

Message from ESL Central Office By Debra Frantz; ESL Director

Welcome to the New Year! It's so good to have you back!

Thank you is not enough...

Whether you are a first year teacher, or a twentieth year teacher, we all have in common the fact that we were ALL new to full time, virtual instruction for English Learners. As Director of this tremendous department, I cannot thank this team enough for what you have done- and will continue to do- for our students this school year. And yet- it goes beyond the students doesn't it?

How would we have communicated with our families- regarding everything from online enrollment to information about meal distribution- were it not for our Bilingual Mentors and Counselors?

How would students have received their devices were it not for those of us who helped distribute technology directly to families? How would we have guided families and students on how to connect with technology were it not for those of you who braved teaching and mentoring within summer school 2020? How would we have provided instructional support were it not for each of you engaging in your own research and engaging in collaboration and ongoing training?

Our EL & Immigrant students and families are supported because of you, your work, and your dedication to supporting students and families. I challenge you to never lose sight of the importance of your position as educator and the inspiration you are to our ELs.

With that being said... Welcome to our first ESL Newsletter!

We certainly hope you find value in the information and resources our team has provided within this inaugural edition. Please note- we want to hear from YOU. This is YOUR newsletter, and within it you will find opportunities to contribute and/or spotlight a yourself or a peer for their good work.

I leave you with 3 important mottos to consider. Collectively, they have helped me during these unprecedented times. I hope they do the same for you: Stay safe Plan well (so you don't have to "work hard") Make time for yourself. Work-life balance IS important

Best regards,

Debra Frantz

WIDA ACCESS 2021 Updates

It's hard to believe that WIDA ACCESS testing is almost here! As with everything this year, WIDA testing is going to look very different than what we are used to. Because of this, we want to share some information with you regarding the next steps for preparation.

- All parents of ELs will receive a survey notifying them of the WIDA test and asking those who have selected virtual instruction if they'd like for their child to be tested in the school building.
- Principals, BTCs, and Lead ESL teachers will be working together to create a schedule that ensures both your and the students' safety during testing.
- Students will take all 4 domains in one day to help you complete testing safely.

In the next few weeks we will be working with Lead ESL teachers, building administrations, and families to provide more information about WIDA. Most importantly, know that we, in ESL Central Office, are all here to support you in making this work for everyone and to answer your questions you may have. So, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Advisor as we work to schedule testing!

Important Dates

WIDA Window: February 2-March 26

February 15: K-5 Testing To Begin

March 1: 6-12 Testing to Begin

***Charter Schools test schedules may differ*

March 26: Materials Return

Important Websites

[WIDA Secure Portal](#)

[DRC: wida-ams](#)

Counselor Corner



BY RICHELLE JONES

Happy New Year!

Everyone! It is my hope that 2021 is prosperous, and you're looking forward to a new year with new possibilities.

For the first month of the year, I would like for us to focus on Self-Care. Teacher self-care is often overlooked, but it is very much so needed. Self-Care allows you to be more productive by helping you to focus, reduce bad habits, create/recognize and achieve goals.

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

~Don't try to do everything at once. Prioritize tasks.

~Maintain a routine as much as possible. Stick to a daily schedule.

~Take time for your social, mental, and physical health. Get plenty of exercise, rest, and practice mindfulness.

~Set teaching hours while working from home. Any time outside of teaching and planning time you have created for yourself, belongs to you and your family.

~Do something to unwind after a long day of work. Read a book or relax with a good cup of tea.

~REMEMBER, YOU MUST CARE FOR YOURSELF BEFORE YOU CAN CARE FOR OTHERS.

Upcoming Professional Development

Tuesday, January 12: Lead ESL Teacher Training: 3:00pm

Thursday, January 14: Virtual Engagement for Developing Language in Content Areas Classrooms: Writing Instruction: 4:00 pm

Tuesday, January 19: Lead ESL Teacher Training: 3:30pm

Wednesday, January 20: Exploring Class Kick for ESL 3:30 pm

Thursday, January 21: Preparing for WIDA for Kindergarten Teachers (independent PD for New ESL teachers)

Tuesday, January 26th Academic Conversations to Support Failing ELs (6-12 Teachers) 3:30 pm

Tuesday, January 26th Exploring Class Kick for K-5 ESL 3:30 pm

All courses are listed in PLZ or through a Charter School Registration Link. Teams links will be sent 24 hours prior to the course.

Quote of the Month

Kindness: Lending someone your strength
instead of reminding them of their weaknesses ~
Andy Stanley *Project Happiness*

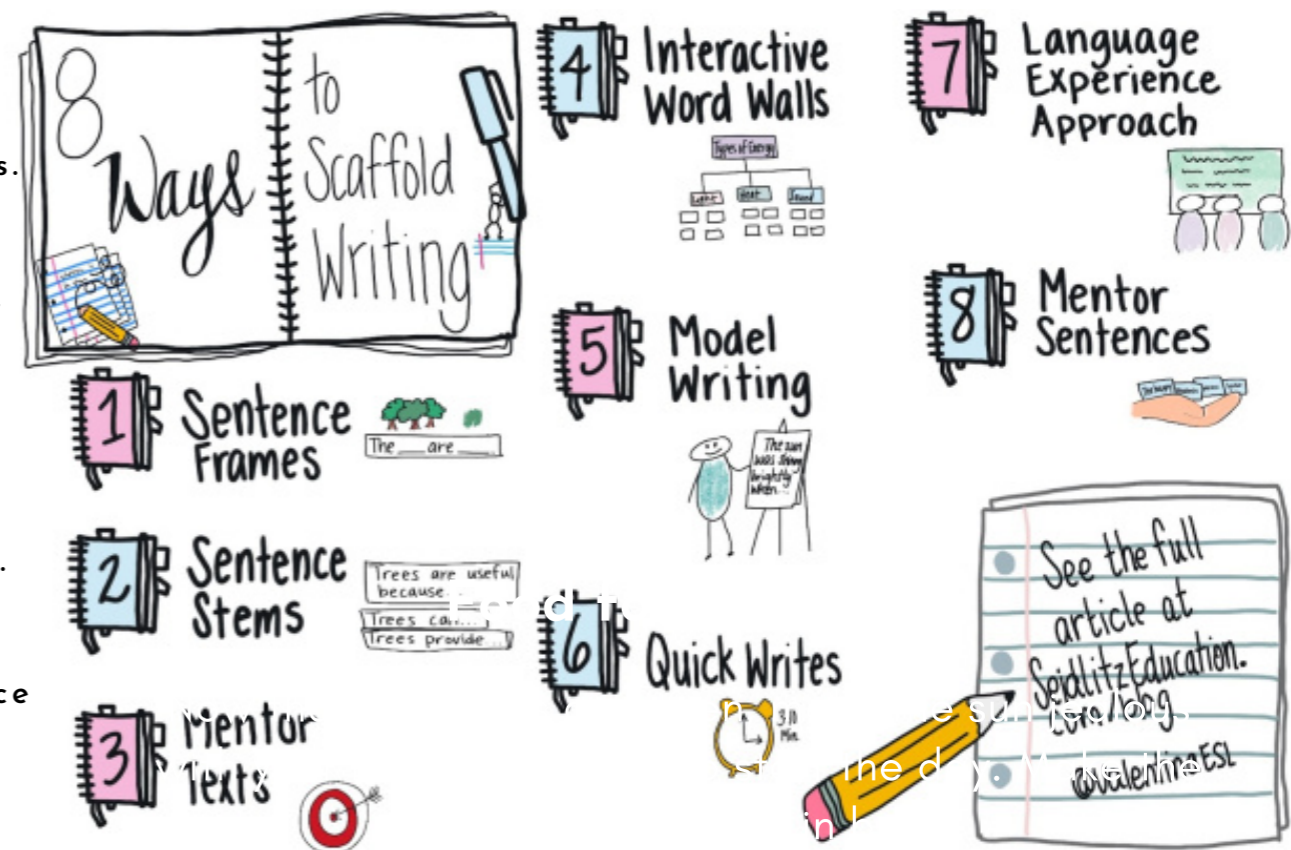
Click [here](#) to suggest a strategy or resource you'd like us to share

INSTRUCTIONAL HIGHLIGHT

In this edition's Instructional Highlight, we're sharing a graphic created by ESL Expert, Valentina Gonzalez (@ValentinaESL on Twitter and @valentina.gonzalez097 on Instagram) which highlights the various ways to scaffold writing for Emergent Bilingual Students. One of her suggestions is using the Language Experience Approach, a type of shared writing where students share an experience (like a virtual field trip or science experiment) and write about it together.

As students dictate, the teacher writes student's words, stopping along the way to ask students questions. Once complete and read chorally, the writing can be displayed or shared for students to re-read independently or in pairs. This shared writing approach lends itself to differentiation and incorporates all four language domains.

Additional benefits include demonstration of the composing process (including modeling letter formation and letter sound correspondence for students in the early stages of writing), visible thinking, and vocabulary building.



WANT TO HIGHLIGHT A TEACHER? FILL OUT THIS [NOMINATION FORM](#)



Princess Wilbern JACKSON ELEMENTARY

Princess Wilbern, a veteran teacher of 31 years, teaches ESL at Jackson Elementary with her co-teacher, Ms. Sharon Cline. She started her teaching career as a general education teacher and became an ESL teacher 15 years ago at the prompting an encouragement of her principal at the time. Ms. Wilbern thoroughly enjoys teaching her students and thrives in the co-teaching setting with Ms. Cline. A key component to their success as an educational team she attributes to their keeping their students' needs at the forefront of their instruction. She and Ms. Cline seamlessly exchange roles of lead and support and engage students in a strategy of having the students to answer a question, pass it on to another student that had to express agreement or disagreement with explaining why and then continue the cycle of asking questions. This strategy got all of the students involved in reading, speaking and listening in the class discussion. She brings a wealth of knowledge, high expectations, and collaboration to her classes!



Rodrigo De Leon MEMPHIS RISE

Despite all the hurdles this year, he found that the return on investment for parent contact is the highest it's ever been. Even though students are at home, parents still struggle with gauging their child's academic performance and engagement. Rodrigo thinks one of the contributing factors is a tech literacy gap between students and their parents. In general, if students are on the computer then there is a tendency to trust that students are working. The reality, he says, is that students often struggling to complete their work in a virtual environment. Parents have more openly appreciated hearing feedback about their children and he's found he's been leaving fewer voicemails and more direct conversations. One of the high points specific to high school, he says, is that these conversations have allowed for deeper discussions about students' future goals for academics as well as life.

Check it Out

Be sure to check out the amazing blog and podcast written by our very own Millicent Williams from Kate Bond Middle: [My Adventures in ESL](#) Millie offers some great ideas and insights into providing high level instruction to our ESL students!



International Holiday Calendar

1-Jan - New Years Day

6-Jan - Epiphany (Italy, Puerto Rico, Spain, & Sweden)

11-Jan - Coming of Age Day (Japan)

11-Jan - Independence Manifesto Day (Morocco)

26-Jan - Republic Day (India)

Bilingual Mentor Highlights

LUIS F. QUEZADA
FROM ECUADOR

BILINGUAL CULTURAL MENTOR, BREWSTER
ELEMENTARY

I'M PROUD THAT IN OUR HISPANIC CULTURE WE ARE
FAMILY ORIENTED.

I'M FROM ECUADOR, SO ONE OF MY FAVORITE
HISPANIC TRADITIONS IS A RELIGIOUS PARADE
CALLED: "LA PARADA DEL NIÑO JESUS."



TNTESOL UPDATES

The Annual 2020 TNTESOL Conference and Business Meeting took place December 11-12th and was a huge success, especially as it was 100 % virtual.

Speakers included Carol Salva and Emily Francis. A special highlight was the award ceremony on Friday night, where SCS's very own Tanya Hill, who teaches ESL at Willow Oaks Elementary was named the West TNTESOL Teacher of the Year! Stay tuned for more info about the 2021 Conference, which is set to take place in Memphis in late fall of this year.



IMPORTANT LINKS:

[K-5 PADLET](#)

[6-12 PADLET](#)