

# Councils

## Council Day in Review

By Donna Losier, Elementary Council President

Council Day 2011 'Tuned to Learning' was held at UNB and FHS on May 6 and it was deemed a success by the many comments that could be heard in the hallways of the Wu Center, Marshal D'Avery Hall, the SUB and FHS.

*Cesar Morales was easy to learn from and I've already used what he taught us.*

*2500 teachers is an amazing day to organize...I was impressed!*

*I thoroughly enjoyed Council Day. You and your committee did a great job.*

*Thanks very much! I picked up my prize and it was a nice treat!*

*I heard such positive feedback from my classes and I had even more fun than last year.*

*Thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak to Elementary teachers this past Friday.*

*I saw many pens writing frantically!!!*

*The handwriting session was great. I want to send in my profile.*

*I learned so much and can't wait to get back to my classroom to use some of it.*

*Impressed by the variety of sessions and the wide number of sessions that they would have liked to take - made choosing difficult—wanted to do so many.*

People seemed to have enjoyed their sessions and had a great PD experience in Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Art, Music, Wellness or any of the many other choices.

Despite it being an overcast and somewhat rainy day, attendance was high with over 2100 participants.

As with other years, the Elementary Council put on a Saturday workshop. The topic this year was Math with Cathy Fosnot. This full day workshop provided an overview of what it means to calculate with number sense. The teachers that attended were engrossed in the activities and had a very productive day. I think this says it all. "Great workshop, she was inspiring even to a non-math person."

This year, the Elementary Council gave out its first ever **Excellence in**

**Teaching Award.** Sarah Cogswell, part of a nominating committee, introduced our first winner, **James Wright, ED 14, Bristol**, with great respect and gusto. James spoke about the importance of a child-centered environment and thanked his conscientious colleagues. He was deeply honored to be recognized by his peers.

Adam Wilson, nominating his colleague, introduced **Nicole Priest, ED 14, Nackawic** for the second Award of Excellence. Nicole thanked her peers for this recognition.

Both received an Award of Excellence as well as a monetary award.

Special teachers and leaders are found throughout our education system and it is of benefit to the teaching profession that we identify and honour fine examples of inspirational teaching and leadership in the years to come.

We hope that everyone came away from Council Day 2011 'Tuned Into Their Own Learning'.

Council Day 2012 is still 'under construction' at this time but stayed tuned for updates.

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## Middle Level Council President's Message

By Lise Martin-Keilty, Middle Level Council President

Hello Middle Level Teachers,

Having enjoyed my 4 years on council as your Treasurer and sometimes Registrar I will be taking on the role as your President and Chairperson of our annual PD day on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to serving you in this capacity over the next 2 years and hope to meet many of you during my term.

Middle Level teachers: Whenever I tell my family and friends that I teach middle school, it always amazes me at the looks I get! People express feelings of sympathy to admiration (How can you teach those kids...?) I believe that people/

parents truly respect the job that we do as they know the struggles that comes with the teen years. I also believe we have the best job in the world. There is never a dull moment in our day and the rewards of our job are incredible. There is nothing like a class of 13-year olds looking at you for guidance as they embark on these exciting teen years. It takes special people to work with this age group and most of us do it with smiles on our faces as we get to know all these terrific kids.

Friday May 4<sup>th</sup>: Our annual Middle Level Council Day will be hosted by George Street Middle School in

downtown Fredericton. The Crowne Plaza has been chosen as our host hotel. A local committee has already been established and our first meeting is set for the next few weeks. We look forward to putting together a program that will meet all your PD needs. If any of you would like to see something presented in a particular subject area or has something to share, please let me know and we will surely follow up on it.

I hope you have all had a great start to your school year after a restful summer. Here we go again...

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## Elementary Council News 2011-2012

By Donna Losier, Elementary Council President

Welcome back everyone. It is hard to believe that the summer is over and we are starting a new year.

As usual, council members have already been busy planning another council day. Some of the plans have been finalized and others are still works in progress.

Elementary Council 2012 will be held in Moncton at the Wesleyan Celebration Center as well as Bernice

McNaughton High. We are proud to be sponsoring the Phys. Ed. Specialist strand. Our focus will be to continue to provide as wide a variety of keynotes and sessions as possible.

Elementary Council would like to welcome to the group Sarah Cogswell D14. We are also looking for other new members so if you would like to become part of this exciting group that works for the teachers of

NB, please send an email to donna.losier@nbed.nb.ca.

We would also like to say goodbye to Margo Cochrane, D6, who has resigned to pursue other PD opportunities. Thank you for all your hard work Margo.

Stayed tuned to the *NBTA News* for updates.

## Well-Travelled Blue Lobster



"We had a visit from Brianna's dad (Peter MacEachern) who brought in a blue lobster that he caught June 10<sup>th</sup>. The lobster will now be going to the Aquarium in Shippigan." — Submitted by Jennifer MacDonald, Tabusintac Rural School