

VSB Secondary Pro D in partnership with UBC
Finding Purpose in the Age of Climate Crisis
Monday April 24th, 2023 - The NEST @ UBC

Farrukh Chisthie - Climate Adaptation and Awareness - Raising awareness and finding purpose as to how teachers can play a role in the present climate crisis by engaging students regarding their present and future in society that is largely driven by career, profit, and individual success This will be a values-based framework for both raising awareness, purpose, and action in a 45 minute presentation and a 30 minute interactive session to co-develop solutions with teachers.

Brandon Peters - Water Equality - Climate change is in full swing, and there is growing distance between the social classes locally, nationally, and internationally. Fresh water is an important commodity to most life on earth. Clean drinking water is enjoyed on some level by the elite. In this workshop we will build water filters and will act as various countries throughout the globe. We will all have different amounts of money in order to purchase the needed items. We will then explore the discrepancy of equity, equality on a global scale.

Kshamta Hunter - Advancing Climate and Sustainability Learning through a novel framework of Climate Kind Pedagogy - Climate change and the related social impacts have necessitated a re-think of traditional pedagogies. Educators are faced with the challenge of not only engaging learners in these conversations but to support and address the range of emotions and pedagogical complexities that involve socio-scientific realities. In this session, we will briefly review existing frameworks in sustainability and climate change education and share an emergent kindness-informed framework - Climate Kind Pedagogy (CKP). We will explore key features of CKP and associated pedagogical approaches and activities that support this novel framework to enhance climate change education in the Anthropocene.

Lesley Dampier - Workshop 1/2 - Soil isn't just for Soil Scientists - Soil isn't just for Soil Scientists! Soil is the foundation of much of the life on earth but is an often overlooked part of the ecosystem. Understanding the role of soil the environment, as well as our relationship to it, is key to addressing the environmental challenges that impact today's students. In this interactive session, we will explore incorporating soil into non-STEM disciplines such as art and the humanities. This interactive session will explore some of the fundamental characteristics of this resource through activities that you can take back to your classroom. You will be led by faculty, staff and graduate students from the Faculty of Land and Food Systems.

Lesley Dampier - Workshop 2/2 (STEM) (all outside) - "Despite all our achievements, we owe our existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains" (multiple attributions). Soil is the foundation of much of the life on earth but is an often overlooked part of the ecosystem. Understanding the role of soil the environment, as well as our relationship to it, is key to addressing the environmental challenges that impact today's students. Join us for an interactive session where we explore some of the fundamental characteristics of this resource - be prepared to be outside for the duration of this session and to get your hands dirty! The workshop will provide you with activities that you can take back to your classroom and which can be applied to STEM and humanities curriculum. You will be led by faculty, staff and graduate students from the Faculty of Land and Food Systems.

Lesley Dampier - The Good Life: Exploring your 'paw'ssion for helping animals - Join graduate students from UBC's Animal Welfare Program to learn about the complex world of animals in human care. We will learn about the fundamental questions associated with animal welfare - whether we are talking about companion animals, farm animals or wildlife. You will get the opportunity to design a space for farm animals, taking into consideration all aspects of planning, such as animal welfare, farm layout, and human health. You will explore student activities related to caring for animals in a shelter environment. Explore how we measure everything from animal comfort to human relationships with animals. There will also be an opportunity to learn about the different careers open to those interested in this kind of work.

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Eleanor Boyle – Food & Environment: Classroom Activities for Awareness & Action – Food is a popular environmental topic today, inspiring us to ask how we can eat in ways that are good for climate and justice. This participatory session for teachers will outline overarching problems and potential solutions in food systems -- and offer hands-on practical activities for students. Applicable in classrooms at various grade levels, these will include analyses and discussion of food ads; brief global mapping of where food items originate; comparisons of Canada's Food Guide (new vs old); identification of elements on nutritional labels; and pair-share discussions of topics including impacts of livestock production, strategies for decreasing food waste, and reasons to 'eat local.' Teachers will be encouraged to share their own experiences in facilitating learning on these and related topics. The workshop will be a respectful forum for participants of diverse backgrounds, diets, and viewpoints.

Susan Bertoia – Creative Chaos: Physical/Movement Based Theatre Workshop – Physical approach to creating authentic theatre work. Super engaging, demanding, fun and liberating. Be inspired by an innovative practice and unlock your creative potential. Harness your energy as you join your fellow peers and learn from each other. Make brave and bold theatre that is physically dynamic led by your curiosity. This creative approach, inspired by the work of Frantic Assembly, will support and influence your theatre-making practice. Stand to trust your honest work, lean into precision, economy of movement and have fun. Embrace randomness, your first idea and take the plunge into creative chaos. Wear clothes you can move in and shoes you can dance in. Bring a water bottle and an open mind.

Derek Gladwin & Naoko Ellis – Teaching Energy Literacy to Engage with the Climate Emergency – Energy is fundamental to our existence. And yet, energy remains difficult to understand and discuss, particularly how it connects to complex issues such as the climate emergency. Energy literacy serves as an innovative way to engage students in examining their relationship to energy and to the energy sources that shape their lived experiences. Fostering educational approaches on energy helps to create different energy futures, especially as society transitions from fossil fuels to one powered by renewable energy. The aim of this workshop is to invite teachers to consider energy literacy as a useful instruction tool by learning about the ways we might consider energy as part of the climate emergency, understanding some basic knowledge about energy, and developing qualitative and arts-based forms of storytelling into their instruction. This workshop will include both conceptual and practical pedagogies that can be used immediately in classroom settings. Note: Knowledge and understanding around energy is not necessary to attend.

Matt Chenoweth – Indigenous Local Curriculum – The workshop will consist of the sharing of my experiences as a teacher in East Vancouver. It will also include the interactions with developing the success of Indigenous students through the importance of place as it pertains to Indigenous learners, Constitutionality of Canada and British Columbia, BC UNDRIP and its effects.

Faye Halls – The Paddle Journey – Join Squamish Nation Elder, Yeltsilewet (Faye Halls), daughter of the late Khot-LaCha (Chief Simon Baker) as she takes you on a paddle journey through history from an Indigenous perspective. Together with her daughter, Candice-Halls Howcroft, they will transport you to a time when Europeans made first contact and bring you to the present day through oral storytelling and interactive role play. Using symbolic tools such as paddles and baskets, this workshop will leave participants with a genuine understanding of what life was like for Coast Salish people and the ongoing impacts of Canada's colonial history on Indigenous communities today.

Andrea Hoff – Drawing on Our Many Storied Selves: Comics and the Climate Crisis – Employing the arts-based methods of drawing and writing this workshop explores our positionality in relation to the Climate Crisis. As educators, the practice of exploring our own narratives through visual-textual means offers us alternative ways to understand issues embedded in both climate justice and social justice, as well as the experiences of our students. This workshop is participatory and requires the following materials: a pen, pencil, paper and/ or sketchbook, coloured pencils and/or watercolour paints and a paintbrush. This workshop is inclusive and open to all, whether you self-identify as an artist or don't (yet).