

# Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | Olympic School Program

**PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!**

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

It's humbling to be in the presence of people trying to achieve something extraordinary. On my way to the office one day, I marvelled at the sight of thousands of runners participating in a 22 km marathon. The day was perfect for the event, cool with no rain. The pace was energetic, the bodies were fit, the faces were confident. About 5 hours later, I emerged from my office for lunch. I noticed that along the part of the route that passed by my building were some slower, less fit, more struggling participants just trying to make it to the finish line. I was mesmerized by them. I stood there, willing them not to give up. I was so proud of them. I hope they made it.



Twice before in my life, I joined others to cheer on a couple of extraordinary Canadian athletes, both from British Columbia, who have become the stuff of legends. One was Terry Fox, an 18 year old with one leg, who decided he would run across Canada in order to raise money for cancer research. The other was Rick Hansen, a 28 year old in a wheelchair who was determined

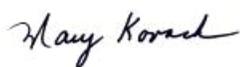
to propel himself around the world. In 1980, after having run 5,373 km, just weeks after I saw him, Terry's Marathon of Hope came to a sad end. In 1987, after more than two years, Rick, the Man in Motion, rode through the streets of Vancouver, a returning local hero.



Soon streets across Canada will be lined with well-wishers cheering on the thousands of torchbearers in the lead up to the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. I'll be there.

This SPECIAL EDITION of Chalk Talk features the Canadian Olympic School Program. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing information on resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit our website at [www.4du.ca](http://www.4du.ca) to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

[Your thoughts are welcome!](#)



Mary Kovack

## The Canadian Olympic School Program



SCHOOL PROGRAM

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**The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games are coming ... to your classroom. Make the excitement of the 2010 Winter Games come alive with your students!**

The Canadian Olympic School Program has been providing teachers with Olympic-themed classroom resources since the Calgary 1988 Olympic Winter Games. Since then, the Canadian Olympic Committee's school program has been earning international acclaim and is seen as one of the foremost Olympic education programs in the world.

The program gives teachers all they need to build an Olympic theme into their classroom instruction in time for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. At the elementary grade level, Olympian and Aboriginal Olympian Stories provide language-arts lessons that speak of universal values such as leadership, excellence, respect, and responsibility. Secondary curriculum is comprised of cross-curricular project packs where students solve real-life Olympic Games problems. Each project pack contains handouts, teaching tips, an evaluation rubric and a list of links to provincial learning outcomes. The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay School Kit lets teachers bring the excitement and inspiration of the Olympic Torch Relay into their classroom.



This Fall, the Canadian Olympic School Program, presented by RBC, is proud to announce the release of new educational resources. Now available, three additional exciting values-based [Olympian stories and lesson plans](#) will captivate your students and help you reach your provincial language arts learning outcomes. Your class will learn about leadership, excellence, respect, fair play through the stories of some of Canada's greatest Olympians. Secondary students can work through [curriculum-linked projects](#) in language arts, math, and life sciences. By applying their knowledge, creativity and research skills, students can solve authentic problems faced by the Canadian Olympic Team.

For more on three new Olympian stories and Olympic Project Packs, see **Website of the Week**, below.

# LESS THAN 30 DAYS UNTIL THE VANCOUVER 2010 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY!



Celebrate the **Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay** with your students by downloading exciting classroom and school activities. With the generous support of RBC, the Canadian Olympic School Program has produced a series of free educational resources that help bring this historic event to your classroom. Stay tuned for a new look and feel of our **Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay School Kit**. New to the Kit are tips to host your own school-based relay. Download these engaging lesson plans at [www.olympicschool.ca/](http://www.olympicschool.ca/)

## Website of the week

The Canadian Olympic School Program, presented by RBC, has engaged students in the Olympic Movement since 1988. Be inspired through Olympian stories, activities, projects, interviews, videos and contests.



The Olympic philosophy of education is about a balance of intellectual instruction, cultural development and physical education. It is about participation, effort, and knowing you have given your all in the pursuit of excellence. Olympic stories of triumph and disappointment can engage learners in discussions about important value issues. Through the stories and challenges of Olympic athletes, children and youth can explore and connect values to their lives, and perhaps begin to see their world in new and different ways.

### Now Available – Three New Olympian Stories!

**Inspire your students** with the stories of Olympians **Carol Huynh** (physical activity), **Kristi Richards** (responsibility) and **Jeff Bean** (resiliency). Linked to provincial learning outcomes, each of the stories are written at three different reading levels (grades 2-3, 4-5, and 6-7), and include language arts focused learning activities for each level. [Download these stories NOW!](#)



**responsibility**  
Kristi Richards

"It is so priceless to see people be inspired to live their dreams"



**physical activity**  
Carol Huynh

"The real joy starts with just being physical, being active."



**excellence** (resiliency)  
Jeff Bean

"I had to learn what resilience really means..."

More Olympian Stories are available. [Click here to view all Olympian Stories Teaching Guides for Educators.](#)



Inspire your students. Inspire your teaching. Inspire yourself.

“Olympism is a philosophy of life; exalting and combining in balanced whole qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in effort, the educational value of good example, and respect for universal, fundamental ethical principles.”  
 — Olympic Charter, Fundamental Principles.



**CHECK OUT THESE NEW OLYMPIC PROJECT PACKS FOR MIDDLE AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS!**

In the newly released winter version of **Standing Clean** (Language Arts, Drama, Media) students are placed on the Canadian Olympic Team’s communication staff, and asked to respond to the world when a Canadian athlete loses gold to an athlete caught for doping.

**Destination Vancouver/Whistler** (middle school social studies), allows your students to research and design a youth travel tour to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

**Road to Recovery** (secondary life sciences and physical education) requires that students use their understanding of secondary biology to help injured athletes recover in time to ‘go for gold.’

To view all Olympic Project Packs, [click here](#).

# Track the Flame

The voyage of the Olympic Flame, [Vancouver 2010 [Olympic Torch](#), designed and built by Bombardier, *shown right*], starts in Greece and ends when the flame lights the Olympic Cauldron. All in all, it travels 45,000 kilometres!



Starting in late October, the flame will make a trip through Canada. Canada is the second biggest country in the world. There’s a lot of land to cover!

The [Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay](#) will travel 1,000 kilometres by canoe, ferry and sailboat. It will fly 18,000 kilometres. It will be carried 26,000 kilometres on land – on foot, bicycle, horseback, dog sled and skateboard. This amazing trip will take just over 100 days.

How long is that trip? Well, Canada is about 7,200 kilometres from coast to coast by road. So that’s like crossing Canada six times. It will be the longest Olympic Torch Relay in one country, ever! It will also be the longest winter Olympic Torch Relay of all time.

[Interactive Torch Relay Map](#)



The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch.  
 Photo courtesy of VANOC.

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