



November 23, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

The Canadian International School of Beijing had the honour of hosting Mr. Tan Huynh this month for our annual Professional Development weekend. I met Tan earlier this year at the 2018 ACAMIS ELL Conference in Tianjin where he was one of the Keynote Speakers. His keynote address, Shifts Happen: Embracing Changes that Empower English Learners and peer presentation, Soups vs. Salads: Using Talk-Read-Talk-Write to Develop the 4 Language Domains, were both powerful and inspiring. Therefore, when asked to suggest a workshop leader who could provide an informative PD session specific to ELLs' needs at our school, Tan was the first speaker that came to mind.

During the planning stages, Tan listened closely to our needs and was flexible in working with our timeframe. Through numerous emails and Skype conversations, Tan worked with the MYP and DP Coordinators and myself to outline four workshop sessions to address outcomes set by the principal and Board of Directors. Using the SIOP Model framework, Tan's first session focused on finding language objectives already embedded within the designed learning experience. This was followed by a session on assessment and how teachers should to shift their focus from writing clearer instructions to differentiating the product, process, or content. Thirdly, Tan discussed effective collaboration techniques between EAL and content teachers. Our final session touched on the process of Talk-Read-Talk-Write, showing teachers how to get their students to effectively annotate readings, participate in Harkness discussions, and using language banks to produce more elaborate writing.

Tan's understanding of the IB programme was well integrated into the creative approaches of engaging ELLs during his PD session. His use of technology provided teachers with new ideas on how to interact with ELLs today. Most importantly, Tan advocated strongly for the use of mother tongues to support learning which was embraced by our teaching staff. His passion was well received; many teachers started using Tan's suggestions the following week and we have seen a great deal of progress in a number of our ELLs in a short amount of time.

I highly recommend Mr. Tan Huynh as a PD leader. I have no doubt that he will continue to inspire all teachers to become language teachers to empower ELLs.

Sincerely,

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