

events

May 7 – 9, Canterbury Tales Literary Festival. Saint John, NB. www.ctlf.ca

May 10 – 13, Learning and Technology: A Capital Idea! Canadian Healthcare Association International Conference. Ottawa, ON. www.learningconference.ca

May 10 – 14, 5th World Environmental Education Congress. Montréal, QC. This Congress is for all educators: professors, researchers, teachers, university students, community leaders, civil servants, museum and park interpreters, consultants, journalists, artists, and all other actors in environmental education. Together, we seek to strengthen education in our neighbourhoods, villages, cities, and regions—to better inhabit Earth, our common home. www.Sweec.uqam.ca

May 11 – 12, Body Image and Self Esteem: Shades of Grey. National Eating Disorder Information Centre. Toronto, ON. www.nedic.ca

May 13, Marginalized Youth and Contemporary Educational Contexts. Collaborative Research Symposium sponsored by the Community Health Systems Resource Group and the Hospital for Sick Children. Toronto, ON. For more information and registration, visit www.chsrgevents.ca

May 15 – 17, The Canadian Down Syndrome Society National Conference. Halifax, NS. The conference is a platform to share developments and information on current medical, health, social, research, education and advocacy issues. Call 1-800-883-5608 or visit www.cdss.ca

May 23 – 26, Capital Connections: Nation, Terroir, Territoire. Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE) Annual Conference. Ottawa, ON. The CSSE Annual Conference is held in conjunction with the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. This bilingual conference provides an opportunity for the discussion of educational issues among educational scholars from across the nation. www.csse.ca

May 25, Compassion, Courage and Community: How the “Three C’s” can change you, your family and the world. Barrie, ON. Free the Children’s Marc Kielburger will provide tangible steps to youth, parents and educators to help them become global citizens. Having inspired and led leader-

ship programs for over one million youth in North America, Marc will share best practices on youth engagement and inspiring kids to care. www.rainbows.ca

May 26 – 28, Health and Safety Conference. The Education Safety Association of Ontario. Toronto, ON. www.esao.on.ca

May 27 – 29, Language and Reading Comprehension for Immigrant Children Conference. Toronto, ON. For more information, contact the conference facilitator Jason Wen at larcic.conf@oise.utoronto.ca

May 31 – June 5, Restorative Practices International Conference. Vancouver, BC. <http://restorativepracticesinternational.org/9.html>

June 5 – 6, Contextualizing Bilingualism and Biliteracy: National Conference on Bilingualism and Biliteracy Development. Halifax, NS. Contact Katy Pockock at katy@cllmet.ca. Web: www.cllrnet.ca

June 29 – July 17, Institut de Français. UBC à Québec, French Bursary Program for Teachers. Quebec City, QC. www.frenchcentre.ubc.ca/quebec or toll-free 1-866-528-7485.

July – August, Weeklong, one credit courses with the Faculty of Education at UBC’s Okanagan campus. Kelowna, BC. Inquiries: 250-807-9176. www.ubc.ca/okanagan/education

July 15 – 18, 7th International Conference on Imagination and Education. Imaginative Education Research Group. Vancouver, BC. www.ierng.net/conferences

July 20 – 23, 29th International Conference on Critical Thinking: Fostering Intellectual Discipline. Berkeley Marina, CA. www.criticalthinking.org/Conference/2009_Conference.cfm

October 1 – 2, 2009 UCDSB Small High School Summit: Transforming Our Schools Through Relevance and Relationships. Ottawa, ON. To register, call Jim Palmer at 613-342-0371 ext. 1283 or visit www.ucdsb.on.ca

October 5, World Teachers’ Day

October 14, Edge 2009 International Conference. St. John’s NL. The Edge 2009 international conference on teaching and teacher education will provide opportunities for researchers, teachers, administrators and policy makers to discuss issues and ideas relating to the content, skills and knowledge of teacher education programs, internships and practica, certification and accreditation, mentorship, aboriginal teacher education and continuing education of teachers, college instructors and university professors. www.mun.ca/edge2009

October 15 – 16, Prince Edward Island Teachers’ Federation Annual Convention 2009. www.peitf.com

November 2 – 3, 5th Annual National Character Education Conference. Huntsville, ON. Educator Pre-Conference: Dr. David Suzuki and Dr. Phil Vincent. Youth Pre-Conference: Micah Jacobson. Keynote Speakers: Tom Jackson, Dr. Monte Selby, Micah Jacobson. For further information, please visit www.ncec.ca

November 2 – 6, Pan-Canadian Paralympic School Week: International Paralympism. www.vancouver2010.com/edu

November 11 – 13, ECOO 2009: Inspire, Connect, Teach. Educational Computing Organization of Ontario Conference, Richmond Hill, ON. www.ecoo.org

November 19 – 20, Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers Annual Convention. www.qpat-apeq.qc.ca



EVENTS CALENDAR

For inclusion on the website and in the next issue of Canadian Teacher Magazine send event information to:

dmumford@CanadianTeacherMagazine.com

ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME!

by Michael Ernest Sweet

Early in the fall of 2007 I came across a little post on the Internet about a conference in Italy. Needless to say the location of the conference piqued my interest. The post went on to describe the “6th Annual Worldwide Forum on Education and Culture.” Having just received some grant money to promote my project (www.LearningforaCause.org) I decided to register. When November finally arrived, I was ready for Italy but I was not ready for what would be the best conference of my life! Now, believe me when I say I’ve been to a few conferences—having been involved in education for more than six years and politics since I was thirteen, I have been to a few conferences. But, the *Worldwide Forum* was something different—it was personal, intimate, provocative, truly worldwide and most of all fun!

The *Worldwide Forum on Education and Culture* was first held at the beginning of the new millennium at John Cabot University in Rome, but quickly moved to the Trilussa Palace Hotel and Convention Centre to accommodate the ever-increasing number of delegates. With contributions from scholars and practitioners in the fields of education, literacy, literature, media, communication and cultural studies from all

five continents, the latest conference (December 4 – 5, 2008) collected more than 85 professional leaders from 26 countries under one roof, confirming that all roads do in fact lead to Rome! The conference featured two jam-packed days of keynotes, presentations and panel discussions as well as receptions and banquets. The Forum has also grown to include a regularly published online journal as well as a newly released textbook in which dozens of past conference presenters have been able to publish their work.

In 2007 I attended and presented my sociopolitical writing project and received a plethora of valuable suggestions and comments. I returned last year with a paper in response to that feedback and have subsequently been published in the textbook. The whole experience has been rigorous, continual and refreshing. The result is that my teaching practice has benefited from informed peer review and the opportunity to share with others from all over the world. This, in turn, has reinvigorated my classroom practice and allowed me to stay fresh in a career where far too many become stagnant.

Before I leave you, I don’t want you thinking this conference is all stuffy academic work. It’s not. There are endless opportunities to meet and dialogue with people at the average

of three receptions a day. Additionally, there is the famous banquet at a nearby and truly Italian restaurant. This evening proves to be not only fun and filling but engaging and entertaining too. Then, of course there is Rome! So, the next time you are in need of a little professional development and a touch of Tuscan sun.... (well, OK, Roman sun) attend the *Worldwide Forum on Education and Culture*. You won’t be disappointed to say the least. See you there!

For more information, visit www.TheWorldwideForum.org. You may also want to visit www.AllConferences.com/education for the web’s most comprehensive calendar of conferences and events.

Michael Ernest Sweet lives and teaches in Montreal and is a regular contributor to Canadian Teacher Magazine. He is the founder of *Learning for a Cause* and a member of Canada’s Commission for UNESCO.

