

How Did You Spend Your Summer Vacation?

by Ardith Shirley, NBTA Staff Officer - Professional Development

As another school year begins and we head back to the hallowed halls of our schools, we greet colleagues and students eagerly with the perennial question: "How did you spend your summer vacation?" While the responses to this question will be as varied as the people and personalities we come in contact with on a daily basis, I know for a fact that many of our New Brunswick teachers will be sharing stories of the professional learning opportunities that they participated in over their "holiday".

Here at NBTA there were several events that kept us hopping over the summer months: Developing Successful Schools (DSS) was held in Sackville during the first week of July. Administrators and school leaders from all four of our Atlantic Provinces enjoyed Damian Cooper and his lessons in "Developing Assessment Literacy in Your School".

POINT (Professional Orientation and Induction of New Teachers) held sessions around the province during the last two weeks of July. We hope that those teachers who gave of their summer to pick up some tips on how best to support teachers entering our profession will be able to put their skills to good use this fall!

The month of August saw

several NBers off to Corner Brook, Newfoundland to take part in CONTACT (Conference on New Teaching and Classroom Techniques) the focus of this year's event was Differentiated Instruction and a special shout out goes to Erma Brian of Oromocto High School who shared her expertise in this area with her presentation, "Strapping on the Differentiated Toolbelt".

Volunteer teachers who serve in the capacity of Branch President or NBTA Executive members also spent time with us in August for various training and orientation sessions.

There were also countless Department of Education, District and School led initiatives that occurred over the summer months, I will mention a few that were on a fairly large scale and involve many of our teachers: Teacher Learning Week was held in August and the third cohort of the New Brunswick Educational Leadership Academy beginning their two-year journey together.

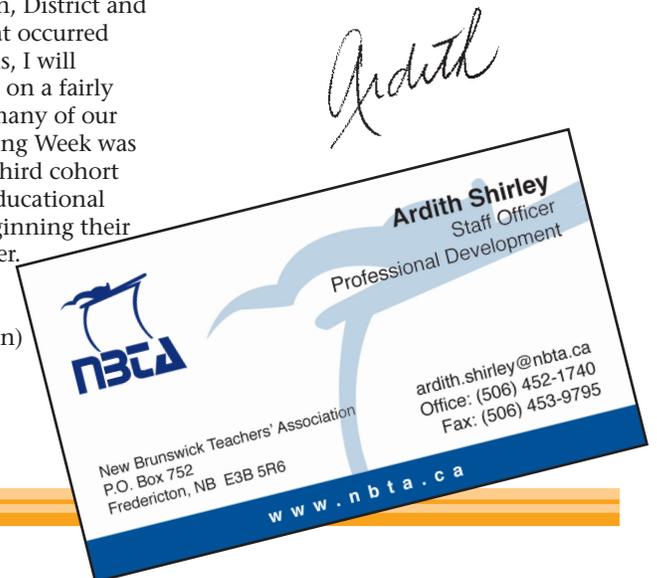
As well, Solution Tree organized RTI Training (Response to Intervention) in both St. Stephen and Moncton.

Along with all of the above events, countless

teachers participated in the over 20 face to face opportunities for summer learning that were offered by our New Brunswick Universities. Still others choose to study at universities such as Oxford and Harvard! Countless more participated in online courses. Many others enrolled in conferences and workshops around the globe.

All this to illustrate that for many of our teachers, summer "vacation" was spent in much the same way that every other day of our school year is spent – growing, living and learning as professionals.

Where did the summer go? Here's to another great school year!



May I Recommend?

21st Century Skills: The Challenges Ahead by Andrew J. Rotherham and Daniel Willingham found online in **Best of Educational Leadership 2009–2010**, Pages 16-21 (August)

Learning Together: A Teachers Guide to Combined Grades. A practical guide created by experienced combined-grade teachers from the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario. To order, visit [shopetfo.etfo.ca>publications](http://shopetfo.etfo.ca/publications)

Closing Quote:

"Excellence in education is when we do everything we can to make sure they become everything that they can."
— Carol Ann Tomlinson

Website of the Month:

moodle.org