

**“Reaching Every Student in the Digital Age:  
A Showcase of Universal Design for Learning”**

**October 24, 2008**

**Marlborough Elementary School---6060 Marlborough Ave.---Burnaby, B.C.**

**Sessions Offered:**

**12:30 P.M.-1:40 P.M.**

- A. In this session teachers from Randerson Ridge Elementary School in Nanaimo will present on the impact that their UDL-based teaching strategies had on teaching and learning in two classrooms. These two teachers created an Action Research Project in two Science 7 classes with six designated students where they combined the ideas of Information Circles, Technology and Assessment for Learning strategies and found that UDL-based principles, especially the technology, had a positive impact on students' reading comprehension based on results from: chapter test scores, writing assignments based on the Performance Standards, and self/peer and teacher assessments from the small group conversations. (Armstrong, Epp)
- B. In this session teachers from Tamanawis Secondary School, a large urban secondary school in Surrey, will present on the impact that their UDL-based teaching strategies had on teaching and learning in the classroom. The Tamanawis UDL team participated in an Action Research Project and found that UDL-based teaching had a positive impact on reading comprehension scores for students in their English 9 classes. (Powell, Cybulski)
- C. In this session the presenter will offer a stream of animated PP slides that unravel math concepts (elementary and middle school) in ways designed to reach a wide spectrum of students ranging from needy underachievers (e.g dyscalculics) to high-achieving performers. The generic universality of design in Karismath is achieved by minimizing the density of language and numerals while increasing the use of visual scaffolding. Exercise templates are aesthetically composed of colourful visual elements that guide learning. Since the design induces numerical reasoning, learners interpret relational concepts numerically. This silent “interaction” plays a critical role in helping them exercise power over numerals rather than the other way around. Different learner needs are addressed by offering exercise templates that carry low or high levels of visual scaffolding.
- D. In this session a representative from Bridges Canada will offer a presentation about the Kurzweil 3000 program. Kurzweil 3000 provides scanning, reading, and writing support for students who struggle with literacy. The program has many customized features which can be adjusted for students developing their literacy skills at all levels. Students can use the talking word processor with built in word prediction to support their written output. They can also scan text documents like books and use the program's annotations and study skills tools to develop and improve their reading comprehension. Worksheets and tests can also be scanned and read aloud using the text reading features and completed using annotations like text boxes. Kurzweil 3000's text reading features also makes it possible to read other types of file formats (like Word and

Adobe.pdf's) as well as textual material on the internet. Attend this workshop and find out how Kurzweil can be of benefit to all students in your classroom.

### **1:50 P.M.-3:00 P.M.**

- E. In this session teachers from Birchland Elementary School in Coquitlam will present on the transformations their school and district experienced as a result of the participation in the BCUDL Project. Members of the Birchland UDL team will share their experiences with enhanced UDL-based teaching strategies and new technologies such as the SMART Board that had a positive impact in reading, writing, behavior, self-esteem and teacher and student engagement. (Strang, Snowden, Sung, Cummings)
- F. In this session a teacher from Morley Elementary School, an inner city school in Burnaby with a diverse student population that includes many ESL learners, will present on the impact that UDL-based teaching strategies and technologies such as the SMART Board and text-to-speech software had on the participation and progress of students at Morley. (Chu)
- G. In this session teachers from Colquitz Middle School and Spectrum Secondary School in Victoria will share their experiences with UDL-based teaching and learning. The BCUDL teams in Victoria had success in meeting the needs of all students and positively impacting on self-esteem and behavior. Hear the success stories about the impact that access to text-to-speech can make for students in grades 5-12 in daily curriculum activities and school and provincial examinations. (Jost, Grewal)
- H. In this session a representative from Duocom will give a presentation about the SMART Board interactive whiteboard. The presentation will highlight the many capabilities of a SMART Board and how this technology can help deliver digital content in new and engaging ways to all students. The latest SMART Notebook Software will be demonstrated along with ways it can assist both the teacher and the student. Both of these are powerful tools which can be used in any classroom. A world of possibilities exists for those educators who are familiar with and use these tools daily in their classrooms.