

What's New?

from OPEN SCHOOL BC

May, 2009

For the second year in a row Open School BC has won **Awards** at the media festival at the Second International Conference of the Canadian Network for Innovation in Education. <http://www.cnie-rcie.ca>.

Awards were given out on May 12, 2009 in Ottawa, Ontario for excellence in innovative educational practice.



Open School BC's production, *Will's World* received the **Award of Excellence** as well as the **Award of Distinction for Best Overall Production** in the media festival. This is a national showcase that recognizes outstanding examples of educational media. *Will's World* is a graphically rich environment that allows the user to interact with William Shakespeare's 17th century England and can be used in any of the secondary English Language Arts courses:



http://www.openschool.bc.ca/features/wills_world.html

Being Victorian, created on behalf of the Provincial Capital Commission, won the **Award of Merit**.



<http://www.bcpcc.com/Outreach/ss10/index.htm>

Revealing the City of Victoria's colourful and sometimes rowdy history, this resource is intended to evoke critical thinking and invites the user to reflect on why the Victorians behaved as they did. It links directly to the Social Studies 10 IRP. This site is available to educators at no cost.



Previous award winners from Open School include *Science 4: Sound and Light*

(Award of Distinction, 2008)

<http://www.openschool.bc.ca/features/sc4.html>

BC First Nations 12: Treaty Simulation (Award of Merit, 2008)

<http://www.openschool.bc.ca/features/multimedia/bcfn mmf.html>

We have put the finishing touches on our **B.C. First Nations Studies** Multimedia CD - *Perspectives* Features Page and are very excited about showing off this excellent resource. As well as highlighting the quality of our online course, this is also a terrific supplement to the BC First Nations classroom course.



With spring in full bloom, we know that exam time is quickly approaching. With that in mind, we would like to introduce our newest **Provincial Exam Preparation Package (PEPP), English 12**.

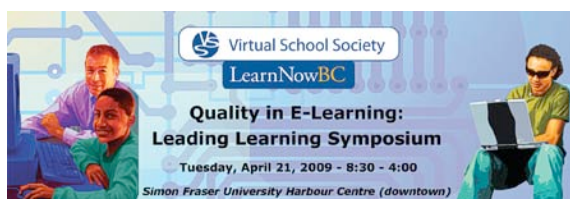
BC Provincial Exam Prep Packages



Designed to reflect the current exam specifications, this package includes two practice exams with answer keys, as well as the helpful study strategies found in all our PEPPs.

Please see our Features Pages for more information, to order and to see a sample from the package:

http://www.openschool.bc.ca/features/exam_prep.html



Spring also included the **Virtual School Society's Conference** in Vancouver

where we were able to get together with many of our friends and colleagues from around the province.

It was good to see so many familiar faces and talk about all the new programs we're developing.

Congratulations to Ursula Lussin from Enderby, BC, the winner of an iPod Shuffle from our booth draw.



Adrian Hill and Jennifer Riddel had a successful presentation "Using Simulations to Promote Critical Thinking". It was well received; I got many compliments about it.

We are also very happy to announce our new, upcoming, online application - the **Report Centre**.



https://www.openschool.bc.ca/ssl-bin/report_centrePRD/index.pl

Originally called the *Teachers' Centre*, we feel that this name more accurately reflects its function. Teachers were excited about this new service when they learned that it gathers your data by course, or by student, in one central location.

The *Report Centre* will include:

- Report Card function - all the students' grades are in one location
- 1701 and Tracking Data - valuable for audits
- Active and Inactive student reports
- Format reports as spreadsheets, PDF or text files.

The *Report Centre* pilot project has begun; you can also enter it from the link on the front page of the Online Consortium:

<http://online.openschool.bc.ca/>

The *Reports Centre* is another example of the extra effort we put in for our partners. It will be available to our members in the new school year.

We were also able to discuss business at the conference and talk about the

advantage to school districts of knowing the full costs upfront.

Online Consortium

With Open School BC there are no additional bandwidth, support or storage charges, so the district knows what their expenses will be for the year.

We also were able to assure online teachers that we will continue to support all our online courses and we will continue to lead the province in content development.

OPEN SCHOOL BC Course Companion Websites

We have also completed the update on our **Companion Website**. It is here where we have a collection of websites we've created or discovered:

<http://www.openschool.bc.ca/courses/courses.html>

These collections of web resources were designed for our courses, but they also make terrific resources for the classroom with many clever and inventive ideas for lessons, as well as numerous activities.

We have also been hard at work improving the **Educators' Resource Centre**

(**ERC**). BC Teachers

can still sign up for a free account:

http://erc.openschool.bc.ca/ERC/erc_home.html

We have improved the contribution wizard, so sharing learning objects is even easier. We have reviewed, corrected and updated the metadata for all the resources, and there is now a preview function for every resource. Finally, we worked with the software supplier, *The Learning Edge*, to facilitate the search by learning outcome function. This will make the ERC even more useful to teachers.



Please feel free to post this or forward on to anyone who you think will benefit from this information.