

Fall Newsletter

September TESL Kingston Social Mix

A group of TESL Kingston members and interested community members met at Mitchell Hall, Queen's University to network and socialize.



We were joined by TESL professionals involved with:

- KEYS Employment and Newcomer Services
- ISKA Language Assessment and Referral Centre
- Monarch Languages, and
- Kingston Literacy and Skills.

Did you miss our October Professional Development Event?

25 TESL Kingston and community members participated in our workshop, hearing from three local instructors who shared teaching tips and ideas that work for them in the classroom. Ian McNichol, who works with KEYS LINC, Queen's School of English, and Achev's Home Study, talked about his ideas for real-world grammar and pronunciation to promote listening skills; Katherine Heikkila, from Kingston Literacy and Skills LINC, shared her experiences and best practices for engaging beginner learners in active learning. Finally, Monte Biggar, from Queen's School of English, engaged our participants in starter activities that he uses for explicit skills and for building collaboration. ESL tutors, administrators, Faculty of Education students, language assessors, and EAP/ESL/LINC instructors from a range of local organizations attended this free professional development event. A big thank you to Queen's School of English, for hosting our event and assisting with the organization.



How about the next PD Event?

Spring 2026 -

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, or LinkedIn, or check our website for updates.

Members' Quarterly Draw

Our members contribute to the TESL community in so many ways. We have educators, newcomer-settlement workers, tutors, volunteers, administrators, language assessors, teacher-candidates... Our Quarterly Draw is part of our recognition and celebration of all that our members do. To be added to our draw, ensure you are a TESL Kingston member, and "like", comment, or share a post on one of our social media accounts, or engage with us by email, etc. Winners receive a \$25 gift certificate to the Novel Idea bookstore.



Winner!
Member Appreciation
Quarterly Draw
Darryl Press



[Read about Darryl Press](#)

Executive Spotlight

Meet Bansari Shrivastava

Bansari is a dedicated Executive Member with TESL Kingston, and an active supporter of Kingston's ESL and newcomer community. Through her work at KEYS Employment & Newcomer Services, she helps create welcoming spaces where learners feel supported and connected. Bansari believes strongly in the power of community, and loves bringing people together through coffee chats, networking events, and collaborative initiatives that strengthen relationships between learners, volunteers, and educators.



With a background in teaching IELTS in India, and LINC program coordination within newcomer services, she brings warmth, cultural understanding, and a people-centered approach to TESL Kingston's work, helping build a community where everyone can grow and thrive.

Have you thought about volunteering on the TESL Kingston Executive?

TESL Kingston Executive members are involved with developing our community of peers, organizing professional development and networking events, and collaborating with TESL Ontario to ensure that key concerns are brought forward from Kingston's TESL community.

Along with general volunteers, TESL Kingston is recruiting to fill key roles:

- Treasurer
- Website Manager
- Content Creator for social media and website

Benefits include gaining leadership and management experience, networking opportunities for personal and employment purposes, PD credits towards certified membership renewal, and the opportunity to meet new friends and enjoy the personal rewards of being part of a community of volunteers. All of this is with a flexible and generally relatively minor time commitment. If you're interested, we'd love to have you!

Contact: TESLKingston@gmail.com

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