

NB

TA News



April 25, 2007
Vol. XLIX, No. 8

New Brunswick Teachers' Association

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**Next Final Copy Deadline
For NBTA News:
Monday, May 28**

The Power of Learning



Shape the Future with Your Voice

Indu Varma, NBTA President

Conversations in school staff rooms sometimes go into a wistful reverie with statements like ... *If I had more of a voice... If someone could only listen to what I have to say... If I could change the way things happen in my school... Left up to me I'd fix ...*

The perfect opportunity for voicing our opinion and making a difference will be available in the near future at NBTA Branch AGMs, followed by the NBTA provincial AGM held on May 25-26, 2007.

NBTA is our professional organization that works on our behalf to look after the professional and pedagogical aspects of teaching and learning. Is it not our professional obligation to become better informed about educational issues that affect our daily teaching

and learning conditions?

The budget details and resolutions are included in the AGM supplement. Debate the pros and cons of resolutions presented at your NBTA Branch AGM, make informed choices, and thus help shape our collective future! Your opinions count. You make a huge difference!



Indu Varma

Indu Varma

Due to overlapping publication deadlines, all materials for the 2007 NBTA AGM are printed in a supplement to this issue, and will be distributed to each teacher as a separate document.

Worth the Student's Weight in Gold

by Gary Sullivan, Lorne Middle School

Whe Pen is mightier than the Sword". Certainly when it comes to behaviour tracking, this is certainly a truism. Thanks to my Cracker Jack staff at Lorne Middle School, I have yet to lose any appeal with regards to marks or behaviour.

Part of the Lorne Middle School culture is that teachers have been very diligent about reporting (on paper) actions by students that disrupt the positive learning environment.

After a student has been coached, corrected, rehearsed, Ron Morrish-ed, Quantumed, Cooperatively Disciplined, and otherwise formatively evaluated – teachers decide that it is now time to bring greater accountability to bear.

As part of our Positive Learning Environment Plan, teachers document inappropriate behaviours using the provincially developed Behaviour Tracking Sheet. Having experienced several different models of this form, our staff agrees that this is the most efficient version that we have seen. Since it is calibrated with Policy 703, and have a "check box" system with a brief explanation, a

situation can be documented in under 60 seconds.

These forms (worth a student's weight in gold) are stored in one central file system in our main office. They are accessible by any of the student's teachers or the school administration. I can't tell you how



many times a parent has tried to circumvent a teacher's authority by phoning me directly, only to find out I already have full knowledge of the incident (and many others) in which the parent child has been involved. I really enjoy the feeling of being able to back up my teachers without having to run around to get all the details – they are at my fingertips!

I'm sure you can imagine how having all of the documented incidents, with details of not only

the situation but the school's response, allows our School-Based Team and other partners to work with these children. By having a file full of documented incidents, there can be no argument as to the extent of the student's behaviour. Referrals to District Office, Family and Community Services, or other partner agencies are 90% complete just by pulling the file.

I have to again thank the Lorne staff for their consistency with these forms. Being an administrator is stressful enough because of the confrontations in which we are involved. Having a thick file of behaviour documentation has reduced this stress level greatly, while increasing the effectiveness of referring students to alternative education sites. It is difficult to argue that a student should still be in the classroom when faced with 30 sheets of infractions.

Weighing the time it takes to fill out Behaviour Tracking Forms (30 seconds each) against the improved learning environment when these students are referred to more appropriate alternate learning sites is *worth the student's weight in gold*.

Educational Improvement → Grant Funds Depleted ←

Teachers should note that due to high demand, the funds for both Provincial and Council Educational Improvement Grants (i.e., for conferences and other professional development) have been depleted for activities taking place between now and June 30, 2007.

Funding is available for activities taking place after July 1, 2007 and application can be made at any time. Teachers are encouraged to apply early.



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Editor: Jim Dysart

Editorial Assistant: Loretta Clarke

Graphic Artist: Christy Price

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@nbnet.nb.ca

Web: www.nbta.ca

President's Message



Teachers daily face the challenge of meeting the diverse needs of children effectively with limited resources. Given the wide range of academic, behavioral, and medical needs, it is rather difficult to teach the curriculum outcomes effectively at every individual's level within a class. Furthermore, the content-centered curriculum allows limited focus on the learning process, thus complicating our task of imparting necessary skills to make our students lifelong learners.

Learning occurs as a result of a dynamic interaction between the human brain and the environment surrounding it. Learning with understanding occurs only when there are opportunities for learners to construct knowledge through active engagement in experiential learning, intellectual exploration, critical thinking, problem solving, dialogue, interaction, and reflection.

Such learning can be better accomplished through shared responsibility and true partnership with the community. The community involvement, as stated in the quote above, plays a pivotal role in making our children lifelong learners.

Recognizing the crucial role the community plays in student success, in February 2001, the Saskatchewan government embraced the concept of 'School Plus'. The focus of 'School Plus' is on providing school-linked and school-based services by matching community resources to the children's needs. Bill 3 of 'Healthy Child Act' tabled in the Manitoba legislature in November

School and Community Partnerships for Excellence in Education

"Developing young people who excel as lifelong learners requires the involvement of the whole community, because this is the environment that provides them with the immediate feedback they need to make connections between academic learning and events in the real world." – John Abbott & Terry Ryan in 'Unfinished Revolution'

2006, aims at prevention and early intervention strategies through government and community partnerships to achieve the best possible outcomes for Manitoba's preschool children.

Our own MacKay Report's (March 2006) recommendation number 30 urges the government to create an interdepartmental committee on integrated delivery of services. Such a committee was created nearly a year ago, bringing together three government departments - Health, Family and Community Services, and Education to have preliminary discussions about serving our children's needs through effective partnerships. It is our hope that the new education plan, currently being formulated, will take this a step further and implement an integrated services delivery model. This will allow for efficient information exchange, resource sharing and collaboration between various government departments, which will positively impact student learning.

Through such an integrated services delivery a school would benefit from community partnerships. Through collaboration the school would be able to provide opportunities, support systems, services, and program options (academic and vocational) to maximize the potential of our children. The strong social network of the community could also assist in effectively dealing with 'at risk' students and school violence related issues.

The school would be rooted in the community as a centerpiece to support the community and vice-versa. In that context it would be available for student and community use after school hours. The focus would be on creating successful learners and healthy communities

through such initiatives as, school meals, English as a second language classes, parenting classes, drop-in homework centre, preschool and child care service, computer access centre, library services, gym, health and fitness services for students and their families, transition to work/employment centre, arts and enrichment activities, etc.

Research indicates that strong social network of the community increases chances for student success; thus making it a pedagogically sound choice to educate the students in their own community. In addition, through the community school framework shared infra structure costs will allow our small rural schools to provide better services and program options.

"If the school and the community can link together to create, through their separate strengths and resources, a genuine learning community that is friendly to children, then the progression of young people into the world of work will be smooth, logical, and effective," says John Abbott in 'Children Need Communities and Communities Need Children' (*Educational Leadership*, v52, May 1995).

While talking about his strategy for creating the best Canadian education system in New Brunswick, our Minister, Hon. Kelly Lamrock, has spoken passionately about early and appropriate intervention, innovation, supporting teachers, and letting each child find his/her passion.

Much of this can be accomplished through the community school concept. Let's work together to evolve a culture of community collaboration to support our children's learning and excellence in education.

Our children are worth it!

Creating and Sustaining Professional Learning Communities

May 17 and 18, 2007

Delta Beauséjour Hotel, Moncton, NB

Presented by School District 2

Anthony Muhammad: "Creating a Professional Learning Community"

On Thursday, Anthony Muhammad's presentation will be focused on the implementation process of transforming a school from a traditional school culture into a Professional Learning Community. We will investigate a linear process/plan that helps school leaders carefully transition their school cultures in a skillful manner.

Marcella Emberger: "Assessment for Learning - The Heart of a PLC"

On Friday, Marcy Emberger will focus on how school leaders can use assessment for learning as a way to focus on the development of professional learning

communities. She will provide you with the tools you need to support teachers as they move along a continuum of growth in their transition from assessment of learning to assessment for learning. Marcy will give an overview of assessment techniques that get to the heart of true learning. She will provide you with research based strategies to help your teachers determine what students have learned and how best to respond when students do not learn.

For more information or to register for this conference please use the link below:

<http://www.district2.nbed.nb.ca/online-forms/plc200705.asp>

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, 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 on Saturday, May 26th.

Developing Successful Schools (DSS)

July 3-6, 2007

Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB

'Adaptive Schools' in Your School

An Instructional Leadership Institute for Administrators of Atlantic Canada

Program Overview

Leading sustainable improvement in learning and teaching is a complex, challenging and rewarding goal for any school leader.

Our goals for this four-day seminar are:

- to explore the principles and implications of 'Adaptive Schools', from its powerful research base to practical implementation in today's Canadian schools
- to examine the leadership styles, skills and approaches that generate sustainable successful change in the way schools do business
- to reflect on our experience of change, and develop strategies that work
- to draw on the shared experience and support of the group to see our way forward
- to develop strategic and operational plans for our own schools for the coming year

Institute Resource Person - Claudette Landry

Claudette's experience includes service as a principal, program consultant, staff developer and classroom teacher. Her teaching spans 25 years of instruction involving all grades from kindergarten through grade 8. She has worked extensively with teachers and administrators in implementing effective instructional strategies and in developing collaborative communities that promote thinking, learning and human development. (*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: Tuesday, July 3 (3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) in the Foyer of University Centre.

NBTA members please note:

Please indicate if you are paying the total costs to attend this Institute OR partial costs and the district partial costs OR if the district is paying the total costs and if so, who should the NBTA invoice.

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. • Maximum of six (6) seats may be allocated for principal/vice-principal teams (no more than one team/District)

DSS 2007 Application Form

Name: _____ School District: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

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

(E-mail) _____

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 single) Dates Accommodations Required: _____

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

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

Method of payment: () cheque **and/or** () invoice _____

T-shirt size _____ (Whom should the NBTA invoice?)

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

Registration Deadline – June 1, 2007

Attach cheque for the total amount 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

Where Two or More are Gathered... (Teachers, of course!)

Ardith Shirley, Director of Professional Development

My husband swears that if you put two or more teachers together in a room of 1000 random people, they will inevitably be drawn together by some magical force. Upon finding one another, they begin an educationally jargon-charged conversation of absolutely no consequence to non-educators; but so wonderfully stimulating to teachers that we cannot possibly tear ourselves away.

"How many students do you have? How many curricular outcomes have you covered to date? What resource texts are you using? How many SEPS in your class? How many students at your school? How many teachers? Do you have a TA in your classroom?" (...and so on and so on...)

As teachers, we compare and contrast groups, achievement levels, resources, schools, districts, students, parents, colleagues, administrators, and even ourselves on a regular basis. Anytime two or more of us are gathered together, we talk, think, live and breathe education. We attempt to problem-solve through issues that exist, used to exist, and even those that don't exist yet, but we are sure are just around the corner. Such is the life of teachers who are constantly striving for improvement.

In the absence of a fellow educator to engage in the comparison of classroom situations, we can be known to give ourselves a self-imposed split-personality and compare the teacher we are this year, to the one of last year, or the year yet to come. Not sure what I mean? How many times have you caught yourself thinking or saying something like, "Next year when I get to this theme, I will..." or "Last year I had 12 students who by this point in the year were..."

It is very difficult to describe this phenomenon to someone who isn't

a teacher. I recently was reading an article that was examining why professional growth and staff development needs for teachers are so different than that of other professions. According to the author, it boils down to motivation. Staff development for other vocations usually includes much more time spent on motivating individuals to remind them of why they do the job they do. Teachers do not require these kinds of reminders. They are surrounded each day with all of the motivation they need to do good work – the faces of their students.

"They are surrounded each day with all of the motivation they need to do good work – the faces of their students."

While I think we can establish and agree that there is no lack of discussion and motivation within our ranks, we sometimes lack the framework or strategy to move our discussions and motivation from the vague ideology to the tangible result.

Professional Learning Communities (or PLCs) may be just the missing piece to our puzzle. (For those of you who are being exposed for the first time, please resist the temptation to roll your eyes at yet another educational acronym.)

The Beginnings of Professional Learning Communities

"During the eighties, Rosenholtz (1989) brought teachers' workplace factors into the discussion of teaching quality, maintaining that teachers who felt supported in their own ongoing learning and classroom practice were

more committed and effective than those who did not receive such confirmation. Support by means of teacher networks, cooperation among colleagues, and expanded professional roles increased teacher efficacy in meeting students' needs. Further, Rosenholtz found that teachers with a high sense of their own efficacy were more likely to adopt new classroom behaviors and also more likely to stay in the profession.

McLaughlin and Talbert (1993) confirmed Rosenholtz's findings, suggesting that when teachers had opportunities for collaborative inquiry and the learning related to it, they were able to develop and share a body of wisdom gleaned from their experience. Adding to the discussion, Darling-Hammond (1996) cited shared decision making as a factor in curriculum reform and the transformation of teaching roles in some schools. In such schools, structured time is provided for teachers to work together in planning instruction, observing each other's classrooms, and sharing feedback. These and other attributes characterize professional learning communities." (Hord, 1997)

I am sure you will agree that any idea that promotes and values structured time for teachers to work, plan and reflect as professionals is a model to embrace. I am encouraged by the fact that the NB Department of Education has recently embarked on a very significant investment in PD by training a team of teachers from each of the districts over the next few months. This "Professional Learning Community Coaching Academy" may prove to be the first of many opportunities for two or more NB educators to gather together and share their wisdom. Let's hope this novel approach of giving teachers time and resources to truly be the professionals we were trained to be becomes embedded practice in our system sooner rather than later!

Council Day Reminders

Speaking of opportunities to gather together as professionals, Council Day is fast approaching. All three councils are hosting superb programs! In order to have the best possible experience, may I offer a few reminders?

- If you have pre-registered, BRING YOUR NAME TAG AND BAR CODE with you! When you whisk through registration in 5 minutes or less, you will be so thankful you did!
- If you haven't pre-registered, you may want to arrive a bit earlier in order to avoid the rush.
- If you happen upon one of the council members, take the opportunity to say a collegial "thank you" for the countless hours of volunteer time they have spent over the past school year to organize the day's events for you.

In my short time here at the NBTA, the dedication and energy of the teachers who serve on our three councils continues to amaze and astound me.

CONTACT and DSS

Why not take the opportunity this summer to gather with colleagues from around the Atlantic Region at one of two premier conferences that are being hosted right here in NB. *Developing Successful Schools* (DSS) is designed for administrators while *CONTACT* (Conference on New Techniques and

Classroom Teaching) is designed for teachers of all grade levels. Registration information can be found for each of these worthwhile PD opportunities in this issue of the *NBTA News* or on our NBTA website, (www.nbta.ca).

May I recommend?

This month I am highlighting a few articles that may prove timely as you and your colleagues gather to discuss and debate those many educational issues.

The Great Homework Debate Continues...

Very early in my teaching career, one of my more experienced colleagues asked for "Homework" to be placed on one of our staff meeting agendas. She proceeded to share the latest research from Alfie Kohn that questioned the value of homework to the learning of students. Needless to say, there was much staff discussion at our meeting that day. As a new teacher, I still remember my thoughts whirring: No homework? What in the world? Wasn't assigning homework part of my job as a teacher? Isn't homework just a "given" in school?

Many years later, I remember the experience and discussion as if it were yesterday and the debate regarding the value of homework still rages. The March issue of Phi Delta Kappan has two articles on the topic. **Errors and Allegations About Research on Homework** by Robert Marzano and Debra Pickering,

challenges many of Kohn's anti-homework contentions. A rebuttal article by Kohn titled, **Digging Themselves in Deeper: More Misleading Claims About the Value of Homework** is also featured in this issue.

To Retain or not to Retain, that is the Question – NOT!

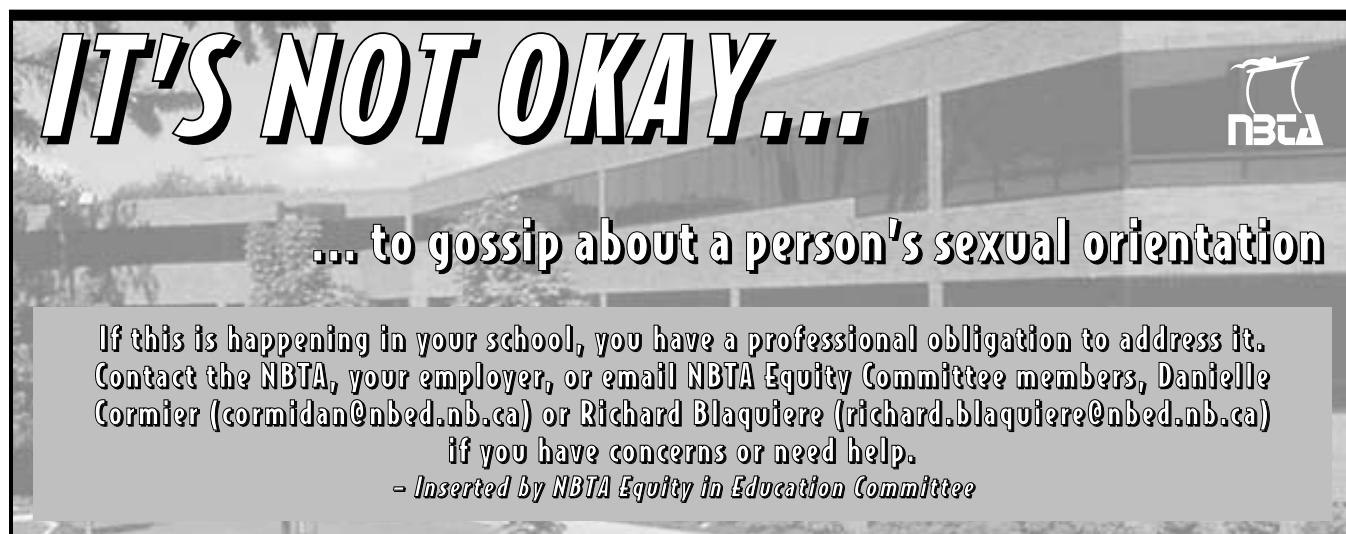
The March NASSP Bulletin includes the article, **Making Decisions in the Dark: Disconnects Between Retention Research and Middle Level**

Practice by Donald Larson and Tariq Akmal. This is a very worthwhile exploration of a study of 10 school districts and the disconnect between their retention policies and practice. "The study demonstrates that when research and policy align and educators acknowledge that neither retention or social promotion is acceptable, viable alternatives and intervention strategies can be explored." The article begins to explore just such alternatives and interventions.



Closing Quote:

"To say you have taught when students haven't learned is to say you have sold when no one has bought." —Madelaine Hunter



IT'S NOT OKAY...

...to gossip about a person's sexual orientation

If this is happening in your school, you have a professional obligation to address it. Contact the NBTA, your employer, or email NBTA Equity Committee members, Danielle Cormier (cormidan@nbbed.nb.ca) or Richard Blaquiere (richard.blaquiere@nbbed.nb.ca) if you have concerns or need help.

- Inserted by NBTA Equity in Education Committee



Skills for Administrators

Share the Wisdom – March 21 & 22

On March 21 and 22, early career administrators from around the province gathered to share their wisdom with one another. Five experienced and highly-regarded administrators led this workshop: Donna Bliss (Priestman Street Elementary), Stephen Everett (Stanley High School), Kathy Grebenc (Superior Middle School), Frank MacPhee (Rexton Elementary) and Robert Munro (Kennebecasis Valley High School). Both the newest administrators and the most experienced of the group agreed that this opportunity to learn from one another was time well spent!



Teacher Certification Caution!

The University of New Brunswick has recently announced changes to their M.Ed. from the old 36 credit hour program to a new 30 credit hour degree. Teachers should be aware that the 30 credit hour degree might not meet NB Teacher Certification requirements for Certificate 6. All concerned are advised to contact the Office of Teacher Certification for advice and clarification on your individual circumstances.

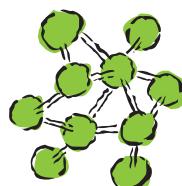
Elementary Council Science Institute

Fun with Hands-On Science for Elementary School Teachers

When: Monday, May 14, 2007 – 9:00 am – 3:30 pm (lunch on your own)

Where: Rodd Inn, Miramichi (Chatham), NB

Presenters: Science East, Fredericton, New Brunswick



Find science a little scary and intimidating? Then this is the session for you! Learn ways to integrate more hands-on science into your classroom and generally build your confidence level. The focus is on involvement, with plenty of chances for participants to try out cool science experiments and activities for themselves before taking it back to the most critical audience of all — your students.

This Institute is designed for Grades 4 and 5 Elementary Teachers.
Enrollment is limited to the first 30 applicants.

To register, contact:

Karla Roy, New Maryland Elementary School, 129 Clover Street, New Maryland, NB E3C 1C5
Fax 444-5113 Tel. 453-5420 Karla.roy@nbed.nb.ca

Donna Losier, Parkwood Heights Elementary, 1125 Highland Avenue, Bathurst, NB
Fax 547-2791 Tel. 547-2770 Donna.losier@nbed.nb.ca

Elementary Council News



May 4, 2007 — NBTA Council Day!



Changing the Tide of Learning —

As you prepare to attend the conference in Saint John, think about:

1. Your teaching style and how it has changed.
2. How students, curriculum and technology have changed.
3. How society has changed.
4. As a teacher, what can I do to stay current?

It is the Elementary Council members' wish that the speakers and events at the conference - *Changing the Tide of Learning* - will help you reflect on the changes in education and how you can adapt to the changes positively.

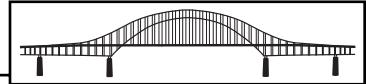
PLEASE remember to attend the AGM at lunchtime at the Turn of the Tide Restaurant in the Hilton Hotel Complex. This is your opportunity to hear what has been happening on Council, what is going to happen, review the budget, and perhaps (no

pressure) become a Council member. You are the Elementary Council, make your wishes known!

There will be three door prizes valued at \$100 each (redeemable at the publisher's display) during the AGM only. What better incentive could there be!

See you on MAY 4, 2007 in Saint John at Harbor Station and The Trade & Convention Centre! **Don't forget your name tag for speedy registration.**

Middle Level Council News



Laptop Learning Legacy

by Kathy Grebenc, Superior Middle School

It does not seem possible that just six months ago, there was jubilation on the faces of 229 students at our school. As we applauded the help of the technicians and education support personnel from the province and district, never before did we see such anticipation and excitement on the students' faces as when the laptops were delivered to each expectant pair of hands. Most of them did not, and nor did we, fully understand the changes that would come about as a result of these personalized black boxes.

Within the timeframe, a lot has happened to the learning and the

learning potential of our students. In a survey of the students, 92% said they thought the laptops improved their reading and writing abilities. All thought the assignments were easier to complete and 91% thought they produced better work in terms of quality. Ninety-six

percent said their math classes had improved, citing the interactive websites that teachers directed them to as useful, fun, and worth using at home. Students see this project as solid preparation for



their future; they acknowledge computer skills as being essential in education and the workplace.

When asked to give three neat activities or projects attempted through the use of the computers, a majority did not limit themselves to that number. They listed programs such as the SMART notebook and movie maker which they used for clay animation productions. They enjoyed publishing their writings on blogs, as well as the ease of researching and presenting Science Fair projects, speeches, and portfolios. To communicate with (...continued on page 12)



Middle Level Council Day → → → →

Sudoku Challenge

6	3				8			
		9	2			4	3	
		4						5
1				9		2	3	
3	9			5		6	4	
4	2		8					9
5					2			
6	2			5	3			
			1			5	8	

Accommodations



Ramada Fredericton

480 Riverside Drive

Ph: (506) 460-5500 Fax: (506) 472-0170

Toll Free (Canada): 1-800-596-4656

<http://www.ramadafredericton.com/>

Fredericton Inn

1315 Regent Street

Ph: (506) 455-1430 Fax: (506) 458-5448

Reservations@Frederictoninn.nb.ca

Crowne Plaza

659 Queen Street

Ph: (506) 455-3371 Fax: (506) 455-1441

<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/>

Delta

225 Woodstock Road

Ph: (506) 457-7000 Fax: (506) 457-4000

Toll-Free: 1-888-462-8800

<http://www.deltahotels.com/hotels/hotels.php?hotelId=207>



Amsterdam Inn

559 Bishop Drive

Ph: (506) 474-5050 Fax: (506) 474-5054

Toll-Free: 1-800-468-2828

<https://fredericton.amsterdamns.com>

Thank You to Our Local Sponsors to Date: (In no particular order)

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18. The Happy Baker
19. Westminster Books

Thank
You!



20. Compu Smart
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30. The Snooky Fox
31. Pano's Souvlaki & Donair
32. Havest Jazz & Blues Festival
33. Crumbs Catering
34. The Back Nine
35. Boston Pizza
36. Atlantic Canada's Riverfront Capital Fredericton

Many
Thanks!



← ← ← ← Fredericton, May 4, 2007

Special thanks to our major sponsor: www.dairygoodness.ca
Dairy Farmers of Canada



Meet Your Middle Level Council Day Organizing Committee:

Kendra Frizzell ~ Program Chair ~ George Street Middle School

Sara Belong ~ Sponsorship ~ George Street Middle School

Lise Bourgeois ~ Budget and Brochure ~ George Street Middle School

Lucie Davis ~ Presenter Liaison ~ George Street Middle School

Heather Ingalls ~ Sponsorship ~ Albert Street Middle School

Lise Martin-Keilty ~ Registrar ~ George Street Middle School

Diane Russell ~ Publisher Liaison ~ George Street Middle School

Stephen Stone ~ Brochure and Communications ~ George Street Middle School



George Street Middle School

A winner never quits. A quitter never wins.
...home of the Crusaders!



**Over 1100 have registered.
Have You?
It's NOT too late.**



<http://register.middle.nbta.ca>

Don't Forget!

Middle Level Social
Ramada

Thursday, May 3 from 9pm -12am.

Live Music by Atlantic
*It's The Perfect Way To Start Your
Fredericton Council Day Experience!*



The Middle School Code —

Follow the clues in this and the four previous issues of the NBTA News to solve the Code. Once you have all of the clues, bring them with you to Leo Hayes on May 4th. If you are the first to find the locker and open the lock, you will find a prize inside.

Clue #5

Solve this equation to get the locker number:

$$\frac{(x+11)^2}{25} - 36 = 364$$

**With this
information, you
now know the
locker number.**



(...continued from page 9)

teachers and for passing in assignments, they love the emails and drop boxes. Some even thought laptops were great to use for homework and projects during the after-school activity period! Our students recognized their teachers' effort to reach beyond our walls to the community by mentioning such initiatives as the Help Lesotho or other African projects, the core French penpal project resulting in a student visit from Harvey Middle School, the improvement of our website, creation of community brochures, and the ongoing interactive project with Holland.

Forty-four percent of the students said their behaviour improved but teachers would recognize that for those difficult classes, the laptops have done wonders. Teaching to the multi-level class is so much easier as students are more organized, more focused, and more willing to complete differentiated curriculum to the best of their abilities. Teachers see the power of equalization with the use of the laptops.

If asked, what would students tell people about the laptop's benefits? Answers ranged and again the response was extremely positive. "It is teaching us responsibility." "I get

more work done in class." "Helping with organization as well as getting assignments in on time has improved my marks." "I have more motivation to learn and it expands my attention span." "We always look forward to working on our laptops..." "My laptop gives me the courage to learn...I've actually felt I can really learn something that will help me."

One grade 8 student's comment in the fall comes to mind when thinking about the laptop legacy: "I think the laptop project is the most significant educational change that Superior Middle School has ever undertaken." We think he has great insight.



High School Council News

The Miramichi Awaits!

Good food, good fun and good people. This is what you will find at the famous Opera House Club in Miramichi on May 3rd. As always, High School Council has planned a fantastic evening of entertainment, prizes and good times to kick off the Council event.

Set for the Opera House Club on Pleasant St. in Miramichi, doors open at 9:00pm. Music is being provided by the very popular *Short Sweet Ride*. The band plays a mix of 70's, 80's, 90's and today's hits. Much in demand on the local club scene, they have also performed in

Moncton, and various locations along the north shore. This is the first time a band has performed at the Opera House in about 15 years, so it is definitely going to be a treat for everyone attending. **You are reminded that since the club is closed to the public on Thursday nights, you must bring your voucher you receive with your early registration package, or a valid NBTA membership card in order to get in.**

The Opera House was built in 1910 as a movie theatre; it was converted to a club in 1979 and is

filled with Hollywood movie memorabilia. The three floors give you more than enough places to sit, chat and enjoy the company of friends, both old and new, while the large dance floor will provide ample chance to "bust a move". Free finger foods will be provided, while supplies last, so plan on arriving early. Prizes will be given out throughout the night.

Make your plans now to attend this great start to the Council weekend. All hotels are, at most, a 15 min. cab ride, with some within walking distance.



What's Next for Fish Friends Teachers...

For all teachers who are raising salmon eggs in their classroom as part of the Atlantic Salmon Federation's *Fish Friends* program, you and your students are probably observing interesting things in your aquarium. At this point in time, your eggs are probably hatched or are hatching, and some of you may have alevin with a large yolk sac. Whatever stage your baby salmon may be at this time, this is generally the stage when you will receive fish food either from the Atlantic Salmon Federation, or from your area volunteer.

Some important points before administering fish food to your baby salmon:

- Only give food when yolk sacs are absorbed and the small fish are beginning to swim around and toward the surface of the tank;
- Only give a **pinch** of food in the morning and again in the afternoon, but the latter only if



The student is Maggie MacPhee in Mrs. Connelly/Wolf's grade 5 class at Vincent Massey Elementary School, excited by raising salmon eggs brought by Debbie Perry, ASF's Education Coordinator. (photo Tom Moffatt/Atlantic Salmon Federation)

the morning food has been consumed by the fry (for more information on feeding, consult your curriculum guide, page 100);

- Place your ammonia filter bag in your power filter compartment, placing it on the top;
- Keep your tank clean! If you are using a mesh bag on the intake tube, rinse every other day under warm water, and be sure to rinse your charcoal and foam filters alternately each week.

Teachers are advised to check out the Atlantic Salmon Federation's website at www.asf.ca/fishfriends/. Here you will find helpful tips and useful information including an atlas of Atlantic salmon rivers, downloadable illustrations of the salmon life stages, as well as troubleshooting and set-up information for Fish Friends tanks.

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail: asfcc@nb.aibn.com or call 506-529-1384.

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U.S.A. Placement: South Carolina

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Personal Goal: Go camping in Yosemite National Park

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Pennfield Elementary School Receives Grant from The Home Depot - KaBOOM

Pennfield Elementary School in District 10 will soon have a refurbished multi-purpose playing field, thanks to a 2007 The Home Depot – KaBOOM! Field Refurbishment Grant in the amount of \$4500.

Principal Carol Trainor said the school will also receive a \$500 The Home Depot gift card from KaBOOM! to put toward the field upgrading. She explained that KaBOOM! is a national non-profit organization whose vision is to create great places to play within walking distance of every child in the United States and Canada.

Mrs. Trainor said she learned of the opportunity to receive the grant in an email from District office and made application to the Washington, D.C. office in December. She received notice in January that the grant had



Carol Trainor - Principal, Jason Romhild - Store Manager, Gordon Lucas - Assistant Store Manager

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been approved, but, in order to be awarded the funding, the school and community had to raise approximately \$3000.

"The community was very supportive of this initiative and the money was raised in no time and added to funds that already existed at the school to meet the needed amount," she said. The community will also have access to the field for sporting events.

"I am truly appreciative of KaBOOM! for their grant and The Home Depot for its support and, of course, that of the community," she said.

Under the grant, The Home Depot in Saint John is the school's corporate partner in this initiative and management and employees will be assisting in field preparations before landscaping and related work begins. The Home Depot will also be participating in the Day of Service in mid-June, which commemorates the project.

Work on the field, which will be used for several different sports and activities to promote physical well-being, is in two phases. The site preparation work includes removal of rocks, weeds and debris, grading, bulldozing and checking for any drainage issues. The second phase is the addition, leveling, grading of topsoil and seeding, which will be completed in mid-June.

Saint John High School Students on SEVEC Exchange



Twenty French immersion students from Saint John High School in Saint John, New Brunswick found out for themselves the truth to the notion that travel broadens the mind.

In the winter of 2005, the youth, a mix of students from teacher Maryanne Lewell's grade 10 French Immersion classes, and their two adult chaperones, participated in a week-long exchange with École secondaire Louis-Jobin from Saint-Raymond, Quebec, during which they were completely immersed in the French language and Québécois culture.

This was the first time that "Madame Lewell", as her students call her, took students on a Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (SEVEC) exchange. She hatched the idea for the educational trip having herself seen the benefits that practical experience has on language learning. Maryanne spent a year abroad living and working in France after finishing her undergraduate degree. The additional appeal for the exchanges was that SEVEC, through funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage, covered all travel expenses for participants, making the trip easy on the pocket.

Prior to the exchange, students were paired up with a "twin" from the other school and created a Web

page forum on the Saint John High School Web site to begin communication between one another. They also created a Web page in French to present the school and local history, as it was the 200th anniversary of the school.

On the first week of February 2005, the New Brunswick group finally jumped on the bus headed for Quebec. The students experienced taking classes with their French-speaking twins, found out what it was like to be totally immersed by living with their host families, and partook in a variety of activities including visiting the Quebec parliament and the Quebec Carnival grounds, and feasting on a typical supper at a sugar shack.

"I'd say that I noticed when the kids were there after a few days, that the Saint John kids even started talking French to each other," reminisced Maryanne. "Being immersed in the environment, they had to use their second language for everything with their host families - and as such, it became a living language, instead of just a subject at school. It was wonderful to see them adapt to the culture so well, and on returning home, to see how their experiences had a positive impact on their performances in French Second Language classes."

"Of course," added Maryanne,

"the added bonus was that the activities were so fun the kids didn't realize they were learning at the time."

Saint John High School plans to apply for another SEVEC bilingual exchange for the 2007-08 school year. Interested in taking your students on an exchange as well? In addition to bilingual exchanges, SEVEC also matches groups that want to have an outside-of-the classroom exchange that centers around music, sports, geography, history, volunteerism...and more! Applications for all exchanges are now being accepted for next year at www.sevec.ca. Teachers from New Brunswick, in particular, are encouraged to apply as early as possible. Help your students exchange, explore, and experience through SEVEC!

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District 8 Teachers Learn High School Art Lessons

by Jeff Scott, Simonds High School

In Tuesday nights this past winter, I had the unique experience of teaching some of my favorite high school art lessons to adults — specifically, teachers from District 8. Teaching adults was a refreshing change from my usual grade 9 and 10 students and, being a father of two very small children, the class was a well-enjoyed night out of the

house.

The small group of about a dozen teachers, who ranged from elementary to high and administration, met at Simonds High School on six evenings in February and March. There I shared some basic drawing and painting techniques. The group applied these techniques to portraiture, wildlife and winter scenery.

Working with adults and working with teens are very different experiences. Since the adult group may be more eager to learn, it can be challenging to meet their expectations. They ask more questions; they put more demands on your expertise and experience. But that's a good thing. It's a challenge that's a little different than the daily challenges of high school.

The expectations were different from teacher to



teacher. While some wanted to start with the basics, others were more experienced and wanted to hone their skills. A couple of teachers were looking to enhance their classroom art activities. In the end the group thoroughly enjoyed the course and took home some great artwork.

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Centreville Community School Vice-Principal- Robina Sharkey - Receives National Award

On April 11, 12 and 13, Mrs. Sharkey (Vice-Principal of Centreville Community School in District 14) travelled to Vancouver. She was asked to attend the CAP (Canadian Association of Principals) conference (all expenses paid) to give a speech and receive her award as National Winner of the "Distinguished Vice-Principal" Award.

The nomination was submitted by Grade Two teacher, Sarah Cogswell. However, once started, it became a school-wide effort. The nomination included 4 letters (persuasive writing) written by students to the Committee members about why their Vice-Principal should win the award. It was accompanied by student-drawn illustrations to represent 4 of the Primary Student's favorite things about Mrs. Sharkey: 1. She has a Green belt in karate. 2. She runs chess club. 3. She used to work on an ambulance so knows how to fix all their hurts. 4. She has a cool last name- Sharkey!

The nomination focused on the following 5 areas:

1. Awards and Distinctions
2. Experiences in the Field of Education
3. Professional Growth
4. Profile of Community Service
5. Philosophy of Student Learning

Glowing staff comments about Mrs. Sharkey's leadership supported the proposal. The following adjectives were a common theme in the staff feedback: supportive, approachable, understanding, knowledgeable, visible, involved, determined, professional, consistent, dependable, firm, fair, invaluable and friendly.

Below is a summary of some of the things that make Mrs. Sharkey a Distinguished Vice-Principal and winner of this award.

Mrs. Sharkey is a devoted volunteer in her community and school.

Service as a volunteer with the St. John Ambulance for 8 years as an

EMT helped prepare Mrs. Sharkey for the medical emergencies we sometimes encounter at school. As part of her volunteer service, she completed Emergency Medical Technician training. She served on the competitive EMT team for her division and was the secretary for one year. Mrs. Sharkey has also worked as a First Aid Instructor for the Canadian Red Cross, promoting the knowledge and use of First Aid.

Mrs. Sharkey has volunteered as a 4-H leader for the Countryside 4-H Club for four years. She is currently a volunteer leader for the New Brunswick Division of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Program. At her local church, Mrs. Sharkey acted as treasurer for a period of three years. Within our school community, Mrs. Sharkey volunteers on numerous committees, including the Home and School Committee. Mrs. Sharkey continues to volunteer as a coach for students for chess club for grades K – 8 and has introduced black light theatre to our school.

Mrs. Sharkey is an active member of the NBTA. She served as Branch President 14-29 for the NBTA for three years and was the Director of the same Branch for three years. She held the position of Alternate Director for her Branch for a total of eight years. Mrs. Sharkey has continued this service as School Rep.

Mrs. Sharkey has played a variety of roles in her 17 years in the field of education.

During the 1997-98 school year, Mrs.

Sharkey was seconded from her position as Team Leader for Foundations students to District Office as a middle school supervisor. Part of her portfolio included French Second Language instruction. During this time she assisted in initiating the early French Immersion program in the Woodstock area schools.

During the 1998-99 school year, Mrs. Sharkey worked as a Technology/Math Mentor for the district. She assisted teachers in developing lessons that incorporated

Johnson Scholarships and Academic Grants

Applications for Johnson Scholarships and Academic Grants are now available for the 2007/2008 academic year.

Scholarships are to assist students beginning post-secondary studies following the completion of high school.

Academic Grants are to assist those returning to full-time studies following an absence of two or more years and for those beginning full-time studies as a mature student.

NBTA members/employees and their dependants (who are enrolled in either the NBTF Group Insurance Plan or the Johnson Inc. Home or Auto Plan) are eligible to apply.

Scholarships and Academic Grants are valued at \$1,000 and there will be a total of 100 awarded across Canada.

Completed application forms must be submitted by **September 15**.

Forms are available by:

- **Calling toll-free:** 1-877-328-7878
- **E-mail:** scholarshipsandgrants@johnson.ca
- **On-line:** www.johnson.ca



the use of technology into their instruction.

Beginning in the 2003-04 school year, Mrs. Sharkey began working as a math mentor for School District 14. During the next three years, Mrs. Sharkey provided in-service opportunities for teachers to assist them in their mathematics teaching.

At the beginning of the 2005-06 school year, Mrs. Sharkey was asked to accept a secondment to role of vice-principal at Centreville Community School. Mrs. Sharkey accepted this role and later applied and was hired as the vice-principal at Centreville Community School.

Professional growth is an important part of Mrs. Sharkey's life. In her words, "I believe that all students can learn and are worth the effort it takes to help them learn. I believe that in order to best be able to help students, it is imperative to constantly be learning myself. Learning is about adjusting and improving, both for teachers, and most importantly, for students."

Mrs. Sharkey began teaching with a Certificate IV for the province of



Robina Sharkey

New Brunswick. She had completed a Bachelor of Science as well as a Bachelor of Education. Shortly after, she completed the necessary courses to receive Certificate V. In 2002 Mrs. Sharkey enrolled in a new Masters level program being offered at Fischler School of Graduate Studies, part of Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Mrs. Sharkey was the first Canadian resident to receive a Master of Science in Education which was a study of educational brain-research.

After receiving her Master degree in 2003, Mrs. Sharkey continued her education, completing the

necessary modules and courses to obtain a Principal's Certificate.

Mrs. Sharkey continues to work to maintain knowledge of current trends in education by attending conferences such as the NCTM Annual Conference, as well as council days organized by our provincial NBTA. In addition to attending conferences, Mrs. Sharkey is a member of CAP, ASCD and NCTM, receiving and reading journals from each of these organizations. Mrs. Sharkey also regularly attends locally held workshops, as well as web-based workshops, and reads professionally.

Mrs. Sharkey has conducted workshops and continues to do so, both locally and provincially. These workshops include such things as literacy in mathematics, teaching in brain compatible ways, introduction to brain-based teaching and teaching children to be optimistic.

Although Mrs. Sharkey is very modest about her "win", the staff and students of Centreville Community School are very excited and proud about the award. We all knew she was a "Distinguished Vice-Principal". The National CAP Award proves it!

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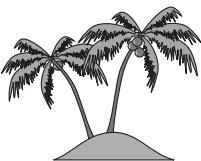
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Disability Awareness Week May 27 to June 2, 2007 "Disability Awareness - Education for All"

The Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons is pleased to confirm Disability Awareness Week (DAW) will be held from May 27 to June 2, 2007. The theme will be "Disability Awareness - Education for All."

Activities for Disability Awareness Week will be coordinated at the provincial level by the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons. The Co-Chairpersons will be Randy Dickinson and Gary Comeau working with a volunteer Executive Planning Committee.

During the run-up for Disability Awareness Week 2007, the provincial committee will be planning a variety of new and exciting activities related to our theme. Local committees will also organize community projects across the province. It is expected that thousands of New Brunswickers will attend these events, making DAW 2007 a true community initiative.

If you are planning an activity for Disability Awareness Week, please share it with the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons. Regular updates will be posted on the Council's website. For more information:

Disability Awareness Week
648 – 440 King Street, Fredericton, NB E3B 5H8
Toll-free: 1-800-442-4412, E-mail: pcsdp@gnb.ca
Website: www.gnb.ca/0048



The Canadian College of Teachers

The welcome mat is out for educators from across Canada who will descend on Montreal on June 28, 29 and 30 for the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Canadian College of Teachers (CCT).

The event will take place in McGill University's New Residence Hall on Avenue du Parc.

The CCT is the only national membership based teacher organization in Canada. It is a learned society within the teaching profession, established following approval of its Constitution at the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Teachers' Federation in August, 1957.

Planning Committee Chairman, Robert Kouri, believes that "This event will allow members to reminisce on their past classroom experiences, the history of the College, past challenges in our

history, as well as reflect on the present state of Canadian education, but more importantly, visualize what the future might hold for educators".

As Fred Rogers (aka Mr. Rogers) has said, "All I know to do is to light the candle that has been given to me." The opportunity to reflect on the past, enjoy the present and envision the ever-changing future will be the candle for those attending this 50th celebration. What better place to light the candle than in historic and modern day Montreal where the CCT was born 50 years ago.

For further information, contact John Killingbeck, 1925 Brookdale Ave. Dorval, Qc. H9P 2Y7,

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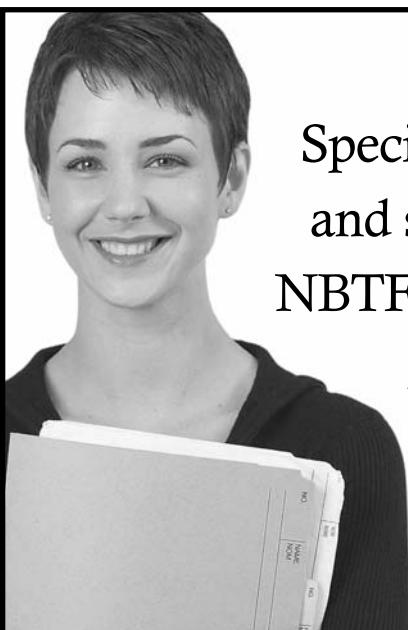
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— STU Teacher Institutes for Educators —

St. Thomas University is pleased to announce the expansion of their summer institute program offered to teachers of the province. During the summer of 2007 we will be offering four courses including the longstanding course on human rights. While each of these 3 credit hour courses are designed to meet teacher certification standards, teachers pursuing specific programs are advised to check with certification branch before enrolling. Permission to use graduate courses toward a Masters degree should be obtained from the university at which you are taking that degree.

EDUC 3403B Contemporary Mathematics Concepts (3 cr. hrs)

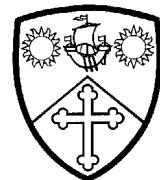
Instructor: B Janice Moore (jmoore@stu.ca or Janice.moore@nbed.nb.ca)

Monday, July 9 - Friday, July 13, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Saturday, July 14, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Location: Brian Mulroney Hall

Maximum Enrolment: 30 participants



This course is directed toward practising teachers who have an interest in Mathematics and may be changing level and/or assignment as well as undergraduate students who may wish to apply to a B. Ed. programme. It is, however, not part of and cannot be used for credit for the limited-enrolment St. Thomas University Bachelor of Education programme.

EDUC 3503 - Contemporary Physical Science Concepts I (3 cr. hrs)

Faculty Coordinator: Dr. Pierette Pheeney (pheeney@stu.ca)

Instructor: Karen Matheson (karen.matheson@scienceeast.nb.ca)

Monday, July 16 - Thursday, July 19, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Monday, July 23 - Thursday, July 26, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Brian Mulroney Hall

Maximum Enrolment: 18 participants

This course is intended only for pre-service and in-service teachers who require content knowledge directly applicable to the science curriculum they are required to teach in an elementary school setting. Focus will be placed largely on contemporary physical and earth science concepts relevant to the elementary level. This course is not intended for students who have a science degree or have taken introductory level science courses other than biology. Furthermore, this course is not part of and cannot be used for credit for the limited-enrolment St. Thomas University Bachelor of Education programme.

EDUC 5503/6503 B Teaching for and about Human Rights (3 cr. hrs)

Instructors: Dr. Heather Richmond (richmond@stu.ca) and Richard Blaquiere (richardb@nbnet.nb.ca)

Sunday, July 22, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Monday, July 23 - Friday, July 27, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Brian Mulroney Hall

Maximum Enrolment: 60 participants

Additional Fees: \$100 for nutrition breaks, daily lunch, reception, and course reader

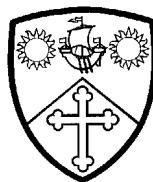
This course is a summer institute designed for pre-service teachers, practising teachers, and professionals in related fields. The course introduces participants to the various rights, instruments, and issues relevant to the classroom and provides opportunities for teachers and others to increase their knowledge base in the human rights field.

EDUC 6133 B Shared Leadership (3 cr. hrs)

Instructor: Dr. Ray Williams (RayWilliams@stu.ca)

(...continued on following page)

(...continued from page 20)



Thursday, July 5 - Saturday, July 7 , 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Thursday, July 12, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Monday, July 16 - Thursday, July 19 , 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Location: Brian Mulroney Hall
Maximum Enrolment: 20 participants
Additional Fees - \$25 for copywritten materials

This course is designed for teacher leaders but may also be used to fulfil an educational administration requirement for principal certification. Topics that will be covered focus on building leadership capacity among teachers and include: change process, peer conflict resolution, and building professional teams.

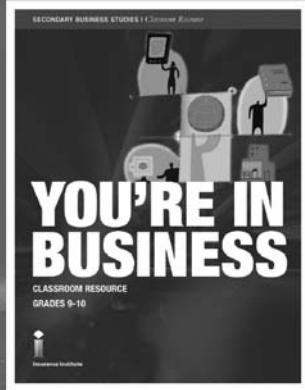
Registration, Admissions & Accommodations

Tuition for each course is \$499.00 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
- specific course content, contact the appropriate instructor (see course descriptions)
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April – Declutter “Declutter Your Life”

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2. **“Decluttering” equipment** – This requires garbage bags, boxes, magic markers, and a dust rag. Label the boxes “Give Away”, “Throw Away”, and “Put Away”. Line the “Throw Away” box with a plastic garbage bag.
3. **Set your timer** – for 1 hour (or 30, 15, or 10 minutes). This means just one drawer, one closet, one magazine rack, or digging under just the furniture in the zone.
4. **Start at the entrance to the room** – Work your way around the room clockwise.
5. **“Declutter” away** – Start off by cleaning out and getting rid of the things that do not belong in this room.

– www.flylady.net

Suggested Activity from the Binder

“Declutter” your home for a school yard sale – Funds for Wellness



Suggested Website from the Binder

Home and Garden Television – www.hgtv.com



A Touch of Humour

Living in 2007 – You know you’re living in 2007 when...



1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven’t played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.
4. You email the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with family and friends is that they don’t have email addresses.
6. You make phone calls from home and accidentally dial “9” to get an outside line.

Note: Additional information is found in your School-Based Wellness Program Monthly Themes Binder.

Announcements

Online Cultural Resource Library

CultureSource.ca is the pre-eminent online cultural resource library for Canadian teachers. Conveniently located on the Web, **CultureSource.ca** is a collection of over a hundred approved arts, history and literature resources, ideal for including in lesson plans, and in the classroom.

International Conference on Imagination and Education

The Imaginative Education Research Group (IERG), of the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University is pleased to announce our 5th International Conference on Imagination and Education. "Imaginative Education: Provoking Excellence Across the Curriculum" will take place July 18-July 21 2007 in Vancouver. It aims to stimulate discussion of imaginative education and its application in classrooms, and to ensure that educational experiences are imaginatively

engaging for both teachers and learners.

Further information is available from the website: www.ierg.net or e-mail: teresa@ierg.net.

Child Nutrition Website

Breakfast for Learning (BFL) is the leading national non-profit organization solely dedicated to child nutrition. Working to ensure that every child in Canada attends school well-nourished and ready to learn, BFL provides program grants, nutrition education resources and research, and advocacy. To date, thousands of children have been served nutritious breakfasts, lunches and snacks through the programs we support. For more information, visit www.breakfastforlearning.ca

Canadian Encyclopedia Redesigned and Expanded

The Historica Foundation of Canada recently announced that one of the country's most popular websites, The Canadian

Encyclopedia online, has been redesigned and expanded to better showcase its uniquely Canadian content.

The Canadian Encyclopedia online offers:

- More than 40,000 articles and millions of facts about Canada
- More than 7,000 rich visuals in thematic image galleries
- A timeline of Canadian and world history
- Interactive animations and games, including the popular Canucklehead Quiz
- Reliable links to additional online resources
- Rotating "On This Day," "Quotes" and "How About That" features on the homepage
- An enhanced search engine with spelling corrections
- An archive of Maclean's articles that date back to 1995
- Hundreds of feature articles on a wide range of historical topics.

This authoritative resource has been produced in print, CD-ROM, and for the last five years it has existed as a free, bilingual and fully searchable online reference at historica.ca.

Class Trip in May and June Mount Allison University

Mount Allison University is a great place to bring your class this spring. The Explore and Mini Explore programs are fun, refreshing and educational! A perfect way to end the year on a high note!

Explore is an over-night adventure, custom made to your class's unique interests. During the day your students will be engaged in tutorials and interactive learning activities. Options for tutorials include: archaeology, athletics, biology, business, chemistry, fine arts, geography, music, theatre and psychology. In the evening, students will have access to athletic facilities and more group activities before spending the night in residence. All meals take place at Jennings Hall, a state-of-the-art Dining Hall.

Mini Explore is a mini version of the Explore program where students spend the day exploring, experimenting, learning and most importantly - having fun!

For more information about these exciting programs, contact Laurie Ginn at (506) 364-2253, summer@mta.ca or go to www.mta.ca/summer.

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