

Welcome to the May edition of our newsletter. We have a considerable amount of exciting news to share with you this month.

Our newest **Provincial Exam Preparation Packages** are on their way to the warehouse and should be available for ordering within the week. **Biology 12** and **Essentials of Math 10** address the learning outcomes in the Ministry of Education IRP. These helpful resources are much more than just a practice exam; they contain tips, suggestions and explanations, and test taking strategies for the student. Please see our Features Page for more details and ordering instructions.

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



Open School BC attended the Virtual School Society Conference last month and introduced our new services and resources. Our big announcement was the addition of **Moodle** to our online-hosted services as well as the pricing model we will be offering. For those that might want to try out this system, we have an entry-level price of \$2000, which includes three course instances and 30 seats. For those school districts that want a complete system, we offer 20 course instances and 100 seats for \$5000. This includes comprehensive support, the required disk space, integrated online administration tools (to manage students) and all of the features, resources and services Open School BC's Online Consortium (OC) currently offers (visit <http://www.openschool.bc.ca/features/oc.html> for details). We invite you to call or email us if you have a specific configuration to consider (online@openschool.bc.ca, 1-888-883 4766).



We also notified our partners and membership that we have signed a three-year license with **WebCT**. We want our partners to feel secure that the system that they know and use will be around for a long time. We also feel that this blend of learning management systems (LMS) will appeal to the many schools and school districts that are considering offering a distributed learning program.

As well as continuing to offer WebCT as our principal LMS, Open School BC will offer all of our online courses to our Online Consortium (OC) members. This includes our 16 Classic courses, our 9 Premium courses, 5 new courses we plan to have ready for the upcoming school year, as well as the 30-plus shared courses that our members currently access. This impressive

list of online courses makes the OC of tremendous value to the education community.

The five new online courses that will be available next school year include Biology 12 and BC First Nations Studies 12 that our members can preview now. The other new courses include Science 10, English 10 and the Family Studies 12 course.

At the VSS Conference, we introduced Dal Little as our resident online teacher. As well as being the teachers' teacher for our membership, Dal will be working on our existing online material, simplifying and improving navigation, improving the tables of contents, and implementing many educators' request with regards to streamlining and usability of the courses.



Dal Little

Our next bit of exciting news came at the Canadian Network for Innovation in Education conference (CNIE) <http://www.cade-aced.ca>. CNIE is the amalgamation of the Canadian Association for Distance Education (CADE) and the Association for Media and Technology in Education (AMTEC).



At the CNIE conference, Open School BC was recognized and awarded for excellence in educational innovation. Our Science Four web site, "**Sound and Light**" <http://www.openschool.bc.ca/elementary/science4/> won the CNIE-RCIE Award of Distinction (Best Overall Production) as well as the Award of Excellence.



Additionally, our multimedia CD-ROM "**BC First Nations Studies 12: Treaty Simulation**," was awarded the CNIE Award of Merit. The panel of adjudicators for the CNIE awards included educators, instructional designers and media professionals from across the country. Award winners were chosen based on educational criteria such as meeting specific learning outcomes as well as the overall visual, audio and interactive quality of the production.

Needless to say, we are delighted that our staff has been honoured in this way, and proud to make these resources available to the BC education community.