



Aynsley Graham

## Pride is for Everyone

[aynsleygraham.com](http://aynsleygraham.com)

Sexuality and gender is an essential aspect of growth that is embedded in all areas of childhood development; it is present in their social, physical, intellectual, and emotional well-being.

Although it often goes unobserved, gender and sexuality are inherent in every aspect of our community, including our schools, and shapes how our children understand themselves and others. We have worked hard over the last generation to break down barriers between men and women so that our children can play, can learn, and can be who they are with far more freedom than their ancestors. Striving to create inclusive spaces for children of all gender identity and expression is the next right step in a long journey of social change that our grandparents began.

This presentation includes exploring the 2SLGBTQ+ acronym and why PRIDE is truly for everyone. We will address common misconceptions and the legitimizing myths that perpetuate false information. We will also review how individual schools work with their district, trustees, the parent community, and government officials to make and implement decisions. We want to empower parents to understand the topic at hand, and how to effectively participate in their children's education.

A large part of the workshop be open for questions and discussion. Aynsley creates a safe space for any and all questions, to put your mind at ease and strengthen your knowledge base.

Aynsley Graham is a Behaviour Consultant with more than 10 years of experience working with children and teens. As a Childcare Councilor in a residential treatment setting, she managed challenging behaviour brought on by trauma and addiction. As an Emotional Behavior Specialist in early education classrooms, she developed strategies for young children. Now, Aynsley brings her wealth of experience to her own practice as a private consultant. Aynsley holds an undergraduate degree in Sociology and an MSc. in Human Ecology, specializing in Family Ecology and Practice. She has developed unique strategies for parents and educators that are effective in a variety of settings and work to simplify behaviour management. Aynsley is passionate about accessible strategies with real results that are child centered. Bringing creativity and humor to her work and practice, Aynsley continues to educate and collaborate with parents and educators across the country.



Debbie Vance

### Financial Literacy Resources for K-12 Parents and Guardians

Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE)

Financial literacy is not a buzz word or only privy to those in the business world. We all need financial, economic knowledge, skills, abilities, and behaviours to secure our financial future and to achieve and sustain financial health!

That said, we have some an awesome **FREE** financial literacy resources toolkit for you! What youth doesn't dream of 'being rich' some day or solving world peace and hunger? Whether the topic is about basic money and decision making, borrowing money, or using credits, or economic citizenship, students want to know more about it.

Connecting you to our toolkit of financial literacy resources that correlate to financial literacy curriculum outcomes has never been easier! **"Building Futures in Alberta BFIA"** resources (*available in English and French*) will support financial education and financial literacy outcomes for Alberta K-12 students. Join Deb and Deb to explore a wide range of resources and activities using **FREE financial literacy resources**.

Debbie Vance, a K-12 educator in Alberta, is currently the team lead for "Building Futures in Alberta" for Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE). As an educator in Alberta, she has worked across many subject areas and grades levels and has been integral in designing and developing the Career Pathways Model for the Calgary Board of Education. Debbie has also had the pleasure of implementing Dual Credit across the province of Alberta which has transformed student's future Career Paths. Debbie has worked with Alberta Education, Advanced Education and Alberta Labour developing the *Career Development Strategy for Alberta Connecting Learning and Work*. Debbie also worked to implement TWOKAM (Talk to Your Kids About Money) and "My Money, My Future" programs for CFEE.

Deborah MacFadyen, Ambrose University Consultant and Sessional, for Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE) Building Futures in Alberta (BFIA) consultant, is an experienced K-12 educator, administrator, PD facilitator and published author whose academic credentials include B.Sc., B.Ed., and M.Ed. in Teaching, Learning and Supervision. Deb has provided innovative, strategic leadership throughout her career in schools, central office, Alberta Education, CTEC Vice President, and a Director on the SafeGen Board of Directors in various leadership roles in math, science, IOP, K&E, CTS, Career Pathways, Off-Campus, and Health and Safety initiatives throughout the province. Deb has facilitated many diverse professional development opportunities and partnerships across the province with school jurisdictions, post-secondary, business and industry and ATA Councils mentoring students, teachers, and administrators in implementing provincial legislation, regulation, policy, programs of study using effective pedagogical practice and personalization of learning.



Deborah MacFadyen



Barbara Coloroso

### The Bully, the Bullied, and *The Not-so-innocent Bystander*

kids are worth it! inc

Breaking the cycle of violence in our homes, schools and communities involve more than merely identifying and stopping the bully. It requires that we examine the why and the how a child becomes a bully or the target of a bully (and sometimes both) as well as the role the bystanders play in perpetuating the cycle.

A deadly combination is a bully who gets what he wants from his target, a bullied child who is afraid to tell, bystanders who either watch, participate in the bullying, or look away, and adults who see bullying as teasing, not tormenting, as 'boys will be boys.' not the predatory aggression that it is.

It is easy to point fingers; place blame; fortress our schools; push zero-tolerance plans; mandate a bully awareness week; stiffen penalties for bullying; or simply ignore the problem and hope it will go away. It is more difficult—and necessary—that we as individuals, families, and entire communities create safe harbor for all of our children.

We must do what is necessary to take the weapons out of the hearts, minds, and hands of our kids. We need to give kids the tools to be able to stand up for their own rights while respecting the rights and legitimate needs of others; to handle conflicts non-violently; to act with integrity when confronted with difficult situations such as peer pressure to cause harm; and to develop a personal code (inner moral code) that gives them the wherewithal to do what is right in spite of external consequences and never merely because of them. No easy task; no simple answers.

Barbara Coloroso is an international bestselling author and for the past 53 years an internationally recognized speaker and consultant on parenting, teaching, school discipline, positive school climate, bullying, grieving, nonviolent conflict resolution and restorative justice.

She has appeared on Oprah, CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN and NPR and has been featured in the New York Times, Time, U.S. News & World Report, Newsweek, and other national and international publications.

Her uniquely effective parenting and teaching strategies were developed through her years of training in sociology, special education, and philosophy, as well as field-tested through her experiences as a classroom teacher, laboratory school instructor, university instructor, seminar leader, volunteer in Rwanda, and mother of three grown children.

She is the author of four international bestsellers: kids are worth it! Giving Your Child the Gift of Inner Discipline; Parenting Through Crisis—Helping Kids in Times of Loss, Grief and Change; The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander—From Pre-School to High School, How Parents and Teachers Can Help Break the Cycle of Violence; and Just Because It's Not Wrong Doesn't Make It Right—From Toddlers to Teens, Teaching Kids to Think and Act Ethically. Barbara's latest book is Extraordinary Evil: A Brief History of Genocide...and Why it Matters. She also has two critically acclaimed video programs Winning at Parenting...without beating your kids and Winning at Teaching...without beating your kids.