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**Next Final Copy Deadline
For NBTA News:
Friday, February 3**



National Inclusive Education Achievement Awards

NB Association for Community Living Announces Winners

(Fredericton) The Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL), a Canada-wide association of family members and others, works on behalf of persons of all ages who have an intellectual disability, announced the New Brunswick recipients of the National Inclusive Education Achievement Awards at a ceremony held recently at Killarney Lake Lodge in Fredericton.

The Inclusive Education Achievement Awards are presented to an individual or team who has made a positive contribution to inclusive education in their province or territory. Winners for each province were selected by provincial and territorial Associations for Community Living. Award recipients from New



(l-r) Carla Fournier, a teacher at Nashwaak Valley Elementary School and Hon. Madeleine Dubé

Brunswick are: Carla Fournier, a teacher at Nashwaak Valley Elementary School in Durham Bridge, and Centennial Elementary School in Woodstock.

This year, two new categories, entitled *Partnership for Inclusion and Progress Towards Inclusion*, were added to the list.

The *Partnership for Inclusion Award* recognizes individuals who, through their partnership, have made a positive impact on their school or community by promoting inclusive education. This year's recipients are Patricia Lavoie and Al Cassie, who partnered with the staff of Beaverbrook School in Moncton to broaden school and community awareness about the value of



(l-r) Marlene Munn - NBACL Vice-President; Centennial Elementary School Principal - Robert MacNally, and Hon. Madeleine Dubé

inclusion.

The *Progress Toward Inclusion* award recognizes a group or an individual who has made great strides to improve inclusion within their school. This year's recipients are John Yerxa, Elaine Campbell-Bentley and Susan Crossley, staff of the Kennebecasis Valley High School Student Services Department. They were acknowledged for their work to successfully revamp the high school's Student Services Department with the goal of enhancing the inclusion and participation of students with an intellectual disability.

"It takes strong leadership, collaboration and the willingness of parents, teachers, students and the

community to make inclusive education work," says NBACL Executive Director, Krista Carr.

"The winners of this year's awards are being recognized for their outstanding commitment to inclusive education and for the positive impact they have made, not only on their schools, but within their communities," she adds.

Marlene Munn, NBACL Vice-President, says the popularity of the awards is growing each year.

"This is proof-positive that the commitment to Inclusive Education is growing and the many teachers, students, administrators and community members who are working to improve and promote it are being recognized for their

achievements," says Munn.

NB Education Minister, Madeleine Dubé, presented the awards along with NBACL Vice-President, Marlene Munn.

NB Director of Student Services Robert Gerard, Executive Director for the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons Executive Director, Randy Dickinson, and Chair of the NB Human Rights Commission, Gordon Porter, also attended the ceremonies.

NBACL/ANBIC is a non-profit organization which works on behalf of children and adults with an intellectual disability and their families. NBACL/ANBIC was formed in 1957 and has 16 local branches throughout the province of New Brunswick.



(l-r) Marlene Munn - NBACL Vice-President, Al Cassie and Patricia Lavoie - parents, Hon. Madeleine Dubé (presenting the award), and Marilyn McAllister-Munn, Beaverbrook School Principal



(l-r) Marlene Munn, NBACL Vice-President; KVHS Department of Student Services staff Elaine Campbell-Bentley, Susan Crossley, John Yerxa; and Hon. Madeleine Dubé

Moving? Name Change? Not Getting Your NBTA News? LET US KNOW!

In order to keep our NBTA members' database as accurate as possible, it is important that you advise the NBTA Communications Department (Carlene Merrick, 452-1833) of any changes such as marital status, home address, school location, phone number, etc., as soon as possible. This is necessary to ensure that all mailings reach our members and that our nominal roll is up to date for voting purposes. Initial information is collected on the green registration forms, but changes occur. Many of these changes occur during the summer months.



We do not receive this updated information through any other source, so please keep us informed of any changes.

Thank you for your assistance in helping us serve you better.

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Indu Varma

Welcome back! I extend my best wishes to you for a very Happy New Year!!

With the start of every new calendar year surfaces the idea of improvements in the form of New Year Resolutions - reexamination of previous performance, analysis of past experience, refocusing of goals, and charting out future directions. This very idea of improvement, learning lessons from failure is the precursor of success that Michael Jordan speaks about. It encapsulates the very spirit of the work teachers do. With perseverance, hard work, and patience we strive to construct that rainbow at the end of which lies a successful future for our children. I say a rainbow, because despite our best efforts attaining success in the current inclusive education model becomes an elusive goal some times.

I attended a national conference hosted by Canadian Teachers' Federation entitled, "Building Inclusive Schools", which focused on having schools that would ensure everyone's right to be in a safe, welcoming, supportive and caring environment that supports learning and growth.

We, as teachers have embraced this philosophy of inclusion. However, during the past few years in addition to the academics, student behavior and discipline related issues have added to our challenges and frustration. How much disruptive and unacceptable behavior should we tolerate, was a question asked of me recently. Yes, our children have a right to learn and grow in a safe, caring, and supportive environment, but

Teaching for Diversity and Inclusion

I have missed more than 9000 shots. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions I have been entrusted to take the game - winning shot - and I missed. I have failed over and over again in my life. And that is precisely why I succeed.

—Michael Jordan

teachers too have the same right. If you haven't already done so, familiarize yourself with policy 703, the Positive Learning Environment Policy (available on line). In addition, "Yes You Can" pamphlet, based on the same policy, may also be available from your school rep or school principal. Every teacher received this in the fall of 2002.

"Inclusive education is nothing more than good teaching for all students," says Christopher Kliever. New Brunswick teachers have been doing just that, however, the severe under funding of the system is making it extremely difficult for us to continue meeting the needs of our children. We need adequate resources, support, programs, and services to enable us to do this job well. When I attended the ceremony to celebrate the International Day of the Disabled on Dec. 2nd, 2005, I once again took the opportunity to lobby on your behalf and stated the above.

By the time you get this edition of NBTA News, Prof. Wayne MacKay would have submitted his final report to the Department of Education. He spent 11 months doing extensive consultations with various stakeholders including NBTA, visiting schools in Finland and probing into the integrated service delivery model of Saskatchewan, called School Plus.

The good news is that our Minister of Education, Hon. Madeleine Dubé, has assured me that NBTA will be consulted as the Department of Education prepares an implementation plan. Since the throne speech declared education to be a major priority of our government, I am hopeful that Mackay report recommendations would be well supported by suitable funding measures.

I attended the "Healthy Schools" conference held in Fredericton recently, which focused on making

schools safe and healthy where all individuals can learn, grow and work in a bullying and harassment free environment. The conference also focused on the dramatic rise of obesity in young people and various health problems associated with it. New Brunswick government has recently introduced a Healthier Foods and Nutrition in Public Schools policy 711. This is a positive first step. It has been brought to Hon. Madeleine Dubé's attention that an increase in the amount of Phys Ed in schools offered by trained Phys Ed teachers would further demonstrate the seriousness of the Govt.'s commitment.

I had the privilege of communicating the teachers' views at the Policy Round Table meeting held in Halifax. SAE (Society for Advancement of Excellence in Education) report entitled, "A Policy Maker's Guide: Parent and Teacher Views on Education", is based on a survey of over 2000 Canadian parents and teachers. Though the report focused on nine key issues in education, it neglected to focus on one of the biggest educational issues across Canada - inclusive education. The report generated a lot of discussion on the cost versus benefits of reducing class size, accountability and standardized tests. The lack of depth in the report caused concern for the policy makers also.

In December I visited schools and heard your concerns first hand. Class composition, overwhelming workload, ESEP related problems, student behavior, and fundraising to support school programs surfaced as areas of concern. Your concerns are communicated to the politicians regularly so that we may enlist their support as we strive to teach for diversity and inclusion.

Our children are worth it!

2005-2006 NBTA PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS REGISTRATION FORM

Please accept my application to attend the NBTA Pre-Retirement Seminar to be held on (check one):

DATE OF SEMINAR _____

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION _____

____ January 21- Miramichi, Dr. Losier Middle School
 ____ February 4 - Sussex, Sussex High School

January 13
 January 27

Name of Teacher: _____ S.I. No. _____

Mailing Address: _____ Dist. _____

____ Name of Spouse (if attending) _____
 (If spouse is a teacher, please fill out a separate form)

No. of pension years you will have accumulated to June 2006 _____ Certificate Level: _____

Are you planning to buy back time? _____ If "yes", how much time? _____

Do you have Responsibility Allowance? Yes _____ No _____ (If "yes", contact your payroll officer at your District Office and have your last 5 years' salary history faxed to Karen Vautour, 453-9795)

I am enclosing a cheque in the amount of \$5.00 / \$10.00 (please circle one) to cover the cost of registration; nutrition break, and materials to be supplied. Please make cheque payable to **New Brunswick Teachers' Association**.

I hereby authorize the NBTA to obtain information from the Public Service Employee Benefits Division pertaining specifically to my pensionable service records. This information will be utilized to prepare my individual pension estimates for retirement purpose only.

YES NO

Signature: _____

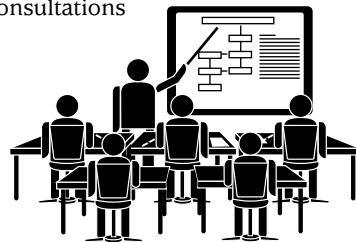
SEMINAR GUIDELINES

The following guidelines should be noted for participation in these seminars:

1. All participants must pre-register.
2. A registration fee of \$5.00 for each participant must accompany the application; however, cheques will not be cashed until after the workshop.
3. Travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the participant.
4. A nutrition break will be provided.
5. Questions relating to these seminars should be directed to: **Larry Jamieson**
Director of Teacher Welfare Services
New Brunswick Teachers' Association
P.O. Box 752
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6 (Tel. 452-1722)
6. Any interested teachers are eligible to attend.
7. All workshops begin with registration at 8:30 am and sessions at 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. (*Except Bristol, where registration will begin at 5:00pm -- Seminar at 5:30pm*)
8. Detach and return the registration form as soon as possible.

PROGRAM _____

- Teachers' Pension Act
- The Canada Pension Plan
- Pension Records (will be available at meeting if possible)
- Pension Calculations
- Old Age Security
- Retirement Allowance
- Pre-retirement Vacations
- Deferred Salary Leave Plans
- Financial Planning for Retirement:
 - RRSPs
 - Annuities
 - Registered Retirement Income Funds
- Individual Consultations



PLEASE NOTE: YOU WILL RECEIVE CONFIRMATION WITHIN ONE WEEK OF CONFERENCE.

Are You Eligible to Retire?

By Larry Jamieson, NBTA Director, Teacher Welfare Services

The New Brunswick Teachers' Pension Act (TPA) provides that a teacher becomes eligible to retire on an immediate pension:

- (a) at age 65 with 5 or more years of pensionable service (no reduction)
- (b) at age 60 with 5 or more years of pensionable service. (Pension reduced 5 per cent per year for each year under age 65)
- (c) at age 60 with 20 or more years of pensionable service. (no reduction)
- (d) when the combination of a teacher's age and service reaches 80 (reduced pension). (Reduction will be 2.5% for each index year that retirement precedes age/service index of 87).
- (e) when a combination of a teacher's age and service equals 87 (no reduction)
- (f) after completing 35 years of pensionable service (full pension)



Larry Jamieson

Below is a checklist of things you should do when you have decided to stop teaching and receive your pension:

- If you are unsure of your pension service, check with the Public Service Employees Benefits Division, Office of Human Resources (Pensions Branch) to make sure that you are indeed eligible for retirement. Include your Social Insurance Number (SIN) and birth certificate in any communication with the Pensions Branch.
- Notify your Superintendent, in writing, of your intention to retire (the Regulations of the *Education Act* now stipulate this notification be communicated as of February 1st):
 - (a) specify the date of retirement (always at end of the month - e.g., June 30, 2006);
 - (b) provide information so that your retirement allowance can be forwarded to the financial institution of your choice.

Note: In the case of a disability pension, these steps will only occur once the teacher has received approval for his/her disability pension from the Compensation & Employee Benefits Division, Office of Human Resources.

- Make arrangements with a financial institution to have your retirement allowance placed in a RRSP account or any other registered investment mechanism. The banking institution, trust company or credit union, etc. will then undertake the necessary steps (complete TD2 form) so that the amount is deposited directly into a RRSP account without going through your hands. Otherwise you might end up paying tax at a high rate on that amount.
- If you are age 60 or over, do not forget to apply for the Canada Pension (CPP).

Forms to fill out at District Office:

1. Termination Notice / Benefit Request — Claim for pension benefits (copy of birth certificate(s) required)
2. TD1 — Personal exemptions for income tax purposes after retirement
3. Direct Deposit form.
4. NBTF Group Insurance form indicating what you plan to do regarding your group insurance coverage. This will allow the Compensation & Employee Benefits Division to make the necessary deductions from your pension cheque.

Note: It is important that the Compensation & Employee Benefits Division receive the necessary forms properly filled out (notice of termination and TD1) at least 90 days prior to the month you expect to receive your pension. The School District will look after sending these forms where appropriate.

**Pension cheques are received on the 23rd/24th of each month, except December.
For any additional information on the above process, please contact:**

Larry Jamieson
New Brunswick Teachers'
Association
P.O. Box 752
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6
Tel. 452-1722

OR

Compensation & Employee
Benefits Division
Office of Human Resources
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5H1
Tel. 453-2296 or 1-800-561-4012

Please notify NBTA Central Office as soon as possible if you have decided to retire. This will help us prepare for the provincial Retiring Teachers' Luncheon, which will be held at the Aitken Centre, University of New Brunswick campus on Saturday, May 27th.

Ten Steps to Financial Wellness

\$\$\$ (Financial Planning For Beginners) \$\$\$

Date of Seminar

January 26 - Fredericton
 January 31 - Sussex
 February 21 - St. Stephen

Deadline for Registration

January 12
 January 16
 February 6

Topics Include:

- * Debt Reduction * Insurance Needs * Teachers' Pension * Savings

The following guidelines should be noted for participation in these seminars:

1. All participants must pre-register.
2. A registration fee of \$5.00 for each participant must accompany the application; however, cheques will not be cashed until after the workshop.
3. Travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the participant.
4. Questions relating to these seminars should be directed to:

Melinda Cook
 Director of Curriculum and Finance
 New Brunswick Teachers' Association
 P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB E3B 5R6 (Tel. 452-1739)
 E-mail: cookm@nb.aibn.com



5. Any interested teachers and guests are eligible to attend.
6. All workshops run from 6:30pm - 9:00pm.
7. Detach and return the registration form as soon as possible.

\$\$\$

REGISTRATION FORM

* Ten Steps to Financial Wellness *

\$\$\$

Please accept my application to attend the Ten Steps to Financial Wellness Seminar to be held on (check one):

Date of Seminar

- January 17 - Miramichi
 ----- January 26 - Fredericton
 ----- January 31 - Sussex
 ----- February 21 - St. Stephen

Deadline for Registration

- December 23
 ----- January 12
 ----- January 16
 ----- February 6

Location

- Lakeview Inns (Newcastle)
 ----- NBTF Building
 ----- Amsterdam Inn
 ----- Board Office (St. Stephen)



Name of Teacher _____ District _____

Mailing Address _____

Name of Guest _____ Contact Number _____

I am enclosing a cheque (payable to NBTA) in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the cost of the nutrition break and materials.

Signature _____ Date _____

NBTA Professional Courses – Winter & Spring –

Below is a partial list of NBTA Professional Courses which will be available in the coming months.

- All courses are applicable to a Certificate 5 (or if you already hold a Masters degree, the courses may be used towards a Certificate 6). Courses may be taken also for professional or personal interest.
- Fee for all courses is \$375 payable by cheque dated the first day of the course. Make all cheques payable to NBTA.
- All courses require 36 hours of instruction.
- Full description of each course is available at www.plsweb.com. Click Graduate Courses.
- Maximum seats per course: 24 (minimum numbers are required for a course to run).

DM06WJKF — Designing Motivation for All Learners

Dates: Weekends, Friday (6-9); Saturday (9-4); Jan. 13/14, Jan. 27/28, Feb. 10/11, Feb. 24/25

Location: George Street Middle School, Fredericton

Instructor: Julie Kilcollins

Description: Design learning experiences and develop effective leadership strategies that promote motivation for all learners. Learn verbal encouragement techniques that reduce student risk and reinforce student effort. Discover how doing meaningful work and achieving goals supports all types of learners.

DM06WPSM — Designing Motivation for All Learners

Dates: Thursday evenings, Jan. 5 - Feb. 23 (5-8), plus 4 Saturday mornings - Jan. 7, Jan. 28, Feb. 11 & Feb. 25 (9-12 noon)

Location: Moncton High School

Instructor: Pam Sheridan

Description: Same as previous course description

MAGIC06SDOF — Meaningful Activities to Generate Interesting Classrooms

Dates: Weekends, Friday (6-9); Saturday (8:30-3:00); Apr. 7/8, Apr. 21/22, Apr. 28/29, May 12/13

Location: George Street Middle School, Fredericton

Instructor: Derek O'Brien

Description: This is an exciting hands-on course that offers teachers opportunities to learn about and acquire a multitude of engaging activities that go beyond the textbook and worksheet. Participation in over 60 activities will give you practise in creating, evaluating and adapting ideas to your own specific curriculum needs.

LR06SKPR — Learning to Read: Beginning Reading Instruction

Dates: Weekends, Friday evenings & Saturdays; April/May — Exact dates TBA

Location: Kennebecasis Valley High School, Rothesay

Instructor: Kathy Prosser

Description: Improve student reading achievement by using a balanced and integrated approach. Explore the latest reading research and connect it to practical strategies to help struggling readers. Learn strategies for both decoding and comprehension. This course will give teachers of all grades a better understand of how reading can be taught.

NBTA Sponsored Professional Course Registration Form

Name: _____ Current Certificate Level: _____

Home Address: _____

School: _____

Phone Number(s): Home: _____ School: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Do you check e-mail daily? _____

Course details:

Course Title: _____

Course Number: _____ Location: _____ Course Instructor: _____

Will you be taking this course for:
Certification Credit _____ or Professional Development _____

Do you require any special considerations (access, visual/auditory support etc.)?

Please mail registration form with \$375 payment to:
Nancy Roach, Director of Professional Development, NBTA
PO Box 752, Fredericton, NB E3B 5R6

Try It – You Might Like It

By Nancy Roach
Director of Professional Development
roachn@nbnet.nb.ca

So, welcome to a new year! At this juncture in the school year I often encourage teachers to ‘try something new’ in keeping with the usual theme of renewal that comes with the season. But trying something new can be fraught with frustration. (I love alliterations.) Research indicates that many innovations we attempt go the way of our annual resolutions.....you know, the diets, the exercise programs, the more frequent visits to your mother...usually abandoned long before the year has reached the half-way point.

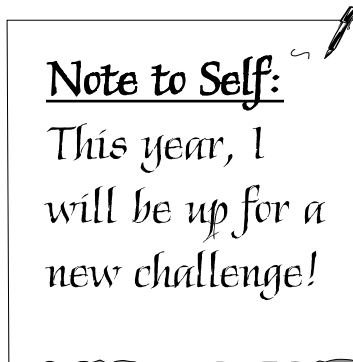
Attempting to add something new to our repertoire of teaching strategies, to implement a change in our practice, is much easier said than done. Experts have spent decades studying the change process and the phenomenon of the “implementation dip” is well documented. After a new strategy or procedure is implemented, there is usually a noticeable dip in performance. It is a case of things getting worse before they get better as the students become accustomed to the new approach and the teacher hones the technique which makes the implementation more effective.

Stephen Barkley, author of a great little book called “**Wow: Adding Pizzazz to Teaching and Learning**” suggests that good teachers have a lot of trouble with this temporary dip in results. Good teachers are accustomed to being successful, to having things go a certain way. But just as good companies must experience this dip if they want to move from ‘good to great’ (another good book there!), so must good teachers be willing to put up with the short-term downturn if they want to achieve even greater success.

Barkley recommends that teachers and teams who are attempting to implement a new

approach spend some time brainstorming what will probably go wrong during the implementation dip. This prediction phase can help teachers prepare and deal with things going wrong and increases the chances that the implementation will be successful.

It is even more likely that your new idea or strategy will work well and become a lasting part of your classroom practice if you implement it collaboratively with a colleague or team, and work through the challenges together.



So now that you understand one of the major challenges in implementing a new idea, are you up for that challenge? Below is a set of interesting strategies that I have stumbled upon (or outright stolen) that you might want to try. All have been developed by effective classroom teachers and are based on best practices research.

- **Writing Bingo:** Fill a 25 square grid with different writing tasks such as recipe, short story, instructions, greeting card, newspaper article, letter to a teacher, skit /scene, etc. Have students complete any line of ‘bingo’ in the month (gives students choices - known to be a factor in motivation).
- **Bingo Part 2:** Use a blank bingo grid and list below it 25-30 word/terms related to a recent lesson or unit. Have students work in pairs to insert the words

randomly into the squares, discussing each term to make sure they understand their meanings. As you teach the review lesson (maybe for an upcoming test?) have the students X off each word as you use it. Students call bingo when they have a straight line. They must be able to explain any one of the words you ask for in order to claim their prize (any little things will do). (Increases understanding, retention and engagement).

- **Windshield Check:** Develop an approach to having students indicate their understanding of a concept recently taught using the metaphor of the car windshield. *Clear* means “I get it”. *Bugs:* “I get it for the most part but still have a few questions.” *Mud:* I still don’t get it. (Other metaphors will work: Weather report- sunny skies, few high clouds, fog and smog; Dip stick Oil Check - full, half-full, needs oil) By using this sort of checking mechanism, you can easily get students used to grouping and regrouping. This is really effective if you have 3 follow up activities ready, one for each group that will either extend, reinforce or remediate the groups. (differentiation and self-assessment).
- **I Pass:** Develop a safe procedure that allows a student to “pass” on an activity or turn. A simple hand gesture similar to a “stop” from a traffic cop can quietly indicate to the teacher that the student isn’t ready to respond. This spares the student the embarrassment of being called on when he/she doesn’t understand or is unprepared (brain-friendly safe and respectful environments encourage participation and increase motivation).
- **Create Community:** Instead of creating issues around not having

a pencil or not being on the right page (or any other of the many annoying habits students display), try saying "Please make sure that everyone around you has a piece of paper. Please make sure that everyone around you is on page 24." Students will check on and remind each other, share writing utensils and eliminate many small individual disruptions (safe environments, procedures).

- **Not Yet:** Try creating a sense of "Not Learned Yet" as opposed to 'failure'. This can be done with a number of strategies including allowing students to redo tests and assignments (provided they demonstrate that they have done something in the interim that would prepare them for greater achievement (i.e, attended help classes, verifiable additional study, etc.). Make the final column on your rubrics **incomplete**, rather than **unacceptable**. The former offers a sense of hope, that you believe the student can and will succeed; the latter encourages kids to give up (research on Assessment FOR learning).

There are hundreds of successful strategies that teachers can and do use to continue to create more effective classrooms where students are active participants. Changing your ways isn't nearly as easy as flipping the calendar to a new year, but if you don't, then every year feels just like every other, and that's not a good thing for either you or your students.

High School Challenges

The recent announcement from our sister province of Ontario about attempts to deal with an abysmal dropout rate makes an article in the November 2005 issue of *Principal Leadership* very timely. **Reduce Your Dropouts: It's Not as Hard as You Think** gives voice to students who have dropped out of school and offers their suggestions as to what would have made the difference. In the same issue, one school tells of its very interesting approach to

intolerant behavior, especially related to racial slurs and put-downs. Any school could adopt their model which veers away from the punish-and-it-will-go-away approach. Read **An Immediate Response Protocol for Addressing Intolerant Behavior** to see what they do.

Half-Truths About Schools

In *What Educators Need to Explain to the Public* (*Phi Delta Kappan* October 2005), the author outlines 17 myths and half truths that need to be refuted and discussed. This is an article that should be shared with parent groups and staffs. It challenges the notion that schools should be 'like they used to be', that tests are the only way to measure success, that teachers can just fix kids if we just work harder, and it looks at the patterns of blame that often permeate education (it's the parent's fault, or it's the teacher's fault!) This is a very readable piece.

Educational Leadership Theme: Reading Comprehension

The October 2005 issue of this great journal is dedicated to Reading Comprehension. It is a "must read" for everyone involved with literacy (and that's everyone, isn't it?). I have selected two interesting articles to reference, but many are very good. **"Making Sense of Online Text"** is a unique approach to helping students become more savvy about searching and using websites. The author has provided actual lessons and templates to use with students to develop these critical skills for the new media literacy. **Learning From What Doesn't Work** debunks several strategies that have proven to be not successful with helping older students develop comprehension skill.

Educational Leadership Theme: Assessment FOR Learning

I was delighted to see that the November 2005 issue of *Ed Leadership* has a focus of Assessment FOR learning, a personal passion of mine. It is one of those "if I went back I would do it differently" themes for me. Once again the entire issue has real merit but I am

recommending **Helping Students Understand Assessment** by Jan Chappius (she works with Rick Stiggins, one of the leading experts in this field), and **Seven Practices for Effective Learning** (Jay McTighe and Ken O'Connor). The latter article is perfect for a staff to use as a way of looking at best practices in this area.

Welcome New Exchange Teacher

Many of you have heard me recommend teacher exchanges as one of the most incredible professional opportunities available. Two more teachers are embarking on this experience. We welcome Australian teacher **Angela Omara Burgess** who arrived January 1 from Brisbane, Australia to take over the class (and home) of NB teacher Nancy Ward from Priestman Street School in Fredericton. Best wishes to these teachers. I am confident that 2006 will be memorable for them both!

If you want more info on exchange opportunities, visit www.ceef.ca.

I Emailed Nancy Roach and She Didn't Answer!

Imagine my horror when I discovered that the Department of Education had established an email account for me in order to give me access to the Portal. I did not realize the account existed and therefore I never checked it, so I was aghast when I stumbled upon 5 pages of emails, dated as far back as last January, that I had never received or acknowledged! Please accept my apologies if you emailed that address and didn't get a reply. I work hard to keep up to date with the hundreds of emails that come my way and feel terrible that some of you out there must think otherwise! The account is now on Forward to my 'real' address, roachn@nbnet.nb.ca.

Closing Quote: "...adding a WOW experience can generate learning in a way that is novel, exciting and motivating. I am confident that there are as many more WOWs out there as there are creative teachers and administrators to invent them."

—Stephen Barkley
("Wow" Adding Pizzazz to Teaching and Learning)

Elementary Council News



Happy New Year!

Happy 2006! I trust everyone had a great holiday, are well rested, and ready to start the New Year. Your Elementary Council met on the weekend of Dec 2nd and 3rd (in Sackville) in preparation for our May Council Day. This year promises to be a great one, and there will be something available for everyone. A list of speakers will be announced in the coming months. Mount Allison

also boosts a new university residence. For those of you who plan to come and stay the night before the conference, we feel you will be quite pleased with the accommodations available on campus. There will also be a social the night before the conference, which promises to be a "happening" time.

In December of last year, Sussex Corner Elementary hosted a "Polar

Express" day for the entire school. It was a wonderful day filled with magic all around. Vice-principal and Elementary Council Vice President Sandra Tingley even went so far as to call Via Rail to enquire about a cost to travel to the North Pole! Here is a comment about the day from Doug Bobbitt – Principal of Sussex Corner Elementary School:

... see below

All Aboard...

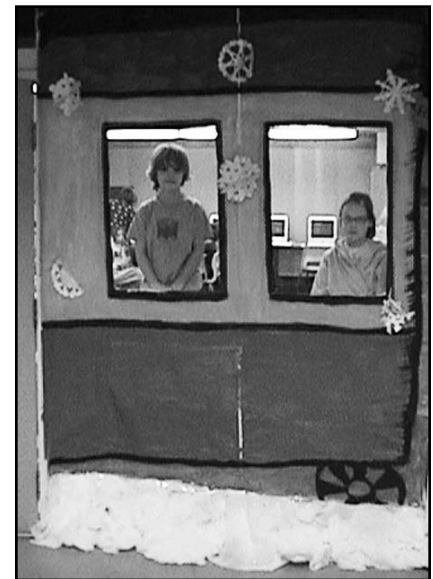
The Polar Express arrived at Sussex Corner Elementary School on December 7, 2005 for The Sussex Corner Polar Express Literacy Day. The children dressed in their pajamas; tickets in hand were ready to board The Polar Express. Each class followed the signs and went to

wonderful story of "The Polar Express" by Chris Van Allsburg. After exiting the reading car each child was given a bell and then proceeded to the dining car for hot chocolate and snacks. Children then wrote about their wish for the first gift of Christmas.

Before this big day children worked on lots of cross curricular activities involving the book.

Imaginations were in full use on this Polar Express Literacy Day. The book was brought to life by our guest conductors Mayor Garth Long and Gary Morris and our guest readers who are all part of School District 6 - Zoë Watson - Superintendent, Andrew Hopper- Director of Education, Gary Hall – Supervisor, Barb Howard – Student Services, Sheila Smith – Vice Principal S.E.S., Pat

Stout – S.R.H.S. and Peter Wiggins – S.M.S. One grade 1 student holding the bell to her ear remarked, " I hear the ringing, I believe in Christmas." It is the wish of the students and



Lucas Payne (left) and Karley Wiggins (right), two grade 3 students, waving from the window of the dining car of the Polar Express.



District 6 Superintendent, Zoë Watson, reads to the Kindergarten classes.

the platform. Their tickets were punched by the Express Conductor and then they boarded the train for an adventure. Once inside the train car a guest reader shared the

staff of Sussex Corner Elementary that the bell still rings for you who truly believe! Merry Christmas to all!

ADHD Conference

Jean White, a member of the Elementary Council, attended a worthwhile conference in November. Here are her comments:

On November 25th, a conference was held at the Saint John Regional Hospital, New Approaches for Professionals

Working with Individuals with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. The conference was well-attended by health care workers,

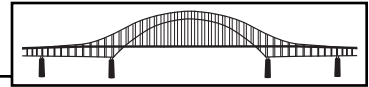
educators and parents. The focus for the day was on the cognitive and academic weaknesses inherent in the individual with ADHD, with a

specific emphasis on the significance of inattention and working memory. A review of general characteristics of ADHD as seen in classrooms K-12 and tips and strategies for working with individuals with ADHD were

also discussed. The presenters included: Dr. Rosemary Tannock, Sick Children's Hospital and University of Toronto; Dr. Ahmed MD, ADHD Clinic in Nova Scotia; Dr. Susan Jerrott of IWK; and Beth

Keyes, District #8. These presenters were very knowledgeable and provided useful information and strategies to those who presented.

Middle Level Council News



Welcome

Jason Burns, District 8 (Saint John)
and
Kelly Stackhouse, District 6 (Sussex)

Thank You & Goodbye

Tanya Murray, District 8 (Saint John).
Thanks Tanya for your support while working with the Middle Level Council.

NBTA Middle Level Council – Call for Presenters

Council Day, May 5, 2006 — Bathurst



- Do you have an idea or suggestion for a topic, speaker or a divided session?
- Would you like to present a session at our Council Day?



Contact: kathy.grebenc@nbed.nb.ca

Council Members

<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Email</i>
Sandy MacCurdy President	Campbellton Middle	sandy.maccurdy@nbed.nb.ca
John Irvine Vice-President	Woodstock Middle	irvinjod@nbed.nb.ca
Marsha Cogle Secretary	Bath Middle	cougmars@nbed.nb.ca
Stacy Garland Treasurer	Queen Elizabeth	garlastl@nbed.nb.ca
Tanya Whitney Past President	Brown's Flat School	tanya.whitney@nbed.nb.ca
Kathy Grebenc Council Chair	Superior Middle	kathy.grebenc@nbed.nb.ca
Stacey Price	George Street Middle	stacey.price@nbed.nb.ca
Linda Maxwell	Queen Elizabeth	maxwelil@nbed.nb.ca
Kelly Stackhouse	Sussex Middle	kelly.stackhouse@nbed.nb.ca
Jason Burns	Prince Charles School	jasonj.burns@nbed.nb.ca
Cynthia Crowhurst	Bath Middle School	cynthia.crowhurst@nbed.nb.ca

Middle Level Council Teacher Recognition Awards

Please look for our new awards nomination form, appearing in the February and March newsletters. Our awards are intended to recognize teachers who put that extra initiative into their profession, benefitting and enriching the lives of our students. Awards are presented at Council Day.



Middle Level Council Special Education Conference

Location : Woodstock
When: April 20 (evening), April 21 (all day), 2006

Focus will be on Alcohol Fetal Syndrome and Effects, as well as classroom planning for those on Accommodated and Modified SEP's.

Further information will be available in the next *NBTA News*.



Council Day Shaping UP

On behalf of the Middle Level Council, Superior Middle School would like to invite everyone to the 2006 May 5 Middle Level Council Day at Bathurst High School. Come to the north and enjoy our hospitality while learning new ideas. The roster looks great and should be in everyone's hands well before March break.

First, let me thank all of you who have willingly pledged to present. Each has great ideas and the breadth of the curriculum is well represented. We are planning to have a keynote speaker — Katharine Brooks, who promises to be entertaining as well as thoughtful. She will be followed by the Middle Level Council presentations to teachers who have gone beyond the

call of duty. Three divided sessions are scheduled so lots of practical suggestions may be had.

This year middle level teachers will be able to pay their fees on line but must register for the actual sessions using the hard copy. There will be more information to follow but the Middle Level Council Executive hopes paying on line will make it easier for everyone.

For your information, the Atlantic Host will be the official hotel but rooms are also reserved at the Lakeview Inn and Suites. Rooms have been set aside, so mention you are with the NBTA Middle Level Teachers.

Kathy Grebenc
Middle Level Council Day Chair

High School Council News



• *High School Council* •

President's Message



Derek Taggart

It seems hard to believe, but here we are approaching exam time! Before you know it winter will be over, the sun will be shining, and we will all be attending the greatest High School Council Day yet! Your High School Council Executive has been working in conjunction with the extremely dedicated and helpful staff at Bernice MacNaughton High School to bring you a day to remember on Friday May 5th, 2006. Your Program Committee is now pouring through the requests to present at Council Day and the On-site Committee is busily preparing for the province to descend upon the Hub City. Remember, it is never too early to think about booking your hotel room in Moncton!

Your High School Council Executive met in Fredericton on Saturday November 26th. The agenda was packed with items concerning High School Council Day, teacher professional development and curriculum assistance. At this meeting, a number of important decisions were made including the use of electronic registration for the first time at the May Council Day. Following in the footsteps of last year's Combined Council Conference, this year you will be able to register online. In the near future, there will be a link available on the NBTA Website that allows you to register using a credit card. You will still be able to register the old-fashioned way using a cheque and paper registration form if you prefer. The Executive also made a decision to send out all registration materials prior to the Conference. All members will receive a nametag and receipt in

their school mailbox. This nametag will be your ticket into the Council Day. Please do not forget to bring it with you on May 5th!!! Look for more information regarding electronic registration in future issues of the NBTA News.

The Professional Development Committee is also busy preparing several institutes that will be of interest to many of our members. An Automotive Institute will take place in February followed by an institute dealing with the use of Smart Boards and another dealing with Culinary, Nutrition, Hospitality and Tourism later in the year. Look for updates and application forms in upcoming issues of the NBTA News.

I would like to conclude this article by again encouraging you all to check out our High School Council website. It is located in a link on the NBTA website. It is here that you will find application forms for Educational Improvement Grants

and Teacher Recognition Awards. It is also here where updates regarding the High School Council Day Program and Electronic Registration will be posted. Check back frequently!

Your High School Council Executive will be having its third

meeting during the evening of Friday February 10th and the morning of Saturday February 11th to discuss new business and plan for May 5th and the upcoming institutes. If you ever have any items you would like to see included on an agenda for these meetings

please do not hesitate to contact me (derek.taggart@nbed.nb.ca) or any of your other High School Executive members. I hope you all have a wonderful exam period. I look forward to seeing you all at Council Day!

—Derek

High School Council Institutes

Look for these up-coming institutes in future issues of NBTA News.

➔ **Smart Boards**
Date TBA

Contact Grant Hendry at hendrkeg@nbed.nb.ca for further information.

➔ **Culinary/Nutrition/Hospitality & Tourism**
Date TBA

Contact Lynn Steeves at steevlyj@nbed.nb.ca for further information.

High School Teacher Recognition Awards

The High School Council will present up to ten awards at our AGM on May 5. It is never too early to start considering one of your colleagues for one of these awards. Nominated teachers are teachers who have shown a substantial positive contribution to any or all of the following: School Environment; School Spirit; Student Learning Opportunities; Teacher Morale; Individual Student Development; Professional Activities. Winners will receive a certificate/plaque, \$200.00 and their picture in the *NBTA News*.

Fill out the nomination form below or go on-line to the High School Council website, <http://highschool.nbta.ca>. **The deadline for submitting nominations is March 31, 2006.**

This is a great way to show a teacher that he/she is appreciated for his/her hard work.

Nomination for Annual Teacher Recognition Award

Nominated Teacher: _____

Present School: _____ # of years in profession _____

Please provide a letter of nomination indicating the activities that support the nominee's positive contribution(s). Please have two teachers and an administrator indicate their support by signing the letter.

NBTA member who is making the nomination: _____

Contact Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Candidate's School Administrator: _____



Submit Nominations to:
High School Council Awards Committee Chair
c/o NBTA, P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6



Committee Use Only

Date Received: _____ Nomination Complete: Yes No

Award: Yes No Date: _____ Nominator Informed: Yes No Date: _____

Committee Members: _____, _____, _____, _____

Teacher Recognition Award – Derek Taggart

Derek is currently teaching grades 11 and 12 English and grade 12 Theatre Arts at Leo Hayes High School. He has nine years of experience; just a “youngin” with respect to the teaching profession.

He has taught at Fredericton High School and Upper Miramichi Regional High School. His favourite courses are the ones he is presently teaching; he has also taught English

grades 7-10 and History grades 10 and 11.

Derek is the new president of the High School Council; he is also a member of the Combined Council Coordinating Committee which did such a wonderful job in the fall of 2004. His interest in the languages has led him to participate in the District 18 and Provincial Oratorical Committees. (He will kill me for this,

but you could say that Derek likes to talk! His interests include reading, camping, golf, watching movies and live theatre. He is the proud father of a one-year-old son, Reid William Lawrence Taggart, and the proud husband of Nathalie, an elementary school teacher at Liverpool Street Elementary.

by Nancy K. Vessie



Derek Taggart receives his award from Randy Hunter, 2004-05 High School Council President



High School Council Executive members, Derek Taggart and Helen Crawford, hard at work!

Attention: Automotive Teachers Practical/Affordable Cylinder Head Rebuilding Techniques *Institute for Teachers in Automotive Instruction*

Location: Mactaquac

Date: February 17/2006
(Snow date: February 24)



Instructor: Mr. Frances LeVangie - Automotive Instructor
Fredericton High School

This institute will be a practical hands-on approach to cylinder head rebuilding techniques that any shop can do with a minimal of equipment.

A free textbook for each participant will be provided. Seating is limited.

To register: Tel (506) 458-1383 (h) or (506)-365-2011 (w)
E-mail: jonathan.hunter@nbed.nb.ca
Jonathan Hunter, 878 Route 628, Durham Bridge
NB E6C 1P3

Institute is free! However, to reserve your seat a fee of \$20 (cheque payable to NBTA High School Council) will be required. Cheques will be returned day of institute.

Deadline for registration: January 20/2006

KVHS Receives Award for Promoting Inclusion

Kennebecasis Valley High School in Rothesay believes that inclusion is very important and that there is much work still to be done in New Brunswick.

The Student Services Team at KVHS was presented with an award by the New Brunswick Association for Community Living on December 6, 2005. “We were most pleased to be recognized for the progress that we have made toward inclusion in our school” said John Yerxa, KVHS Department Head Student Services.

“It is our hope that our progress can be an inspiration for other schools to work toward full inclusion. For this reason, we would like the opportunity to share the honour that has been given to us with our colleagues and communities. The recognition given us by the New Brunswick Association for Community Living affixes a very important “stamp of approval” on our efforts to include all students in a full high school experience. By publicizing and celebrating this recognition, we hope it will promote other schools, principals and educators to follow a more inclusive model for their schools.

Submitted by: John Yerxa

Our Teachers Go the Extra Miles

by John Wishart (City Views)

Our education system is driven by outcomes and measurements. Every spring and fall, district administrators, school principals and teachers cross their fingers and inhale deeply as the results of provincial standardized tests are released. They know there's much more to determining how well our children are learning, but to the outside world, that single mark beside a school name can spell shame or glory.

In recent weeks, I've been reminded yet again that the value of our public education system can't be measured solely by standard tests which show curriculum knowledge in a single, staged snapshot. Real learning — and shaping our kids to be well-rounded citizens — often happens as much outside as it does inside the classroom.

I envy teachers twice a year: their two-week Christmas break, and their longer summer break. Every other time of the year, I don't envy them one bit; I pity them.

There are some teachers who look at their time in school as merely a job; but for most, it is a vocation, a calling not that much unlike a religious vocation. Instead of taking vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, teachers take vows of patience, scorn and fatigue.

Over the last week, I've witnessed three small examples of teachers who go the extra mile, people who view their profession as more than an 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. job.

My son is a big basketball fan and we took in a few games in last week's Irving Oil Hoop Classic. Many of the high school coaches are teachers but there was one moment during Saturday's finals at Atlantic Baptist University that has stayed with me.

Moncton High School coach Andrew MacPherson is a new dad. Even though his Purple Knights weren't playing in the final, he was there to attend the closing ceremonies with this team. Instead

of holding a basketball, he was holding something much smaller — his weeks' old baby. I'm sure Andrew had other places to be, other things he might have wanted to be doing with his newborn.

But he was there — not getting paid a penny — to be a mentor to a group of teenage guys who know him as 'Coach'.

"Instead of taking vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, teachers take vows of patience, scorn and fatigue."

Later that same night, my family was at the MHS auditorium to take in the school's excellent production of Little Shop of Horrors. During the intermission, I made my way to the back and noticed a small group of people surrounding someone on the very back bench.

Getting closer, the figure looked familiar but not quite

recognizable. It eventually dawned on me that the man in black was MHS drama teacher, Michael McArdle. A couple of nights earlier, McArdle had been hit by a car while crossing the street outside the school. Timing is everything to an actor, but McArdle's timing was extremely unfortunate, with the school's annual production

scheduled for the next three nights.

McArdle was still in obvious pain, both arms encased in casts at odd angles, his face scraped and bruised, one knee still wonky. But there he was on the musical's closing night, sitting at the very back of the auditorium in the dark, perhaps silently directing his proteges through their paces on stage.

Musical Mike wasn't being paid to be there; he was there because he just had to see his kids, especially his graduating students, strut their stuff one last time.

Later in the week, I picked up my middle daughter from Sunny Brae Middle School, where she

was rehearsing for the school's Christmas concert. I didn't have to search long to find her; I just followed the laughter and voices up the stairs to a second-floor classroom, where music director Monique Cyr sat at a desk, slowly chewing a slice of pizza as Christmas

(... continued on page 23)

Interest-Free Loans

Up to \$1,200.00 in any one school year shall be made available to active members of the Association on leave to improve their professional qualifications through educational programs.

\$\$\$ \$ \$

Application forms are available from:

Melinda Cook

Director of Finance
New Brunswick
Teachers' Association
PO Box 752
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6
Tel: (506) 452-8921

The deadline for applications is

**MARCH
31
2006**

Bullying.org: A Learning Journey

by Bill Belsey

April 20, 1999 was a day that changed my life. It began like many other days, but somewhere along the way, an emotional tsunami overwhelmed me as news emerged of a school shooting at Columbine High School in Middleton, Colorado. Eight days later, a copycat shooting took place at a high school in rural Alberta. This was clearly not a “Big-city” problem or an “American” problem; it was everyone’s problem; as a Canadian parent and educator, it was very much my problem as well.

It became apparent soon afterwards that the young people who committed these heinous acts were relentlessly bullied and teased throughout their young lives.

In response to these deeply disturbing tragedies, I created a web site, www.bullying.org. I decided that the web site would have three goals — first, to help people, especially young people, learn that they are *not* alone in dealing with bullying in their lives, to help them realize that being bullied is *not* their fault and that they *can* do something positive about it.

www.bullying.org allows people to connect in a safe, moderated online community where they can share their stories, poetry, drawings, music, animations and videos. A team of volunteer reviewers moderates replies and the original submissions. Visitors to the web site can also use the world’s largest online database of helpful resources on www.bullying.org to find information about bullying.

www.bullying.org began to quickly create quite a buzz online through “word-of-mouth” referrals, as it was successfully filling a tremendous need for information and support.

Then, on May 21, 2001, I was fortunate enough to do an interview with CBC National Television News anchor Peter Mansbridge, during which Mr. Mansbridge was generous enough to refer to www.bullying.org as “one of the best web sites in the world for young people”; that night, www.bullying.org was propelled to another level.

Internet search engines. www.bullying.org has since been chosen for the ChildNet International Award which goes to projects that make the Internet a better place for youth, as well as being a finalist in the Stockholm Challenge Award which has been called the Nobel Prize of the IT (Information Technology) world.

Shortly after www.bullying.org’s launch, I realized that something new was being experienced and reported by young people around the world. In response, I created www.cyberbullying.ca, the world’s first web site specifically dedicated to the emerging issue of cyberbullying.

www.cyberbullying.ca has often been cited as the first to use this word and define this emerging behaviour.

As I was frequently asked to speak at schools and conferences across Canada about these issues and our work, it became clear that bullying was an issue that was being increasingly discussed from coast to coast to coast.

In 2002 it became obvious to me that we needed something to highlight this issue as an annual, national initiative that would focus on prevention of bullying in our schools and communities through education and awareness. Thus, “National Bullying Awareness Week” was born.

Since I first conceived of this initiative, *Bullying.org Canada* developed a partnership with Family Channel, a Canadian television programmer that is received in nearly five million homes throughout Canada. Together we have partnered to create a highly effective national anti-bullying “Take the Pledge” campaign. In 2004, well over 100,000 Canadian youth had registered as having “Taken the Pledge”. We created and distributed thousands of pledge posters to schools across Canada. We also created a number of very



The national non-profit educational organization, *Bullying.org Canada*, was created shortly thereafter to help support and expand our national vision.

www.bullying.org has since received as many as three quarters of a million visitors and contributors from across Canada and around the world in one month and is listed as one of the top “bullying” referenced web sites in the world by www.google.com and many other

effective video Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that can be seen on Family Channel as well as on the www.bullying.org web site. In May of 2005, the Canadian Public Relations Society recognized this campaign with an "Award of Excellence". In November 2005, a DVD with the video PSAs and an accompanying Teacher's Guide was mailed to over 10,000 schools across Canada.

November 13 to the 18, 2006 will mark the fourth year of this annual national initiative. We will focus on the tremendous leadership potential that youth offer with respect to addressing the issue of bullying in their schools and communities. With this in mind, *Bullying.org Canada* is looking for over 1000 Canadian youth leaders, ages 13 to 18, who would like to be part of Bullying.org Canada's National Peer Power Network. We will provide registered Peer Power youth presenters with a very engaging, free multimedia presentation that

contains research-based information, stories, poems, drawings, music, animations and videos created by young people from across Canada and around the world. The presentation will run approximately 50 minutes in length and is appropriate for ages 8-12. Schools can register to join the National Peer Power Network from January 3 until June 3, 2006. In addition to joining the Peer Power Network of youth presenters during the next National Bullying Awareness Week, we are also hopeful that these same young Canadians will help to provide leadership to address bullying in their schools and communities on an ongoing basis with the support of adults who care about our youth.

We are hopeful that your school would like to have your school's youth leaders join the National Peer Power Network and also participate in other National Bullying Awareness Week activities from November 13 to the 18, 2006.

Teachers can download a free

brochure in PDF format that contains many ideas as to how students, teachers and parents can use www.bullying.org as a safe, supportive, free, non-commercial, and deeply engaging, multimedia teaching and learning resource. This can be found online at http://www.cyberbullying.ca/pdf/Bullying.org_Teaching_Ideas_Pamphlet.pdf

More information about Bullying.org Canada can be found at: http://www.cyberbullying.ca/pdf/Bullying.org_Canada_Inc._Pamphlet.pdf

You can read what others are saying about Bullying.org Canada at: http://www.cyberbullying.ca/pdf/Bullying.org_Kudos.pdf

Bill Belsey, Teacher and President, Bullying.org Canada (non-profit)
e-mail: help@bullying.org
www.bullying.org
"Where You Are NOT Alone!" and
www.cyberbullying.ca
"Always On? Always Aware!"

Join us for our 33rd International Workshop – Institute for Readers Theatre – July 9-22, 2006 Toronto, Canada

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- Program includes: Scriptmaking, Staging, Direction, Performance, Oral Interpretation, Teaching and Methodology. **No previous experience in theatre is required in our relaxed atmosphere.**

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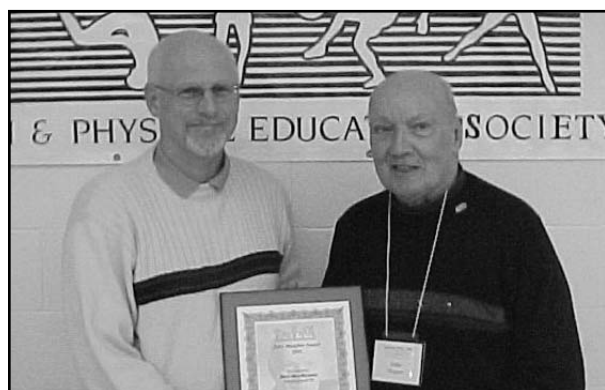
by Garth Wade

The New Brunswick Physical Education Society (NBPES), in partnership with the NBTA Councils, & Department of Education presented “Remember When – 2005” November 9-10 at Fredericton High School. Due to the upcoming hosting of the National CAHPERD conference May 9-12, 2007 in Moncton, the committee felt that “Remember When – 2005” would be scaled down from previous years. It did not turn out to be the case.

The focus of this year’s conference was K-8 Health & Physical Education Curriculum delivery. Approximately 150 delegates attended the event starting off with the annual trade show and recognition ceremony on Wednesday evening. The NBTA Credit Union, one of our key sponsors, supported our awards evening.

Nine teachers were recognized by the Society receiving the NBPES/NBTA Credit Union “School District Teacher of the Year Award”. This award honours teachers across the province who are making a difference in the area of Physical Education delivery.

- District #2 – Bernie Donelle
- District #6 – Brenda Leask
- District #8 – Joanne Genge
- District #10 – Aldena Higgins Harris
- District #14 – Joy Hanson
- District #15 – Jamie Daye
- District #16 – Colleen Barry



NBPES Dr. John Meagher Award Winner 2005 (Dr. John Meagher, Rod MacKenzie)

- District #17 – Greg Tucker
- District #18 – Curry Smith

During the years when there were 19 councils under the NBTA umbrella, the Health and Physical Education Council annually presented the “Dr. John Meagher Award”. Once the councils divided into 3, the award did not continue. The NBPES felt strongly to re-instate the award. Dr. John Meagher is considered one of the true leaders for Health and Physical Education in our province. Physical Educators who have attended the University of New Brunswick over the past number of years have had the pleasure to have Dr. John as a mentor. John Meagher is a true leader, receiving awards throughout his career for his work at all levels (local, provincial and national) including the R.Tait McKenzie Honour Award from CAHPER – now CAHPERD (Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance). The Society is very proud to re-instate the Dr. John Meagher Award as an annual award to recognize an individual who has made significant contributions to our field at the local and provincial levels.

The 2005 recipient is Rod MacKenzie – School District #2.

Rod has taught Physical Education, Health, Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies at the elementary and middle level while coaching and administrating a variety of sports and clubs throughout his career. Rod has performed at a very high level as a teacher,



Keynote address (Dianne Norman – Olympic Basketball player)

coach, administrator, and athlete. Currently, Rod is continuing to promote Health and Physical Education as a Physical Education Mentor in District #2.

Also, during the evening, the former Dr. John Meagher Award recipients were recognized by the Society.

- 1982-83 — Jim Ryan
- 1989-90 — Philip Sharkey
- 1983-84 — Ed Skiffington
- 1990-91 — Garth Wade
- 1984-85 — Derek Wisdom
- 1991-92 — Hector Roach
- 1985-86 — Kaye Lister
- 1992-93 — Joanne Thurrott
- 1986-87 — Suzanne Bonnell
- 1993-94 — Larry Wood
- 1987-88 — Pauline Cunningham
- 1994-95 — Ken Taylor
- 1988-89 — Peg McAllenan
- 1995-96 — Gordon Hopkins

The NBPES Ken Taylor Award was presented to Gary Crossman, Principal at Belleisle Elementary. The award was named in memory of Ken Taylor, a tireless advocate for Health and Physical Education in our province. Ken, who left us too soon, was a respected Physical Educator in Nackawic for many years and also served as the Provincial Consultant for Health and Physical Education with the Department. Ken made significant contributions in the field at the local, provincial



Trade Show (School Communities in ACTION) - Lise Belliveau, SCIA with Curry Smith, Montgomery Street Elementary



NBPES Ken Taylor Memorial Award Winner 2005 Gary Crossman; Diane Hoyt, Pres. NBPES

and national levels. Ken was a former Dr. John Meagher Award winner as well as the R. Tait McKenzie Honour Award from CAHPERD. Former Ken Taylor winners Diane Hoyt, Monique McTiernan-Black, Norman Russell and Fran Harris were on hand for the 2005 presentation to Gary.

Gary Crossman taught Physical Education and Health to grades 7-9 while coaching a variety of sport teams, clubs and co-ordinating daily Intramurals for his students between the years of 1981 to 1992. Gary went on to become the Physical Education Co-ordinator for School District #6 from 1992-1996. Gary then took on the challenge of Vice-Principal at Hampton Elementary during which he represented New Brunswick on the CIRA (Canadian Intramural Recreation Association) national board. From 1999 to present, Gary continues to promote Intramurals, Student Leadership and Physical Education as Principal of

Belleisle Elementary.

The New Brunswick Physical Education Society would like to extend its congratulations to the above recipients and to the sponsors of the Conference (NBTA Councils, Department of Education, NBTA Credit Union, Keswick Pharmacy). Dianne Norman, former member of the Canadian National team in basketball and 2 time Olympic participant gave a tremendous keynote to start the second full day of the conference. Dianne's message of teaching basic skill, hard work and dedication struck home with the delegates.

The conference participants then participated in divided sessions that ranged from: Educational Games (Pat Doyle – CIRA Ontario),

Educational Gymnastics (Keith Comitz – District #17), Educational Dance (District #18 PE Mentors), Elementary Curriculum Delivery (Robin Buchanan – District #17 & Ed Pinder – District #16), Middle Level Curriculum Delivery (Garth Wade – District #18), Elementary Health Delivery (Marg Milburn – District #18) & Middle Level Health Delivery (Heather Palmer – District #18).



Trade show (NBTA Credit Union)

Skills For Administrators 2006

- **Assessment FOR Learning: What Instructional Leaders Need to Know** (January 31 & February 1, 2006)
- **Share the Wisdom: A Workshop for Early Career Administrators** (March 15 & 16, 2006)
- **Leadership at Work Revisited** (April 24, 2006)
- **Brain-Based Instruction: What Should It Look Like in YOUR School** (May 2 & 3, 2006)

To find out more information and to register, please see the **Skills for Administrators** brochure that accompanied the December *NBTA News*, or go to the website www.nbta.ca



REMEMBER THESE DATES



Deadline Dates

Conference Grants — Five weeks prior to opening day

Certification Changes — March 31, 2006

Project Overseas — November 7, 2005

Branch Nominations for NBTA Vice-President — February 1, 2006

Deferred Salary Leave Plan Application — January 31, 2006

Election Dates

- (a) Ballots mailed to Branch Presidents - On or before April 15, 2006
- (b) Voting to take place - April 24-28, 2006 inclusive
- (c) Ballots returned to Central Office by 5:00 pm - May 5, 2006
- (d) Counting of Ballots - May 10, 2006
- (e) Candidates notified - May 10, 2006

NBTA/Beaverbrook/Hagerman Interest-free Loans — March 31, 2006

Centennial Award Nominations — April 1, 2006

Aliant Award Nominations — April 1, 2006

Branch Resolutions for A.G.M. — April 1, 2006

A.G.M. Registration of Delegates — April 1, 2006

Employment Insurance Rebate Report — June 1, 2006

Registration of Branches — June 1, 2006

Report of Branch Meetings — June 1, 2006

Names of Branch Committee Chairpersons — June 1, 2006

NBTA Council Annual Reports — June 15, 2006

NOTE: Check with NBTA Personal Calendar for key activities within NBTA, NBTF and CTF.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

NBTA AGM — May 26-27, 2006

Retiring Teachers' Luncheon — May 27, 2006

Your Retirement Allowance

Do you know the six different options for investing your retirement allowance?

During the years I worked for the NBTA as Director of Teacher Welfare Services, the question, "What should I do with my retirement allowance?" was frequently asked. There are, in fact, six investment options that you can pursue.

If you are retiring this year or in the next few years, you should know every option available to you. Each of these options has advantages and disadvantages. The option you decide on should be based on sound financial advice. Don't make a decision on investing your retirement allowance until you know all the options!

For a "no-fee" consultation for you or a group of teachers in your school (anywhere in the province), contact:

Mike Springer
Retirement and Investment Consultant
Fax (506) 454-9086 Tel. (506) 472-9474
E-mail: springmp@nbnet.nb.ca



Mike Springer

2006 3rd Annual International River Valley Student Film and Photography Festival



River Valley Middle School is home to the International River Valley Student Film and Photography

Festival. Because River Valley believes all students should share their stories, skills and creative ideas, the festival this year is open to all schools, from all continents, to participate in the Photography and/or Filming divisions.

There is no cost to enter this festival and we are sponsored by video-editing giant Pinnacle Systems, a division of Avid. The prizes range from video-editing equipment and software, glass trophies, international exposure, money, etc. Our website <http://rvms.nbed.nb.ca/rvsvf/index.htm> covers the requirements,

prizes, previous winners, etc. We are hoping for representation from all continents.

Our submission deadline is **March 31, 2006**. The judging will be distributed throughout Canada. To view the judges' biographies, click on the judges' links on the website <http://rvms.nbed.nb.ca/rvsvf/judges.htm>.

Our awards show will be webcasted live by June 1, 2006. Schools can submit a total of 27 photographs ranging in categories from Nature, Experimental and People. Schools can also submit a total of four films ranging in categories from Documentary, Drama, Comedy and Animation.

Some previous New Brunswick winners are:

Dr. Losier Middle School, Miramichi
Saint John High School

River Valley Middle School, Grand Bay-Westfield
Nashwaaksis Middle School, Fredericton

For information about the festival contact:

LeRoy Vincent, River Valley Middle School, District 8, 33 Epworth Park Rd., Grand Bay/Westfield, N.B. E5K 1W1, Tel. 506-738-6500, Fax 506-738-6506



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www.soundlanguagesolutions.com

School Administrators Show Their Fun and Giving Side

To their students, they may sometimes appear to be the ultimate grinch.

But a choir of school administrators from District 8 demonstrated their fun side by delivering a spirited rendition of *You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch* to bring the 69th annual Empty Stocking Fund telethon to a successful conclusion.

"It was just our way of saying thank you for the work the fund does," says district supervisor of education Bev Henneberry, whose idea the choir was. "In some ways, it shows all the children who participate that there are still some of us that have the Christmas spirit. We can still be childlike."

Ms. Henneberry said the idea first came to her three and one-half years ago.

Last August, she finally pitched her idea to a group of mostly

enthusiastic principals, vice-principals, supervisors and directors who, with the help of fine arts consultant Michael Molloy, as director, and accompanist Mary Ann Morgan, put together the 30-voice choir that wooed fans of the telethon.

Mr. Grinch himself was also there, in the person of Harbour View High School student Adam Masson.

"It was just something that I thought of because the Empty Stocking Fund has for many, many years supported so many of our kids, the children we care for every day," says Ms. Henneberry. "The people of the Empty Stocking Fund have been so generous in their giving to many children in the past. I just thought it would be a good idea for school and district administrators to in some small way give something back."

Mr. Molloy, who hopes to make the choir an ESF tradition for years

to come, thought it was a neat idea from the get-go.

"We had the superintendent (Susan Tipper) and the director of education (Ms. Henneberry) and all those principals and vice-principals," he says. "What better crowd to act as the Grinch? But really they're not, just like the *Grinch (Who Stole Christmas)* wasn't."

He says choir members, who also presented \$540 to the fund on behalf of themselves and district office staff, were quick learners.

"I thought it was great," he says. "When you get together a group like that, just having them is an accomplishment in itself. Having them sound as they did was an extra bonus."



American Institute for Creative Education Professional Development Seminars

Winter/Spring 2006 — All Courses Earn 3 College Credits

EDU323 Enrichment in the Classroom
Fredericton, January 27/28 and February 10-11

EDU243 Guidance for the Classroom Teacher (K-12)
Grand Falls, April 7-8 and May 12-13

EDU172 Hands-On Math in the Classroom (K-5)
Woodstock, January 20-21 and February 10-11

EDU324 Health and Fitness: Teaching Ideas and Strategies
Moncton, March 17-18 and April 7-8

EDU285 Phonological Awareness: Through Music, Rhyme and Games
Plaster Rock, TBA

EDU225 Physical Education for the Classroom Teacher (K-5)
Miramichi, March 24-25 and April 21-22

EDU335 Teaching and Learning in the Middle School (6-8)
Woodstock, March 24-25 and April 21-22
Saint John, January 20-21 and February 17-18

EDU284 Using Brain Research in the Classroom
Saint John, March 24-25 and April 7-8

EDU325 Autistic Spectrum Disorders
Grand Falls, January 13-14 and February 10-11
St. Stephen, March 17-18 and April 7-8

EDU297 Exceptional Students in the Classroom
Fredericton, May 12-13 and June 9-10

EDU295 Art Education for the Classroom Teacher
Plaster Rock, April 21-22 and May 12-13

EDU186 Music Across the Curriculum
Woodstock, January 13-14
2nd weekend TBA

Cost for
Canadian
courses is
\$340 US

To register or for more information,
call (800) 448-5343 or visit our website: www.aiceonline.com
Joy Hanson, 328-4684, or jjhanson@nb.sympatico.ca

Moncton Teacher Honoured

District 2 teacher Rod MacKenzie was recently honoured with a provincial award for his work in physical education.

MacKenzie is the 2005 recipient of the Dr. John Meagher Award.

The award is handed out by the New Brunswick Physical Education Society to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to physical education at the local and provincial levels.

"I am extremely pleased with this recognition for Rod. He has made great contributions to our district for a number of years and we're pleased with the advice that he and our teachers offer to help us all improve our teaching," says superintendent Karen Branscombe of District 2.

MacKenzie has been a teacher for 30 years. He currently works as physical education mentor for

District 2 at the middle level, working with other teachers to improve physical education courses.



He graduated first in his class from the University of New Brunswick in 1976 with a Bachelor of Physical Education.

Besides teaching physical education and a number of other

subjects at the elementary and middle school level, MacKenzie has been involved in coaching and leading a number of clubs and sports, including basketball, cross country, volleyball, and track and field.

He has been tournament manager for many Provincial Basketball New Brunswick Championships, co-founded the Hub City Men's Basketball League, and is an executive and board of directors member of Athletics New Brunswick.

He was also head coach for the 1989 Canada Summer Games, as well as for New Brunswick provincial legion teams and at the national legion camp.

MacKenzie is currently a committee member of the writing team for the expected high school physical education curriculum.

Our Teachers Go the Extra Miles

(... continued from page 15)

concert participants buzzed and darted around her. It wouldn't be the last night Monique was there to prepare for the big show next Monday.

There are hundreds of teachers like Andrew, Michael and Monique across Metro Moncton — directing drama productions, coaching teams, organizing extracurricular activities, staying up late into the night to record marks so report cards could go out today.

Teachers have become scapegoats for what's wrong with the public education system. But the more time I spend in schools, the more I see what they put up with in an average day.

And the more I see who goes the extra hours, the extra evening, the extra Saturday to ensure learning happens both in — and outside — of every classroom.

John Wishart is assistant managing editor of the *Times & Transcript*. His column appears every Friday.

Reprinted from the Times & Transcript, Dec. 9/05, with permission of Mr. Wishart.

David: Teaching in the U.S.A.

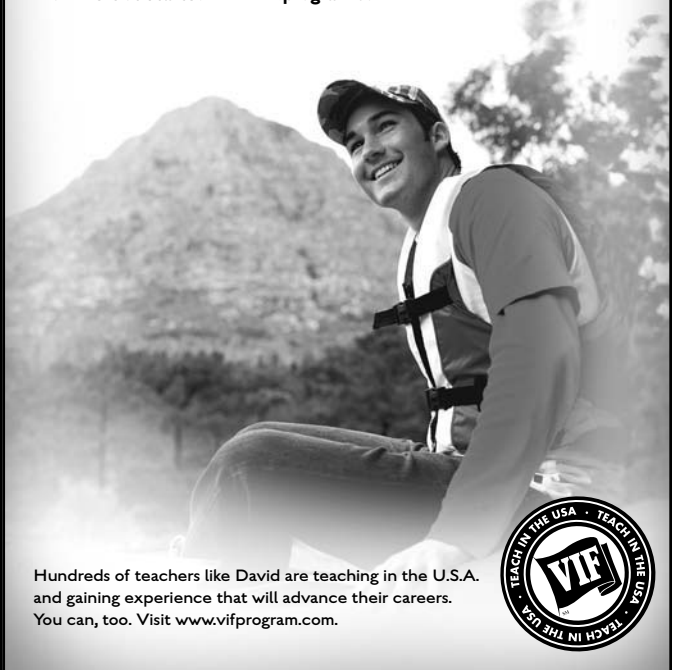
Home Country: Canada

U.S.A. Placement: Georgia

Professional Goal: Broaden my overall teaching experience

Personal Goal: Go whitewater rafting on the Chattooga River

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NBTF Labour Relations Officer

26th Annual NBTA Men Teachers' Curling Bonspiel

**Carleton Curling Club,
Saint John, N.B.**

January 20, 21, 22, 2006

**Registration:
\$120.00 per team**

Not more than 24 teams will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Entries must include skip's name, address, telephone number, and team members.

(If you want to participate, but aren't on a team, contact Terry)

Send entries and cheque to:

Terry Kilfoil, Chairperson,
NBTA Men Teachers' Curling
Bonspiel,
21 Meadow Drive,
Rothesay, N.B. E2H 1K9,
Tel: 847-5429, Fax: 847-5424
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Software Helps Students With Learning Disabilities

For Dawn Jessome, it's a God-send.

Jessome is a resource teacher at Caledonia Regional High School in Hillsborough, one of about 20 teachers in District 2 who learned how to use a software program called Kurzweil 3000. It "reads" text to students with learning disabilities.

"It is going to save me a ton of time," Jessome says, explaining that at the moment she either must sit with each individual student and read them the text, or record it onto tape."

"And instead of having to stop and rewind the tape, now they can read at their own speed. It lets them be a lot more independent," she says.

From Shakespeare to biology textbooks to newspaper articles, any high school student will tell you they spend hours and hours reading each week.

For those with low reading abilities or learning disabilities, that can mean falling further and further behind.

The Kurzweil 3000 program helps out by taking electronic text and converting it to voice output. The system can work with anything from scanned copies of textbooks or worksheets to internet pages to PDF documents.

The program also allows students to highlight words they don't know and get definitions of them and spells words out loud or sounds them out.

"It will read text they couldn't otherwise read," says Claire Zeijdel, general manager of Bridges, the company providing the software to District 2.

Some textbooks are now available

in PDF format and Zeijdel says she expects more companies will begin providing them as the software becomes more common at the high school level.

District 2 is the first district in the province to install the new software.

Allen Marr, District 2's supervisor of student services for Grades 9 to 12, says the only other place he knows of in the Maritimes that is doing this is Halifax.

As part of their training, teachers

The Kurzweil 3000 program helps out by taking electronic text and converting it to voice output. The system can work with anything from scanned copies of textbooks or worksheets to internet pages to PDF documents.

had to analyze a Shakespearean sonnet using the program.

In a surprisingly human voice, the computer reads the sonnet aloud, then each worksheet question at whatever pace the user wants.

The program also helps answer some of the questions, which include things like finding synonyms for certain words and definitions of others, things a regular Thesaurus and dictionary can do, but not when you can't look up the words you need.

Zeijdel says statistics show that 40 percent of students in Canadian

schools can't read fast enough to keep up with their work.

Marr says the program is most beneficial to students who can understand what is being read to them, but don't read well enough to manage on their own.

"These are students who can do a lot of learning when they get this assistance that they couldn't without it," he says.

The program will be available at all eight high schools in District 2 and is also being piloted at Riverview Middle School and at the K-5 Frank L. Bowser School in Riverview.

About 40 computers throughout the district will be equipped with the program.

Marr says he expects 200 students or more to benefit from the technology.

He's asked resource teachers to identify students in their schools who could use the program and they will be setting up the sites as soon as possible.

Jessome says about ten students at Caledonia will be able to make use of the new program for their school work. She's hoping it will also open new doors for them.

"It can teach them to enjoy reading. They can probably get books they can listen to and read for enjoyment," she says. "They get so frustrated with reading that the idea probably never crosses their mind to read for fun."

Jessome says the time she gains from being able to let the students go through texts on their own also frees her up to spend more time teaching them the reading skills that they're lacking in the first place.

Success isn't how far you got, but the distance you travelled from where you started.

– Unknown

Announcements

The Poetic Licence Contest for Canadian Youth 2006

The League of Canadian Poets, a national not-for-profit poetry organization founded in 1966, invites Canadian youth to participate in its Poetic Licence Contest.

There are two age categories, junior (grades 7-9) and senior (grades 10-12). First place poems in each category will receive a cash prize of \$200, second place winners will receive \$150 and third place winners will receive \$100.

All winning poems will be published in the League of Canadian Poets' e-zine, Re:verse at www.youngpoets.ca. All winners will receive Poetic Licence certificates and student membership in the League of Canadian Poets for one year.

The deadline is January 15, 2006. All submissions should be sent by e-mail to contest@poets.ca

National Flag of Canada Poetry Contest 2006

February 15, 2006 marks the 41st anniversary of the National Flag of Canada. To recognize this important symbol, the Celebrate Canada Committee for New Brunswick invites youth, age 18 and under, to participate in the National Flag of Canada Day Poetry Contest 2006. Participants are encouraged to write a poem on the meaning of one of the most prominent symbols, the National Flag of Canada. Prizes will be awarded to six finalists. Each participant will receive a participation prize. Poems must be submitted no later than **January 31, 2006**.

For additional information and contest rules, teachers are invited to contact the Celebrate Canada Committee for New Brunswick at the following toll-free number: 1 800 561-7146.

Canada Day Poster Challenge

The 2006 edition of the Canada Day Poster Challenge is underway! This year young Canadians age 18 and under are invited to meet the

challenge of designing a poster based on the theme, Images of Canada. Entries must be submitted to the provincial and territorial Celebrate Canada Committees by **February 28, 2006**.

For further information about these programs, visit the Celebrate Canada Web site at: www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/canada

The Pro Europe 2006 Youth Eco-Parliament

The Pro Europe 2006 Youth Eco-Parliament is an international educational platform that was launched in 2004. The Pro Europe 2006 Youth Eco-Parliament is a new high profile project that offers students the opportunity to debate environmental issues and to attend an international congress in Paris during the fall of 2006.

This year, for the first time, 25 Canadian High Schools will have the opportunity to participate. CSR (Corporations Sharing Responsibility) is looking for 25 Canadian classrooms in the grade 9-11 range to create a Canadian student delegation to attend this exciting event in Paris. If you are interested in having your class participate, please call 1-800-668-1023 or check the website: <http://www.eyep.info/>



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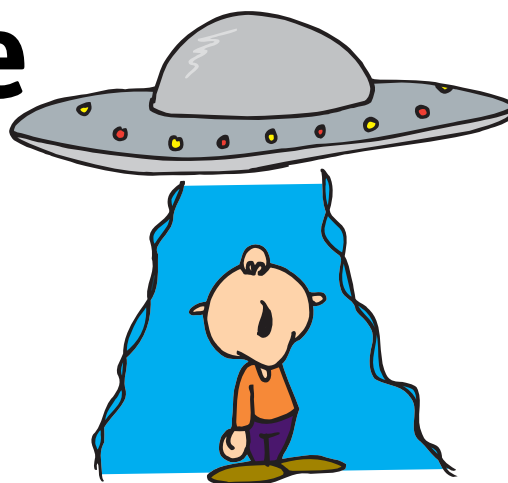
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As well, just recently, our Board of Directors lowered the requirement for the surplus share account from **\$1500 to \$800**. This resulted in cheques being sent to our members the first week in December in the amount of **\$614,358.98**.

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