

Chalk Talk

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PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

"This then is the first duty of an educator: to stir up life but leave it free to develop." — Maria Montessori, 'The Discovery of the Child'

Before the arrival of my son, I, like most people who do not have children, thought I knew everything about parenting. I never dreamed that any child of mine could have a tantrum in a coffee shop or annoy patrons at a restaurant. I was confident that I knew better, would be able to handle every situation and never make the mistakes that my parents made.

Of course, this delusion came to a crashing halt the first time my husband and I decided to dine out with our 15 month old, who was still being weaned off the bottle. We had just ordered our meal when my little 'angel', launched his baby bottle across the room. To the dismay of two couples seated about 12 feet away, it landed with a loud thud in the centre of their table. I learned that day that my son had a strong pitching arm and that it would take time for dining out to return as one of our activities.

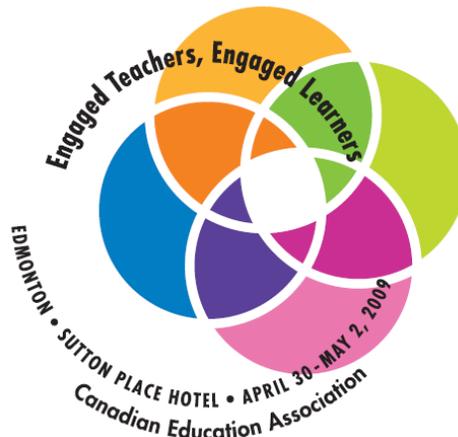
It took many attempts to socialize my son in a variety of situations from eating out and shopping, to doctor/dentist appointments. We made slow progress from short periods of 10 minutes in coffee shops until he could enjoy an entire meal. By trial and error, I learned to keep him interested by preparing him for each outing and setting time limits. He taught me to understand how long was too long. Until he was about 4 years old, a perfect outing consisted of a 1-hour shopping trip to buy new shoes, etc. topped off with a muffin and a juice. Raising my son taught me a lot about parenting, children and myself.

Teaching, like parenting, is a interactive and challenging experience. This week's issue features opportunities to learn new teaching techniques and engage students. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit our website at 4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

[Let us know what you think!](#)

Mary Kovack

Engaged Teachers, Engaged Learners



What do high quality instruction and learning look like and why does it matter in our ever-changing world?

The Canadian Education Association (CEA) invites educators to take part in its 2009 Symposium — **Engaged Teachers, Engaged Learners** — which will take place in Edmonton, Alberta from April 30 to May 2. This conference is the third in a series of symposia that delve into the relationship between teaching and learning.

The sessions will explore the questions — What do we know about teaching and what will we do with what we know? This is an exploration of how we can better understand the complexity of teaching and learning and about how we can help young people to have successful experiences in school.

This year's provocative line-up of speakers, interactive concurrent sessions and inspiring stories of innovation in education will offer new perspectives and strategies. Building on the work done in previous years, the CEA continues its commitment to re-thinking how adolescents learn in the classroom and how teachers can support that learning. **[For more details and keynote speakers, see promotional poster, below.]**

For [more information](#) or to register for the event, visit www.cea-ace.ca, or click on the icon below.

Register Online

To learn more about other activities and programs offered by the CEA, [click here](#).

[\[Source: Canadian Education Association\]](#)

Engaged Teachers, Engaged Learners

The third in a series of CEA's ground-breaking symposia exploring teaching and learning in a changing world

April 30 — May 2, 2009 | The Sutton Place Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta

Keynote Presentations



Convening Conversations about Learning and Teaching: What does high quality learning look like?

Richard Lemons | Director of the Institute for Urban School Improvement – University of Connecticut

How can we support collaborative and focused professional discussions about learning and teaching in the classroom? Using his experience as Associate Director of the **Harvard Change Leadership Group**, Lemons will lead an examination of such discussions of large-scale instructional change efforts within school cultures.



Creating Our Teaching Stories

Kathy Gould Lundy | Destination Arts, York University

The Art Director for the acclaimed CEA project **Imagine a school...** will lead participants in a reflective and responsive session about what it means to teach.



Teachers as Learners

Jim Parsons | University of Alberta

The 2007 co-winner of the Alberta Teachers' Association Education Research Award draws on his experience with the **Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI)** to outline the conditions and factors that help teachers learn throughout their careers.

Please join us for a conversation that matters to all Canadian educators – What do we know about teaching and what will we do with what we know?



The Alberta Teachers' Association



For more information and to register online, please visit:
www.cea-ace.ca/edmontonsymposium

Book a LIVE Presentation of FUNNY MONEY for your High School

FUNNY MONEY
HIGH SCHOOLS

Since 2005, the Funny Money High School program has been empowering today's youth with the knowledge they need to make good financial decisions. Funny Money is an innovative way to teach students about Budgeting, Organizing Debt and Investing. It speaks to them in their own language and connects the lessons to their lives.

The presenter, James Cunningham, is a well-known Canadian comedian with a deep knowledge of the topic and a hosting delivery. Funny Money has become one of the most sought after lectures in Ontario high schools. We are pleased to make the program available across Canada to Grade 11 and 12 high school students.

LAUGH YOUR PANTS OFF AND LEARN NOT TO LOSE YOUR SHIFT

WHAT TEACHERS DO SAY:

I just wanted to send a quick note of thanks to express our sincere gratitude for all of your help and the opportunity to benefit from James' presentation. I have already received tremendous feedback from both staff and students. Many of them have mentioned that it is the best presentation they have seen. I am extremely impressed with the way James was able to present in a fun and interactive way in a topic that is often viewed as very boring and uninteresting. I can't thank you, the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce, and the Investor Education Fund enough for this opportunity!

Chris Stewart, St. Joseph's Catholic High School, Windsor

We all LOVED the presentation! Students everywhere are talking about the materials in the kit, and the heart warming off to their banks tonight! We thank you and the sponsors for arranging the informative and truly enlightening evening for us!

Elizabeth Allen, Pioneer Park Secondary School

Just a little note to thank you so much for speaking at Lacar this past Friday. Many students and teachers appreciated it and thanked me for organizing the presentation and expressed their enthusiasm and motivation to get ORGANIZED, BUDGET and INVEST. Your presentation was so entertaining and incorporated many techniques that teachers agree to include in their own lesson planning, such as storytelling and humor. Continue spreading this valuable information!

Laura Heath, St. Albert-Lacquer Secondary School

TO SCHEDULE YOUR PRESENTATION, CALL US AT 519.622.2670 OR EMAIL: LSID@CAMBRIDGECHAMBER.COM

FUNNY MONEY PARTNER:
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'Laugh Your Pants Off and Learn Not to Lose Your Shirt'

Funny Money is a fun, interactive presentation, hosted by celebrated Canadian comedian, James Cunningham, which will motivate and entertain students while they learn key money management tips. Sponsored by the **Investor Education Fund**, this educational presentation is now available for grades 11 and 12 high school students across Canada.

Book your **FREE** presentation today! Contact Lisa Durocher, Cambridge Chamber of Commerce at 519-622-2670 or email lisadurocher@cambridgechamber.com. Download the Funny Money Poster (left) to advertise the presentation.

Funny Money Tool Kit — The activities in this kit (right) complement Funny Money for High School Presentations. Students learn about needs and wants, cash flow management, credit and credit rating and investment risk and return. To download the kit, poster and "Get it on Credit" cartoon, [click here](#).



Related News

Survey of Canadian Attitudes toward Learning — Statistics Canada, Learning Bulletin, March 17/09

According to the 2008 Survey of Canadian Attitudes toward Learning, Canadians generally indicate that schools are meeting or exceeding their expectations, except with respect to preparing students for work. Canadians with children at home are generally more satisfied with schools than those without children at home, and those born outside of Canada are generally more satisfied than those born in Canada. The survey was conducted by Statistics Canada on behalf of the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL).

It addressed four aspects of lifelong learning: early childhood learning, structured learning (elementary, secondary and postsecondary), work-related learning, and health and learning.

Read more on the CCL website at <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/SCAL2009/>

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T 416.955.9526
F 416.955.0815

THE COMPANY FOR EDUCATION COMMUNICATIONS INC.

66 George St., 3rd floor • Toronto, ON, Canada, M5A 4K8 • www.coedcomm.com • info@coedcomm.com