

Tips for Teachers

A Service of ELMLE

With winter closing in around us and thoughts turning to Alpine snow, middle school teachers across Europe are either (a) gearing up for a festive trip to Zurich on January 24, or (b) wishing they had signed up for the annual conference of the European League for Middle Level Education in Zurich, January 24-27. **“We are the hospitality conference with the warm personal touch,”** looked forward to over the year by those in the know. The ELMLE conference is large enough to attract prominent speakers and practitioners in our field, but small enough to maintain the personal touch which we all cherish and don’t want to lose.

Why attend the ELMLE conference in Zurich? Here are the top ten things to look forward to. See if they match your own aspirations.

1. Sue Swaim’s heart-wringing keynote will have you reaching for your tissues. She tugs at the heart of middle school teachers. Sue is executive director of the National Middle School Association.
2. After Rick Stiggins’ presentation you will never think about assessment the same way again.
3. Cheese and chocolate in the place that made them world famous? The snow-clad Alps as a backdrop? Sounds good to us!
4. The old world atmosphere of a 15th century Guildhall will ensure a hearty formal reception on Saturday evening, an ideal springboard for a night out in old-town Zurich.
5. The food at the Renaissance Hotel will make you feel like royalty. And who will not feel like the Princess who found the Pea after a night on those featherbeds?

6. Comrades! Sharing with colleagues, making new friends. “We are the hospitality conference with the personal touch.”
7. Ken Ruhnke, the first NHL hockey player to give a keynote speech at ELMLE!
8. Special raffle! You may go home with a prize! Mystery wrapped boxes for Lucky Winners. Find out how at the conference!
9. Excellent teacher-led workshops.
10. Spitfire Hollas, better known as Betty, with vivacious Southern charm and accent to boot. She encourages us to take care of ourselves as teachers, and to motivate, differentiate, and interact.

For further information about the **European League for Middle Level Education**, and for late conference registration, go to www.elmle.org where you will find out how to present an article for the ELMLE periodical *A Bridge in the Middle*, how to plan for our Vienna conference 2008, and how to find past editions of Tips for Teachers. ELMLE is an affiliate of the National Middle Schools Association.

Do you have a Tip that would enliven, instruct, or somehow inspire your fellow teachers? Send your ideas to alan_heath@asl.org today.