

NBTA News

April 22, 2009
Vol. LI, No. 4

New Brunswick Teachers' Association



Combined Council Conference
May 1, 2009
Moncton Coliseum and Agrena

Why is this Issue of the *NBTA News* GREEN?

- Our issue date is Earth Day
- This year we have saved several hundred thousand sheets of paper by reducing the number of issues and allowing members to choose to access the *News* on-line
- The Combined Council Day Logo featured on our front page is green.
- The May 1st Conference will have several Green features like giveaways (bags and name tag holders) made of 100% recycled materials
- Fully electronic registration and personalized schedules replacing the 5,000+, 30-page program booklets produced in previous years
- Speakers relying mainly on electronic materials from websites rather than thousands of paper handouts
- Bottled water, refillable at Coliseum fountains, and recycle bins on-site
- Emphasis on car-pooling

Top Five Reminders for Council Day

1. Don't forget your **Name Tag/Barcode**. Holders for the tags have been sent to each school. If you lose your tag before you leave home, just print off another one from the website. If you arrive in Moncton without it, it might take a little longer to get you into the Conference.
2. Plan to arrive early and carpool to reduce **traffic**. Radio stations have been informed about the Conference and may have traffic updates; there are maps in this issue showing alternate routes to the Coliseum, and police will be on hand to direct traffic.
3. Continuous sessions will be taking place throughout the day in Agrena B, C and the Main Coliseum Bowl. There is no scheduled nutrition or lunch break, but rather teachers have registered individually for sessions, self-selecting times for breaks, lunch and visiting the exhibitors' displays. Lunches will be available between 11:00 and 1:45, both as pre-ordered box lunches and from the wide range of concession stands that will be open and serving food. We believe that this continuous programming will prevent bottlenecks as well as encourage a constant flow. Our goal is to provide educators with the optimal choice of quality professional learning opportunities under one roof on one day. We sincerely hope that the majority of our members will come early, lunch and learn with us and stay late as the learning opportunities are simply too good to miss a minute!
4. Many teachers have ordered **box lunches**. There are also other **refreshments** available to teachers on-site and the **concessions** at the Coliseum will be operating at full capacity that day.
5. The Coliseum presentations are the centerpiece, but there are several **other important events related to Council Day**. Hal Urban is hosting a **parent night** on the evening of April 30. Also on Thursday evening, the **business meetings of all three Councils** take place at 7pm at the Delta followed by a complimentary wine and cheese reception and then a **Social, featuring Big Fish**. All teachers are welcome! On Saturday, May 2nd, Kylene Beers will be conducting an institute.

Thursday, April 30th

7:00pm - 8:00pm Council Business Meetings (Details on page 12) Delta Beausejour

7:00pm Parent Night Bernice MacNaughton High School
Hal Urban: *Talking to Your Kids: 10 Suggestions for Parents*

9:00pm - 12:00am Teacher Social (Details on page 7) Delta Beausejour
Big Fish: *A well-deserved chance for teachers to socialize with colleagues!*

Friday, May 1st

8:30am Opening Remarks and Welcome

8:45am - 9:45am Session 1 (Opening Keynote) Main Coliseum
Erin Gruwell: *Becoming a Catalyst for Change*

CHOOSE ONE

10:00 - 11:00 Session 2-1 Main Coliseum
Alfie Kohn: *The Homework Myth*

10:15 - 11:15 Session 2-2 Agrena B
Kylene Beers: *Because Shift Happens: Literacy Demands of the Flat World*

10:30 - 11:30 Session 2-3 Agrena C
Ruth Sutton: *Assessment for Learning: Practical Implications for Classroom Teachers*

CHOOSE ONE

11:30 - 12:30 Session 3-1 Main Coliseum
Alfie Kohn: *Traditional Education and Its Victims: The Perils of Going 'Back to Basics'*

11:45 - 12:45 Session 3-2 Agrena B
Kylene Beers: *Building Fluency in Struggling Readers*

12:00 - 1:00 Session 3-3 Agrena C
Ruth Sutton: *Assessment for Learning Across the School: How to Achieve Both Consistency and Sustainability*

1:10pm - 2:25pm Session 4 Main Coliseum
Harry Wong: *How to Achieve Maximum Results in Schools*

2:35pm - 3:30pm Session 5 (Closing Keynote) Main Coliseum
Hal Urban: *Lessons from the Classroom: 20 Things Great Teachers Do*

PRIZES Must be present to win! *PRIZES* Must be present to win! *PRIZES* Must be present to win! *PRIZES*
 Lunch will be available continuously from various locations between 11:00am and 1:45pm. Publishers' displays will be open from 8:30 until 3:45pm. Delegates will self select both lunch break and display visitation times.

Saturday, May 2nd

9:00am - 3:00pm Literacy Institute Delta Beausejour
Kylene Beers and Bob Probst

Combined Council Day 2009 Presenters



Erin Gruwell

Session 1 (Opening Keynote)
8:45 - 9:45

Becoming a Catalyst for Change

How can one person take on seemingly insurmountable problems of poverty, racism, violence? What can our classrooms provide in order to

make our children safe, educated, and productive people? Erin Gruwell teaches us all how we can become "Catalysts for Change."

www.freedomwritersfoundation.org

Alfie Kohn



Session 2-1 10:00 - 11:00

The Homework Myth

Alfie Kohn explains why homework persists despite the lack of benefit and invites us to rethink our broader assumptions about children and education.

Session 3-1

11:30 - 12:30

Traditional Education and Its Victims: The Perils of Going 'Back to Basics'

You are invited to consider how teachers can become more successful at helping students make sense of ideas for themselves – and with each other.

www.alfiekohn.org



Kylene Beers

Session 2-2 10:15 - 11:15

Because Shift Happens: Literacy Demands of the Flat World

Kylene Beers and Bob Probst will help teachers understand how literacy demands have shifted and discuss the implications of that shift for our classrooms.

Session 3-2 11:45 - 12:45

Building Fluency in Struggling Readers

In this workshop-style session Bob and Kylene will present effective strategies that can help struggling readers to make gains.

www.kbeers.net

Ruth Sutton



Session 2-3 10:30 - 11:30

Assessment for Learning: Practical Implications for Classroom Teachers

This presentation will aim to underpin intuition with deep research and encourage teachers to understand AFL strategies.

Session 3-3

12:00 - 1:00

Assessment for Learning Across the School: How to Achieve Both Consistency and Sustainability

Build from classroom practice to the challenge of successful and sustainable whole-school change.

www.ruthsutton.com



Harry Wong

Session 4 1:10 - 2:25

How to Achieve Maximum Results in School

The single greatest effect on student achievement is the effectiveness of the teacher. Effective teachers have a classroom that is structured and

organized and CONSISTENT in how the classroom is run. Harry Wong will show what he and others do to ensure student success.

www.harrywong.com

Hal Urban



Session 5 (Closing Speaker)
2:35 - 3:30

Lessons from the Classroom: 20 Things Great Teachers Do

This presentation is based on Hal's long-awaited new (Spring 2008) book of the same title. The focus is on creating a "Caring Community" in the school and in the classroom. It's about helping kids develop solid character traits while maintaining high academic standards. It's about bringing out the best in them: positive attitude, good manners, kind words, hard work, and clean humor.

www.halurban.com

Back-up Keynotes



Yves Y. Pelletier has always been interested in social equity and effective policy development. These interests are at the core of his responsibilities as the manager of pilot projects at the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation. Since joining the Foundation in 2004, Yves has managed research projects that aim to test interventions that remove barriers to post-secondary education and encourage persistence. After all, education is not only about what you learn, but who gets to learn. During his time at the Foundation, Yves has also led large-scale dissemination activities on access, including most recently, the *Neither a Moment Nor a Mind to Waste Conference*, an international conference with 400 practitioners and researchers (April 2008).



Margie Layden-Oreto has been an important contributor to the field of career development for many years. From the beginning of her career as a teacher and then school guidance counsellor to her role in managing the largest career development research project in Canada, Margie has been effective in influencing curriculum development in a way that has advanced both research and practice. She has recently been selected as the winner of the 2009 Stu Conger Award for Leadership in Career Counselling and Career Development. Margie was the New Brunswick Department of Education's Learning Specialist for Guidance and Counselling for six years and is currently Manager, Post-Secondary Education Access/Retention Issues, Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

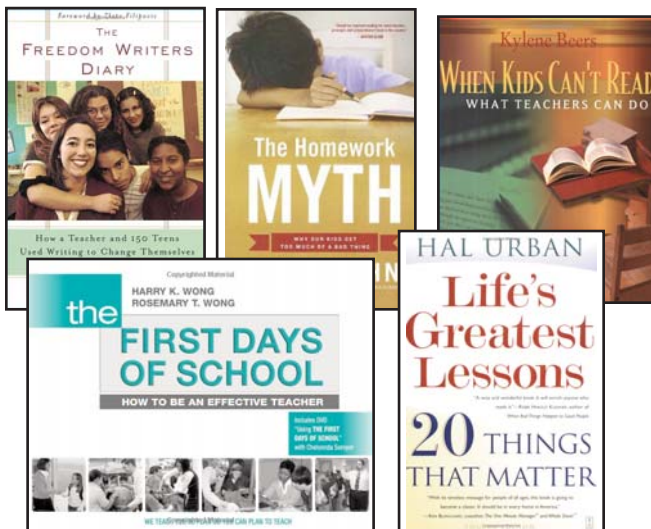
Session: Access to Post-Secondary Education is Everyone's Issue

What would you do if you learned that your child in grade 9 had only a 50% chance of going to college or university? What would you do if you knew that 55% of your children wouldn't graduate from high school by the age of 24? Those are the hard realities in Canada for students with family incomes below \$25,000 a year or from on-reserve Aboriginal communities.

The presentation will focus on creating a post-secondary education culture throughout K-12.

Council Day Presenters Available for Book Signings

All Council Day speakers have agreed to be available to sign copies of their books. A full schedule of when each will be appearing in the Publishers' area will be prominently displayed.



Great Prizes All Council Day!

But we are saving the **BEST ONES** for last!

* You must be present to win.

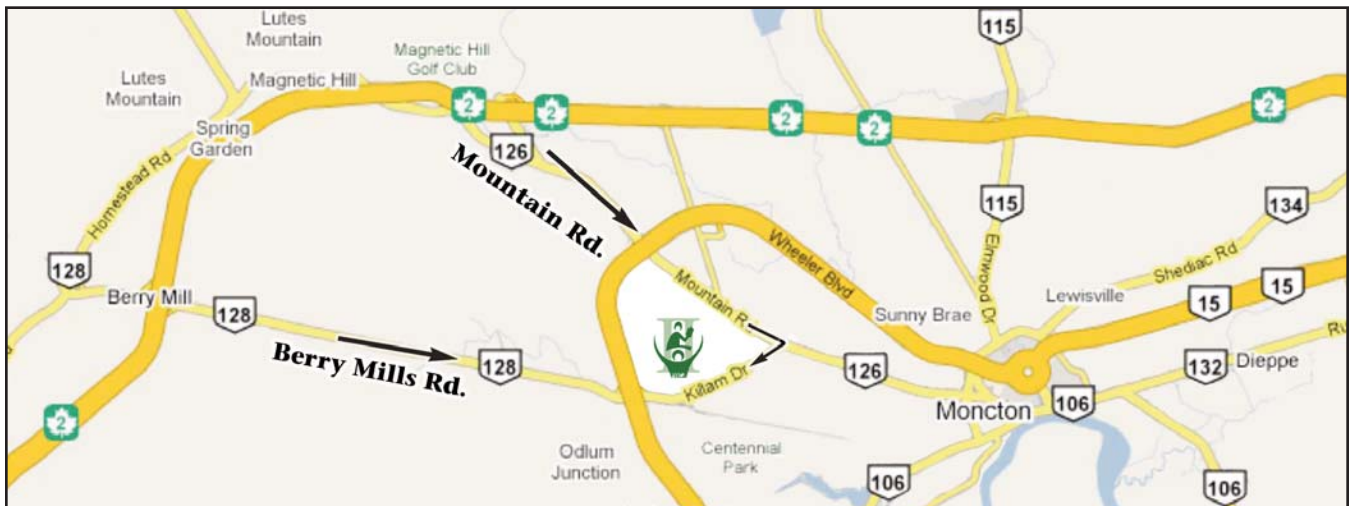
Layer your Clothing

The temperature in the Coliseum can be unpredictable so we encourage conference-goers to dress with this in mind.

Cell Phones

Please be courteous and turn cell phones off during the sessions.

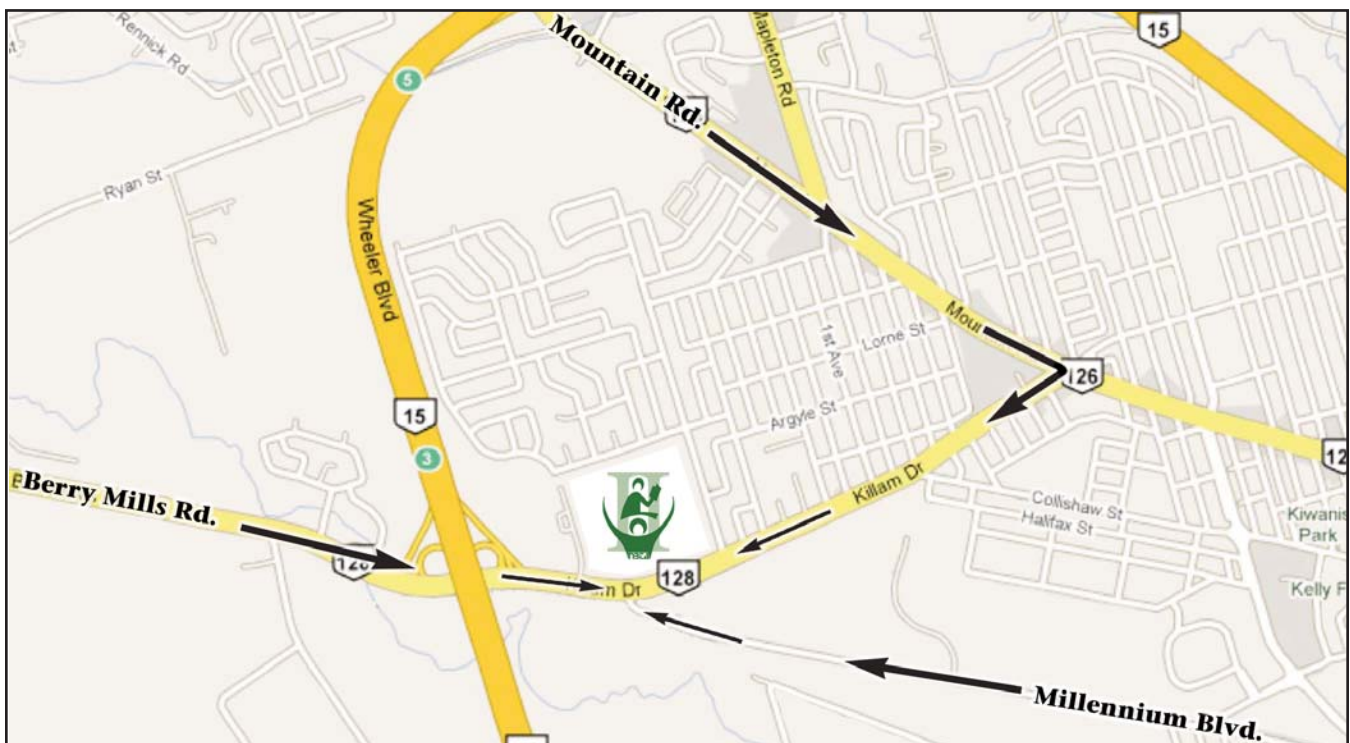
Many Ways to Council Day...



In 2004, many teachers coming to Moncton for Combined Council Day tried to reach the Coliseum via the nearest exit, Berry Mills Road. Unfortunately, hundreds or possibly thousands of vehicles ended up on the same road.

There are many exits into Moncton, including the Mountain Road exit, only a few kilometers past the Berry Mills Road. There are also 3 ways to approach the facility parking lot; Killam Drive from the west or east and via Millennium Drive.

- Moncton radio stations CBC (106.1), Rock 103 (103.1), Magic 104 (103.9) and News 91.9 have been contacted about the conference and may have traffic updates explaining the traffic situation to all motorists in the city. Many of them may choose to route their regular morning commute away from the Coliseum and its access routes. News 91.9 has a traffic tip line accessible by pushing #919 on a Rogers phone.
- RCMP have been informed and have promised to be on hand to direct traffic, if required.
- Arriving early will lessen traffic congestion.
- Finally, we are trying to make the conference as green as possible. Carpooling is more eco-friendly, less expensive and can reduce the number of vehicles trying to access the venue.



What? You haven't Registered Yet?

Register
Online at
www.nbta.ca



Create
your own
individual
program



Print
Name Tag/
Barcode



Learn
&
Enjoy



Bring
to
Moncton on
May 1st

Big Fish at the Council Day Social

Teacher Social

Delta Beausejour,
April 30th, 9 pm - Midnight

All NBTA members and guests are invited to attend our social for live music and a well-deserved chance to unwind with colleagues.

Big Fish: Audiences of all ages have been fascinated by the creativity, powerful voices and showmanship of this talented group of performers as they bring together songs from the 50's to the present and cover everything from Broadway musicals to Maritime music.

www.bigfish5.com



L to r: Peter Janes (vocals and bass), Andy Gallant (vocals, trumpet and drums), Dale Letcher (vocals, rhythm guitar and harmonica), Jeff Broussard (vocals and 12 string guitar), and Sarah Letcher (vocals, keyboard, tin whistle and hand-held percussion) of Big Fish will entertain at the social preceding Combined Council Day.

NBTA Thanks the Council Day Sponsors

Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Publishers' Displays

We encourage all conference delegates to visit the extensive Publishers' Displays. Many booths have materials for sale, including books from our keynote speakers. Booths will be open at 8:30 am.

"Time Flies"



Brent Shaw

know it, comes the time you have to say so long." Well, not quite yet, and there still is plenty to do over my last few months in office.

The publication date of this issue falls in the middle of election week. Three dedicated teachers are running to be the next NBTA Vice-President. I hope you have had the opportunity to meet with some or all of them. They all have been wonderful leaders at the Branch and Provincial levels, and each would be an excellent choice to serve at the next level. I would like to thank them all for their efforts. It is a grueling task to get to so many schools in so little time. It also takes some courage to put your name on a ballot and have 5500 of your colleagues make a decision about you, and even to accept the commitment that serving as NBTA Vice-President, while continuing with a full-time teaching assignment, will require.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at Council Day in Moncton. A topnotch group of speakers, a great social the night before, and a chance to see some of your colleagues who teach at different levels will combine to make this a marvelous event. Hopefully, we will have some spring-like weather, but I don't want to try and predict that. I know a huge amount of work has gone into making this day a valuable PD experience for New Brunswick teachers and would like to thank particularly the Ad Hoc Committee Planning Council Day 2009. They and other members of the Councils will be wearing green golf shirts with the Council Day logo. This is to allow attendees to identify people to ask for assistance,

I am not sure if it only affects those of us who are at least in our forties, but the saying "time flies" seems to be increasingly coming to mind. This is, in fact, my second to last message in the *NBTA News*, although it seems I became President "only yesterday." I might as well use a dated reference as well when I quote Carol Burnett's end of show song, "It seems we just get started and before you

but I hope you also thank these individuals for the many hours they have volunteered to work on your behalf. I hope you also will be understanding when the inevitable glitches occur. Getting five thousand teachers in one place, to their proper sessions and attending to other needs is quite a challenge.

Branch Annual General Meetings will be taking place across the province over the next few weeks. I hope you take the opportunity to learn more about your Association that day and take part in the democratic process. Your vote counts in electing local officers and in guiding how your delegates will vote on resolutions when they are considered at the NBTA AGM in Fredericton at the end of May. As always, there are many interesting resolutions that have been put forward by various branches to discuss. Please, if you have the opportunity, put your name forward to become a delegate to the NBTA AGM. It is, by far, the best place to truly see your democratic processes in action and deserving colleagues honoured.

The high point of the NBTA year will be the AGM in Fredericton at the end of May. At the Annual General Meeting, the highest decision-making body of the NBTA, delegates discuss and vote on the NBTA Budget and Resolutions that set priorities for the Association and affect its operations/procedures. For example, in 2008 Council Day fees were made part of the regular dues structure. The Meeting also features reports from NBTA Staff on major events/progress of the past year, the Retiring Teachers' Banquet and the presentation of major Teaching Awards. It is sad to note that this will be the last year for Aliant Award for Excellence in Teaching. We have included a list in this issue of the *News* of all the wonderful teachers who have been recipients of the Award since it was established in 1990.

I hope everyone has a great spring. Enjoy the warmer weather and drive safely to Council Day.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brent Shaw".



The Leading Edge of Change

by Melinda Cook, NBTA Professional Issues

Every two years, the NBTA holds a Leadership Workshop. Branches are invited to send a group of their local leaders to participate in the establishment of the priorities for the work of the Association for the coming two years – to identify what needs to be changed. When this workshop was last held in August 2007, assessment was deemed to be one of the Association's top priorities.

Although there were a number of components that made up the plan of action with regard to assessment, the specific one that was outlined with regard to external assessment states, "That the Department of Education and Department Staff be aware and supportive of the four principles outlined in the NBTA's Report on External Assessment". As the staff person who takes the lead on external assessment issues with the Department, I guarantee you that they are certainly aware of NBTA's external assessment principles:

- (1) External assessment should only be undertaken if it leads to improvements in student learning.
- (2) External assessments must be instructionally sensitive.
- (3) The Department of Education, including the Evaluations Branch, must place high importance on effective communication with teachers.
- (4) Testing of accommodated, modified, and individualized students must be reconsidered.

Sadly, although these principles are basic educational fundamentals, I must report that to date we have had limited success in engendering changes that would indicate Department support for these

principles. Unfortunately, change in assessment practice seems to proceed slowly. This leads to intense frustration among those of us who want to see change **now**.

In looking for support, I looked to the research. I found no solutions there, but I have found some solace. Educators around the world are feeling the same frustrations we feel here in New Brunswick.

The December 2008/January 2009 issue of *Educational Leadership* was titled **Data: Now what?** The Editor-in-Chief, Marge Scherer, offers the following suggestions for using data: focus on questions, not data; be skeptical of easy answers; become assessment literate; think beyond test scores; and use informed judgment. These are simple phrases, but complex tasks. Fortunately, articles within the issue provide further information on these ideas. Although the entire issue provided very interesting reading, I will highlight only a couple of articles for you.

In "Measuring What Matters" Mike Schmoker states, "For data-driven instruction to transform schooling – which it can – it must serve a master very different from rigid accountability formulas". He goes on to explain that focusing solely on test scores, rather than the learning behind the scores, hinders instructional improvement. This speaks to our first and second principles – that external assessments should only be undertaken if they lead to improvements in student learning, and external assessments must be instructionally sensitive.

In "The New Stupid", Frederick Hess writes, "Today's enthusiastic embrace of data has waltzed us

directly from a petulant resistance to performance measures to a reflexive and unsophisticated reliance on a few simple metrics – namely, graduation rates, expenditures, and the reading and math test scores of students in grades 3 through 8". He then explains the key components of the "new stupid": using data in half-baked ways, translating research simplistically, and giving short shrift to management data. I believe we see a disturbing trend toward this in New Brunswick. For example, simply publishing external percentages is not helpful. Educators need to be provided with data disaggregation in order to understand how to change instructional practice to improve student learning.

After nearly two years of pushing for changes with regard to external assessment practices in order to better support student learning, some progress can be reported. New Brunswick teachers are slowly gaining greater access to information on such testing, so our students are developing clearer expectations with regard to what will be asked of them. The Evaluation Branch is now hearing New Brunswick teachers, and is developing a clearer understanding of what teachers require of them. Although much change is needed, perhaps we can acknowledge that some change has occurred. Perhaps focusing on those changes will allow us to feel encouraged by promise, rather than discouraged by past practice. Perhaps, like the thin edge of the wedge that pushes into a small crack in order to break apart a boulder, the leading edge of change is pushing its way into external assessment practices in New Brunswick.

References

- Scherer, Marge (Dec 08-Jan 09). Driven Dumb by Data? *Educational Leadership*, Vol. 66(4), pg. 5.
- Schmoker, Mike (Dec 08-Jan 09). Measuring What Matters. *Educational Leadership*, Vol. 66(4), pg. 70-74.
- Hess, Frederick M. (Dec 08-Jan 09). The New Stupid. *Educational Leadership*, Vol. 66(4), pg. 12-17



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What do Councils do besides planning and preparing the program for the May Council Day?

The common mission statement of the High School, Middle School and Elementary School Councils is to "...promote and foster opportunities for professional development, communications and curriculum assistance to the teachers of New Brunswick." The Council Executives are made up of numerous committees that strive to meet this common goal.

— Councils offer funding for professional development opportunities through Educational Improvement Grants and offer institutes to serve the needs of their respective membership.

For example, the High School Council offered the recent institute entitled "Creating Teacher Allies for Gay Students" and struck an ad hoc committee to look at the ELPA to make recommendations to improve the format and administration of the test.

— Middle Level Council has increased the number of \$400 EI grants available for the next year.

— Your Council Executives, in consultation with the NBTA, are constantly researching ways to improve working conditions for teachers throughout New Brunswick.

2. How do I find out more information about Councils and their mission?

All three Councils maintain a website on the NBTA website (www.nbta.ca). On the NBTA home page, simply click "Your NBTA" and then click "Councils". All three websites contain a wealth of information about what Councils do and the forms you need to fill out for the EI Grants, presenting at Council Day, etc.

3. How do teachers decide to become a member of the Elementary, Middle or High School Council?

The green NBTA form that all teachers fill out at the start of the school year in September contains a check box for Elementary, Middle and High School Council. The box you check determines your membership.

4. If I teach at an elementary school, a middle school or a high school, does that mean I have to be a member of that particular Council?

No. Teachers can join any one of the three Councils.

5. What happens if I cannot attend Council Day?

The preference of the NBTA and Council Executives is that all teachers attend the Council programs offered. If this is not possible, teachers are to fill out an Alternate Proposal form. To get a copy of this form, visit the NBTA website or see the PD Rep in your school. The deadline to submit an alternate proposal is 4 weeks prior to Council Day.

6. How do I join one of the Council Executives?

All Council Executives have a Nominating Committee Chair. You could contact this individual or any member of the Council Executive if you have an interest in joining one of the Executives. The contact information for all members of the Council Executives is located on the respective websites for each Council. You could also come to the Annual General Meeting for the Council Executive you are interested in joining and be nominated from the floor.

— Due to the Combined Council event, this year all three Councils are holding their AGM at the Delta in Moncton on the evening of April 30th, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.



Elementary Council News

Re-reading your Responses

The online surveys from our last May Council Day were extremely helpful, and continue to be. Teachers and other participants being able to respond later through computer, rather than at the end of a full day of professional development, has provided a wealth of valuable feedback. We have used your input to help plan for the upcoming Combined Council Day, "Learning Today Teaching Tomorrow II", especially as it is being held at the same site. Concerns specific to sound quality and audio visual displays, as well as other onsite concerns, have been addressed and dealt with in a number of creative ways by the ad hoc committee. We are looking forward to what is clearly going to be an exciting and well-delivered day of programming.

The executive committee of the

Elementary Council, like the other Councils, have already started planning for May 2010 and again we are looking to the feedback surveys to inform our discussions. We are hoping to change our format next time round and offer more choices and smaller sessions as a response to the repeated request for "small sessions". We will not be offering the huge number of small workshops that many members remember fondly; we will, however, be offering a wider range of speakers in smaller venues. Donna Losier is beginning to investigate possible speakers. If you have a topic of interest or a speaker to suggest, please contact her at donna.losier@nbed.nb.ca. At this time, we are considering Fredericton as our site.

If you are interested in being involved with organizing and providing professional development

to your colleagues, consider contacting our nominating committee roberte.melanson@nbed.nb.ca and sharyn.pope@nbed.nb.ca. Involvement with the Elementary Council has been a rewarding part of many teachers' professional lives.

In the future, we will be continuing to offer specialist workshops, no longer as a pilot but as a regular addition to our Council Day. Next year the Elementary Council will again host the Art Strand Workshop; this responds to the strong positive response we received through the survey.

We are holding the Elementary Council's Annual General Meeting in Moncton on April 30th from 7:00pm to 8:00pm, just before the Wine and Cheese and the Social. Please join us to find out more about the workings of your Council.

Peter Gorham, President
gorhapej@nbed.nb.ca

Middle Level Council News

The Middle Level Council Executive is looking for new members to replace members whose term has finished. Interested or know anyone who would be? Contact MLC President John Irvine.

There are still more funds in our coffers for our additional Educational Improvement Grants. Check out great PD opportunities offered from:

- The National Middle School Association www.nmsa.org.
- The New England League of Middle Schools www.nelms.org.
- The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics www.nctm.org.
- The National Science Teachers Association www.nsta.org.

NBTA Councils

cordially invite you to their

Annual General Meetings

Thursday, April 30th, 2009

7 until 8 pm

Delta Beausejour Hotel

Elementary - Petitcodiac Room

Doors Prizes will be drawn.

Middle Level - Restigouche Room

Don't miss all the excitement!

High School - Shediac B Room

Wine & Cheese will be served

Doors Prizes will be drawn.

(Two iPod Touches will be given away)

Teaching Tips: Science

Elementary

Science in the elementary classroom can be a timid experience for some teachers. Occasionally visions of your own 4th grade battery light bulb experiment that you could never get to light up flashes to mind, or the time when little Johnnie in your classroom combined too much vinegar and baking soda together to make his 'rocket' take off across the classroom. I learned early in my career to dispense groups only a little vinegar and baking soda at a time.

If you remember the 4 E's when it comes to Science in your classroom, your students will have success learning and they will be tuned into Science.

1. *Engagement* - this is the chance for the teacher to capture the students' interest by sharing their knowledge and setting the stage for the unit. There are numerous web-sites and on-line journals that teachers can go to for their information about the concept being taught.
2. *Explore* - here students have opportunities for hands-on experiences to help them construct concepts. This is a crucial component to ensure student success. Students need the opportunities to encounter Science in real-life. Take your students on a field trip, have materials brought in to the classroom by the students, recruit an expert to come in and speak to your class. Visit your library and stock up with books and Science magazines for your students; there are also oodles of age-appropriate web sites out there for your students to explore. When all else fails, the Dollar Store is filled with inexpensive items that you may need for that class experiment.
3. *Explain* - students have a chance to share their ideas with others. Remember, valuable learning occurs when students have the opportunities to discuss and question.
4. *Evaluate* - students have a chance to demonstrate their understanding of concepts. Be creative, think beyond the paper and pencil tests and give students a chance to show what they learned based on their interests. Just always be sure to have plenty of vinegar and baking soda in your cabinets.

Middle Level - Making it Real

Middle school students are starting to cross the bridge towards more abstract ideas. To keep their interest and to help them grasp these big ideas, science teachers need to make it real for them. Here are some suggestions:

- Hands-on! Do experiments! Students will remember the activity and the results.
- Use microscopes...seeing IS believing.
- When experiments are not feasible, demonstrate an experiment with a running commentary. Ask them lots of questions such as "What do you think will happen?", "Why?", "What do you think would happen if...?", "Do you see a pattern?", "Can you explain it?", "If you were to do this again, what method would you use?", and "Can you draw a picture or a diagram of what is happening or should have happened?"
- Explore the virtual world. Book the computer lab instead of the science lab. Students can explore using an interactive computer program. There are great websites like www.explorelearning.com and <http://phet.colorado.edu/index.php> that offer a multitude of middle level (and high school) possibilities.
Bonus: nothing to clean afterwards!
- For abstract concepts, get them physically involved in modeling that idea. Let them be molecules!

A good set of books out of the NSTA is *Uncovering Student Ideas in Science: 25 Formative Assessment Probes*, Volumes 1 and 2, 3 and 4 by Paige Keeley, Francis Eberly, and Lynn Farrin.

Ideas submitted by: Jean Anne Green and Shelley Hunter, Florenceville Middle School (District 14)

High School

"An oxide is like one of those girls who won't go to the bathroom by themselves."

You will never find Oxygen alone because.....to achieve a stable electron arrangement it will pair up with another oxygen atom and share electrons.

Tell this to your science students and they will never make this mistake again.

Looking Ahead:

In the Council section of the June issue, we will be focusing on the theme of *Reflection (Classroom Evaluation)* and providing teaching tips based on *decluttering*.



Professional Learning in the Learning Profession

Are We Prepared to Do What It Takes?

On February 4, Linda Darling-Hammond and a team of researchers from Stanford University released a groundbreaking study titled *Professional Learning in the Learning Profession: A Status Report on Teacher Development in the United States and Abroad*.¹

Their report (the beginning of a multi-year research program), examines what research has revealed about professional learning that improves teachers' practice and student learning. The report describes the availability of such opportunities in the United States and high-achieving nations around the world, which have been making substantial and sustained investments in professional learning for teachers over the last two decades.

Although the report is obviously focusing on the US, I found it very exciting that many of the recommendations in the report mirror recommendations that were made here in New Brunswick in October 2007 when Nancy Roach and Janice Moore submitted their report, *Educator Excellence: A Balanced Professional Development Program*. As many of you may recall, NBTA partnered with the DOE and Nancy and Janice to administer a

survey to our members in August of 2007. The responses received helped guide the authors as they wrote their recommendations.

***"...internationally,
time for
professional
learning is built
into most teachers'
work hours..."***

A similar process was employed to inform this US study.

One part of the Darling-Hammond study that I found fascinating was their look at professional learning in several European and Asian nations that are considered to be "high-achieving". Several common factors were noted:

1. Offer extensive, sustained learning opportunities for teachers that are embedded in practice.
2. Provide beginning teachers with intensive mentoring. (Sadly, NB has taken a step backwards on this one with the recent

announcement that the BTIP program has been cut.)

3. Extends well beyond workshops and conferences - teachers engage regularly in lesson study, action research, peer observation and coaching to evaluate and improve practice.
4. Netherlands, Singapore, and Sweden support at least 100 hours of professional development per year, in addition to regularly scheduled time for common planning, collaboration and individual preparation time.
5. Regular time (between 15 and 25 hours per week) is allocated to support joint planning and professional learning - Activities include developing curriculum, evaluating student learning, observing classrooms, and engaging in study groups and seminars.

In summary, Darling-Hammond sums it up quite nicely on page 28 of their report when they note that, "internationally, time for professional learning is built into most teachers' work hours. More than 85 percent of schools in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland provide time each week for teachers' professional

All Administrators and Leaders Can Benefit from the New Brunswick Leadership Academy

by Dawn Weatherbie, Office of Educator Excellence, Department of Education

The vision for the New Brunswick Leadership Academy is to build an interactive community of all educational leaders in the province to learn from their own and others' experience and research. The Portal site <https://portal.nbed.nb.ca/nbela/Pages/default.aspx> will give you more information on resources and opportunities available.

Throughout the month of April, applications are being accepted for a new cohort of ten participants in the Skills Training, Action Research (STAR) program. The current cohort is working on their action research projects which will be posted on the website as finished products become available over the summer. These participants are willing and able to share the skills and knowledge they have accrued and will move more fully into coaching and mentoring roles in the second and following years of their association with the program.

This group of leaders, and doubtless others around the province, are a terrific source of inspiration and "know how" in helping schools focus on increasing student learning and achievement. If you have an interest in the STAR program, apply. Know as well that the NBELA has opportunities for the provincial community of educational leaders and will be reaching out to provide support and challenge to all.

collaboration. And in South Korea, Japan, and Singapore, teachers spend only about 35 percent of their working time in the classroom; the rest is for sharing, planning, and working together.”

Needless to say, this focus on professional learning requires a

significant investment of public funds as well as a significant mind shift on the view of the “teacher” work (after all, what do *those* teachers do when they don’t have children in front of them?)

I end this month by asking the question: Are we truly prepared to

do what it takes? Are taxpayers, policymakers and society in general willing to invest in education, to the extent other countries have, in order to get the results we claim we want? I wonder....

1Funding for the multi-year research effort comes from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, MetLife Foundation, NSDC, and The Wallace Foundation.

Full report available at: <http://www.nsd.org/stateproflearning.cfm>

May I Recommend?

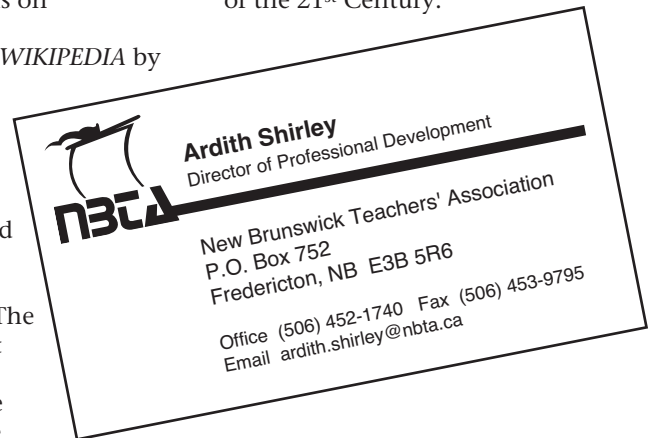
Put *REAL Learning First – It’s Time to Hold Accountability to Account* by J.C. Couture (ATA Magazine, Spring 2009). Although a very short read at just two pages, I found this exploration of Alberta’s assessment practices an interesting read. Linda McNeill’s quote from the article, “measurable outcomes may be the least significant results of learning”, best sums up this exploration between standardized assessment and authentic assessment and the irony that policymakers waste so much time and money focusing on assessments that cannot truly measure “REAL” learning.

In their article, *Let’s Talk 2.0* by Michele Knoble and Dana Wilbur, (*Educational Leadership*, March 2009), the term “Literacy 2.0” is explored and questions are raised about how well our traditional classroom can prepare students for their future.

The authors challenge educators to take advantage of the many tools that are available on-line and that students regularly use outside school to learn. The authors note, “Many students are accomplished authors, filmmakers, animators and recording artists but are not allowed to use these talents and tools on assignments.”

In *Stepping Beyond WIKIPEDIA* by William Badke, (*Educational Leadership*, March 2009) the author explores how significantly the world has changed for teachers and the students we teach. “The internet is the biggest revolution in information since the printing press and we

must help students navigate the sea of information that surrounds them.” The article continues with six tips for teachers to adopt in their regular teaching that will prepare students for the fact that, “The ability to work with information may well be the most important skill of the 21st Century.”



Websites of the Month

1. Blogger (www.blogger.com): A free blog hosting service.
2. Jing Project (www.jingproject.com): A free application that allows you to capture whatever is happening on your computer desktop as a video with voiceover.
3. Google Docs (<http://docs.google.com>): A free, but private, writing space that lends itself to collaborative writing and reviewing on-line.
4. VoiceThread (www.voicethread.com): A user-generated content hosting site that enables users to leave audio and video comments on posts.



Closing Quote:

“The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”
- Alvin Toffler

Wellness Highlights

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING SERVICE
FOR TEACHERS



TEACHER COUNSELLING SERVICES

Michael Ketchum, Districts 14, 17, 18

1-800-561-1727

Carmen Meehan, Districts 6, 8, 10

1-800-563-3938

Niel Cameron, Districts 2, 15, 16

1-888-763-5050



Michael Ketchum

Districts 14, 17, 18

1-800-561-1727

462-0208



Carmen Meehan

Districts 6, 8, 10

1-800-563-3938

634-2901



Niel Cameron

Districts 2, 15, 16

1-888-763-5050

855-5243

Let's Not Take it too Seriously: How to use Humor to Defuse Stress

by David Granirer MA, North America's Psychotherapist/Stand-up Comic

Your six-year-old chooses this morning to decide he isn't going to school. The 45 minutes it takes to cajole and threaten him with time-outs and loss of TV privileges means you miss that project meeting you spent months setting up.

Finally you get to work prepared to crank out some apologetic e-mails and your computer crashes, taking your last three weeks of work with it. Trembling with righteous indignation, you prepare to reach for the phone and scream at the tech support people.

Just then, a coworker wearing Groucho Marx glasses and a clown wig pokes her head into your cubicle, tosses a rubber chicken into your lap, and hands you a bag of Hershey's Kisses. In spite of yourself, you feel a smile coming on, toss the rubber chicken back, and have a laugh as you munch the chocolates.

Five minutes later, the world is once again a beautiful place.

Diversionsary Humor

The above intervention is an example of diversionsary humor, one of the most effective ways of defusing stress. Diversionsary humor involves doing things that create humorous distractions during times of high stress, thus giving people a break from the situation and a chance to cool down.

The logic here is that when we're under stress, physiological arousal occurs in the body, making it hard for us to think clearly or rationally. We also tend to regress into unproductive behaviors like sulking, blaming, or running up a huge Visa bill.

Having a laugh interrupts this physiological cycle of arousal, restoring our sense of perspective and ability to think clearly. And science has proven that when we're happy, the body recovers more quickly from the biological arousal of upsetting emotions.

Because of their ability to provide a quick laugh, props play an important role in diversionsary humor. When I worked at the Vancouver Crisis Centre, we had baskets containing psychedelic plastic slinkies, koosh balls, play dough, and other toys in our phone room for the volunteers to use after a tough call. Diversionsary humor involving props was promoted as part of our organizational culture, because we realized it was one of the quickest, most effective ways we had to reduce stress.

Establishing Humor Precedents

I realize all this sounds great, but you may be wondering, how do you actually get people to use humor in these situations? The answer lies in establishing precedents.

Wellness Highlights PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING SERVICE FOR TEACHERS

No matter how you look at it, humor is a risk. People don't take risks unless they feel safe, and safety comes from being able to cite examples of a particular strategy or behavior working or being accepted. Here are four tips for establishing precedents:

1. Start slow. Bring in props like Groucho glasses and give some to your coworkers. Doing so will start some good-natured bantering and clowning.
2. Casually ask your coworkers "What could we do with these?" Typically people will come up with suggestions like putting them on at a staff meeting, or wearing them to the cafeteria at lunch. If possible, give a prize for the best suggestion. The point is to get people thinking about the possibilities of using humor. Thinking and talking about something is a first step to actually doing it.
3. Pick one of your coworker's suggestions and carry it out. Now you have a precedent!
4. Since props lose their surprise value with repeated use, it's important to bring in new ones from time to time. Put the old ones in a centrally located prop basket. Encourage people to use them. After a while, the old props will take on new life.

Why Props Make Sense

On describing to a client this strategy of using props, she commented that it seemed corny and infantile. She may be right, but the bottom line is that props work. I've taken my

rubber chickens across North America, for use in presentations with bankers, loggers, accountants, health care professionals, teachers, senior executives, parole officers, etc., and they've never failed to get a laugh.

There's something absurd about props that overcomes our rational adult programming and brings out the desire to laugh and play. It's as if their presence gives us permission to slip out of our grown-up personas and experience an irrational moment or two of joy.

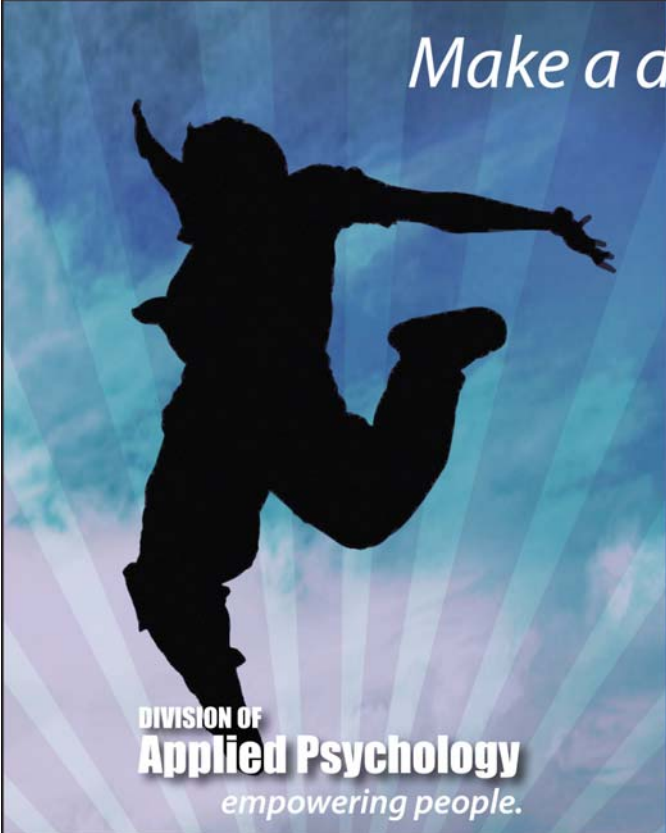
That's another reason it's important to have props in a workplace. They remind us of our joyful side. As adults, we know we're supposed to slow down, enjoy life, and take things less seriously. But often we forget, especially at work. Having a clown mask or a rubber chicken in the office serves as a constant reminder of this, and in a stressful work environment we need all the playful reminders we can get.

A comprehensive stress-management program involves a lot of different tools, like effective planning, positive thinking, and self-management. Diversionary humor is another tool to add to your toolbox.


And like any new technique, it needs to be adapted to each individual and his/her environment. So take this basic principle and see how it fits in your workplace, or what you have to do to customize it.

Also realize that like any new skill, it takes time to master, and that it's okay to make mistakes along the way.

<http://www.psychocomic.com/ART-0004.htm>



Make a difference



- Choose one of our programs: Counselling Psychology, School & Applied Child Psychology, Inclusive & Special Education
- Programs include PhD, EdD, MSc, MA, MEd, a graduate diploma or graduate certificate
- Gain strong academic credentials granted from a prestigious research-based university
- Be a part of a dynamic faculty of scholars

On-campus School & Applied Child Psychology - MSc, PhD Counselling Psychology - MEd, MSc, PhD	Online (Anywhere) School and Applied Child Psychology - MEd Counselling Psychology - MC (Master of Counselling)	Online (Anywhere) Inclusive and Special Education • Post-Bachelor Diploma (Graduate Level)
On-Campus Programs 1.403.220.3585 apsygrad@ucalgary.ca	Online MC 1.403.210-9634 mc_counselling@ucalgary.ca	MEd Diploma 1.403.220.2808 apsyweb@ucalgary.ca

Learn more: www.ucalgary.ca/apsy

UOEC • THIS IS NOW

Paid Advertisement

Developing Successful Schools (DSS)

July 20-23, 2009

Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB

Learning Focused Conversation Practical Strategies for Collaborative Inquiry

Program Overview

This presentation explores a leadership repertoire that flexes between the stances of presenting, collaborating and facilitating when communicating important information and to support groups in generating and processing information.

This session includes:

- principles and formats for designing effective group work
- developing flexibility with three leadership stances: presenting-collaborating-facilitating
- concepts and skills for framing group purposes, tasks and processes
- a repertoire of strategies for energizing groups and supporting information processing
- a toolkit of verbal and nonverbal skills and moves; and
- ways to increase confidence when dealing with difficult topics and difficult groups.

Institute Resource Person - Bruce Wellman

Bruce Wellman is co-director of MiraVia LLC. He consults and presents for school systems, professional groups and publishers throughout the United States and Canada, presenting workshops and courses for teachers and administrators on interactive/collaborative instruction, thinking skills development, learning-focused conversations for supervisors and mentors, presentation skills and facilitating collaborative groups. (*See full biography in DSS brochure*)

Registration/Fees

Educators who are members of the sponsoring organizations (NBTA, NLTA, NSTU & PEITF) - registration fee \$300.00. All others \$400.00. (Preference will be given to members of the sponsoring organizations.) All participants must pre-register.

On-site check-in: Monday, July 20 (3:00 pm – 5:00 pm) in the foyer of Campbell Hall.

The following guidelines will influence the selection for DSS in the event that there are more NB applicants than seats (Limit 24 seats for NBTA):

- Representation by District with consideration to District size.
- Years in administration (a balance of early, mid and late).
- First-time attendees.
- Max. of six (6) seats may be allocated for principal/vice-principal teams (no more than one team/District)

DSS 2009 Application Form

Name: _____ School District: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: (Office) _____ (Home) _____ (Fax) _____

(E-mail) _____ T-shirt size _____

Position: District Office () School Administrator () Other () Specify: _____

Registration Fee: () Educators from sponsoring organizations \$300.00 \$ _____

() Others \$400.00 \$ _____

Accommodations: _____ nights @ () \$50.00 \$ _____

(All accommodations are singles) Dates Accommodations Required: _____

Meals: Meal Plan () Yes () No () \$80.00 \$ _____

Lobster & Steak Banquet: Lobster? Yes ___ No ___ TOTAL \$ _____

NBTA members may register on-line at www.nbta.ca (Credit Card only)

Registration Deadline – June 1, 2009

Make cheque payable to the New Brunswick Teachers' Association

Mail to: Ardith Shirley, Director of Professional Development, P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB E3B 5R6

Tel. (506) 452-1740 Fax (506) 453-9795



Passionate about education?

Curriculum, Teaching
and Learning

Educational Contexts

Educational Leadership

Educational Technology

Gifted Education

Higher Education
Leadership

Interpretive Studies
in Education

Second Language
Teaching

Teaching ESL

Workplace and
Adult Learning

10 innovative graduate specializations, online or face-to-face.

- Choose one of our programs: PhD, EdD, MSc, MA, MEd, a graduate diploma or graduate certificate
- Full and part-time study options
- Gain strong academic credentials granted from a prestigious research-based university
- Be a part of a dynamic faculty of scholars

one's *right* for you

Graduate Division of Educational Research

Inspired learning. Learning to inspire.

Learn more: 1.877.623.0292 | www.educ.ucalgary.ca/gder



Paid Advertisement

Sharing his Success in Music with Students

Miramichi Teacher Receives ECMA Nomination

by Eileen McNeil, NBTA Communications

The Terry Whalen Band, led by Miramichi Valley High School teacher Terry Whalen, was recently nominated for an ECMA (East Coast Music Award). Along with songwriting partner Stephen MacKnight and drummer Jimmy Larsen, The Terry Whalen Band travelled to Corner Brook, Newfoundland to perform at the festival. Their second album, *The Devil's Fireplace*, was in the running for Blues Recording of the Year.

"The experience of attending the ECMAs was simply amazing," said Terry. "For someone who has had a passion for music as far back as I can remember, and to be able to meet and share the stage with some of the most talented and respected musicians Atlantic Canada has to offer, was truly a dream come true. I look forward to taking this experience and sharing it with my students in whatever way possible."

Terry has been playing and writing music for over 25 years although it had to take a backseat for close to fifteen years while he and his wife, Donna, raised their children, Terry James and Krista. Nevertheless, Terry has managed to write enough original material in the last two years for two albums, *Sleepwalker's Blues* and *The Devil's Fireplace*.

Terry has been teaching at Miramichi Valley High School for 12 years. He is currently teaching Multimedia Design 120, Graphic Art and Design 110, and Computer



Terry Whalen performs at the ECMAs in Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

Assisted Design (CAD)110, and 120. When asked about balancing teaching and music, he said, "I have been very fortunate as an educator to be able to find a balance between my career and my music. I have, first and foremost, had the support of my family, without whom this would not have been possible. This support

also extends to my colleagues, my school and my district. I have been able to use music as a means of interacting with students, by way of variety shows and, through this interaction, students have been able to see a different side of me. It really has bridged any gap that might have existed.

"Music has always provided an outlet or release that I think everyone should have. Believe it or not, I really feel it has made me a better teacher. At the end of the day I think it is about doing what you love, whether it be teaching or playing music. There is no reason I can't do both."

You can sample Terry Whalen's music at the band's website:

<http://www.terrywhalenband.com>

or on their myspace page:

<http://www.myspace.com/terrywailin>

Counselling Services

- Anger and Stress Management
- Family & Relationship Counselling
- Mediation

Yvonne Vaughan

MA M.ED CCC

1-506-454-2216

or

1-506-461-8440

(cell)

* Insurance Coverage *

Attention: Participants of Past NBTA Sponsored Courses

It has recently been brought to our attention that receipts distributed for courses taking place before April 2008 may not meet Revenue Canada's Requirements during an audit. Should you find yourself in this circumstance, we will promptly issue the appropriate T2202A form.

Contact ardith.shirley@nbta.ca to obtain a copy.

Paid Advertisement

NBTA NEWS

CTF Website a Valuable Resource

Most New Brunswick teachers are unaware of the full range of information and programs available through the Canadian Teachers' Federation. The e-mails they send to the NBTA contain great information that certainly would interest MANY of our members, but forwarding each one would inundate ALL teachers. If you have the chance to spend a few minutes navigating their website, you may find some items of particular interest. There is a link to CTF in the lower left corner of our site at www.nbta.ca

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) website. At the top, the logo and name are displayed in both English and French, along with the tagline "Conducting research. Expanding knowledge. Fostering understanding." and a photo of a teacher and students. A navigation menu includes Home, Programs, Research, Events, Links, and Français. The main content area features a "Welcome to the Canadian Teachers' Federation" section with a brief history and a "FEATURES" section with an illustration for "The Big Read" event. A sidebar on the left contains links for CTF, Member Org Login, International Programs, Teaching in CANADA, Publications, Resources, Newsroom, and Calendar. The right sidebar includes a NEWS section, a CYBERTIPS logo, a VISION CTF e-newsletter logo, a green street logo, and a CANADIAN PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ACQUISITION CLUB logo. A search bar is located at the bottom left of the main content area. A circular graphic promotes the "2nd annual CTF World Teachers' Day Poster Contest" with a deadline of May 1, 2009. A yellow banner promotes the "PRIME MINISTER'S AWARDS FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE" with a deadline of April 20, 2009. A black banner at the bottom promotes a citizenship education initiative with a 3-minute video clip and free exercises for grades 6-10.

Canadian Teachers' Federation
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

Conducting research. Expanding knowledge. Fostering understanding.

Home | Programs | Research | Events | Links | Français

Welcome to the Canadian Teachers' Federation

For almost 90 years, the Canadian Teachers' Federation has defended the rights of teachers and advocated for a strong public education system in Canada and throughout the world...

FEATURES

NEWS

2009 Global Action Week
The Big Read is Opening Books and Opening Doors...

[more news...](#)

[Our RSS feed](#)

CTF

Member Org Login

International Programs

Teaching in CANADA

Publications

Resources

Newsroom

Calendar

Virtual Research Center

ONE MILLION ACTS OF GREEN

Search the CTF site...

UNE CHANCE A LA DOUANCE

SYMPOSIUM ANNUEL
à l'intention du personnel enseignant
en milieu minoritaire francophone
Ottawa (Ontario)
21 et 22 mai 2009

www.ctf-fce.ca/symposium2009

Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants
Canadian Teachers' Federation

VISION
CTF e-newsletter

green street
www.green-street.ca

CANADIAN PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ACQUISITION CLUB

2nd annual
CTF World Teachers' Day Poster Contest
with financial support from Green Street

Peace: Teach it. Live it.

DEADLINE: Friday, May 1, 2009

For more information

PRIME MINISTER'S AWARDS FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE
NOMINATE AN EXCEPTIONAL TEACHER TODAY –
THE DEADLINE EXTENDED TO APRIL 20, 2009

THINKING GLOBALLY? HERE'S HOW YOU CAN ACT LOCALLY:
ENGAGING IN OUR COMMUNITIES AS GLOBAL CITIZENS
is a citizenship education initiative centered on the values of the environment, democracy, peace and solidarity.

[VIEW THE 3-MINUTE VIDEO CLIP](#)

TEACHERS, ORDER YOUR
FREE EXERCISES AND LESSON PLANS FOR GRADES 6 – 10

Up from Down Under

Elva and Peter Lacey's Exchange Experience

Elva Lacey is a teacher at Westfield School in Grand Bay-Westfield, District 0820. She participated in a teacher exchange with her husband, Peter, to Perth, Australia in 2008-2009. The following is an account of her experience as posted on RiverValleyNews.ca

There are no palm leaves to rake or poisonous snakes to watch out for in Peter and Elva Lacey's backyard in Grand Bay-Westfield; just a long winter's accumulation of snow and ice. It's not exactly the environment the Lacey's became accustomed to over the past year while living in a suburb of Perth, Australia. They left last February on a teacher exchange and returned home just after Christmas. It was a once in a lifetime experience that is still having a profound affect on their lives.

Exchanging jobs and homes and moving to another part of the world is something Elva had been thinking about for some time. It all came together when she and Denise Trainor switched places. Elva and Peter moved into the home of



Denise and Kell Trainor in Subiaco, Australia and Elva took up teaching duties in the local public elementary school. The Trainor's moved into the Lacey home in Grand Bay-Westfield and Denise began teaching at Westfield Elementary School. They traded places and lives for almost a full year and it was a positive experience for everyone.

The Lacey's thoroughly enjoyed their time down under. While Elva taught, Peter kept himself busy tending the garden and exploring the area around Perth. On weekends and holidays they made the most of their time by traveling around Australia. When on the continent they did as the 'Aussies' did and that means a lot of outdoor activities. The Lacey's spent time at the beach, went hiking, explored gold mines, went caving, snorkeled off the Great

Barrier Reef, biked, walked in the outback and even went for a camel ride. The weather was always so pleasant they were automatically drawn to the outdoors. Imagine spending Christmas Day at the beach. They did that. They also had pythons placed around their necks and held little Koala bears. They got a real taste for Australia and they loved it.

Sure, there were the minor drawbacks like poisonous snakes and spiders to be wary of but that didn't prove to be a huge concern. There was also all the snow and winter weather they were missing from Canada but that of course didn't bother them for a second. They did miss family and friends while they were away but they also made some good friends in Australia. Neighbours would get together at the local park to enjoy an evening picnic and outdoor movie. They'd go out to dinner with friends and Elva even spent some time with the families of some of her students. She became close to the kids she taught and it was hard saying goodbye. She says

the year spent in Australia was one of the major highlights of her life and they both admit it was a little difficult leaving. They had made connections and friends there and enjoyed experiences they will never forget. But home is where family is and they were thrilled to see their grandchildren again. They weren't quite as thrilled to return to snow, especially the kind of winter we've been having this year.

Exclusive for NBTF members from Johnson.

Request a home or auto insurance quote and you could win

15,000

AIR MILES® reward miles.



Contact Johnson for details.

www.johnson.ca/nbtf

1.800.563.0677

(Please provide your Group ID Code: 63)

Enjoy peace of mind knowing you have the coverage you need and the service you deserve.



Johnson Inc. Insurance

Home and auto insurance is available through Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance agency. Policies are primarily underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company. Unifund and Johnson Inc. share common ownership. Certain conditions may apply. AIR MILES® reward miles awarded on regular home and auto insurance policies underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company. At the time the premium is paid, one AIR MILES reward mile is awarded for each \$20 in premium. Contest runs from March 1st to December 1, 2009. No purchase necessary. The approximate value of AIR MILES reward miles prize depends on the chosen method of redemption and available reward options available at the time of redemption. Chances of winning depend on number of entries received. Winner must correctly answer a skill-testing question. For details visit www.johnson.ca/nbtf. ©™Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. and Johnson Inc. (for Unifund Assurance Company). (CAT-PC 01 09)

Paid Advertisement

The Library of Parliament's Teachers' Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy 2008

The Teachers' Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy is accepting applications for the 2009 Teachers' Institute to be held from November 1-6, 2009, in Ottawa. Teachers of social studies K-12 will find this unique professional development opportunity to be a highpoint in their teaching careers. The application deadline is April 30.

The 2008 TI actually took place in February 2009, having been postponed from November because of the federal election. Participants learned about the House of Commons, the Senate, the role of the Governor General, the function of lobbyists, the daily life of parliamentary staffers, the behind-the-scenes responsibilities of Members of Parliament, and the relationship of the media to Parliament. It is one thing to read about the House of Commons' procedures; it is quite another to sit at an MP's desk in the House and have The Hon. Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons, discuss procedures, tell stories about parliament and personally answer your questions. The one comment that surfaces time and time again from past participants is the impact that the personal stories of those at the centre of power have on teachers. It is these stories that are shared with students across the country when they return to their classrooms.

It is also difficult to describe how wonderful it is to be in a room with 69 other teachers from across the country who are passionate about civics education and are completely

engaged in the discussions from start to finish. Comparing notes on regional viewpoints and getting to know colleagues from sea to sea is another enriching part of the TI experience. Teachers rarely have the opportunity to learn from their colleagues from across Canada in such a concentrated setting. One word that adequately describes the week is intense; however, there is really not one moment you would want to miss!

Additionally, teachers are presented with a variety of resources to support classroom instruction which are linked to the various provincial curricula. The vast majority of these resources are free. In NB there are two Teacher Leader Program-trained presenters. Barb Corbett and Lise Martin-Keilty are able to deliver bilingual presentations on Library of Parliament resources at school and

district request. Their costs and materials are paid for by the LoP. Feel free to e-mail either Teacher Leader should you or your school have an interest in a presentation (barb.corbett@nbed.nb.ca, lise.martin-keilty@nbed.nb.ca).

Teachers of social studies K-12 are encouraged to apply for this amazing professional development experience. Please follow the web links in the advertisement on page 30 of this publication. Selections are made in May and successful participants are notified in writing. NB has always had strong representation at the TI, so we are encouraging teachers to apply and continue the tradition.

Article submitted by Ms. Barb Corbett (NB Teachers' Advisory Committee Representative) and Mr. Peter T. Smith (Teachers' Institute 2008 participant)



L-R: Bearer of the Mace, Peter Smith, Susan Harrison, The Honorable Senator Noel Kinsella - Speaker of the Senate of Canada, Etienne Bosse, John Fougere, Barb Corbett, Sargeant at Arms.

Planting of Marigolds in 12th Year

This is our 12th year growing and planting marigolds in our community. Many schools have started growing them in their classes. The children use the various learning styles and connect their marigolds with many different subjects (Cross Curriculum Learning). We have planted over 1.7 million marigolds by tens of thousands of school children, many of whom are now adults. We have won 6 international awards and our idea has been copied in several places. The marigolds make our children and our community feel good about themselves, this is extremely important in life. "The meaning of life is to give life meaning." We include all the children so it is a positive inclusive project.

We hope many people will grow marigolds this year as a symbol of hope that we will all lead meaningful lives and to show pride and understanding that our community matters.

Sincerely, Barry Ogden - Teacher, Saint John High School

CONTACT 2009



GUIDING IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK
ORGANIZING STRATEGIES FOR LEARNERS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS
IN A CONTEMPORARY CLASSROOM

MOTIVATING STUDENTS

Contemporary Classrooms
Tuesday, August 4th - Friday, August 7th, 2009
University of Prince Edward Island
Charlottetown, PEI

Our partners For more information, contact your Provincial Teachers' Association



Contemporary Classrooms

A Unique Professional Development Opportunity for Teachers of Atlantic Canada

August 4-7
University of Prince Edward Island,
Charlottetown, PEI

Only 30 spaces available to NBTA members. Apply early!

Consideration given to Branch representation and first-time applicants.

Complete the application form below and send to **Ardith Shirley**, NBTA Professional Development, P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB E3B 5R6 (Fax) 506-453-9795

CONTACT 2009 Application Form

Name: _____ NBTA Member Number (if known) _____

School: _____

Branch: _____ Contacts: Tel: _____ Email: _____

Have you attended CONTACT before? Yes () No () If yes, when/where? _____

- Registration fee: \$200.00
- Details for accommodations (in residence) and meals will be forwarded to successful applicants.
- \$200.00 grant available from NBTA. Applicants should also apply to Councils or Local Branches for other available funding.

DO NOT send any fees. Successful applicants will be contacted.

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

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, NB 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

If you have decided to retire, please notify NBTA Central Office as soon as possible. This will help us prepare for the provincial Retiring Teachers' Luncheon which will be held on Saturday, May 30.



UNB ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMME
~ Fredericton Campus ~
established 1952

A proven way to learn English.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND / OTHER LANGUAGE

Summer employment opportunities exist for *teachers* who wish to gain experience in ESL instruction and for *students in grade 10 or higher* who want to have a unique summer job and meet teenagers from around the world.

High School Session: July 3 - 24, 2009

We are looking for energetic, positive and flexible individuals to work with learners who come to us from around the world to study English as a second or other language.



If you are looking for an exciting and rewarding experience, please contact the *English Language Programme* at 506-453-3564 or come to Room 111 in the College of Extended Learning/Wu Conference Centre for further information.



Schools and Teacher Honoured with National Inclusive Education Awards

National Inclusive Education Awards were presented to two New Brunswick Schools and one New Brunswick teacher at a special ceremony organized by the New Brunswick Association for Community Living (NBACL) to mark National Inclusive Education Week (Feb. 15-21).

Forest Hills School in Saint John and Hartland Community School were given an "Efforts Towards Inclusive Education" award each in the School Staff category.

An Intermediate Education Award was given to Laura Huffaker of Lewisville Middle School.

Co-worker Sandra Smith says, "She recognizes the importance of music in a child's life and does not feel that a physical, emotional or intellectual disability should interfere with that relationship. . . . She demonstrates enormous patience by providing any and all additional instruction and practice time that her students require to fully participate in beginner band. It is a pleasure to see such an inclusive extracurricular activity at our school."

"Forest Hills School is a school that has made great strides in inclusion in recent years, moving from a situation where nine children

with autism were taught in a segregated classroom in the basement of the building to the point where now five of those students have returned to the schools in their neighbourhoods while the remaining four, all living in the Forest Hills area, are fully-integrated in their classrooms," said Marlene Munn.

Robin Crain nominated Hartland Community School. "This team thinks outside the box. They start from a value base of 'what does this child need?' They search for ways to hook students to learning. They do not give up on kids. They truly believe in the collaborative approach. They involve all stakeholders in problem solving around plans for children. They come from a value base of reinforcers, not punishers.

"This school has 11 children with autism plus many others with special needs."

The awards recognize the recipients' ongoing commitment to including all students in education and school life, and are presented annually by the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL). The event took place at Old Government House and was hosted by the Honourable Herménégilde Chiasson, Lieutenant-Governor for New

Brunswick and honorary president of NBACL.

NBACL president, Marlene Munn, concluded the ceremony with these remarks.

"Inclusive education is hard work. No one ever said it wasn't. But as we have seen from the award-winners honoured today, it *is* possible and there *are* those out there who make it happen consistently.

"If it can happen in *one* school, if it can happen in *one* classroom, it can happen anywhere. It just takes the will to make it happen and the belief that it is truly worth the effort."



Laura Huffaker was nominated by her co-worker, methods and resource teacher Sandra Smith.



L to r: Al Fequet - teacher, Marlene Munn - President of the NBACL, Tanya Whitney - Principal of Forest Hills, and Vickie Beaulieu - teacher.



L to r: Marlene Munn - President of the NBACL, John Clendenning - Principal of Hartland Community School

Announcements

Discover Acadia Summer Program July 5th - 18th, 2009

The Centre international d'apprentissage du français, located at the Université de Moncton, campus de Shippagan, in Shippagan (NB) will be offering a two-week session in July, of professional development and cultural experience for teachers involved in French Second Language Programs (Immersion, Intensive French and Core French).

If you require additional information about the session, please contact Josée Godin, Program Coordinator, via email: josee.godin@umcs.ca or by telephone: 336-8336 (ext. 3)

You can also visit our website: www.umcs.ca/ciaf
P.S.: The Department of Education offers 20 bursaries for the French second language teachers interested in the summer program in Shippagan.

One Match

There are currently hundreds of patients who are battling diseases such as leukemia, and require life-saving stem cell transplants. Unfortunately, only 30 % of patients will find a matching donor within their own families.

If you are interested in learning how you can help, please visit our website: www.onematch.ca in order to learn if you are eligible for our Program, and to register on-line.

Teacher's Seminar on the Holocaust July 27 - 29, 2009

Fredericton - The St. Thomas University Holocaust Centre will hold a seminar for teachers focusing on pedagogical methods of incorporating the lessons of the Holocaust into the current public school curriculum. As a truly unique opportunity for teachers, the seminar will utilize the expertise and experiences of four Atlantic Canada Holocaust survivors in reaching this aim. Enrollment in the seminar is limited to thirty participants.

Registration forms can be found at:

http://w3.stu.ca/stu/sites/holocaust_centre/seminarforteachers.html

Deadline for registration is **May 15, 2009**.

For more information please contact:

Marc Gionet

Ph: 506-453-7203

E-mail: margionet@stu.ca

St. Thomas University Summer Institute for Teachers 2009

While each of these 3 credit hour courses are designed to meet teacher certification standards, teachers pursuing specific programs are advised to check with the NB Teacher Certification Branch before enrolling. Permission to use a graduate course toward a Masters degree should be obtained from the university at which you are taking that degree. Please note that course enrolment takes place by contacting the Admissions Office between April 1st and June 30th, 2009.

EDUC 3403 – Contemporary Mathematics Concepts

July 6th to July 10th, 8:30 - 4:00
Max. Enrol.: 30 participants

EDUC 3503 - Contemporary Physical Science Concepts I

July 13th to July 17th, 8:30 - 4:30
Max. Enrol.: 18 participants

EDUC 5503 - Human Rights Education: Classroom and Community

July 19th, 1:00 - 5:00
July 20th to July 24th, 9:00 - 5:00
Max. Enrol.: 60 participants

EDUC 5823 – Writing Across the Curriculum

July 8th to July 10th, 9:00 - 3:30;
July 13th to July 14th, 9:00 - 3:30
Max. Enrol.: 20 participants

EDUC 6113 – Introduction to Action Research

July 16th to July 17th, 9:00 - 3:30;
July 21st to July 23rd
Max. Enrol.: 20 participants

EDUC 6143 – The Professional Learning Community

July 8th to July 10th, 9:00 - 3:30;
July 13th to July 14th, 9:00 - 3:30
Max. Enrol.: 20 participants

Registration, Admissions & Accommodations

Tuition for each course is \$520.00 and must be paid by the end of the day of the opening class. It should also be noted that a \$35 application fee should be submitted with your application forms.

For information regarding . . .

- course application, contact admissions@stu.ca or 452-0532
- course payment, contact registrar@stu.ca or 452-0530
- accommodations, contact Nancy Collett at collett@stu.ca or 460-0329
- all of the above information will be available in April at <http://www.stu.ca> (*Campus News*)



St. Thomas University
Leaders in Liberal Arts Education
Intimate, Dynamic, Challenging

2009 Last year for Aliant Award

2009 will be the last year that the Aliant Award for Excellence in Teaching will be awarded. We would like to recognize and congratulate all the wonderful teacher who have received this award.

Past Aliant Award Recipients

1990	Jim Doyle	2000	William Kealy
1991	Gary Branch	2001	Weldon Matthews
1992	Margaret Corbin	2002	John Gahagan
1993	Wendell Gregan	2003	Pamela MacRae
1994	Wanetta Walls	2004	Patricia Ellsworth
1995	Nancy Estey	2005	Ernie Rogers
1996	Owen Fraser	2006	Norma-Gene Jones
1997	Joan Daigle	2007	Peter McLaughlin
1998	Doreen Armstrong	2008	Patrick Scully
1999	Anne Scott		

Summer Studies for Elementary Music Educators

St. Thomas University is offering a summer course specifically designed for Elementary Music Educators. The course focuses on the Orff Approach to elementary music education which utilizes activities that children naturally engage in: singing, chanting, clapping, dancing, and keeping a beat using anything that is close at hand. Using this perspective children learn music much in the same way we learn language. They learn music first hearing it, taking part in making music, and then later reading and writing it. The Orff classroom is a non-competitive environment where children use poems, games, songs, and dances to explore music. These activities are accompanied by singing, body percussion, and simple rhythm instruments. Improvisation and composition are key components in this approach to music as students are encouraged to explore, to experiment, and to create.

Instructors for the course are Debra Giebelhaus-Maloney and Dr. Ruth Morrison.

For more information or to register, contact martink@stu.ca.

2008 Johnson Inc. Scholarship Recipients

The Johnson Inc Scholarship Program began in 1998 and has since awarded over \$1,000,000 in financial assistance. Each year, 100 scholarships now valued at \$1500, are awarded to students completing High School and are beginning post-secondary educational studies.

We are pleased to announce that dependents of the following NBTA members were awarded a \$1500 scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year:

MEMBER	DEPENDENT
Janet Gillis	Jordan Gillis
Stacey Stairs	Laura Stairs
Helen Gollings	Owen McCausland
Sandra Lass	Benjamin Lass
Patricia Slipp	Melissa Slipp

Dale Weldon, Mary Ellen Vaughan and the rest of the New Brunswick team at Johnson Inc. wish to extend congratulations to the recipients and wish them every success in their academic studies.

**Next Final Copy Deadline
For NBTA News:
Thursday, June 11**



ISSN 0317-5227

NBTA News is published five times a year. Opinions expressed are those of the authors, not necessarily the NBTA.

Editor: Blake Robichaud

Editorial Assistant: Loretta Clarke

Graphic Artist: Eileen McNeil

Printed By: NBTF Printing Services

Member: CEPA

Address all correspondence to:

The Editor

P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, N.B.

E3B 5R6

Telephone: (506) 452-8921

FAX: (506) 453-9795

E-mail: nbtanews@nbta.ca

Web: www.nbta.ca

The sky is the limit.

**With a Johnson Scholarship behind you,
you have everything ahead of you.**

Johnson is proud to offer Canadian residents, who are completing high school and who are beginning post-secondary education in Canada, the opportunity to apply for one of 100 scholarships valued at \$1,500.

The deadline for applications is September 15th.

Visit www.johnson.ca and click "About Johnson" or call 1.877.328.7878 for further information.



29th Annual NBTA Men's Curling Bonspiel



Section A Winners: Dave Ross, Skip; Peter Taylor, Mate; Neil White, Lead; and Owen Dunn, 2nd



Section B Winners: Mike McGrath, Mate; Mike Butler, Skip; Andrew Loughery, 2nd; Tilman Martin, Lead (absent); Mark MacAuliffe, Committee Member



Section D Winners: Terry Dickson, Skip; Curtis Fournier, Lead; Peter Woytuik, Mate; Roy Coholan, 2nd; Mark MacAuliffe



TEACH ON A TROPICAL ISLAND!

A Canadian program accredited by New Brunswick in lovely St. Lucia, W.I. requires 2 experienced N.B. secondary school teachers for combinations of Math, Physics, Business, PE and Guidance.

One of these teachers could also be the liaison to N.B., supervising the on-line grade 11/12 courses and administering examinations.

Requirements: Masters degree and five years teaching experience in New Brunswick.

Check our website:

www.intschoolstlucia.org

and Email your resume to:

internationalschoolstlucia@gmail.com

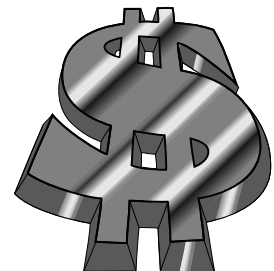
Tel# (758) 458-0989 Attention:

Mrs. June Harkness, Principal

Paid Advertisement

Notice: June 2009 Retirees

Teachers who will be retiring at the end of June 2009 will receive any residual (summer) money owed to them on the July 3, 2009 pay date. First pension deposit will occur on July 23/24 as long as all necessary paperwork has been completed.



50 years ago in
NBTA NEWS

VOLUME I

1959

NO. II

Teachers Reprimanded — The Executive of the New Brunswick Teachers' Association has confirmed the findings of the NBTA Ethics Committee and hereby reprimands six teachers for having broken the NBTA Code of Ethics in that each of the them accepted a salary below the provincial minimum for the school year 1958-1959 from the St. Stephen Board of School Trustees after having been duly advised that such salary was below the minimum.

Closing of Schools, December 1960 — The following notice has been received from the Hon. Henry G. Irwin, Minister of Education: Regulation 13(3) of the Regulations respecting the New Brunswick Schools Act states that the fall term shall end on the Friday preceding Christmas. This means that this year schools would close on Friday, December 23. Permission is granted that, with the approval of the Board of School Trustees, teachers may conduct school any Saturday during the months of November or December and close school Thursday, December 22.

Congratulations, Dalhousie Branch — This year the Dalhousie NBTA Branch has its own letterhead, and very attractive it is. This has been done on a duplicating machine so has cost the Branch little more than ordinary blank paper.

Group Insurance for Male Teachers — Any male teachers who do not presently belong to the Group Insurance Plan may become members by contacting Mr. A.D. Gray, Canada Life Insurance Company, Moncton, NB. Teachers whose salaries are \$2500 or less will be insured for \$2500. Teachers whose salaries are in excess of \$2500 will be insured for \$5000. The premiums are \$12.10 and \$24.21 respectively. For academic teachers the deductions are made from the August government grant. For Vocational teachers deductions are made from salary the same as pension and dues.

Parliament of Canada



Ottawa, November 1 to 6, 2009

TEACHERS INSTITUTE
ON CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
APRIL 30, 2009

Experience a week on Parliament Hill!

- ▶ 70 participants selected from across Canada
- ▶ All grade levels
- ▶ Most costs covered
- ▶ Bursaries available

www.parl.gc.ca/teachers 613-922-4793 or 1 866 599-4999

www.parl.gc.ca/education Educational Programming and Products

The Parliament of Canada has free educational resources available for your use.

- ▶ On-line and downloadable
- ▶ Tailored for all levels of instruction
- ▶ Class sets and Teacher Kits available



CANADA

Renseignements disponibles en français.

*As of printing, many committee meetings and conferences had not been set. For the latest updated NBTA calendar, please go to the website (www.nbta.ca) and click on upcoming events.

April 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 Br. Resolutions for AGM Centennial/Aliant/Outstanding Educational Leadership Awards NBTA Board	2 NBTF Board	3 NBTA Board	4
5	6 Centennial Award Committee Meeting	7	8	9	10 Good Friday	11
12	13 Easter Monday	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	NBTA Voting To Take Place					
26	27	28	29	30 Council Day		
May 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 Ballots Returned to Central Office Combined Council Day 2009	2
3	4	5	6 Counting of NBTA Ballots	7	8 NBTA Executive	9 NBTF Executive
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Victoria Day	19	20	21	22	23
24 /31	25	26	27	28	29 NBTA AGM	30 NBTA AGM
June 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 NBTF Executive	12 NBTA Executive	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Last Day for Students	20
21	22	23 Administration Day	24 Administration Day	25	26	27
28	29	30				

NBTA Credit Union ATM Now Open for Business!



NBTA Credit Union's new ATM is now open 24/7 on the ground floor of the NBTF Building in Fredericton.

Don't live near our Fredericton branch? NBTA Credit Union is linked to several Credit Unions and other financial institutions through The-Exchange® network. You can use over 50 ATM's throughout New Brunswick as if it were an NBTA Credit Union ATM.

Just look for The-Exchange® logo at the ATM!

New Brunswick Teachers' Association
 650 Montgomery Street,
 P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB
 E3B 5R6

Place Label Here



650 Montgomery St., P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6
 506-452-1724 • 1-800-565-5626 • 506-452-1732 (fax)
 E-mail: nbtacu@nbnet.nb.ca • Web: <http://www.nbtacu.nb.ca>
 Hours: Monday to Friday, Telephone Service 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 In-Branch Service: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

CANADA POST	POSTES CANADA
Postage paid Publications Mail	Port payé Poste-publications
41349976	