

# Staff Development

## Rod Peturson

Following a thirty-five year career with the Greater Essex County District School Board in Windsor, Ontario where he worked as an elementary teacher, program consultant, and finally, Superintendent, Rod has continued in his life-long commitment to improving education and teaching excellence. Along with a busy speaking and writing schedule, Rod has a new aspect to his career - designing new, innovative and unique schools. He is currently designing nine new buildings, one being the Dr. David Suzuki Public School - the most energy and environmentally efficient school building in Canada



## Les Asselstine

Les' career in elementary education has included classroom teacher, curriculum consultant, education officer at the provincial level and, since retiring from the Waterloo District School Board in Ontario, instructor and faculty advisor for new teachers at the University of Western Ontario. He also finds time to keep up with a busy speaking and writing schedule.



*Over the past twenty-five years, Rod Peturson and Les Asselstine have authored some of the most popular and widely used elementary science and social studies programs in Canada. Together, and individually, they have authored numerous professional books about the art of teaching and learning, including "Creating the Curious Classroom".*

*Their workshops and presentations at school districts and educational conferences are always popular, bringing a blend of research proven instructional techniques and practical classroom examples from their own wealth of experience.*

Other presentations are also available. A complete description for each of these can be provided upon request.

*Reaching for Rainbows: Science in the K-3 Classroom*

*Through the Eyes of a Child: Science in the 4-6 Classroom*

*Whiz, Bang, WOW! Creating the Curious Classroom*

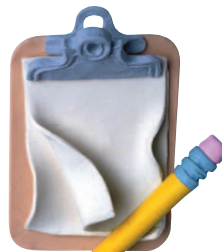
*Thermometers and Thermostats: Assessment for Student Success*

*Breaking the Cycle of Math Phobia*

*Learning that Lasts a Lifetime: Project-based Learning*

*Never Lost in the Woods - Dealing with Nature Deficit Disorder*

*Six Years Old . . . and Feeling Guilty About Global Warming*



### Contact Information

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## The Most Important Thing

The most important thing we can do each day is to make sure that our students want to come back tomorrow. The two greatest keys for achieving this goal are 'INTEREST' and 'SUCCESS'.

What can we do to make our students sit up and pay attention - and how can we get each one to say "I can do it."? Les will explore both of these questions. He believes in having fun when he teaches, and hopes to get a few smiles from you as he shares some thoughts about teaching science and technology.

Presenter: Les Asselstine  
Format: Keynote/large group presentation  
Timing: 40 - 75 minutes  
Seating: theatre-style seating  
AV needs: screen, table at front of room, data projector  
Other: lavalier microphone for groups of 100 or more

## Focus on the Essentials

Science and Technology are much more than the memorization of trivial pursuit. They are the skills of investigating our world, making sense of it, and using what we know to find solutions to all types of challenges and problems.

Les will share interesting and practical ways to engage students in developing skills, building conceptual understanding, and making decisions - the essentials of scientific and technological literacy.

Presenter: Les Asselstine  
Format: Hands-on workshop  
Timing: 1 hour to 3 hours  
Seating: participants around tables  
AV needs: screen, table at front of room, data projector  
Other: lavalier microphone for groups of 100 or more

## Learning That Lasts

Which classroom activities and teaching strategies have the power to engage students in life-long learning skills and knowledge? With a blend of thirty-five years of experience and a knowledge of current educational research and analysis, Rod will share insights about the kinds of learning experiences and environments that have a lasting impact on young learners. This lively and engaging presentation will present ideas that you can implement tomorrow and strategies to use throughout your career. With practical activities and demonstrations, Rod will explore how teachers can engage the attention of students and teach necessary skills, while exploring meaningful topics.

Presenter: Rod Peturson  
Format: Keynote/large group presentation  
Timing: 40 - 75 minutes  
Seating: theatre-style seating  
AV needs: screen, table at front of room, data projector  
Other: lavalier microphone for groups of 100 or more

## Creating the Curious Classroom

How do teachers most effectively engage students in science activities that excite, interest, and challenge them to learn new strategies and skills? This lively and entertaining workshop will focus on providing participants with practical and effective classroom-ready ideas which use science and technology as catalysts for learning across the curriculum.

Rod will share ideas for addressing a central issue in education - before you can teach anyone anything . . . you first need to get their attention.

Presenter: Rod Peturson  
Format: Hands-on workshop  
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