Slide 2: Who am I: 6 yrs EA in classrooms from grade 1-12, with the last four years spent at the high school level.

* I have had the privilege to work with exceptional students in inclusive settings as well at with severe exceptionalities. Each has taught me something about myself and I am richer for having worked with them.
* I have specific OT training, I have ASL level 2, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training, and pd in regards to Asperger’s and High functioning Autism, a class 4 licence that allows me to drive a taxi or bus of 28 passengers – transporting students to work experince
* As I worked in the classroom as an EA, I had the opportunity to work with recent graduates of this program. I was sometimes disappointed with how I was utalized in their classrooms. I wanted there to be a class that taught pre-service teachers how to make effective use on an EA. I am grateful to the EUS for allowing me to present and giving me the opportunity to check off an item on my bucket list. Thank you.
* I would like to share a John Lennon quote with you:

“When I was 5 years old my mother always to me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down “happy.” They told me I didn’t understand the assignment, and I told them they didn’t understand life.” John Lennon – I hope to be the educator that understands life.

Slide 3

* EA Definition “The term *teacher’ assistant* is used by the Association to designate noncertificated personnel of all kinds employed to assist teachers” (Teachers’ Rights Responsibilities and Legal Liabilities p. 23).
* **Appendix 2: ATA Policy on Educational Assistants**12.A.1 Educational assistants are those persons other than teachers who directly assist individual or groups of teachers in achieving educational objectives. [1973/85/93/2011]
* **There seems to be a contradiction in what to call this person who helps classroom teachers.**
* **I went old school and actually placed a phone call into the ATA and Keith Hadden who is the Evacuative Staff Officer of Member Services said that the title is interchangeable depending on the jurisdiction**
* **A jurisdictional decision on what to call “ persons other than teachers” – TA, EA, paraprofessional -**

SLIDE 4: Legal stuff – will read verbatim

* + On the ATA website: The Association’s Code of Professional Conduct (reproduced in Appendix 4) defines the duties for which teachers are responsible. The code explicitly prohibits teachers from delegating those duties to non-teachers. At the same time, the code specifies that teachers may delegate “specific and limited aspects of instructional activity” to educational assistants, if teachers supervise and direct those activities.
  + Refer to 2.1, 2, 3 of the Code of professional conduct – b/c “A teacher who assigns an assistant responsibility for professional services or who has an assistant do a major share of services that ought to be performed by the teacher may be charged with unprofessional conduct” (p23).
* **Liability**
* Sections 18 and 20 of the *School Act* assign the responsibility for supervising students to certificated professionals.

Slide 5: A little background because as Dylan says “The times they are a changin’

Inclusive Education (this should not be new information)

* In September of 2011, Alberta Education embarked on a paradigm shift of Inclusive Education and as we head into PSII, we will be in the middle of this, on the front lines. To quote the ABED website “The goal of an inclusive Education system is to provide all students with the most appropriate learning environments and opportunities for them to best achieve their potential” (ABED).
* To Have EAs or Not To: Staffing decisions are made at the jurisdictional level – AB ED determines that they are in the best position to determine the needs and requirements of the students it serves
* Most schools will have a **“learning support team**” - stakeholders involved in educating students. A “team” may consist of a learning support teacher – a specific teacher that the school designates to co-ordinate learning support, classroom teacher, OT, PT, speech, EA, parents.
* A learning support teacher will often identify and recommend placement of EAs in specific classrooms – this person is a valuable resource for exceptional learners and should be able to provide new teachers with information and suggest strategies regarding the exceptionalities they will be working with in their classrooms

Slide 6 – Job Description

* As inclusion becomes the norm the job description for an EA is also shifting
  + Unless the student has sever-multiple disabilities schools are trending toward placing EAs where they are needed most
    - This looks different at every school and every grade level
      * Under teacher direction**, EAs are there to ensure that student learning is maximized –** this will look different on any given day. Some duties (all though not exhaustive) are:
        + Reading exams
        + Acting as a scribe
        + Helping students with classroom learning as directed by the teacher
        + OT
        + PT
        + Speech
        + Supervision of students – those with behaviors that prevent them from being unsupervised
        + Implementing programming under teacher direction – ie: having a student read out loud to them at DEAR time
        + Where ever they are needed to maximize the support of student learning
        + SLIDE 7 – GET TO KNOW YOUR EA
  + You will be working with this person on a daily basis
    - SPECIAL SKILL
      * Seamstress
      * Scrapbooking
      * Book keeper

BACKGROUND

* Japanese-Canadian – family interned
* BA History
* Have they lived somewhere else, traveled to a place you are studying?
* NB – An EA may be a parent – if you are unsure of a child’s behavior As part of the student’s learning team you both have an interest in the student’s success and the EA may see the student in different scenarios during the day that may provide pertinent information that could be shared with the learning team

SLIDE 8 – SHARE

* Share your planning and Planning ideas with them
  + As the classroom teacher you are responsible to give the EA direction
    - Give them a copy of your lesson plan
    - Find them before class and let them know what you are doing and what you expect from them
    - Sit down with them and share your vision of your classroom – what does inclusion look like and what can they do to help foster this, under your direction
    - Share your short term plans, medium and long term – you never know what they can help with
* Menu planning and The Flying N
  + Jean Hoare was kwon internationally for her restaurant, the Flying N, two successful cookbooks: Best Little Cookbook in the West and Jean’s Beans.
  + The restaurant was located at the airport (left over from the war) allowed private pilots from Montana, Idaho and other parts of the US to frequently fly in to enjoy a meal
  + From 1971-74 The Flying N was listed on a “Where to Eat in Canada” as one of the country’s top 10 restaurants
  + Comics Wayne and Shuster were two of the many celebrity guests who ate there
  + She became a celebrity author – taping 48 ½-hour cooking shows for CFAC Calgary television and made guest appearances on national talk shows.

SLIDE 9 – SPECIALISTS

* They have specialized PD in relation to exceptionalities and behavior – tap into this
  + As part of the learning team in your school they may have experienced exceptionality specific PD

They know these kids – many are with a child for multiple years if it is a specific exceptionality due to extensive training – they are an important part of the students learning support team

SLIDE 10 – THANK THEM EVERYDAY

EA’s for the most part are extremely dedicated to their students, and their well-being

* They earn a paraprofessionals salary and they are generally the ones getting bit and kicked , and they have to clean up the puke and pee
* Express your gratitude on a daily basis:0)

Slide 11:

Please tweet out something that you will take away from this presentation or a way that you use an EA in your upcoming practicum

* @Teachawatt
  + #edchat
  + #edteach

And if you don’t use Twitter to help build your PLN or to create professional digital presences you should seriously consider coming on Wednesday during the lunch hour to TH277, where Kurtis Hewson will be presenting on “Professional Twitter”