

MATE PD DAY 2018

The Manitoba Association of Teachers of English

Inquiry in the Digital Age

River East Collegiate, 295 Sutton Avenue, R2G 0T1

Program



**Manitoba
Association
of Teachers
of English**

Keynote: Dr. Sara B. Kajder

9:00-10:00 a.m.

Health Break

10:00-10:30 a.m.

Morning A Sessions – 1 hour

(Marked A1-A12)

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Lunch – On your Own

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

There are several restaurants within a short driving distance from River East Collegiate. A list of nearby restaurants is posted on the MATE website.

Afternoon B Sessions – 2 hours

(Marked B1-B9)

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Afternoon C Sessions – 1 hour

(Marked C1-C5)

1:00-2:00 p.m.

Health Break

2:00-2:15 p.m.

Afternoon D Sessions – 1 hour

(Marked D1-D5)

2:15-3:15 p.m.

Publisher/Exhibitor display in gymnasium

8:00 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

Register here: <https://memberlink.mbteach.org/Event.axd?e=958>

Keynote

Lifting Our Voices: Using Digital Tools and Social Media to Engage Alongside Our Students

Sara B. Kajder, PhD University of Georgia

Sara B. Kajder, PhD, is an Associate Professor in English Education at the University of Georgia. Her research and pedagogical writing explore questions related to our uptake of digital tools in support of readers and writers, literacy teacher practices with digital tools and social media, and the related implications for teacher education. She is the author of several practitioner

books, including the 2012 James Britton award winning *Adolescents and Digital Literacies*. Dr. Kajder received the 2016 Divergent Award for Excellence in 21st Century Literacies, the 2017 National Technology Leadership Fellowship in English Education and the 2018 Faculty Senate D. Keith Osborne Award for Teaching Excellence from the University of Georgia. She currently coedits the NCTE's journal *Voices from the Middle* with Shelbie Witte and served as the recent chair of the NCTE Middle Level Section.



Morning A Sessions A1-A12, 10:30-11:30

A1 – A Few New Things: Unpacking and Sharing Next Tools and Practices *follow up to the Keynote

In her follow-up session Dr. Sara Kajder will continue the theme of her Keynote with an emphasis on tools and practices.

Sara Kajder PhD, University of Georgia – see keynote description.

A2 – A Yearlong Inquiry with Students

Do you wonder about strategies to help your students become more proficient and passionate writers? Do you want to give feedback that encourages, guides, and inspires writers? Are you looking for ways to increase student ownership of the writing process? This session will explore practical ideas and strategies to help you answer these questions and others as we build on your understanding of writing instruction and its connection to quality assessment practices.

Brenda Augusta, educator, consultant, mentor, author, and presenter draws on her deep understanding of assessment and literacy, as well as on her considerable skill as a facilitator, to support educators and to foster a positive impact on student learning.



*** Please note: Brenda's session will continue in the afternoon (B – 1).**

Participants can attend either or both sessions.

A3 – Writing in Digital Spaces

Innovations in digital media have introduced a new genre of art. In this workshop we will talk about the notion of nonfiction story, what is a story, what components make up a story, and how that story can be presented in digital format? We will talk about presenting a personal autobiography using digital media. This workshop will give an overview of how digital stories can be used for education and social change. Reflecting on experiences using the medium of digital creative nonfiction storytelling has the capacity to inspire empathy, reveal injustice, and change individual and social behaviour.

Dr. Helen Lepp Friesen. Dr. Lepp teaches Academic Writing Multidisciplinary, Advanced Editing, and Representations of Indigeneity at the University of Winnipeg in the Department of Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications.

A4 – The Romeo and Juliet “Escape Room”

This session explores the necessity of critical thinking and problem solving in the English classroom. Oh, and we talk about the thing you are probably most interested in – the Romeo and Juliet Escape Room. Maybe it’s more of a crime scene, but, hey, #branding. We’ll go through how we prepared, organized, and executed our R +J ER while showing you what you would need and how you can run your own.

Devin King and Sydni Masiowski are English teacher in Winnipeg School Division.

A5 – Exploring and Creating Sophisticated Picture Books in High School

Participants in this session will have the opportunity to see how picture books can be used in a high school setting, to browse many complex, sophisticated examples, and to take a look at free programs to use for creation.

Jennifer McKinnon. Jennifer is an English teacher and Literacy Coach at Collège Béliveau in the Louis Riel School Division.

A6 – Student Choice and Representation: Online Literary Magazines in the ELA Classroom

This session is a practical guide to promoting student choice and engagement through incorporating contemporary texts from online literary magazines into the high school ELA classroom. Online literary magazines publish strong poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction that confronts contemporary themes and issues, written from diverse backgrounds who are underrepresented in the traditional high school canon. Participants can expect to leave with assignments they can immediately incorporate into their practice and a curated list of online magazines.

Noah Cain. Noah teaches ELA and coaches hockey at Lord Selkirk Regional High School. His writing has appeared in online literary magazines across North America.

A7 – Let’s Talk About Writing

Teaching strategies for improving writing are sometimes forgotten with older students, because these skills have been learned in earlier years. Many of us know that’s not true and are looking for ideas to help our students improve. How does “Writer’s Workshop” look with older students? How do we encourage improvement? How do we get adolescents to write “hard and clear about what hurts” as Hemingway encouraged? In this round table conversation for 6-12 teachers, let’s talk about what we’re doing, where we struggle, and how to create powerful young writers. Come ready to share your questions, structures, ideas, and great resources.

Ben Nein, Jill Cooper. Ben has been a English teacher for 13 years, and has taught grades 1 through 8. He writes a little too, and wants to pass the power of words along; Jill has been a teacher for 14 years and has taught middle and high school. Jill is very interested in the power of choice in reading and writing classrooms.

A8 – “So you have another EAL student, eh?”

This workshop will cover basic components of language proficiency and assessment. We will also spend time sharing lesson planning ideas and ways to adapt regular curricula to suit EAL student needs.

Nathan Klippenstein, Nathan teaches EAL in Pembina Trails School Division. Nathan has lived in Mexico and Japan and knows a thing or two about not understanding what anybody around him is saying.

A9 – Fox and the Winnipeg General Strike: Cross Curricular approaches to literature with Margaret Sweatman

2019 is the centenary of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike, a time of unrest and paranoia, with fears of immigrant sedition, class conflict and police brutality. Sadly, one hundred years later we still struggle with these same issues. Find out how to bring this important and continually relevant moment in Manitoba history into your classroom through a novel or theatrical study of Fox by Margaret Sweatman. This one hour session with author Margaret Sweatman and Turnstone Press Publisher Jamis Paulson includes cross curricular strategies with other departments including Canadian history, social studies, drama, political science and women’s studies.

Margaret Sweatman, Jamis Paulson. Margaret Sweatman is a Winnipeg novelist, playwright, and a lyricist; Jamis Paulson is the Associate Publisher of Turnstone Press

A10 – The Memoir Study Remix

Reading and writing memoir is a powerful way to explore identity – others’ and one’s own. In this session, we will discuss what this look like in one school. Strategies that have rejuvenated the traditional memoir reading unit, from text choices to responses, will be shared. A memoir writing unit that challenged and engaged students will be shared as well.

Ashley Warcimaga & Jay Nickerson. Ashley Warcimaga & Jay Nickerson teach English across the hallway from each other at Gimli High School, and literally meet in the middle all the time, figuring out how to do everything better.

A11 – The ELA Provincial Test: Where do we go from here?

The current ELA Standards Test has undergone minor changes since 2002 and, while there are many features that make it a more effective assessment tool than what is used in other jurisdictions, a lot has changed in education since its inception. With a new curriculum emerging, now is a great time to discuss what the test could look like in the future. This session will update you on changes that have already taken place but will shift focus to envision new directions for the provincial test.

Ryan Muirhead. Ryan Muirhead is the new curriculum coordinator for the Grade 12 English Language Arts Provincial Test.

**This session is repeated in D1, 2:15pm to 3:15pm*

A12 – Finding their Voice

Want to have your students engage in critical appraisal of ideas? Need help in finding ways to encourage attentive listening and effective oral communication? Learn how students attending a Model United Nations Assembly prepare arguments, share and organize their ideas, learn to appreciate diversity and gain confidence in their voice and abilities. Whether its crafting the perfect metaphor for their message or overcoming their fear of the microphone, Model United Nations activities provide unique learning opportunities for your students.

Donna Alexander. Donna Alexander is a retired teacher and the Chair of the Rotary Model United Nations committee, which will host its 62nd Model United Nation in May 2019.

Lunch 11:30-1:00p.m.

Afternoon B Sessions B1-B9(2 hours) 1:00-3:00p.m.

B1 – Teaching Writing: A Yearlong Inquiry with Students

Do you wonder about strategies to help your students become more proficient and passionate writers? Do you want to give feedback that encourages, guides, and inspires writers? Are you looking for ways to increase student ownership of the writing process? This session will explore

practical ideas and strategies to help you answer these questions and others as we build on your understanding of writing instruction and its connection to quality assessment practices.

Brenda Augusta, educator, consultant, mentor, author, and presenter draws on her deep understanding of assessment and literacy, as well as her considerable skill as a facilitator, to support educators and to foster a positive impact on student learning.

***Please note: This is a follow-up session to A-2 and participants may attend either or both sessions.**

B2 – Writing Assignments, Responses, and Evaluation in ELA Classrooms

Teachers often struggle with deciding what kinds of writing assignments they should give to their students. And, once the assignments are handed in they have to decide not only what kinds of comments to provide but how many comments they should put on each page, and then they have to evaluate those assignments by giving them a grade. This workshop will tackle the issue of written class assignments in ELA classrooms in terms of the three factors that go into each assignment: what to assign, how to respond to the assignment, and how to evaluate what the students have handed in.

Dr. Karen Soiferman is a writing instructor at both the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg.

Karen's recent book, *Teaching Writing in High School: Best Practices and How to Implement Them*, will be available for cash sale during this session.

*** Please note this session will begin at 1:15 pm.**

B3 – The Power of Narrative and Its Role in Inquiry

In the first hour we will begin by exploring what we call the key exercises in the teaching and writing of narrative. Participants will have the opportunity to try out these exercises in their own writing. After that, our four student co-presenters will share some of their work and answer questions regarding how they use the power of narrative in Writing Workshop and their Inquiry Projects.

Syd Korsunsky, Jessica Robinson, and Jennifer Hall, Syd Korsunsky is a retired teacher currently mentoring in Seven Oaks School Division; Jessica Robinson & Jennifer Hall teach ELA in Seven Oaks School Division.

B4 – Writing Place: A Poetry Walk (The Manitoba Writing Project)

Come write with us! This workshop will take you outside on a writers' walk around the River East Collegiate neighborhood. We'll explore the power of place and our relationship to the material and natural landscape around us through quick writes and photography. Together, we'll

create a multimodal text and think about the possibilities of teaching through literacies of place and pedagogies of place- consciousness in our classrooms, schools, and communities. Bring a camera and notebook and come prepared to walk in any weather!

Dr. Michelle Honeyford and Dr. Jennifer Watt are professors in Language & Literacy in the Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning Department in the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba where they teach courses in writing and English Language Arts, including a 2-week Summer Writing Institute in writing for/as social justice. They are Co-Directors of the Manitoba Writing Project, the first International Affiliated Site of the National Writing Project in Canada. Timothy Beyak teaches courses in civics and government, Canadian history, and global issues at J.H. Bruns Collegiate. Bronwen Davies is Vice-Principal at Ecole Charleswood School. Cathy Oresnik is a literacy coach, English teacher and faculty advisor for The Scribbler at Fort Richmond Collegiate.

B5 – Romeo & Juliet: Provincial Fall Tour

This year's SIR production features *Romeo and Juliet*, one of the Bard's best known plays, this time performed by four male actors, which harkens to the early Elizabethan tradition banning female actors from the stage (as portrayed in *Shakespeare in Love*). The show will remind viewers that in Shakespeare's time women weren't even allowed to act. Prepare to be immersed in the tragedy of the star-crossed lovers and in the historical conventions of the age.

Shakespeare in the Ruins (SIR): Serving up Shakespeare with a twist since 1993! For 25 years SIR has been Manitoba's premier Shakespearean theatre company, delivering exciting, relevant, and easy to understand productions of Shakespeare's classic work to audiences across this great province.

B6 –Voices from the Field: Empowering educators and students through new ELA curriculum.

Join this exciting group of Manitoba educators to see how they are using the new English language arts curriculum to design rich learning experiences. Hear how educators' experiences transformed their teaching and leadership practices. Peer into schools and classrooms where students are empowered to interact with complex ideas about themselves, the world, and society.

Shelley Warkentin, Stacey Cook, Kelly Friesen, Meghan LaBrie, James Kostuchuk, Shannon Mulvey, Sandi Shaw-Lyons, and Kelsey Brooks. Shelley Warkentin is an English Language Arts and Literacy Consultant with Manitoba Education and Training. Stacey Cook teaches in Mountain View School Division; Kelly Friesen and Meghan LaBrie teach in Winnipeg School Division; James Kostuchuk, Shannon Mulvey, Sandi Shaw-Lyons and Kelsey Brooks teach in Portage-la-Prairie School Division.

B7 – Scraphic Novels

Scraphic Novels is a multi-disciplinary workshop series developed by author Karin Adams and filmmaker Anita Lebeau. The 10-session program guides students through the production of their own mixed media 3D story books, from planning and writing an original story to designing and creating impactful visuals. Since 2014, Adams and Lebeau have been delivering Scraphic Novels to Early and Middle Years students and are currently expanding the program to include Senior Years groups. Join the artist creators for an overview of their program, to try out essential “Scraphic” techniques for yourself, and to learn how you can bring Scraphic Novels to your classroom.

Karin Adams and Anita Lebeau. Karin Adams is the author of five middle grade novels for James Lorimer & Co. (Toronto). Anita Lebeau is an award-winning animator with two films produced through the National Film Board of Canada.

B8 – Using Picture Books and Other Visual Texts to Support Inquiry

Picture books provide rich learning experiences for learners at all grade levels, kindergarten to high school. This session will invite participants to interact with picture books (and other visual texts) that cover a variety of social justice topics and themes. Together we will discuss the question: How can we use visual texts as the mentor texts to cultivate essential inquiry skills such as inferencing, observing, questioning, connecting and critical thinking? Specific links will also be made to the new ELA curriculum.

Tara McLauchlan. In addition to being a life-long book lover, Tara McLauchlan is a Curriculum Coordinator in the St. James Assiniboia School Division. To see what Tara is reading, find her on Instagram and Twitter as @msmclauchlan.

B9 (2 hours) – Grammar that Works: Improving Your Students’ Writing at the Sentence Level

Our students often persist in writing sentence fragments and run-ons, do not know how to use commas, and are unsure of how to write a complete, correctly punctuated sentence. This new approach to teaching sentence structure is suitable for grades 6-12 – and it works. If the prospect of spending a couple of hours talking about grammar does not scare you off, come learn a whole new approach to teaching grammar that really works. We will cover the three types of core sentences, the nine types of add-ons, and the three methods of “legally” joining sentences together. You can expect to leave with enough handouts and worksheets to begin teaching this unit immediately.

Kristin Peterson & Susan Nichol. Kristin Peterson is the head of the English Department at Sisler High School, where she has taught all levels from remedial grade 9 to accelerated grade 12 English, and is also currently teaching Latin. Susan Nichol teaches grade 9 English and Canadian Studies at Sisler High School and has also taught French, history, and grades 10 and 11 English.

C1 – Poetry: A Process of Play, Purpose & Power

Poetry, though a rewarding pursuit, is challenging to teach. The purpose of this session is to share strategies and ideas, success and challenges from my classroom. Crafting poetry, poetry analysis, using poetry as a means of response to texts, and working with novels written in verse will be discussed.

Jay Nickerson has been recently approaching his work as an English teacher at Gimli High School with the heart and soul of a poet.

C2 – Interdisciplinary Project Based Learning Session Code

This session offers an in-depth look at the grade 10 program at Nelson McIntyre Collegiate which has adopted a Project Based approach (PBL) at teaching ELA, Science and Geography. The presenters plan and teach as a team, each bringing their own specialty to the table.

Brandy Cook, Grade 10 ELA and drama teacher; **Roby Yeong**, Grade 10 Science teacher; **Mark Schmidtke**, Grade 10 Geography and Math teacher.
Brandy, Roby, and Mark are leaders in a larger pedagogical movement towards project based learning at Nelson McIntyre Collegiate.

C3 – Engaging Curious Learners Using an Inquiry Approach

This workshop will address how students can explore meaningful topics that fascinate them as well as learn how to choose technologies that can be used in important ways as part of the inquiry process.

Margaret Murray is an English teacher at Kildonan-East Collegiate.

C4 – Telling Your Story. Facilitating Memoir in the Classroom

This workshop takes the participants through a proven methodology for facilitating personal story writing in a Grade 11 or 12 classroom. While primarily lecture-style, it describes an interactive process which is taught over 5, 1-hour sessions. From the value of story through story elements to outlining and enhancement, this workshop provides the basic tools for a personal story module. This workshop will introduce teachers to some digital tools that can be used in the classroom by students using iPad apps as examples: digital 3×5 cards, collaborative writing and peer editing, digital storyboarding, and publication to the internet.

Dennis Maione. Dennis Maione is a teacher, writer, and storyteller.

C5 – What’s the Story? Bringing Indigenous Writing into the Classroom

Inquiry in today’s classrooms is energetic, fluid, and powered by curiosity. Technology allows your students to access information on virtually any topic instantly. At the same time, information is not knowledge—and the way we convert one to the other is a crucial aspect of learning. “What’s the Story?” brings together a panel of culturally-grounded Indigenous writers who use STORY as both a mode of inquiry and a carrier of culture and meaning. Indigenous writers are doing some of the most exciting writing in Canada right now. Discover ways to use their work and strategies in your classroom.

Charlene Diehl and a team of Winnipeg Indigenous writers. Charlene Diehl, Director of Winnipeg International Writers Festival, will host a panel of at least three of the following writers: **AVIAQ JOHNSTON** is an Inuk writer from Igloodik, Nunavut, whose debut novel, *Those Who Run in the Sky*, a shaman’s coming-of-age story, was nominated for a Governor General’s Literary Award (confirmed); **BRETT D HUSON (Hetxw’ms Gyetxw)** is from the Gitxsan Nation in northwestern BC, and now lives in Winnipeg. His beautifully-illustrated non-fiction book, *The Sockeye Mother*, explores the delicate interrelationship of species that support the Gitxsan peoples along the Skeena River (unconfirmed); **JEN STORM**, an Ojibway from the Couchiching First Nation in Northwestern Ontario, is a Winnipeg artist and writer. Her graphic novel, *Fire Starters*, addresses the challenges and responsibilities of teens facing racism and bullying. (unconfirmed); **DAVID A ROBERTSON**, a member of the Norway House Cree Nation, is a Winnipeg writer who has explored Indigenous history and experience across a wide range of genres, from picture books to adult novels. *Strangers*, the first book of The Reckoners trilogy, just won a Manitoba Book Award. (unconfirmed); **CHERIE DIMALINE** is a writer from the Georgian Bay Métis Nation. Her award-winning dystopian novel, *The Marrow Thieves*, is set in a near future where Indigenous youth are hunted for their ability to dream. (unconfirmed).

Afternoon D Sessions D1-D5 (1 hour) 2:15-3:15 p.m.

D1 – The ELA Provincial Test: Where do we go from here?

The current ELA Standards Test has undergone minor changes since 2002 and, while there are many features that make it a more effective assessment tool than what is used in other jurisdictions, a lot has changed in education since its inception. With a new curriculum emerging, now is a great time to discuss what the test could look like in the future. This session will update you on changes that have already taken place, but will shift focus to envision new directions for the provincial test.

Ryan Muirhead is the new curriculum coordinator for the Grade 12 English Language Arts Provincial Test.

*Code: D1 ***This is a repeat session of A12*

D2 – Manitoba Arts Council Supports for Inquiry Based Learning: A Partnership between Artist(s) and Teacher(s)

This workshop will describe a successful collaboration between teacher Jill Cooper and playwright Ellen Peterson to develop a program called “I am the Author of My Own Story” at Argyle Alternate High School. Autobiographical writing pieces were developed initially. Later, multi genre approaches were explored and students developed multi-modal pieces under the same theme. Through a grant provided by the Manitoba Arts Council, a program was developed that allowed the planning and development of a student driven project which culminated in a public presentation. Teachers interested in collaborative inquiry methods and working with community artists will enjoy this session.

Jill Cooper, Ellen Peterson. Jill Cooper is a teacher at Argyle Alternative High School; Ellen Peterson is a Winnipeg Writer and Actor.

D3 – Hidden Children: Using Children’s Literature to Develop Understanding and Empathy toward Children of Incarcerated Parents

This session looks at an inclusive approach that supports students who experience trauma. While trauma-informed schools have focused on difficult student behaviors with greater understanding, this workshop seeks to broaden support through literacy strategies. Steeped in ethic of care and critical literacy theories, this presentation focuses on the use of literacy to develop understanding among students toward those who feel marginalized and who live with trauma.

Val Plett Reimer is a Special Education Teacher and has taught in Adult Education in the BC correctional system.

D4 – “The Play’s the Thing”: Inquiry-Based Learning through Professional Theatre

In a society where young people see the world primarily through a screen, the theatre provides an important counter balance. Immersive and stimulating, professional theatre teaches empathy through the examination of the human condition, while providing a social and cultural experience of high artistic integrity. A catalyst for discussion and reflection, theatre is a visual and visceral reference that can foster deep learning connected to ELA curriculum, career development, and life/skill development. Join Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre’s Executive Director, Camilla Holland as she explores professional theatre as an experiential stimulus for engagement and inquiry-based learning.

Camilla Holland is the Executive Director of Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Canada’s first English language regional theatre which has been producing professional theatre since 1958. Note: A theatre artist will also be presenting with Camilla.

D5 – Inquiry and Digital Storytelling to Create a Community of Learning (General)

One of the most challenging practices in creating a community of learning in the digital age is getting to know students both in-person and online in order to achieve a healthy and productive community of learning. Digital storytelling has been researched to demonstrate how to achieve the goals needed to grow a productive community of learning both in person and online. This session shows examples of the variety of digital storytelling techniques used in instruction; and, then shows the research validating how both text-based and online learning environments have been enhanced through the use of digital storytelling.

Dr. Karen E. Smith is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba, a digital-literacies researcher, and the Co-Editor of *Classmate*.

Fees and Registration

Register Online at: <https://memberlink.mbteach.org/Event.axd?e=958>

MATE Membership + SAGE Full Day Conference Fee: \$80

MATE Membership + SAGE Half Day Conference Fee: \$50

SAGE Full Day Conference ONLY: \$90

SAGE Half Day Conference ONLY: \$55

MATE Student Membership Fee & SAGE Conference Fee: \$20

SAGE Conference On-Site Fee (October 19): \$100

MATE Membership Fee: \$20

Check www.matemb.ca for parking details and restaurant options surrounding River East Collegiate.