

# Tips for Teachers

The European League for Middle Level Education



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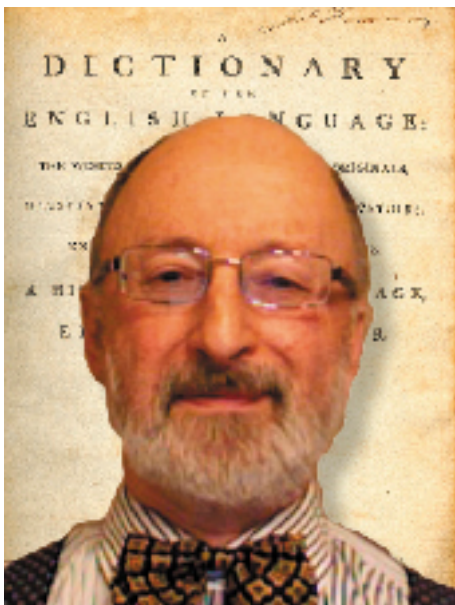
Your Pre-Conference Issue!

See you in Vienna!

Mere days separate us from our convivial conference in Vienna! From January 24 -27, hundreds of us international middle school educators will convene at the Hilton am Stadtpark to enjoy the company of renowned ~~specialists~~ such as Teacher of the Year Carol Ann Tomlinson, sex educator Elizabeth Schroeder, musician Patrick Jones, mathematician Dave Youngs, spelling guru Melvyn Ramsden, and the world famous Wiener Singerknaben, the Vienna Boys' Choir.



Elizabeth Schroeder, author, trainer, and consultant in the area of sexual health and sex education, teaches at Montclair State University, NJ.



Melvyn Ramsden is an Egyptian-born resident of France, whose career has taken him to teaching and headship in English primary schools, seven years at King's College Cambridge, and five years in the Education Faculty at Exeter from which he escaped into independent international consultancy. His book 'Rescuing Spelling' (1993) created waves with its message that English spelling makes complete structural sense; its message provoked invitations to visit English-speaking schools in various countries to spread the word.

Browse through the online conference program to be amazed at the variety of offerings from fellow international teachers. Of benefit to expat Americans will be **Jonathan Levy's** workshops on US Taxes! **Anita Sandoval** (Portfolios), **Kevin Hawkins** (Conflict Resolution), **Pauline Minnis** (Inspiring Writing Through Drama), **Kathy Heedles** (Choral Reading for Choirs), **Larry Kuhns** (Stop Motion Animation) are only five of our fellow professionals whose presentations will empower our return to the classroom.

You'll want to take in the city, too, that wonderland of Strauss, Klimt, Schiele, Mozart, and Sachertorte. Trams depart from just outside the hotel to whisk you around the Ring. And on Sunday morning, there is a tour of the city included in your conference package. Prepare to learn, to have fun, and to fall in love -- with Vienna.

Something  
New for You



## The Power of Art

In this 8-segment, 3 DVD production, acclaimed historian **Simon Schama** turns his expert eye on eight works that exploded onto an unsuspecting world. The series focuses not just on iconic pieces of visual expression, but on the artists themselves - each a product of his own time and environment - and the very moments of inspiration that drove them to create. With dramatic reconstructions, beautiful photography, and his authoritative yet *personal* brand of storytelling, Schama brings to life a parade of legends: **Caravaggio, Bernini, Rembrandt, David, Turner, Van Gogh, Picasso, and Rothko**, concentrating on a key work from each. Bonus features include an interview with Schama, as well as his audio commentary. Recommended for Grades 7-12. Closed captioned. Color. Approximately 400 minutes. BBC. ©2007. *Continued next page*

Those who know professor Schama from his many, well-researched art history books, will value the depth of information presented in this series, which was shown on BBC television (and PBS in the US) in 2006. Those who have seen Schama on telly before may either love or loathe his *personal* style of presentation, with his signature twitchy shoulder movements that punctuate his sentences and his 'received' pronunciation. But apart from that, the series is an excellent resource for international schools' libraries, art, and history departments. His enthusiasm and knowledge is infectious. Schama has held a chairmanship at Harvard, and currently is a professor at Columbia University in New York.



## ***Teach with Movies: Lights, Camera, Learn***

This comes in the 'hey, why didn't I think of that' category.

Maybe you already did! Maybe you already are! But in case you need a classroom boost, go to [www.teachwithmovies.org](http://www.teachwithmovies.org) for some invigorating ideas for lesson plans in every discipline that revolve around entertaining movies. There is even a magazine available on subscription, with learning guides that help students build vocabulary, cross bridges to reading, and create class projects. Before crossing this one off your list (been there, done that) take a glance at the website to see if *Teach with Movies* is for you and your middle school kids.

*Tips for Teachers* is published monthly by ELMLE, the European League for Middle Level Education, an affiliate of the National Middle School Association (NMSA). Edited by Alan Heath in the UK, *Tips* welcomes articles and ideas from practitioners in middle level education from across the globe. Find Alan at the Vienna conference, and bend his ear: what's working in your classroom or studio that the wider world needs to know about; what museums are worth visiting in your city; where are you taking your kids on their next field studies visit? And remember to visit [www.elmle.org](http://www.elmle.org) for back issues of *Tips!*

