

PISA 2009: It's not about the Leaning Tower...

by Melinda Cook, Director of Curriculum

A few years ago I was traveling in Italy, and as part of my trip, I arranged a day in Pisa to see the famous Leaning Tower. Walking through the town toward the Tower was a disconcerting experience. As I approached it, I quickly learned that focusing on the Tower made me slightly dizzy. Like tens of thousands of other tourists, I dutifully had my picture taken with the Tower in the background. But, probably like tens of thousands of others, I then thought, "Now what?" It seemed a bit anticlimactic: It was a tower, built on a faulty foundation.

A few days ago I spent two days in meetings with Department officials, representatives from Statistics Canada, the Council of Ministers of Education Canada, and your newly-assigned school and district PISA coordinators. PISA 2009 is not about the Tower; it is about the test.

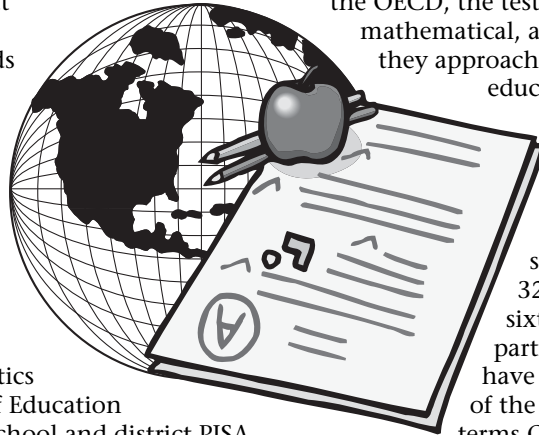
The OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation

and Development) began PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) in 2000. A PISA test is administered to a random sample of 15-year-olds in participating countries every three years. According to the OECD, the tests are designed to assess reading, mathematical, and scientific literacy of students as they approach the end of their compulsory

education. In 2000 the focus was on literacy, in 2003 on mathematics, and in 2006 the focus was on science. In 2009 the focus will once again be literacy.

The OECD has met with great success with this initiative. In 2000, 32 countries participated. In 2009, sixty-nine countries are expected to participate. Thousands of documents have been produced based on the results of the PISA tests. A google search of the terms OECD and PISA offered 178, 000

hits. The OECD has generated tremendous press with this initiative – as have governments in the participating jurisdictions.



Dues Clarification

Delegates to the NBTA AGM in May 2008 voted to make Council Day registrations part of regular dues for statutory members. Therefore, for the upcoming year dues will now be \$600 + \$30 = \$630 per member. This total amount will be divided over 20 pay periods and the standard deduction per member will be \$31.50 per cheque.

Electronic Version or Paper Copy?

IT'S YOUR CHOICE!

Earlier this year, the NBTA Board of Director decided that for environmental reasons those wishing to access the NBTA News in electronic format only, via the website, rather than in paper copy, would have that option. This move, along with a reduction of the number of regular issues from 9 to 5, will save hundreds of thousands of sheets of paper annually. This month, your school rep will be asking you to choose electronic or paper for the upcoming year. A few extra copies of the NBTA News will continue to be sent to schools for staffrooms.

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Next Final Copy Deadline
For NBTA News:
Thursday, November 6



Here in New Brunswick, a major election platform was built upon our PISA results. It is my understanding that the catchphrase “from worst to first” was based on PISA data that showed New Brunswick in or near last place among the ten Canadian provinces. In 2006, on the science portion of the assessment, Canada placed third among the 57 participating countries. Within Canada, of the 10 provinces participating, New Brunswick placed tenth. Such demoralizing data begs the question, “Now what?” In order to provide an answer, I’ll refer quickly back to Pisa, Italy.

Since seeing the Tower was not enough, I continued my exploration of the town of Pisa. Immediately behind the Tower I found a church and baptistery. The lamps hanging in the church are purported to be those that inspired Galileo to develop the Law of the Pendulum. As a physics teacher, I was thrilled to spend precious minutes sitting in the church, watching those lamps swing. In the baptistery, the acoustics were such that a series of musical notes echoed throughout the building forming a sound of such haunting beauty and complexity that many in our group were moved to tears.

I believe the lesson I learned in Pisa, Italy applies to the PISA test. It is important to keep looking. A closer examination of 2006 PISA results reveals that Anglophone New Brunswick placed ninth among Canadian provinces in the science sub-domain, seventh in reading, and sixth in the mathematics. In the 2006 science domain, Canada was out-performed by only Finland and Hong Kong- China. Although New Brunswick students would have been ranked at nineteenth overall (had they been compared to other countries); compared to the original 32 countries, Anglophone New Brunswick students would have ranked seventh in reading, eleventh in mathematics, and eighth in science. While I am not suggesting that these results are satisfactory, I think it is quite clear that our system is not “the worst”.

A closer examination of the PISA test is warranted as well, as test

results only have meaning if the test itself is meaningful. Based on the test items I have seen to date, the PISA assessments seem to be good quality. The OECD claims to “...measure skills that are generally recognized as key outcomes of the educational process”, and that “the assessment focuses on young people’s ability to use their knowledge and skills to meet real life challenges” (Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 81-590 no. 3, p 9). The test items I have examined are challenging, and require students to

“Our students will not perform well on the PISA tests, or in life-long learning, unless teachers are permitted to challenge our students to think critically.”

think critically about their responses. For many years, the NBTA has been urging the Department to update our curricula to reflect the requirements of tomorrow’s world. We cannot continue to sacrifice depth for breadth. Our students will not perform well on the PISA tests, or in life-long learning, unless teachers are permitted to challenge our students to think critically. Students must be permitted to study important ideas in greater depth in order to develop the skills to evaluate information and create knowledge, not just obtain it.

PISA 2009 is coming in late April/early May. A random sample of students from nearly all high schools in the province will be selected to write the international assessment. New Brunswick teachers will be encouraged to find ways to improve student performance.

In order to offer suggestions for improvement, please allow me to take you back to Pisa, Italy once again. Looking directly at the Tower was not a good idea – it made me dizzy. The lesson to be learned:

focusing on the PISA test is not a good idea. Research has unequivocally demonstrated that teaching to the test does not work. In the short-term, to improve New Brunswick’s performance on the 2009 assessment, we can offer our students a greater awareness of both the assessment itself and the importance of the results, but we must not focus on the test.

I encourage you to talk with your local high school PISA coordinator, and consider the following possible actions:

- Take a few minutes to personally write a PISA practice test. (I found it to be a tremendous professional development activity!)
- If you teach any 14 to 16-year-olds, talk to your students about the test – help them to understand what to expect.
- Since PISA items focus on critical thinking, incorporate items like those found on the PISA tests in your own assessments.
- Focus on the positive; dwelling on perceived poor historical performance will only engender poor performance in the future.

Although these are minor, short-term interventions, they may help our student performance on PISA to better reflect the true quality of New Brunswick education.



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“Summers Off and Other Myths”



Brent Shaw

Having completed my first full summer as NBTA President, I feel a little like I just finished a marathon at the Beijing Olympics. Like the athlete, I have had an experience I will always remember, while at the same time it has been quite a workout. It was such a busy time because I am fortunate enough to have a role that allows me to participate in so many great events involving teachers devoting extra

time to their profession and association. In early July, the Canadian Teachers' Federation held their Annual General Meeting in Moncton, hosted by our counterparts at the AEFNB. This session was notable in that "Cyberbullying" has been publicly identified as a priority issue for teachers nation-wide. Also in July, many New Brunswick administrators attended DSS (Developing Successful Schools) at Mount Allison. Although I was unable to attend this conference, I have heard great feedback about the focus of the event, and the quality of the nationally-acclaimed presenter.

In August, I was in Antigonish, N.S. for several days with teachers from across Atlantic Canada for CONTACT 2008 "Classroom Connections." It was a great learning opportunity for classroom teachers and a wonderful social event as well. The only disappointment was that only ten NBTA members took part, although up to thirty could have received grants to attend. Next year's session takes place in Charlottetown and I am you take the opportunity to attend. It's a great chance to get in a little PD, exchanging ideas with fanatastic teachers from acrodss the region and spend some summer days on the "Island."

From Antigonish it was directly to Halifax for several days at the Canadian Employee Benefits Conference, looking at Group Insurance and other teacher welfare

issues on a national scale.

In the last half of August, the NBTA calendar truly got back into full swing. Your local Branch Presidents met in Fredericton August 18 and 19, organizing their local calendars for the upcoming year, discussing common issues in divided sessions, and receiving updates from staff on major ongoing issues. Your newly-elected NBTA Executive held two days of meetings later that same week. This group has the added responsibility of providing direction and decision-making for the NBTA between meetings of the Board of Directors.

However, all of these highly-organized events cannot compare to the sheer volume of work and preparation done by all teachers during the summer. There were teachers studying for increased certification levels, improving their French skills at summer programs, catching up on professional reading or doing various sorts of independent study. All teachers spend significant amounts of their summer months preparing for their upcoming classes. This year's changes to French Second Language programs made this more of a challenge for many. Not only have many teachers been re-assigned, but the additional consultation directed by the court ruling, left many teachers unsure of their assignments until August 5th or later.

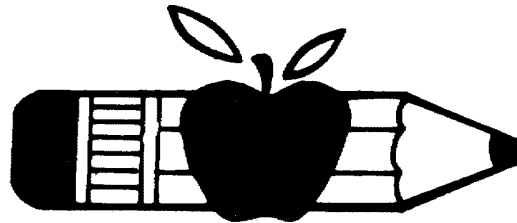
So thank you all for your efforts this summer. By the way, it's not a crime to take a well-deserved break now and then, too.

Hi to everybody in my home branch. You've already been back with the students for a couple of weeks, but soon will have potato break as a change of pace.

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



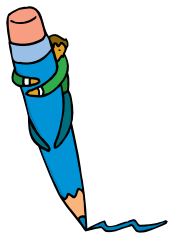
Welcome New Teachers!



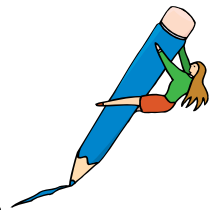
Join your early career colleagues to find out more about the services & benefits offered by your professional association. Talk to the experts about your contract, certification, legal matters and more!

Saturday, September 20, 2008

**NBTF Building
650 Montgomery Street
Fredericton, NB**



10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Lunch and some compensation toward travel costs will be provided.

Prizes and giveaways!

**For more information, contact Judy Deveau, 452-1750
or email judy.deveau@nbta.ca**

To Register: www.nbta.ca

Calling All New Members!

NBTA "Welcome to New Teachers" Workshop Saturday, September 20, 2008

*"I only wish I had the opportunity to attend when I was a first-year teacher, as it was a great refresher for me."
"I thought the topics presented were comprehensive and still of interest to me as a newer, but not brand new teacher."*

(comments from last year's participants)

With continued class size reductions and more than 200 retirements in 2008, the NBTA is hoping for another large turnout when it hosts its annual "Welcome to New Teachers" workshop September 20. The day offers new teachers an essential introduction to their professional association, its staff and structure, and the services and support they can expect to receive. All early career teachers, whatever their type of contract, and even long-term supply teachers are welcome to attend, provided they have not been to this workshop in a

previous year.

Sessions will be held on Teacher Welfare (Pension and Group Insurance), Professional Development, the Code of Ethics, Legal matters, and the Collective Agreement (conducted by NBTF staff) and several others. Although it is unlikely that after just a few hours participants will go away knowing all of the answers, it is hoped they will at least be aware of who to call or where to find information on their own. It will also be an opportunity to meet the people who work for you, the NBTA President

and Staff.

The session begins at 10 am and will wrap up around 2:30 pm. There will be a complimentary lunch on-site and some handy giveaways, as well.

See the accompanying ad for further information, including how to register.

The NBTA is looking forward to welcoming its newest members to the profession at the NBTF Building, Montgomery Street, Fredericton on Saturday, September 20.

Classroom Management

An Institute for Early Career Teachers

Friday, October 10, 2008 — 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Bicentennial Room, Fredericton Inn, Fredericton

Description of Session:

It is at the beginning of the school year that teachers implement various strategies which make them effective teachers. This workshop will look at the most effective strategies, which, if implemented, will result in well-managed classrooms. Topics such as classroom procedures, effective discipline plans, classroom set-up, and professionalism will be discussed.

The Facilitator

Gérard Cormier, who is fluently bilingual, has worked as an Executive Staff Officer in the

Professional Services Department of the NSTU since August 1, 2004. He has been the keynote speaker at various professional development events. He often is asked to address issues of inequity in schools due to the problems of homophobia and heterosexism.

He has presented locally, provincially and nationally at numerous conferences and seminars. His workshop topics include: *Battling Homophobia in Schools, Teaching to Diversity, Time Management, Classroom Management, and Enhancing your Professionalism.*

NOTE: Lunch will be provided. Teachers must negotiate release time through their principals or districts.

Because this institute is being funded by the NBTA provincial office, participants are not eligible for NBTA/DoE Educational Improvement Grants. You may, however, apply to your local Branch for PD funds if they are available.

Maximum participants: 50 (Preference will be given to NBTA members with 2-7 years of experience)

Register online at www.nbta.ca

Registration Deadline: Friday, October 3, 2008

You will receive confirmation of your confirmed seat in the institute. For further information, contact Judy Deveau, 452-1750 or email judy.deveau@nbta.ca

Are you an early career teacher looking for a salary increase?

Apply for Your Work Experience

New teachers should note that you may apply to have your previous work experience evaluated for an increase on the salary grid. Recognition may be given for work that is related to teaching upon application to the Office of Teacher Certification at the Department of Education.

The form you need is available from the NBTA website www.nbta.ca. Click the Certification button and download the form called **Application for Work-Related Experience for Salary Purposes**.

You should also contact your district office to ensure that all supply teaching experience has been credited. Remember: **The deadline is October 31 to have the increase back-dated to July 1!**

Interested in a Teacher Exchange?

- *Do you have an interest in teaching overseas or elsewhere in Canada?*
- *Do you have a sense of adventure?*
- *Are you a flexible person who can adapt to change?*
- *Does the prospect of living and teaching in another community excite you?*



Plan to attend an **INFORMATION MEETING** sponsored by the NBTA to learn about the exciting possibilities and how to arrange a teacher exchange.

Join **Carol Wilkins, Co-ordinator of the Canadian Education Exchange Foundation**, and members of the Exchange Teacher Organization of NB.

Date: Saturday, November 1, 2008

Time: 11:00 am (Lunch will be provided)

Place: TBA (Based on location of majority of registrants)

To register or for more information contact **Ardith Shirley**, Director Professional Development, NBTA at **506-452-1740 or ardith.shirley@nbta.ca**.

2e Symposium de l'Atlantique

La réussite des élèves en milieu minoritaire francophone: une responsabilité partagée

les 6 et 7 novembre 2008, Holiday Inn Express, Moncton (Nouveau-Brunswick)



L'AEFNB, en collaboration avec la Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association (NLTA), la Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) et la Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation (PEITF), vous lance une invitation à participer au deuxième symposium regroupant les associations des enseignantes et des enseignants des provinces de l'Atlantique.

Les attentes de ce symposium visent à favoriser les discussions et les échanges entre les partenaires du monde de l'éducation sur des préoccupations communes touchant les minorités francophones de la région atlantique, tout en plaçant l'emphase sur le partage des pistes de solution gagnantes qui permettent la réussite des élèves en milieu minoritaire.

Inscription: 25 \$ par personne

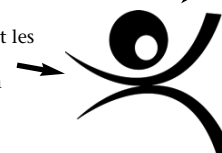
Pour de plus amples informations ou pour vous procurer le formulaire d'inscription, veuillez communiquer avec la coordonnatrice.

Coordonnatrice: Nadia Roze
Téléphone: 506 452-1729
Télécopieur: 506 453-9795
Courriel: nadia.roze@aefnb.nb.ca
Site web: www.aefnb.nb.ca

Le cercle et la courbe font abstraction à un oeil, à la vision vers l'avenir

Le point blanc représente une minorité en milieu majoritaire

Les courbes évoquent les vagues, donc le mouvement, l'action



Le logo dans son ensemble personifie les participantes et les participants au symposium

Former NBTA President Bert Hanratty Passes Away

by Eileen McNeil, NBTA Communications

"Few people in our society could do the job we do - even fewer could do it well."

(Bert Hanratty - 1983)

Bert Hanratty was one who did it well. Serving as a classroom teacher, a department head, Vice-Principal and Principal, and eventually as the 8th full-time President of the New Brunswick Teachers' Association, he touched the lives of many students and teachers alike.

While teaching at elementary, intermediate and high school levels in Saint John, Bert learned and understood the difficulties faced by teachers during the 1970's and 80's. He used this knowledge as President to continually improve the learning environment for both teachers and students.

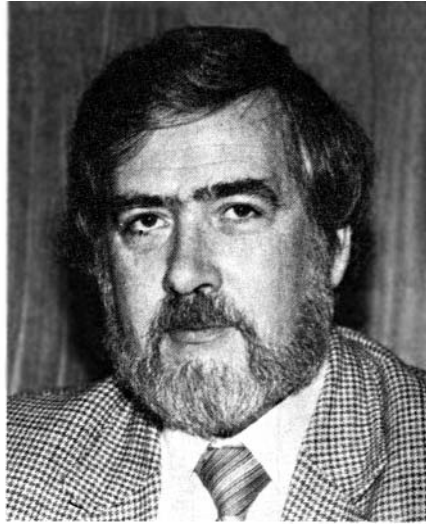
He insisted on always being available to talk to or listen to any teachers who had concerns and always stressed his role as one of service.

Jim Dysart, who succeeded Bert as NBTA President in 1985, recalls, "No matter how difficult the issue facing the Organization, from strike votes to major educational reform, I could count on Bert as a supportive and informed voice in the debate. Bert Hanratty was a teacher and an articulate and passionate spokesperson for New Brunswick teachers."

Bert passed away July 5th, 2008 in Toronto.

Below is a partial reprint of Bert Hanratty's final President's Message in the *NBTA News*, June 11, 1985.

"I have enjoyed every day of my term, largely because working with teachers is extremely rewarding. I've



"It's something we're all too often prone to forget - that we are involved in a work of profound significance."

-Bert Hanratty, 1983

received full co-operation from every Branch, every member I've had occasion to call on. I've paid tribute to Branch officers, members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee for their tremendous work in the governance of the Association. But I think it's important to recognize the courtesy and consideration shown me by individual teachers throughout the province. Whether I've called upon them to serve on committees, for information, to perform a task locally, or simply in welcoming me to Branch meetings, social events and the like. I hope that members, in their turn, will feel that their President has been accessible. I've tried, as have my predecessors, to be available to speak with any teacher who calls. I believe it's vital that every member should consider it a right to phone, write, or visit the President,

staff members, Directors or Branch leaders at any time. Service is, after all, our business and that means being at the call of the membership. People I've had occasion to deal with have not been shy to exercise this right, nor have they been frivolous or overdemanding in this regard. I hope no teacher would ever hesitate to call because of doubt whether the matter were 'important' enough to bother the President or members of staff.

I thank you all for the two years you allowed me to serve as your President. It's been an honour and a privilege to work for you. It's also been most enjoyable - each and every day."

Carmen Meehan Joins Counselling Service

The Professional Counselling Service for Teachers has a new staff member. Carmen Meehan, most recently a vice-principal at Sussex Middle School, has replaced Betsy Colwell-Burley, who retired from the service in June 2008, and will be serving teachers in Districts 6, 8 and 10. Possessing a Masters in Education - Guidance and Counselling, she brings a wide variety of work experiences to her new role. These include administrative office duties at a gold mine in the Northwest Territories, teaching Kindergarten in Berwick,



Carmen Meehan

Community College instructor in Saint John, and Teacher/Coordinator at P.A.L.S. (Partners in Alternate Learning Strategies) in Sussex.

Carmen is excited about her new role. "I look forward to visiting schools and having the opportunity to be of assistance with the many challenges we encounter, not only as teachers/educators, but also in the numerous other roles we have as parents, spouses, partners, siblings, and the list goes on. I wish everyone a productive, fulfilling and enjoyable school year!"

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

Purpose

- To provide a *confidential* counselling/consulting service which is available without fee to NBTA members
- To provide health promotion programs which will assist teachers in increasing their level of wellness

Services

- Provide counselling
- Organize group sessions upon request
- Promote wellness through workshops
- Conduct Critical Incident Stress Debriefings
- Refer teachers to other agencies: addictions, financial, couples and family counselling, and alternative health practitioners
- Co-ordinate School-Based Wellness Programs

Counsellor Michael's Blog

Check out Michael's weekly blog and learn about being your best self and a great teacher. On the NBTA website (www.nbta.ca) under *Services*, go to the *Counsellor's page* and read this inspirational blog.

New Seminar Series 2008-2009

Transition To Life After Teaching Seminar Lifestyle Planning - The Social Side

DATE OF SEMINAR _____

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION _____

____ November 15 - Fredericton, NBTF Building
 ____ April - Moncton (date and location to be announced)

November 5

Name of Teacher: _____

Mailing Address: _____

_____ Email: _____

School: _____ District: _____

Name of Spouse (if attending): _____

Forward registration form and cheque to:
Karen Vautour, New Brunswick Teachers' Association, PO Box 752, Fredericton NB, E3B 5R6
 Please make cheques payable to: **Professional Counselling Services for Teachers**

This is NOT a Financial Planning Seminar.
(see page 10 for more information on financial planning)

Seminar Guidelines

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

1. All participants must pre-register
2. A registration fee of \$33 for each participant to cover the cost of nutrition break, book "Life After Teaching" by Alan Roadburg and accompanying workbook. The workshop is based on this very practical guide: experiences and advice of retired teachers.
3. Travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the participants.
4. A nutrition break will be provided.
5. Any interested teachers are eligible to attend.
6. Workshops begin with registration at 9:15 and sessions from 9:30 - 12:30
7. Questions relating to these seminars should be directed to:

Michael Ketchum
 Counsellor/Consultant
 Phone: 462-0208 or 1-800-561-1727
 michael.ketchum@nb.aibn.com

- "Very worthwhile seminars. Much food for thought."
- "I have got so much to think about now. Thank you!"
- "Excellent, glad I came! Much needed..."
- "This was as important as the financial planning seminars."
- "Well done! Great presentation with lots of variety!"
- "Very enjoyable - lots of humor - relaxing."



2008-2009 NBTA PENSION SEMINARS

REGISTRATION FORM

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

NOTE:

Due to the change in the issue schedule of the NBTA News, this is the only hard copy of this application form that will be printed before the new year's seminars. It may also be found on the NBTA website at www.nbta.ca

DATE OF SEMINAR _____

- _____ October 18 - Bathurst, Terry Fox Elementary
- _____ November 1 - Moncton, Riverview Middle School
- _____ November 22 - Saint John, Simonds High
- _____ November 26 - Bristol, Carleton North Senior High
- _____ January 10 - Fredericton, NBTF Building
- _____ January 24 - Miramichi, Dr. Losier Middle School
- _____ January 31 - Sussex, Sussex High School

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION _____

- October 10
- October 24
- November 14
- November 18
- December 23
- January 16
- January 23

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

Mailing Address: _____ Dist. _____

Name of Spouse (if attending) _____

(If spouse is a teacher, please fill out a separate form)

No. of pension years you will have accumulated to June 2009 _____ Certificate Level: _____

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

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

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

Mail Application form to: Karen Vautour, P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5R6 or fax to 453-9795.

Signature: _____

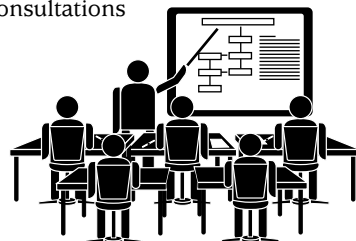
SEMINAR GUIDELINES

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

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

PROGRAM _____

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



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



Educational Leaves: 2009-2010

Deadline for Applications:

November 7, 2008

Application Forms:

**Use Only Forms Marked
"For 2009-2010"**

General

In order to advise teacher applicants by the end of January 2009, the deadline date for applications has been established as November 7, 2008.

Special Information

- teachers are eligible for educational leave of less than one full year (although full-year leaves are still available). Please note that both short-term and full-year leaves are for the 2009-2010 school year only; leaves for January-June, 2009 cannot be considered.
- in keeping with the collective agreement, a teacher on educational leave shall receive seventy per cent of the salary he/she would have received had he/she been employed during the period of the educational leave in the position which he/she held at the time his/her application was submitted.
- a teacher who is granted an educational leave of six (6) months or more shall agree in writing to return to the field of public education in New Brunswick for a period of at least *one* year.
- no teacher shall be eligible for a subsequent educational leave until he/she has been employed as a teacher in New Brunswick for a further one (1) year for each two (2) months of educational leave previously taken.
- the purpose of the leave is stated as follows:
"Educational Leave may be granted to a teacher wishing to devote up to a year's study or study/travel for purposes of retraining, specialization or professional growth."

Administrative Information

- Application forms and detailed regulations may be obtained from your school district office.
- Teachers who have questions regarding educational leave should direct them to:

*Bob Fitzpatrick,
Executive Director,
NBTA, P.O. Box 752,
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6*

- Interested teachers should apply to the Secretary, Educational Leave Committee, and forward one copy to the School Board Office and one copy to the School Principal. **No applications for educational leave will be accepted by the Committee if post-marked after November 7, 2008.**

— Applicants shall be advised of the decisions of the Committee by the end of January, 2009.

Factors Affecting Selection

Although an educational leave must fall into one of three purposes - retraining, specialization or professional growth - the Committee considers comments and recommendations from Principals, Directors of Education and/or Superintendents. These comments usually are directed to the benefits of the leave to the school and district and are an important source of information to the Committee.

Other factors that are considered are:

- distribution by district;
- position distribution (teachers, SPR's, vice-principals and principals, etc.);
- grade levels;
- past professional involvement;
- years of experience;
- number of times teacher has applied;
- benefit to the school/district of the proposed educational leave;
- certificate level of the teacher;
- previous educational leave (See note below).

Note: Some priority will be given to members who have not previously been granted educational leave without automatically excluding members who have. Other factors such as the number of years since the previous leave, the total number of applications, the experience of the other applicants and the other criteria listed above shall be considered.

The composition of the Educational Leave Committee is as follows:

Department of Education: two representatives;
New Brunswick Teachers' Association: Brent Shaw;
Association des enseignantes et des enseignants francophones du Nouveau Brunswick: Marcel Larocque;
New Brunswick School Districts: two representatives;
New Brunswick Teachers' Federation:
André Deschênes – Secretary; Bob Fitzpatrick

This notice is designed to give information to teachers as early as possible. It is merely a synopsis of the more detailed regulations. Interested teachers should read carefully both Article 37 of the Collective Agreement and the regulations established by the Educational Leave Committee prior to applying.

Building Bridges

Ardith Shirley, Director of Professional Development

"We build too many walls and not enough bridges."

Isaac Newton

Anyone who has spent any time driving on a New Brunswick highway this summer can attest to the amount of taxpayer dollars that have been invested to maintain and improve our transportation infrastructure.

No matter the route you were traveling, one could virtually guarantee that at some point your journey would be delayed due to bridge or road maintenance. As we each hurried to our destinations, some of us couldn't help but become a bit impatient when the signs at yet another construction zone insisted we "proceed with caution", "reduce speed ahead", or even "stop" as the oncoming traffic crossed yet another bridge that had been reduced to one lane!

(Some of us may even have found ourselves so frustrated with the delay in our travels that we were tempted to utter a few expletives under our breath as we fretted on the amount of time being wasted due to the "unnecessary inconvenience".)

As we begin the 2008-2009 school year, I invite you to consider the work of your local D.O.T. 'crew' as a possible underpinning to help guide your work as an educator this September. While your temptation may be to rush to your "destination" (a.k.a. cover ALL those curriculum outcomes), don't forget to MAKE the time for that initial investment of building and maintaining your bridges (relationships) with students, parents and colleagues.

Building Bridges with Students

In his article, "The More Students You Reach, the More Students You Teach", (*Education Digest*, May 2008), Jon Hall shares several principles that his school community has adopted to foster quality teacher-student relationships. These

principles, such as having the respect of students, requires that you earn it, making the time to *really* listen to students through routines such as class meetings and school advocate programs, as well as allowing choice, being honest and of genuine help to form strong teacher-student relationships which Hall argues are the very foundation for increasing student achievement.

'take time now in order to save time later'

Further reinforcement of Hall's ideas are found in the book, *The First Days of School*, where Harry & Rosemary Wong suggest that the three most important things that must be taught the first weeks of school are discipline, procedures, and routines. (This book is still one of the favourites on my shelf!)

The Wongs strongly recommend that we incorporate various activities that build community in the classroom into our lesson planning. They suggest that while these activities can sometimes feel like a "waste" of precious time in a busy classroom, they go a long way in fostering a positive classroom atmosphere that is safe, secure and conducive to learning and greatly reduce the amount of time and negative energy wasted dealing with needless disciplinary issues at a later date.

Building Bridges with Parents

As teachers, it is also essential to carefully and intentionally construct strong relational bridges with the parents and guardians of our students. I have always strongly

recommended that teachers call or write each home a few days before school begins to introduce yourself and then once again within the first two or three weeks. These initial communications foster and develop a strong rapport that will benefit everyone should the going get "tough" in the months ahead. As well, the important information and insights into students' lives outside the school walls that can be garnered through these conversations can be invaluable.

Building Bridges with Colleagues

"Relationships among educators within a school range from vigorously healthy to dangerously competitive. Strengthen those relationships, and you improve professional practice."

This quote taken from one of my favourite articles by Roland Barth entitled, "Improving Relationships Within the Schoolhouse", makes a strong case that in order to build capacity within a school we must make time to reflect on the types of relationships that educators have and why the nature of those relationships matter. An added bonus of the article are the examples shared of how several educators and school communities have created true cultures of collegiality that have led to incredible student success. (Available online: <http://snipurl.com/nz7f>)

There is no doubt that fostering strong relationships takes time and does not happen by accident. It requires a significant investment of resources – especially time, one of our most precious. *I firmly believe that when it comes to the fundamental infrastructures of communication and relationships amongst the members of our school communities, we simply must abide by the axiom: 'take time now in order to save time later'.* This

initial investment, although a bit time-consuming on the front end, will pay dividends tenfold in paving the way for clarity, purpose, understanding and, in turn, achievement down the road.

Let the construction begin for a successful school year!

May I Recommend?

In keeping with the “construction” theme, the “Model School” initiative that is evolving in several of our high schools this fall is certainly creating lots of buzz. The May 2008 issue of Educational Leadership is titled “Reshaping High Schools” and provides several examples of how other jurisdictions are embarking on similar explorations and may help provide a more global context of the trend.

Also, “Asking Good Questions” by Kenneth E. Vogler (*Educational Leadership, Summer 2008*) is an excellent article for teachers of all subjects and grade levels. I LOVE the fact that it includes a classroom observation instrument that guides teachers through the process of

working in pairs, observing each other and being observed leading classroom discussions in order to strengthen the quality of our questions AND strengthen teacher collegiality! (An especially excellent tool for BTIP pairs to try!)

Finally, Shirley Hord’s article, “Evolution of the Professional Learning Community” (*JSD, Summer 2008*) is an excellent resource for anyone looking for a refresher on how the PLC movement has evolved and continues to evolve. She cautions that many who claim to work within a PLC are actually misusing the term and identifies five components of research-based learning communities that are essential to true success.

As always, should any of these articles tweak your interest, I would be happy to send you a copy. Also, if you have come across a gem worth

sharing with your colleagues, I would LOVE to hear from you!



Knowledge of other people's beliefs and ways of thinking must be used to build bridges, not to create conflicts.

Kjell Magne Bondevik

Education is all a matter of building bridges.

Ralph Ellison

Teachers Make ‘Connections’ at CONTACT 2008



Close to 100 teachers from Atlantic Canada gathered at St. F.X. University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia for their annual CONTACT (Conference on New Teaching Strategies and Classroom Techniques) from August 5th – 8th, 2008.

Teacher presenters from all four Atlantic Provinces explored this

year’s theme “Classroom Connections”. NBTA was pleased to have Jeff Whipple (District 18) as their presenter this year. Jeff’s session, “Creating Flat Classrooms for the 21st Century” was very well received and inspired much conversation among teacher participants about how our classrooms should function.

CONTACT is a bilingual professional development opportunity organized by the five Teacher Organizations (NBTA, AEFNB, PEITF, NSTU and NLTA). This conference provides teachers with the opportunity to remain current in their profession and make contact with colleagues from the Atlantic region.

Developing Successful Schools 2008

“Data-Driven Dialogue: Practical Strategies for Collaborative Inquiry”

From July 8-11th, the campus at Mount Allison University was THE place to be if you are an administrator in the Atlantic Region! It was here that the annual DSS (Developing Successful Schools) conference was held.

The following quotes from the event evaluation forms should be all the proof you need to mark your calendar for next year.

“Very beneficial to my position as an administrator. An incredible ‘tool kit’ and resource that is very user-friendly! Bruce Wellman is a masterful facilitator.”

“The networking that took place with my fellow administrators from around the Atlantic region is so very useful and powerful.”

“I haven’t laughed so hard and so often in a long time – this DSS experience has been a real gift in my life.”

DSS is an annual event made possible through a partnership between the four Atlantic Teacher organizations (NBTA, PEITF, NLTA and NSTU) and the New Brunswick Department of Education.



The New Brunswick DSS participants on the lovely Hesler Hall Stairwell at Mount Allison University

project overseas

2009-2010



Volunteer Overseas with CTF!

Would you like to assist teachers in a developing country? Are you interested in learning more about global education issues? Can you see yourself volunteering in Africa, Asia, or the Caribbean?

If yes, Project Overseas (PO) might be for you!

Each year about 50 Canadian teachers are chosen to volunteer on CTF’s Project Overseas. On PO, Canadian teachers give their time and talent to offer professional development in-service programs in partnership with teacher organizations in developing countries. Based on requests from CTF’s partners overseas, teams of Canadian teachers are formed in January and in-service projects take place in July and August.

CTF needs English and French-

speaking Canadian teachers at the primary, elementary, and secondary levels who are interested in volunteering to offer in-services in a wide range of subjects in countries throughout Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.

Application criteria include:

- membership in a provincial or territorial teacher organization which sponsors PO and is a member of CTF,
- an appropriate teacher’s certificate,
- at least five years teaching experience in Canada,
- Canadian citizenship
- excellent health

PO is a volunteer experience. Administrative, travel, and living expenses are borne by CTF,

provincial and territorial teachers’ organizations (which are CTF members), CIDA, and the Wild Rose Foundation. No salaries or honoraria are paid to participants in PO and the sponsors do not cover costs associated with substitute teachers or release time.

To apply:

Application forms and further information are available from the office of:

Mr. Bob Fitzpatrick
Executive Director, NBTA
P.O. Box 752
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6
(506) 452-1721

Applications

Deadline date for applications:
November 1, 2008

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2008-2009



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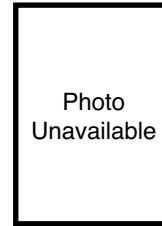
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Yvonne Caverhill
1809



Carolyn Barnhart-Elson
1826



Wayne Coburn
1827

Skills for Administrators Series: A Workshop for School-Based Administrators

Sponsored by the NBTA, School Districts and the Department of Education

A Practical Guide to Assessment for Learning for School Leaders

Date: October 27 and 28, 2008 (9AM - 4PM)

Location: NBTF Building, Fredericton

Facilitator: Ruth Sutton

District Support: the purchase of five seats at \$100 per seat, plus release time and travel expenses. (Additional seats may be available.)

NBTA Support: logistics, lunches

Participants: 5 selected by each participating district

Registration Deadline: October 13, 2008

Leading sustainable improvement in learning and teaching is a complex, challenging and rewarding goal for any school leader. Our goals for this two-day seminar are:

- to explore the principles and implications of 'Assessment for Learning', from its powerful research base to practical implementation in today's schools.
- to examine the leadership styles, skills and approaches that generate sustainable successful change
- 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

The Facilitator: Ruth Sutton returns to NB from her home in the UK by popular demand after DSS in the summer of 2006!

Ruth is a highly experienced educator with strong communication and interpersonal skills. Her credentials include:

- Ten years successful classroom teaching and school management, followed by 20 years continuous involvement with LEAs and schools.
- An extensive background in the areas of curriculum management, formative assessment, teacher appraisal, school/college self-review and leadership training.
- Ruth's research and writing have a Canadian focus due to her extensive work with Winnipeg School Division. Her most recent publications include: *Creating Independent Student Learners: A Practical Guide to Assessment for Learning*.

Making Meetings Work: How to Get Started, Get Going, and Get it Done

Date: November 25 and 26, 2008 (9AM - 4PM)

Location: NBTF Building, Fredericton

Facilitator: Ardith Shirley, NBTA

District Support: release time and travel expenses

NBTA Support: logistics, lunches

Registration Deadline: November 18, 2008

Description: *Are you attending more meetings and getting less done?*

Even with our busy schedules, meetings can be a productive use of time when we follow some simple guidelines. Based on the NSDC Resource book by meetings expert Ann Delehant, this workshop will explore tools, strategies, tips, and ideas that fit the unique context of schools, learning communities, and instructional leaders.

We will discuss guidelines for determining whether to have a meeting, strategies for helping groups work together to make decisions, and developing action plans. We will also cover:

- Planning a meeting and building the agenda
- Considering innovative alternatives to traditional meetings
- Using energizers and other ideas for engaging and motivating groups
- Determining "who" gets to make "what" decisions
- Establishing norms and procedures for efficient use of time

School leaders will find this a dynamic resource to help groups work toward collaboration and change the environment and school community culture for the better!



**Please fax or email a PDF of the registration form to:
Ardith Shirley, Director of Professional Development, at 506-453-9795,
ardith.shirley@nbta.ca**

Skills for Administrators Series 2008

Name: _____

School: _____

Email: _____

I wish to register for:

___ **A Practical Guide to Assessment for Learning for School Leaders** (October 27 and 28, 2008)

___ **Making Meetings Work: How to Get Started, Get Going, and Get it Done** (November 25 and 26, 2008)

You will be emailed with a confirmation of your seat.

School-Based Learning Team Grants

In a true Learning Community, everyone learns.

What is a School-Based Learning Team?

A School-Based Learning Team (SBLT) is a team of 3-5 teachers from a school who decide to work together to examine some aspect of student learning with the goal of studying, collaborating, sharing and learning to improve instructional strategies that will lead to improved student achievement.

Can you give me an example of what a SBLT might attempt to accomplish under this program?

An Elementary Team might determine, by examining their school achievement data and their students' performance, that their students seem weak in the area of measurement. The team might work towards identifying/developing strategies to improve this area of student learning. The teachers might try various teaching techniques, learning from one another or experts, and continue to compare the progress of their students as a result of the efforts of the Learning Team. Likewise a Middle School Learning Team might recognize that their students are weak in poetry ; a High School Math Team might decide to focus on improving their students application of geometric principles.

What is a School-Based Learning Team Grant?

A SBLT Grant is a \$1000 grant that will be awarded to a school upon successful application to the NBTA Committee established to administer the grant fund. The focus must be student learning.

What is the Purpose of the grant?

The grant is intended to support the work of the Learning Team. Such support may include providing some release time for the team to meet, purchasing resources to support the efforts of the team, accessing

expertise in the form of resource people.

How often should the team meet?

The SBLT grant extends from the calendar year January to December 2008. The team is required to meet a minimum of 18 hours throughout the year for which the grant has been awarded. Team members determine when the meetings will take place.

*\$1000 Grant
for your School
to Support Student
and Teacher Learning*

How is a SBLT different from a study group?

In many ways the SBLT has similarities to a study group in that teachers are working together to grow and learn. *However, the Learning Team must focus on an aspect of student achievement and work towards improving the achievement levels of their students in that area.* Actually examining student work is an important part of a Learning Team.

Will there be any help for the SBLT to get started?

Yes. The Director of Professional Development for the NBTA will meet with each Learning Team to help them launch their work. A template for recording the work of the team will be provided and protocols for examining student work will be introduced. These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for both accountability and productivity but will not restrict the direction and creativity of the team.

How many grants will be available?

For the calendar year January '09 – December '09, there will be five \$1000 grants available.

How does my school apply?

Complete the 1 page application form found on the NBTA website (www.nbta.ca). A school may submit more than one application provided the guidelines above are represented in each application. **Deadline for applications is December 12, 2008.** Successful applicants will be notified by January 9, 2009.

Why should my school consider creating a School-Based Learning Team?

All teachers strive to do their best, but so much more can be accomplished if teachers can work together, share strategies and improve their instructional techniques. Students and teachers all benefit. In a true learning community, everyone learns. A School-Based Learning Team is one more step toward the creation of such a learning community.

The guiding question of a School Based-Learning Team is:

"What is happening differently in our classrooms as a result of what we are doing and learning in our Team?"



NBTA Branch Presidents' Workshop

August 18-19, 2008



NBTA Branch Presidents meet in Fredericton each August to exchange ideas, plan the upcoming year and receive updates from NBTA Staff on important issues.

(from foreground right) Brian Greig (Saint John), Erica LeBlanc (Oromocto), Jay Jones (St. George), and Ada Phinney (Dorchester)

(from foreground right) Janna Graham (Boiestown), April Wilson (Cambridge Narrows), Dave Cripps (Miramichi), Scott Jamieson (Miramichi) and Nicole Chiasson (Bathurst)



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Elementary Council News



• Elementary Council •

President's Message

Welcome Back from the Elementary Council

Our website still has important websites, information and links from the great speakers we had at *Teaching for the XXI Century: a Canadian View* in May. It seems a long time ago now but if you were inspired by our speakers, consider going to our website and refreshing your memory or learn more about their work and what you might use in your classroom. Before the year really gets going, you might have the time to visit these resources, sign up for Tanya Helton's newsletter, or read about the *Risk Factors for Attachment Disorder*. There are four links where you can learn more about Bill Lishman and his inspiring work. Going to Christopher Bowers' link on our webpage really had me wishing that I had had the time on council day to sit in on his session, though I was glad that I had had time to meet him at our social and talk for a while. It might be easier to negotiate his site more easily by searching for *The Power of Personal*

Story. While I receive and read Marjan Glavac's emails regularly, going to his site today sent me to resources I did not know about on a Scholastic site, that I will be able to use in my grade five Language Arts classes. Krisanna Jeffery's and Dr. Keith Jeffery's respective sites offer insight into the causes of teacher stress as well as possible ways to combat the debilitating effects of stress. Check out Gloria Antifaiff's levelled e-books, or go to her district's website. I got stuck in the galleries of their student work, and earmarked them for future art class ideas. All this, to invite you to visit our website and revisit with our speakers through your computer.

Preparing this article, I read all of the feedback that was sent by teachers for Elementary Council Day and would like to thank everyone for taking the time to help us improve our day. Your comments help us refine our work. We will be considering your comments and

suggestions in the months ahead. The Elementary Council will be involved in planning for our Combined Council Day and this feedback will inform our input. We are already thinking about our next Elementary Council Day in 2010; your comments will certainly be considered when we get down to planning.

In this issue of the *News* there is an ad for an upcoming Science Institute, organized by Karla Roy. Enroll early as enrolment is limited.

Just like last year, we want to highlight work from our learning communities in this column. If you have photos and stories about the work of students, teachers or administrators, please send them along to any member of the Elementary Council Executive.

Thanks,
Peter Gorham
President
Elementary Council

Fun With Hands-On Science for Elementary School Teachers

(An Institute for Elementary Classroom Teachers)

- When:** Tuesday, September 30, 2008
9:00 am - 3:30 pm
- Where:** Science East, 668 Brunswick Street, Fredericton
- Presenter:** Science East

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 3, 4 and 5 Elementary Teachers. Enrollment is limited to the first 30 applicants, so register early! Lunch will be on your own. There are many restaurants located within walking distance.

Registration:

Please email registration to Karla Roy, karla.roy@nbed.nb.ca

Please include: Name, School Name and Phone number, Grade level(s) taught



• Middle Level Council •
President's Message

Welcome back to all Middle Level teachers! It seems that the summer has gone by very quickly and given the weather that we've had this year, in particular, some might ask, "What summer?"

Let me first welcome all teachers who are either new to the middle level or new to teaching. The 2008-2009 school year promises to be both exciting and challenging. As teachers of middle school students, we know the rewards and the frustrations that we all may face on a day to day basis working with the middle school child. I am always amazed at how students of this age can change moods so fast. One minute you could be the best teacher

in the world and the next minute barely acknowledged. The joys of adolescence!

Work is well underway on the Combined Council Day to take place in Moncton on May 1st, 2009. Although this may seem early, teachers should make plans now to attend this exceptional professional development opportunity. The caliber of speakers already booked is second to none. Throughout the coming year the middle level, high school and elementary councils will be working together for this combined event. The challenges of a conference this size can be many, yet many hands do make light work. Stay tuned for more information on

this big event.

As the year progresses, also be looking for information on some institutes that we hope to provide for our members. If any teachers are interested in planning an institute, funds are available to help you. For further information, check our web page at <http://middle.nbta.ca/> or email me directly at irvinjod@nbed.nb.ca.

Again I wish each of you a great year as we all work together to provide a quality and full education for the children of our province.

Sincerely,
John Irvine
President of the Middle Level Council

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► **Mayan Riviera, Direct from Moncton**

February 28th, 2009

Grand Sirenis Resort – 5 Star

\$1697 + \$300 tax p.p.



► **Holguin, Cuba**

February 28, 2009

Occidental Grand Playa Turquesa – 4 Star

\$1197 + \$200 tax p.p.

Halifax departure

► **Mayan Riviera, Mexico**

March 1, 2009

Sando Playacar Beach Resort – 5 Star

\$1597 + \$267 tax p.p.

Halifax departure

Rates are subject to availability at time of reservation, space is limited



Sylvette Deveau CTC

(506)863-5117

sdeveau@searsholidays.com

Paid Advertisement

Freedom Writers Institute

by Daniel Mills, Leo Hayes High School

Between August 1 and August 5, Daniel Mills attended the 'Freedom Writers Institute' in Long Beach, California. The 2007 film Freedom Writers was based on the story of Erin Gruwell whom Daniel had the opportunity to meet.

Erin Gruwell, the teacher who chose to begin her career at Woodrow Wilson High and be a part of its newly implemented integration program, inspired us with her practical ideas, love of teaching, but especially her belief in everyone's ability to succeed. We had many opportunities to play the role of the student and after each activity we reflected on its value and implications in the classroom.

Many of the activities that we experienced are described in her Teacher's Guide. The Coat of Arms activity made us reflect on our identity and our values and gave us an appreciation for others' uniqueness. The Line Game (as seen in the movie) is intense but it builds trust and acceptance and makes us feel like we are part of a family. The Peanut Game is a fun but powerful way to foster respect for everyone's distinctness while being creative with vocabulary. The Crayon Game is an excellent way to have group members share their strength and work together toward a common goal. The Freedom Writer Bingo is a very engaging way to master vocabulary words used in all of the previous activities.

We experienced many other activities from Ms. G's Teacher's Guide and each of them fostered acceptance of self and others in a fun and safe environment. In every activity we had the opportunity to work with different people which prevented cliques from forming. Everyone soon felt a part of a big family and there was no such thing as a black sheep in this nurturing environment. In every activity, we learned while having fun.

The last activity before participants had to catch their flights back to their various states

and provinces, (I was the lone Canadian) was the Toast for Change. This activity reassures students that



Daniel Mills and Erin Gruwell during the Freedom Writers Institute

they are not judged for their past and that they now have a clean slate. Always in an atmosphere of support and acceptance, everyone had the opportunity to make a toast for something they'd like to change in their lives.

Throughout the five day workshop, Ms. G's former Freedom Writers accompanied us. In fact, many of them are the organizational backbone of this incredible institute. Participants are encouraged to get to know the former Freedom Writers better during and after the scheduled activities. I found them all well-spoken, educated, and responsible, caring adults.

Other than all the in-class activities, which were held at California State University, Long Beach, we also had the opportunity to visit the Simon Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance. Ms. G used the Holocaust to teach her students about what can happen when we stereotype others based on any pretext. In one area of the museum, we were asked to step through either the "with prejudice" or the "without

prejudice" door. A few of us who felt that they held no prejudice were surprised when they were denied

access to the "without prejudice" door. Everyone has prejudices toward one group or another and the first step to understand how this prejudice impacts one's relationship with members of this group is to acknowledge and admit to it. We must continuously re-examine our perceptions.

One of the most memorable guest speakers during this five day workshop was Mrs. Renée Firestone. We had the opportunity to listen to her story and ask her any question at the end of our Museum of

Tolerance visit. She is an 84 year old Auschwitz survivor who lost her sister and parents to the Holocaust. This vivacious lady is filled with love and she is dedicated to making sure that those who were killed during the Holocaust are never forgotten. Later that day she joined us at Paramount Studios for a special screening of *The Freedom Writers Diary*. It was very exciting to watch the movie with Ms. G, Renée Firestone, and many of the original Freedom Writers amongst us as audience members.

This workshop is the best I have ever attended! I encourage other educators, who are looking for innovative teaching tools to reach and empower their students, to attend the Freedom Writers Institute.

The NBTA Combined Council Committee is pleased to announce that Erin Gruwell will be a keynote speaker on May 1st at Council Day 2009!

Educational Improvement Grant Funds

Funds for the **NBTA/DOE Provincial, NBTA Middle Level Council** and **High School Council** Educational Improvement Grants have been **depleted** until January 2009.

NBTA Elementary Council is still accepting applications for the period July 1 to December 31, 2008.

Applications can be made at any time for NBTA/DOE Provincial and/or Council funding for **activities taking place after January 1, 2009.**

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Johnson Scholarships

Johnson Inc. is proud to support students with  **Johnson Inc.** their continuing education through the Johnson Inc. Scholarship program.

Annually since 1998, Johnson Inc. has awarded \$100,000 in scholarships to policyholders and their dependents across Canada. This money is distributed amongst 100 winners in increments of \$1,500 each. Over the years a number of NBTA members/employees (and their dependents) with home or auto insurance through Johnson Inc. have been recipients of scholarships through this program.

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

Completed scholarship applications for this year are due by September 15, 2008. Application forms can be obtained by:

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

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How Modern Technology is Giving History Lessons a New Lease on Life

It's a history lesson that can span centuries with just the click of a mouse. Allan Trueman (Miramichi, NB) is using cyberspace to propel Grade 12 students into a new realm of education. Through the creation of a virtual high school, this teacher from James M. Hill Memorial High School has allowed students, who are otherwise unable to enroll in a Canadian history class, the chance to learn about Canadian history through an interactive, multimedia website. The online course, called *Canadian History 122*, features lecture notes, activities, pictures, quizzes and resources to help students interact and explore historical moments.

This creative lesson plan is just one example of the commendable teaching style for which **Canada's National History Society** has selected Allan Trueman as a finalist for the **2008 Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History**. After an extensive cross-country search, a panel of distinguished judges has selected Trueman as one of 25 finalists for this year's prestigious nomination.

The Awards recognize the outstanding contributions of Canada's history teachers, ranging from elementary grades through to secondary schools. "Inspiring students to take an interest in history and develop a sense of pride and place is without a doubt a real challenge in today's future-focussed society. These exceptional teachers have a unique way of bringing history to life that not only engages students, but makes history the coolest subject in school," said Deborah Morrison, CEO and President of Canada's National History Society. "That effort will make a life-long difference for those students and their perspectives on being Canadian."

A committee of judges will next select six recipients out of the 25 finalists, based on a submission outlining the nominee's innovations and achievements in the field of teaching Canadian History or Social Studies. Those six recipients will receive \$2,500, a gold medal and a trip this fall to the Awards ceremony presided by the Governor General. Their respective schools will also be awarded a cash gift of \$1,000.

The program, including the Awards prizes are made possible through the generous support of **TD Bank Financial Group**. "TD believes that one of the best ways to make a difference in the future of our communities is through the education of our children," said Frank McKenna, Deputy Chair, TD Bank Financial Group and TD's Literacy and Education Champion. "With these awards, we're proud to recognize the teachers tasked with

ensuring future generations of Canadians gain a deep and meaningful knowledge of our country's rich and colourful past."

Library and Archives Canada are also generous partners in the program, providing support to the Awards events and expertise in sharing and distributing the award winning lesson plans to teachers across Canada. "These awards acknowledge how childhood educators provide children with the critical experiences and learning that will affect them for the rest of their lives," said Ian Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada. "We are proud to continue our strong partnership with the History Society and to honour the talent, skill and dedication of these teachers who play such a vital role in our society."

- June 20, 2008



FALL 2008 NEW BRUNSWICK
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New Brunswick Youth Day



Take the challenge
Live the achievement

Make A Difference In Your Community!

When: Saturday, September 13, 2008

Time: 11 am – 4 pm
(with time for set up and tear down before and after)

Where: Centennial Park, Moncton (Rain Loc: Sports Dome)

Join us for a fun day of FREE activities, culminating in an exciting Award Ceremony!

Come enjoy free canoeing, drumming, painting, orienteering and more! Enjoy free food, stage performances (dance, music) and networking with local youth groups and community organizations!

For more information or to volunteer:
newbrunswick@dukeofed.org


The Duke of Edinburgh's Award volunteers, in conjunction with our community partners, are pleased to present our second annual New Brunswick Youth Day. The event has been designed as a signature outreach and recognition event for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme, which offers corporations and individuals the unique chance to enhance growth and learning opportunities for youth in our communities.

This unique event provides two direct benefits to youth in our community: first, it encourages youth to become involved, be active, try new activities, push limits and make new friends. We have designed the day to include hiking, canoeing, music, face painting and more, plus outreach will be provided by all other youth organizations in the community (Girl Guides, Cadets, Scouts, 4H, St. Pat's Family Centre, etc.!) to show our youth how they can get further involved in their communities!

Second, the day's events will culminate with a Bronze and Silver Award Ceremony to honour and recognize the hard work and accomplishments of our youth achievers. Dignitaries and local heroes will be present to offer their congratulations and commendations to our Award recipients.

Please join us with your support of our programme and in particular, of New Brunswick Youth Day.

UOFC • THIS IS NOW Prospective Students • Current Students • Alumni • Community IT • MY U OF C • CONTACTS



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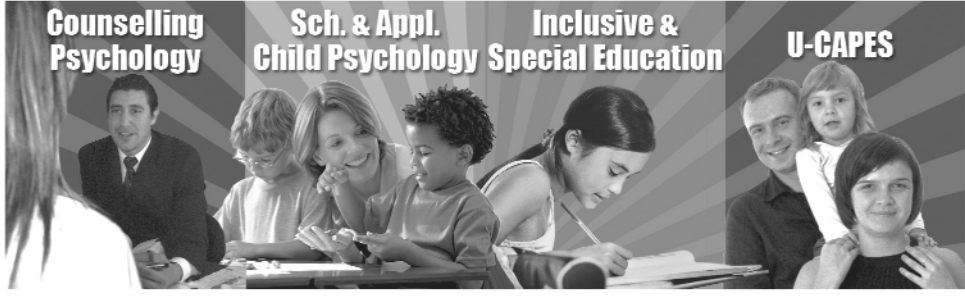
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- Canada's connections to the world

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"Perfect for our Canadian classrooms. The Gathering Place is one of the best elementary resources I have seen."



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

To get your **free** copy, email info@classroomconnections.ca. To view the resource, additional activities and assessment materials, go to www.canadascapital.gc.ca/gatheringplace.



NBTA Golf Tournament
 Saturday, September 27, 2008
 "Shotgun" Start - 10:00 am
 Rockwood Park Golf Course, Saint John



Open to all NBTA members as well as all retired NBTA members.

Fee: \$55.00 per golfer (includes green fees, meal, gratuities, HST, prizes).

Make cheques payable to:
NBTA Golf Tournament and mail to:

Ed Lester
407 Molson Ave.
Saint John, NB
E2M 5L9

Telephone: (506) 674-1541
Fax: (506) 635-8906
Email: ed.di@rogers.com

Entry Form

4 Person Scramble

35 golf carts reserved through
Ed Lester (\$29.00 tax included)

Four Names:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Contact Person:

Telephone (Home): _____
 (Work): _____

*If you have not received confirmation,
 please call by September 20, 2008*



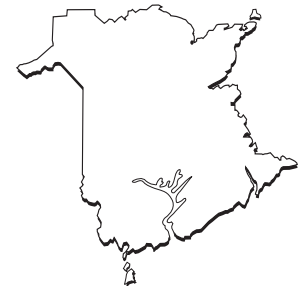
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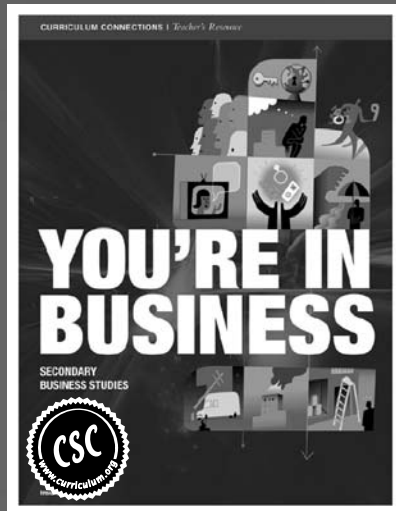


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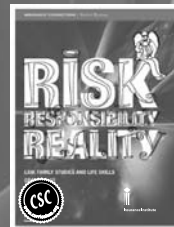
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THIS IS NOW

National Media Week 2008 Encourages Youth to “Think Critically and Act Ethically”

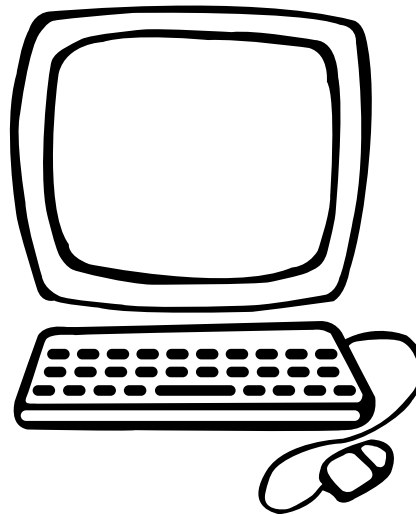
The Media Awareness Network (MNet) and Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) are once again partnering to present Canada's third annual National Media Education Week, under the theme *Think Critically, Act Ethically*.

National Media Education Week is an initiative to promote media education and encourage all Canadians to participate in media literacy activities throughout the country. This year's week, which takes place between **November 3 and 7**, will focus particularly on the issue of ethical and responsible online citizenship while promoting media literacy as a key component in the education of young people.

Media literacy outcomes are in the curricula of every province and territory in Canada. There is an increased awareness among educators that for young people to be truly literate today, they need to develop rigorous critical thinking skills to sift through and make sense of everything they see, hear and read, in school and in the wider community—including in media.



MNet and the CTF, both long-time supporters of media education in Canada, are working with a diverse group of collaborators to develop and promote a wide-range of media literacy activities during the week.



Media Awareness Network is a Canadian not-for-profit centre of expertise in media education. Its vision is to ensure children and youth possess the necessary critical thinking skills and tools to understand and actively engage with media. (www.media-awareness.ca) Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) represents nearly 195,000 Canadian teachers across the country. For nearly 90 years, CTF has advanced the cause of children, defended the rights of teachers and promoted a strong public education system. Further, they have championed the increase and strengthening of the practice of media education in Canadian classrooms (www.ctf-fce.ca)

© 2008 Media Awareness Network

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

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



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

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

Stephanie Chowdhry
MEd, CCC

Personal Counsellor



506.479.0299

stephanie.chowdhry@gmail.com

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Announcements

Paediatric Lifestyle Management Program

The Paediatric Lifestyle Management Program's interdisciplinary team (formerly LEAP!) is looking forward to its fifth year "supporting families in their effort to make healthier lifestyle choices relating to nutrition, leisure and physical activity."

There will be two intake periods for the 2008-09 Program. The fall Information Session will be held on Wednesday, September 10th from 7 - 9 pm. The winter Information Session will be on Wednesday, January 14th, 2009.

The Information Session will explain the program in detail with opportunities to ask any questions.

For more information, contact Kate Morrison, Program Director at 506-452-6172 or kinkids@unb.ca

Don't Forget! School Bus Safety Week



October 13 - 17, 2008

Johnson's Research Awards Available



The Johnson's Research Award is available to any member of the NBTF Group Insurance Plan who is a statutory member of the New Brunswick Teachers' Association and intends to undertake an educational study related to priorities of the NBTA. Teachers on educational leave, contractual leave of absence, and deferred salary leave are also considered eligible for the purposes of this award. Funding for the award program is provided by Johnson Inc.

Purpose

The award is provided to assist teachers in covering the travel, accommodations, conference registrations, duplicating and other costs related to the completion of the research study. No honorarium shall be paid from the award to the recipient. The research undertaken could include standard literature surveys, descriptive or analytical reports based on questionnaires or other data gathering devices, meta-analyses of a variety of related studies or ethnographic research related to New Brunswick schools or educational system.

Conditions

The NBTA will make the awards based on a detailed description of the study. An application should include:

1. Definition of the problem under study

2. Description of the research procedures
3. Description of intended outcomes
4. Description of the relationship to NBTA priorities
5. Cost estimates specific to the award

Award

The NBTA will provide, upon request from the recipient, travel and/or other advances when the award is made. The recipient must provide a financial statement and receipt for all expenses.

Final Report

A final report will be prepared within a time frame mutually agreed to by the Executive Director and the recipient.

For further information, contact: Blake Robichaud, Director of Communications and Research, NBTA, 452-1833.

**Deadline for Applications:
October 31, 2008**

*As of printing, many fall 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.

September 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 Labour Day	2 First Day for Students	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 CAPTO Communications CAPTO PD	11 CAPTO PD	12 Wellness Facilitators Training NBTA Executive	13 NBTF Executive
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Welcome to New Teachers
21	22	23	24	25 Council Day 2008 (AdHOC)	26 Council Co-ordinating Committee	27
28	29	30				
October 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Classroom Management NBTA Executive	11 NBTF Executive
12	13 Thanksgiving Day	14	15	16	17	18 Pension Seminar in Bathurst
19	20	21	22 NBTA Board	23 NBTA Board	24 NBTF Board	25
26	27 Skills for Adminstrators	28 Skills for Adminstrators	29	30	31 Certification Changes	
November 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Pension Seminar in Moncton Project Overseas Deadline
2	3 Nominating Committee Meeting	4	5	6	7 Educational Leave Deadline for Application	8
9	10	11	12 CTF Staff Officers	13 CTF Staff Officers	14 CTF Staff Officers	15 Transition to Retirement Seminar, Fredericton CTF Staff Officers
16 CTF Staff Officers	17	18	19	20	21 Council Day (School Based)	22 Pension Seminar in Saint John
23 /30	24	25 Skills for Administrators	26 PCAC Pension Seminar in Bristol NBTA Credit Union Annual Meeting	27 PCAC	28 NBTA Executive	29 NBTF Executive

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**Congratulations to our
Scholarship Winners**

Alexander Graves	Abigail Taylor
Julia Mathieson	Emily Dean
Kaitlyn Lord	Josh Clark
Mayme LeFurgey	



NBTA

650 Montgomery St., P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6
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