

# Education Plus

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**James Watts** is an enthusiastic speaker who uses many different methods to convey messages to a variety of audiences. He is the parent of two teenagers, an annual presenter at QPAT, a regular submitter of articles to the Montreal Gazette, and a veteran high school teacher and principal. He is also the author of *Happy Parent* – a novel about parenting teens. In his spare time he runs marathons and competes in triathlons!

## Topics

### **Where The Wild Things Are**

In Universities, teachers are taught pedagogy, Educational History and Law, some course content, the reform! And various other non-essentials! Once a teacher enters his/her own classroom a new reality arises – getting the attention of and communicating with The Wild Things we call 'students'! James Watts, teacher/principal has worked with some of the wildest for the past 24 years and he will guide new and seasoned teachers alike through the jungle we call classrooms. His contagious passion for education and his belief that every student is worth our very best will undoubtedly encourage you and inspire you to be intrepid teachers!

### **How to Motivate a Potato**

Our schools are populated by all types of students. As teachers we are called upon to teach to the crowd and instruct the individual, simultaneously! We have grass-roots pressure to make our topics meaningful and top down pressure to cover the curriculum. Ultimately our allegiance is to our students. But how do you motivate the disinterested teen without boring the high achieving student? For 24 years James Watts has taught many high school subjects to some of the most marginalized students. He has discovered a variety of successful ways to motivate young people and to make them excited, once again, about learning. In the presentation, James will share some of his innovative techniques with you!

### **Hunger Games in High School!**

The Hunger Games franchise has become iconic and will be a reference point for this generation of high school students. And there is a good reason for this. The book/movie is a metaphor for the classrooms and hallways of our schools! Forced to play the game against their will, they make the best of what many see as a bad situation! Teachers play a pivotal role in their students' survival. In this presentation, James Watts will share with you some of the methods he has learned over the past 24 years of teaching that will allow you to prepare your students for battle as you seek to ensure the odds will be in their favour!

### **Teaching to the Margins**

Some call it 'survival in the jungle' you call it an average day! Your class is made up of students who already know the material and are bored and students who are struggling with comprehension and are frustrated. These are marginalized students. How do you, as a teacher, reach these students while keeping the rest of your class on task? There are no magic tricks, but if you try some of the tried and proven tips offered in this session, you might see some miracles!

### **Purveyors of Hope – Moulders of Dreams**

Teachers have the awesome responsibility to bring hope into the lives of their students – especially to those in desperate situations. Teachers impact childrens lives through words and actions. Great teachers inspire towards greatness. In this presentation, James Watts – teacher and high school Principal with 24 years of active experience – will motivate new and seasoned teachers alike as he proves that all teachers can be Purveyors of Hope and Moulders of Dreams!

### **Happy parent is not an oxymoron!**

Moms and dads have been raising children since the beginning of time. You would think that by now we would have parenting all figured out. It would be easier if there was only one model of child and if society would remain static. However this is not the case. Even the definition of 'family' has changed. Being a parent of two teenagers, a high school teacher and principal has permitted James Watts to work with many young people and their families. As a trained Family Life Educator he has had great success helping families work through some of the toughest issues. In this presentation James will share with you some of his tried and proven methods will explain how you too can be a Happy Parent.