



NBTA

news

NEW BRUNSWICK TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

September 5, 2002

Vol. XLV, No. 1

Happy Birthday, NBTA!

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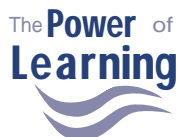


NBTA is 100 years old this year. It was in May, 1903 that the teachers of New Brunswick first met as a professional organization.

Throughout this year, there will be a series of activities, locally and provincially, to mark the 100 years of NBTA, including the distribution of

Birthday packages to each NBTA member.

NBTA and its members have had a major impact on the development of New Brunswick society over the 100 years. We are proud to be **"Celebrating a Century of Learning"**.



Progress on Discipline Issues

During the last school year, several cooperative initiatives among the Department of Education, Superintendents and Directors, and the NBTA were established. Planning is already underway for continued collaboration on the important issue of orderly school climate.

There is a shared enthusiasm among all the participants to effect real change in the system and to go beyond the production of reports and surveys. Details of the activities to date may be found in Mary Wilson's President's Message (*see page 3*).

Women in Educational Administration - New Brunswick W.E.A.-N.B.

presents a Fall Workshop

Facilitator: Noreen O'Haire - Director of Professional Development - Canadian Teachers' Federation

When: October 19, 2002 - 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Where: NBTF Building, Fredericton, NB

Theme: The Changing Landscape of Canadian Education

Join with your colleagues and special guest, Noreen O'Haire, to discuss the ever-changing role of administrators from both a national and provincial perspective.

Registration Fee: \$5.00

Lunch Provided

To register, please contact:

Terri MacLean, NBCEA, Faculty of Education

UNB, P.O. Box 45333, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 6E3

Tel. (506) 453-3502 Fax (506) 453-3569

E-mail: tmaclean@unb.ca

2002 Retiring Teachers Commended



As schools open this fall, there are over 250 colleagues who will not have to worry about lesson plans and marking. These are the people who retired after years of service to the students of New Brunswick and to their Association. Premier Bernard Lord was on hand at the annual NBTA Retiring Teachers' Luncheon held in Fredericton in conjunction with the NBTA AGM. He is shown here presenting the first Honorary Certificate to John E. Adams. In addition, Premier Bernard Lord commended the teachers retiring for their contribution to improving society in New Brunswick.

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Here we go again.....



Mary Wilson

Another school year begins. I don't know if you are like me, but I always found that after being back at school for a few days, I felt like I had never left. I don't suggest that that's a bad thing, just the way it is. I do hope, however, that you are beginning your new school year feeling rested and re-energized and that you have an attitude of optimism. Let's expect this year to be fun and stress-free with lots to smile about.

Discipline

My priority as President, in case you don't already know, has been and continues to be, centered around issues of school discipline. As I have stated in the past, standards of discipline have increasingly deteriorated and inappropriate behaviour has mushroomed. You and I both know how hard teachers and administrators work to find the variables to keep students in school and engaged in their learning. We take this responsibility very seriously, but have gradually felt more and more powerless in our classrooms and schools. It is definitely time for a change.

Last Spring, a Joint Provincial

Committee on Positive Behaviour in Schools was struck which included representation from the Department of Education, the Education Group (Superintendents and Directors), all District Offices, and the NBTA ad hoc Committee on Discipline. This group met twice and has plans to meet each month during this school year with the mission of promoting positive, responsible behaviour in schools!

The Committee's first recommendation (accepted by all Districts) was the brochure "*Yes, You Can!*" which you received from your superintendent and discussed with your staff. Over the past decade or so, there has been a tremendous concentration on the rights of students and, certainly we are always conscious of doing what's best for our students, but somewhere along the way, the rights of teachers have been lost. As I stated in last October's *NBTA News*: "*Teachers have every right to expect to be treated with dignity and respect in their workplace. Schools should never be places where teachers are threatened, or sworn at or treated with contempt and if this should happen, the student needs to be dealt with quickly, firmly and decisively. Schools should be places where teachers and students alike feel respected and valued.*"

This brochure, then, is focused on what you are able to do, as a true professional in your school, having the best interests of your students in mind. It is based on the *Education Act Policy 703* (Positive Learning Environment Policy), which clearly state that students have duties and responsibilities, too. You should also notice that this document has the complete support of your District Office. You are not alone out there. You do not have to put up with every kind of behaviour. You can control your classroom.

I am really hopeful that this initiative will make a difference, but I have to ask for your assistance for

this to happen. I know that it is not easy for everyone to be assertive, but please, if you feel that you are not being supported over an issue of misbehaviour in your classroom, speak up! It is the only way to get the message out that students will be held accountable for their behaviour and that schools will no longer allow unsafe, disorderly, unproductive and disrespectful conduct. I believe that we can make a real difference this year. Let's!

100th Birthday Celebration

I'm sure you already know that NBTA will be 100 years old this year! What an exciting time to be President. I hope that you will help to observe this festive year by participating in some, if not all, available birthday activities. If you feel that you don't know a lot about your Association, why not take some time to learn more. Give us a call. Come for a visit some day. This is, after all, your building, and if you've never been inside it, there has never been a better time than now.

If you are a *beginning teacher*, welcome to the *best* profession in the world. If you ever need any advice or assistance, please let NBTA work for you. A *Welcome to New Teachers' Workshop* will be held in Fredericton on September 21st. Hope to see you there!

Well... here's hoping that your school year has gotten off to a great start and is headed in an even better direction. If you ever have any advice, questions or concerns for me, all my numbers and e-mail address are on this page. Please, feel free to contact me.

Please note that the e-mail address in the NBTA pocket calendar is incorrect. Use the one found on this page.

And, of course, special "hugs" to my friends and colleagues in Canterbury. I still miss you and wish you the best possible school year. Enjoy!

Teaching in New Brunswick: A Proud Profession

Each year as school opens, enthusiastic students and teachers, refreshed from the holidays, start back to classrooms throughout New Brunswick.

On a personal note, it is another new beginning for me, following a year replacing the Executive Director. I truly enjoyed my year and I look forward to re-establishing myself in Communications. I thank Larry Jamieson for the work he did in moving so many projects forward in my absence from the Association last year.

We, as teachers and teacher representatives, prepare to deal with whatever challenges and opportunities are provided, and devote our professional activities to “making it happen” in the classrooms.

There are times during a school year when things may not be going well. In the Province of New Brunswick, the school system is a vibrant and dynamic institution of over 130,000 people, from bus drivers to superintendents, from kindergarten children to seasoned professional teachers, from young parents to grandparents, and from



Jim Dysart

troubled youth to high school seniors. Each day, literally millions of personal interactions take place. Most often these are normal and respectful. But on occasion tensions will build and those within the system must find ways to respond cooperatively to restore a sense of security and stability.

Fortunately, in New Brunswick, the elements are in place to maximize this cooperation and minimize disruption to the positive learning environment in schools.

Unlike many other jurisdictions,

in New Brunswick there are open lines of communication among teachers, their representatives, parents, superintendents and directors, the Department of Education, and government.

In New Brunswick, we recognize that solutions are developed among partners who listen to each other, establish common goals, and work cooperatively toward those goals.

New Brunswick has a very strong group of highly professional teachers who pride themselves on the successes in their classrooms. We have academic success, but we are also successful in developing positive social attitudes, community spirit, and an inclusionary way of thinking.

New Brunswick is a great place to live. New Brunswick schools are great places to teach. We do have problems, and nothing is perfect, but the New Brunswick reality allows us to find solutions.

In this centennial year for NBTA, let's celebrate learning and teaching.

by Jim Dysart

Deputy Executive Director

Director of Communications & Research

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Educational Leaves: 2003-2004

Deadline for applications:

November 8, 2002

Application Forms:
Use Only Forms Marked
"For 2003-2004"

General

In order to advise teacher applicants by January 17, 2003, the deadline date for applications has been established as November 8, 2002.

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 2003-2004 school year only; leaves for January-June, 2003 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 8, 2002.

- Applicants shall be advised of the decisions of the Committee by January 17, 2003.

Factors Affecting Selection

Although an educational leave must fall into one of three purposes — retraining, specialization or professional growth — the Committee receives comments and recommendations from Principals and 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:

1. distribution by district
2. male/female distribution
3. position distribution (teachers, department heads, subject coordinators, vice-principals and principals,
4. grade levels
5. past professional involvement
6. years of experience
7. number of times teacher has applied
8. benefit to the school/district of the proposed educational leave
9. certificate level of the teacher

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: Mary Wilson;
Association des enseignantes et des enseignants francophones du Nouveau Brunswick: Pierre Paillard;
New Brunswick School Districts: two representatives;
New Brunswick Teachers' Federation: Bob Fitzpatrick,
Claudette Charest-Chouinard - Secretary.*

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.



Each year about 50 Canadian teachers are chosen to work, *without salary*, on CTF's Project Overseas. Their assistance is given, upon invitation, to teachers in Africa, the Caribbean and Asia to improve teaching skills and strengthen professional teacher organizations.

Administrative, travel and living expenses are borne by the Canadian Teachers' Federation, the provincial and territorial teacher organizations which are Members of CTF, the Canadian International Development Agency, and the Wild Rose Foundation (an Alberta Agency for International Development).

It should be noted that the sponsors of Project Overseas do not pay any salaries or honoraria to teachers who apply to Project Overseas. Furthermore, the sponsors do not pay any costs associated with substitute teachers or release time.

Requirements

- membership in a provincial or

territorial organization which is a Member of CTF

- an appropriate teacher's certificate
- a minimum of five years teaching experience in Canada
- Canadian citizenship
- excellent health
- evidence of flexibility and mature judgement

In 2003-2004 CTF will require teachers for:

Project Overseas I (the summer project) will operate during the months of *July and August 2003* in English and French-speaking countries. In 2002, teachers at the primary, elementary and secondary levels were requested to teach the following: Biology, Classroom Management, Communication, Computer Studies, Course Design, Curriculum Development, Decision-Making, Educational Administration, English, ESL, Geography, Guidance & Counselling, History, Home Economics, Information

Management, Instructional Technology in the Classroom, Language Arts, Leadership, Legal Aspect of Education (School Law), Mathematics, Multi-Level Teaching of Disabilities, Physical Education, Physics, Reading Recovery, School Administration, School Development Planning, Science, Special Education, Strategic Planning, Supervision of Quality Education, Teaching Techniques.

Applications

Deadline date for applications:
November 15, 2002.

Further information and application forms are available from:

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

40th anniversary Project Overseas orientation a resounding success!

(CTF News Service – Ottawa)

Forty-six teachers from across Canada helped to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Project Overseas at a four-day Orientation course given by the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) in Ottawa from July 4-7.

These Canadian volunteers make up ten teams who then headed off to spend the summer helping teachers in developing nations in Africa, the Caribbean and Asia. The purpose of the Orientation was to provide opportunities for team-building with colleagues and to provide an opportunity to receive information and material vital to the success of the projects.



Participating in Project Overseas from New Brunswick is Kathlyn Hunter (l), shown here with Barbara MacDonald, Director, International Programs. Kathlyn is a classroom teacher at Forest Glen School in Moncton.

Teachers who volunteer their time and talents assist in raising the academic and professional qualifications of teachers in

developing countries. In addition to raising the profile of the teacher organization in the developing country, Canadian teachers get to share and to learn from their host country colleagues.

Since 1962, 1,657 Canadian teachers have participated in CTF's Project Overseas program, working with 65,000 teachers around the world. The ripple effect of their participation has touched approximately 2.6 million students!

Project Overseas is financed by CTF, its Member organizations, and special grants from the Canadian International Development Agency and the Wildrose Foundation (an Alberta Agency for International Development).



It's Time to Take Health Off the Back Burner



by Norman Russell

There continues to be a great deal of interest in Physical Education and the role it has to play in helping to educate our children. Our Minister of Education, Dr. Dennis Furlong, remains committed to improving the health of our children, and for that matter our whole population. We have new curriculums, Elementary Physical Education Mentors, a new award program aimed at increasing physical activity in our schools and the goal of providing all our children with at least 100 minutes of quality Physical Education per week.

As a committed physical educator, I view the past year as one of truly great beginnings and progress made. Our Minister is on the ball. And it gets better. The leader of the opposition, Mr. Shawn Graham, appears to be in the Minister's corner on this one. Common sense and concern for our children appears to be winning the battle against partisan politics. Both men are to be applauded.

I think it is only part of the answer. We talk about making physical activity a part of our life, a way of life. It doesn't seem possible that a physical education program, even the full 100 minutes a week, can accomplish that for all of our students. A good Physical Education program can teach motor skills and sport specific skills and it can teach children the components of a fitness program and how to achieve the desired level of fitness. We can teach leadership and cooperative skills. We can show our students that being physically active is fun.

Being healthy and fit takes other very important concerns into consideration. Diet is critically important. We don't eat very well for any number of reasons: time and energy, or lack of time and energy; convenience; lack of knowledge. If we ate well, inactivity would still be an issue, but perhaps not such a grave one. The combination of lack

of physical activity and poor diet is proving to be deadly. Many of us don't get the sleep we need. How many times have you had little boys and girls come to school only to tell you about the late show they watched last night, with dad! Many of our children arrive at school tired, not sleepy. Many of our children don't see a doctor or dentist on a regular basis and don't know that they should. I'm convinced that many parents believe that a lack of illness indicates a level of fitness and a satisfactory state of health and they need to be made aware of the difference.

Extracurricular sporting activities and community sporting activities are attractive to fewer and fewer of our children. Many community-based activities will throw some pretty impressive participation figures at you but take a look at the dropoff rate as the children age. Soccer comes to mind. Maybe choosing your all-star team at the beginning of the season has something to do with that. If you look across the spectrum of organized traditional sport, the same faces and names keep popping up. Different sport, same kids. There appears to be a wide range of opportunities but the vast majority of our kids don't play. On the flip side, many new sports and activities that do seem to attract our children don't get the parental or community support that perhaps they deserve. Very few children go out and play on their own. Our ball diamonds and tennis courts are often empty, unless there are coaches, referees and parents there as well. And nothing's cheap!

What's the answer? Don't know, for sure. But we have to drive the health message home at every opportunity. Not just the physical activity/physical education message. And it has to happen in the classroom. The health curriculum must be made to fit into the school day. Regardless. Use it to teach language arts. Make math lessons

out of it. Our elementary curriculum is new and it's good. There are also countless new resources being created by health organizations designed for the classroom and they are good.

It has to happen in the cafeteria. Help your students choose wisely. Question why the donuts and fries always seem to be up front while the salads and veggie dishes languish, hidden under glass. Better yet, question why some foods are being sold, period. Have school-wide or team-wide healthy eating habits competitions. Give prizes! Get involved yourself. Model the behavior. Set the example.

Invite health experts to your class to talk to your children. Keep sleep charts. Have physical activity competitions and keep track on the classroom wall. Give more prizes! Learn about Mommables and get all the good information home. All of it. Everything you are doing. Give family homework. Tough stuff like an afterdinner walk. Let the child see that being healthy can happen everywhere. Not just in the gymnasium. Not just with organized sport and activity.

Discuss physical play and work and the fitness dividends both can pay. Talk about the telltale signs of sweat, a raised heart rate and an increased rate of breathing and the benefits to be attained through physical effort.

Show the kids that the decisions they make can make a big difference to their health. Get comprehensive about it. Attack from all sides. And don't forget that most important component. Start taking really good care of yourself. The kids need you.

Norman Russell is an Elementary Physical Education Mentor in School District 17, and an Executive Council Representative for New Brunswick Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD)

Teaching in China



by Sharon Kitchen

Have you dreamed of teaching where the students hang onto every word you say? Where after you keep them for extra work, they thank you? To fulfill your dream, come to China to teach.

I taught in New Brunswick high schools for 35 years and then retired. After two years I was bored and was looking for a new venture. I was thinking of going up north in Canada. One day I picked up a copy of the *NBTA News* which contained an ad entitled “Teach in China”. I answered the ad; I have been here two years and am planning to return for at least two more years.

I work for a school called WECL English College. Nobody is exactly sure what the initials stand for, which provides English instruction for Chinese students using only Canadian or American teachers and materials. Probably the main reason that I was able to be courageous enough to come here by myself was that the school obtained all the visas, made all the travel arrangements, and Jenny Jung, the recruiter, a Canadian-born Chinese, accompanied all the new teachers to China.

The school has three branches — one in Beijing, one in Xiamen, and one in Yantai. I looked all three places up in the *Lonely Planet* and found exciting descriptions of the first two locations, but the third was described as a very boring city that people would only visit if they wanted to get the ferry to Korea. So guess where I am.

Yantai is a small city by Chinese standards but has more people than the province of NB. Its main advantage is that it is not as westernized as the other locations, so one gets a real taste of China, street markets, fishermen, farmers, and bicycles. One moment you can be admiring a soaring skyscraper, and then when the bus goes around the corner you see women, their heads covered with bright coloured kerchiefs chucking scallops as they did 100 years ago.

The majority of our students are university graduates and some have worked for several years. The one thing that they all have in common is that they want to learn! Heaven on Earth for a teacher! Chinese students study English in public school and in university but most have had no contact with native speakers. The first month they are lost because while they can read English, their listening skills are very poor; some are in tears, some want to go home, but by October most are able to understand the teachers. My students tell me I am the hardest to understand, that they measure their progress by talking to me. We do not just teach in the classroom; we go on class outings organized by the students, go shopping, and engage in many other activities that allow the students to practise their English and allow us to explore China. I walk every morning at 6:00 am — rain or shine — and am usually joined by 6 to 10 students. They are all so anxious to practise their language skills they will put themselves through any torture and hang onto every word you say.

We have three holidays throughout the year: a week at the first of October - the Chinese National Holiday; four weeks for the Chinese New Year; and a week at the first of May for Labour Day. Of course there is also a summer holiday — July and August. During my two years here I have visited twelve Chinese cities, Korea, Russia, Australia, New Zealand and Thailand. I have been on the Great Wall, down the Yangtze River and climbed Mount Thai, associated with Confucius. From being a small town girl from Canterbury NB, who had never travelled outside North America and never by herself, I now have enough confidence to say to my traveling companion who is in Xiamen, “OK, I’ll meet you in the Bangkok Airport.”

When I went to Russia, by myself, I arrived 4 hours before my visa was valid. I thought I was saving money by travelling on Air China on Friday rather than Air Moscow on

Saturday. I had visions of jail but just had to sit in the airport until I was legal. On that trip I learned why the Russians are good at hockey — they are so, so big. They say travel is broadening, and it really is; however, it also makes the world smaller as you find people are all generally the same all the world over. Teaching in China does not pay well by Canadian standards, but foreign teachers are very well paid according to Chinese standards, and while you do not save money here, your salary will cover travelling expenses if you are not extravagant.

Travel is wonderful, learning to bargain in the market is exciting, but the best thing of all is becoming acquainted with the Chinese people. They are so kind and so caring. The students truly love their teachers and will do anything they can to please them. The first Christmas Eve I was here I was homesick, but when I left the school that night and some of my students and their parting words were “Sweet Dreams”, I realized that I had a family here, too.

There are many different kinds of schools to teach in here, ranging from kindergartens to university. For me, the arrangement in our school is best. I have a “homeroom” class that I teach each day. Teachers become very close to their homeroom class and this I really enjoy. I also teach other classes so I get to know many students, but not as well as my own class. In some schools, you teach many classes a few hours a week like our high schools or universities; in others, you teach school classes and also adults; there is something to suit everybody’s taste.

So my advice to you teachers who are already retired or who are contemplating retirement but do not want to be on the shelf: “Go East young man, go East”. Anybody who would like more information, please feel free to contact me at: kitchensharon41@hotmail.com.

Sharon Kitchen is a former teacher from Nackawic High School.



A&E Canadian Biography® of the Year Essay Contest

- \$15,000 in cash prizing and audio-visual equipment to be won •

A&E Television Networks recently launched the *2nd Annual Canadian Biography® of the Year Essay Contest* for Canadian elementary and high school students. The contest calls on grade 5-12 students to write a 250-word essay on the person they believe has made the most positive impact on Canadian society in 2002.

Teachers across all elementary and high school disciplines in Canada are invited to encourage

their students to participate in the essay contest and will be rewarded for their guidance of students for the duration of the project. The school departments of the winning students will be awarded with \$1,000 and an A&E education prize package including a TV, VCR and collection of classic A&E videos.

Students will compete in two categories: grades 5-8 and grades 9-12. A grand prize of \$5000 and a first prize of \$2500 will be awarded to

two students in each grade category.

The contest opens September 1 and essays are to be sent to: Canadian Biography of the Year Contest, c/o Temple Scott Associates, 250 The Esplanade, Suite 301, Toronto, Ontario M5A 1J2.

Interested students and teachers can log onto

www.aande.com/class/canadianclass/essay_contest.html

for contest rules and guidelines.

The deadline for submission is November 1, 2002.

A&E Teacher Grant Program

Marking its 10th year of recognizing teaching excellence and innovation in Canada, A&E Television Networks launched the *2003 A&E Canadian Teacher Grant* program on *September 1, 2002*.

The national grant program is open to Canadian teachers from kindergarten through grade 12 and will honour and reward teachers who develop creative and enriching methods of instruction inspired by

quality A&E productions with cash prizes and a TV, VCR and video tape library.

To participate, teachers must create a unique classroom curricula program using A&E programming. Each entry will be judged by an independent panel of educators, education advocates and television professionals on the basis of three criteria: originality; how well A&E program(s) and resources are incorporated into the lesson; and

how well the lesson relates to the subject or topics being taught.

The deadline for submissions is April 11, 2003. Teachers may submit entries by fax to (212) 210-1493, or by mail to: A&E Canadian Teacher Contest, c/o Temple Scott Associates, 250 The Esplanade, Suite 301, Toronto, Ontario M5A 1J2. The A&E website is located at www.AandE.com

GPS Project Challenges High School Physics Students

A teacher, Kate Duffy, from Riverview High, started a year-long trip around the world on a deferred salary. While she is gone, she will send back postcards that contain scientific data, as well as clues as to her location. High school physics students will use the science data to calculate the acceleration due to

gravity as it varies around the world.

For a geography lesson, students at RHS will post on the internet the clues on the postcards that describe her location. Students from around the province can then guess her location by e-mail submissions. Small prizes may be offered.

A draft web page has been set up

that is used just as a start while waiting for student recruits at <http://gps.nbed.nb.ca>.

Submitted by:

Ian Fogarty

*Enriched chemistry and physics
Riverview High School*

Talk is Cheap, But Use It Wisely!



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

"Johnny, stop talking!"
"No talking during the test!"
"Listen to me, please. I am teaching."

Such phrases have tended to be very common in classrooms over the decades, and I daresay there are many teachers who may still revert to the 'silence is golden' philosophy of classroom instruction. Fortunately, I believe, our concept of 'student talk' is changing.

A recent study involved two classes taking the same test of material taught in a similar manner. One group wrote the test, passed it in and had the work corrected by the teacher. The second group was asked to talk with a partner about their test and their answers before passing in the test. They could even change answers! The teacher then collected and marked the work.

Six weeks later, a surprise test was given (the same test) to both groups. Of the first group, 21% scored the same or higher on the test. Of the second group, the ones that were permitted to talk about the material, a whopping 86% scored as high or higher than the original test!!

The current research on the brain and learning suggests that the brain that does the talking is the brain that does the learning! (the whole area of recent brain research is a fascinating one and, in my opinion, really relevant for teachers!). However, it has been suggested that in many classrooms, particularly at the high school level, the teacher does close to 80% of the talking! Draw your own conclusions!

And it is not just student talk that matters. Teacher talk, that is, teacher to teacher, should be a vital part of a school's culture. However, if that teacher talk is centered around what is 'wrong'...wrong with

the system, the school, the administration or the kids, then the impact of that talk will be to create an environment that sucks the energy and enthusiasm out of all staff members. Rick DuFour and Becky Burnette have collaborated on an article for the summer issue of the *Journal of Staff Development* entitled, "Pull Out Negativity By Its Roots". They share strategies to deal with the kind of teacher talk that focuses on blame, excuses and turf protection in favour of conversations that encourage collaboration and celebration.

As a teacher and a staff member, perhaps you can start this new school year looking for ways to involve your students more in talk that will foster their learning. Encourage your colleagues to share the kind of positive professional dialogue that will make your collective work easier and more productive. Ban negative comments in your staff room. Schedule time (it won't happen otherwise) to talk with other teachers about the craft of teaching. Share success stories and skills.

I guarantee your school will be a more positive place and you will have a happier and more fulfilling year!

School-Based Learning Teams

Watch for information in the next issue of *NBTA News* about another new initiative from your professional association in collaboration with the Department of Education. School-Based Learning Teams are teams of 3-5 teachers who agree to meet together on a regular basis to focus on some aspect of student learning. By examining student work and working collectively, teachers can share expertise, strategies and their own learning in ways that will have an impact on their students' achievement. Full details and an application form for one of the six available \$1000 grants will be in the

October issue.

Teacher Exchange Change

The teacher exchange program in NB is undergoing some changes. The program will now come under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Educational Exchange Foundation which is based in Ontario. A full-time staff person will be available to assist our teachers in making 'a match' with a prospective exchange partner from such countries as France, Australia, New Zealand, some Scandinavian and European countries, and within Canada and the US. If you have five years' teaching experience, a teacher exchange is a wonderful way to recharge your batteries and grow professionally from experiencing another country's system. Interested teachers may contact Carole Wilkins at the CEEF office via email: cwilk@ceef.ca or talk to me for more information.

Read to Lead

Anyone interested in school-based leadership will enjoy reading the three short articles from the May 2002 Educational Leadership. "*How Walkthroughs Open Doors*" reveals how frequent, brief unscheduled walkthroughs can foster a positive culture in a school. "*A View from the Classroom*" shares a study of what teachers value most in a school principal while "*The Power of Gentleness*" extols the virtues of a compassionate leadership style. In fact, this entire issue of EL has excellent articles on leadership for change and culture building.

Speaking of culture, the JSD summer issue I mentioned earlier has a focus on school culture with articles from real schools that talk about how to "*Organize Teams of Teachers*" (this from a high school) and "*Energize with Action Research*". There are also a couple of great questionnaires for a staff to use to evaluate YOUR school's culture, then discuss its strengths and

weaknesses.

Flat Stanley

I know you were all too busy, but no one asked me for a copy of the *Flat Stanley* article (except my sister who is an elementary teacher in Oregon!). I am mentioning it again because I think it makes such a great integrated learning experience for elementary students of almost any age. I'd love to send it to you (or visit the *Flat Stanley* website at flatstanley.enoreo.on.ca) It's got great potential for fun and learning!

Something New

As always, I encourage you to set a goal that will involve learning or trying something new this year. I know that many of you have decided to embark on the process to upgrade your certificate. I know our new NBTA sponsored courses will help this endeavour. Even those who already have a Cert V will benefit from these courses because they are both practical and relevant.

So, as I said two years ago when I took this job (wow, where did THAT time go??), learn, laugh, love your kids...and talk (about the good stuff!!)

Have a great year. Let me know if I can help in any way.

Notice Re Council Grants!

Teachers should be aware that the Elementary, Middle and High School Educational Improvement Grant Funds have been depleted. New funding will be available for events that take place *after January 1, 2003*.

There is still money available in the Provincial Educational Improvement Grant Fund. Use the purple application form or download from www.nbta.ca.

NB Dept of Education Summer Institute 2002 at Science East: A Teacher's Impressions

by *Chantal Lafargue, BA*

Science East is a non-profit association that promotes science education and fosters interest in science in NB schools and communities. To obtain general information and learn about the benefits of membership, visit the web site at www.scienceeast.nb.ca or call the Science Centre in Fredericton 457-2340 to arrange tours or bookings.

Bouncing magnets, baby diapers and buzzing bees were but some of the scientific diversions that Science East Centre's staff presented to teachers during the summer institute in Fredericton. Seventeen lively participants oohed and awed at the easy-to-reproduce elementary level scientific demonstrations and experiments during the two-day workshop.

The institute held July 23-24, emphasized innovative hands-on activities suitable for the elementary level.

Teacher, Elaine Geeringh says, "I really believe children learn through doing." Geeringh believes, "nothing is isolated" and science should not be taught in isolation. She embraces this view having traveled, lived and taught all over the world.

Born in Saint John, NB, Geeringh grew accustomed to moving around because her father was in the military. After certifying as a teacher in Toronto, she set out for several years of travelling and teaching which took her to cosmopolitan cities like London as well as to remote villages in the Himalayan Mountains in Nepal. She has lived or worked on all continents and brings back to the province fond memories of Australia and South Africa where she taught for several years.

Geeringh introduces snippets of the world to her grade 3-4 split classroom at Montgomery Street Elementary School in Fredericton, thanks to her professional background in teaching and living with people of different cultures. You have to, "make it real (for the students)," says Geeringh. She tries to bring science concepts into the



Elaine Geeringh demonstrates a nail balancing exhibit at the Science Centre.

classroom through integration of all subjects. For instance, during a nutrition break on the first day of the institute, Geeringh discovered some storybooks in Science East's resource room that illustrate the role water plays in ecosystems and people's lives. Themes like water can be a part of a science lesson but may also be linked to various subjects in a number of creative ways.

A significant portion of the institute was allocated towards increasing the participants' awareness of Science East's in-house and touring exhibits and their linkages to the Atlantic Science Curriculum Document. For Geeringh, the most beneficial part of the institute was the emphasis on easy-to-reproduce activities, demonstrations and experiments at the elementary level, "It's been wonderful," says Geeringh, "I'm still learning."

Editor's note: Chantal Lafargue has been employed at Science East under a Young Canada Works project during the summer of 2002. In the fall she enters the BEd program at St. Thomas University, Fredericton.

Elementary Council News



Summer has come and gone again for another year. The members of the Elementary Council Executive hope that you had a wonderful and relaxing vacation.

This year will be another busy one for everyone. There are many changes with the Council Executive. Returning Council Executive include: Hazel Lane-Coates as President, Nancy Boucher as Past President, Sandra Melanson, John Thurber, Rona Howland, and Lisa Kerr. New members include: Kim Carter, Connie Kavanaugh, Arlene Pineo, Debbi Sloan, and Ralph Williston. We would like to introduce you to your council representatives. Some will be highlighted in this issue while the rest will be highlighted in the next issue.

Nancy Boucher is Principal of Mary Gosnell Elementary School. She has been teaching for 16 years in French Immersion, grades 1 - 3. Nancy was Elementary Council Vice-President for two years and then President for two years. She is now serving as Past President. She is on the local NBTA Executive and is the PD Chair for District 15. Nancy loves reading, knitting, and tennis.

John Thurber has been on the NBTA Elementary Council for 3 years. He has served as Member-at-Large, liaison with the Curriculum Committee and on the Finance Committee. He is now assuming the responsibility of Treasurer. John is the principal of Geary Elementary School and teaches Physical Education, Music, and Technology.

Ralph Williston teaches grades 3, 4, and 5 Resource and Reading Recovery at Saint Andrews Elementary. He has 4 years experience and has worked for an educational consultant for an IT company, as an ESL teacher in South Korea, and has taught at Millerton Elementary-Middle School. This is his first year on the Elementary Council and also has experience serving on the Bay du Vin Rec

Council for 3 years and he was a board member for the Bay du Vin Senior Citizen's Complex for one year.

Connie Kavanaugh teaches Kindergarten at John Caldwell School in Grand Falls. She has 14 years teaching experience in middle school, upper elementary, and kindergarten. Connie has been the chair of the Courtesy Committee for local 1450 for three years. Reading is a passion of hers. Connie has been married for 30 years and has 4 great kids. This is her first year on the Elementary Council.

Debbie Sloan teaches kindergarten at Port Elgin Regional School in District 02. She has 8 years experience. She has worked as a math animator and as a wellness rep. Debbie loves gardening and spending time with her family.

Lisa Kerr has been teaching since 1981 and is now at Lower Lincoln Elementary in District 17 with a grade 4/5 class. Lisa has taught at many levels, both as a classroom teacher and a Resource Teacher. She has worked as a Supply Teacher and has taught both full and part-time. Lisa has been working on the NBTA website for two years and joined the Executive in January 2002. She loves gardening, reading, computers, and spending time with her nieces and nephews.

Stay tuned next month to find out about the remaining Council members.

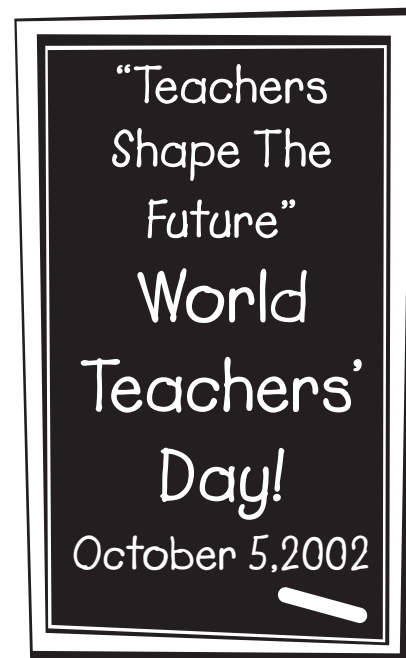
There was an error in the members of the Curriculum Committee in the last issue of the NBTA newsletter. *Diane Lepage* and *Diane Thompson* will not be returning as they have already served for two years. We thank them for their hard work. We welcome *Colleen Wilt* from Ian Baillie in Miramichi and *Tracy Davis* from Summerhill Elementary in Oromocto. A survey will be circulated this year about curriculum in your district. This will be posted on the website and a copy will be

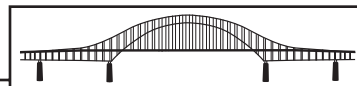
included in your Elementary Council Handbook. Please take the time to fill it in and return it as soon as possible as we would like as much input as possible from all parts of the province.

The website will continue to be updated this year. Please send us anything that you would like posted including student work, good places for field trips, etc. Input may be sent to kerrlisa@nbed.nb.ca.

We have been listening!! The Council Conference for May is tentatively going to be held in Sackville at Mount Allison University. Parking has been a problem in the past and we have been assured that there is ample parking to accommodate a group of our size. The student residences will also be available to us. Please stay tuned for more information on our website and in this newsletter. We will let you know more details in the future.

We hope that you have a great school year.





Your NBTA Middle Level Council Working for You

- Middle Level Conference (Council Day)
 - Conference Grants
 - Curriculum Concerns
 - Institutes
- Awards for Teaching Excellence
- Supporters of Drama Festival
- Supporters of Oratorical Contest
 - Supporters of Science Fair
- A bridge between teacher members and Central Office



Information? Ideas? Questions?

Please contact a member of the Middle Level Executive Committee

NBTA Middle Level Council Council Day May 2, 2003 in Saint John



Do you have an idea or suggestion for a topic, speaker or a divided session?

or

Would you like to present a session at our next Council Day?

Contact:

Tanya Whitney
(twhitney@nbnet.nb.ca)

or

Eric Estabrooks
(estaberb@nbed.nb.ca)

Middle Level Council Executive Committee

<i>Name</i>	<i>School Name</i>	<i>School Phone</i>	<i>School Fax</i>	<i>Branch</i>
Heather Palmer (President)	Devon Middle School	453-5405	444-4199	1826
Tanya Whitney (Vice-President)	Brown's Flat School	468-6000	468-6005	0820
Jay Colpitts (Past President)	Florenceville Middle School	392-5115	392-5118	1430
Deborah Drury (Treasurer)	Sussex Middle School	432-2022	432-2612	0618
Sandra MacCurdy (Secretary)	Campbellton Middle School	789-2120	759-7121	1538
Daryl Caines	Sussex Middle School	432-2022	432-2612	0618
Marsha Cogle	Bath Middle School	278-6000	278-6019	1430
Eric Estabrooks	River Valley Middle School	738-6500	738-6506	0820
Michael Gardner	Albert Street Middle School	453-5401	444-4301	1826
Mark Lean	Birchmount School	856-3405	856-3438	0215
Tammy Malley	Harkins Middle School	627-4088	627-4066	1608
Linda Maxwell	Queen Elizabeth School	856-3447	856-2192	0215
Donna McLaughlin	Quispamsis Middle School	847-6210	847-6268	0619



You May be Teaching a Combined Class

Teachers who are teaching a class which includes one or more special needs students may have a combined class according to Article 20 of our Collective Agreement. The Federation has taken the position in recent adjudications that if a teacher is required to teach a program to one or more students at a different grade level, the class is a combined class and the maximum numbers provided in Article 20.06 of the Collective Agreement must be respected. These maximums are:

<u>Grades 1-3</u>	<u>Grades 3-5</u>	<u>Grades 5-12</u>
24	27	28

One adjudicator has stated: "If the material being taught to a student in a particular case goes beyond the curriculum for the grade level of the course to which a student has been assigned, then this would result in a combined class and the application of Article 20.06." The adjudicator continued: "...Article 20.06 will be applicable in a situation where

exceptional students are being taught a curriculum for a different level. Whether an integrated student is at a different grade level and requires a separate curriculum of a different grade level, must be assessed in the individual circumstances of each case. ... By way of example, however, it would appear to be difficult for a teacher to argue that he/she is teaching two grade levels simply because a student in the particular class, who has progressed up through the regular grade levels, is not up to the standards of that level. In such cases, it would be anticipated that the teacher may have to provide remedial work but that the student would be capable of dealing with the curriculum of the course in question."

The adjudicator concluded that the distinction with respect to the combined class is whether the basic curriculum being taught to a student in question is significantly different from that being received by the

regular students in the class.

The issue has been interpreted in light of the teacher's workload as opposed to the actual composition of the class. If a teacher is required to prepare, teach and evaluate a program to one or more students in the class at a grade level different from the regular students in the class, then the class is a combined class. The Federation submits that some cases could result in a combined class even though the teacher does not accomplish all of these functions.

In some cases, the Employer has called upon methods and resource teachers to prepare and evaluate the material and assign the student work to be done in the classroom. In such cases, it cannot be argued that the regular teacher has additional preparation, teaching or evaluation duties.

Should there be any questions on the issue, contact the NBTF administrative staff: Kevin Sheehan, 452-1754; Robert Gagné, 452-1736.

Public Libraries Week Celebrates New Online Services



October 14 to 20 is Public Libraries Week ... and libraries right across the province want you to log on with them.

Now, for the first time, New Brunswickers can access services provided by the library, from home, school, or the office, via the Internet at www.gnb.ca/0003/nbpls.html. It's exciting, it's new, it makes access to library services easier than ever.

"Teachers and students will find it particularly helpful for research and course preparation," said Sylvie Nadeau, executive director of New Brunswick's Public Library Service. "They'll be able to search online for

books, videos, music recordings, and other items available at their local public library as well as at public libraries right across the province. They can also check out the collection of links we provide to valuable online reference sites via our new Virtual Reference Library. And, for convenience sake, before they even make the trip to the library, they can learn via the online catalogue whether the material they want is in, out, or on hold."

In the library itself, the in-house computers give the public access to all the resources above, as well as to exciting new reference databases



such as the Virtual News Library (NewsScan) which contains an archive of New Brunswick's four daily newspapers back to 1998.

Libraries right across the province are planning special programs during Public Libraries Week to make the public aware of these new resources and how easy it is to access them.

Log on at the address above or call your local public library for details.

Contact:
Leslie Cockburn, York Library
Region (506) 453-5380.

Two New Brunswick Teachers Recipients of the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence



The Prime Minister's Awards honour elementary and secondary school teachers across Canada who have best prepared students for the challenges of a changing society and a knowledge-based economy. The Awards, offered at the Certificate of Excellence and Certificate of Achievement levels, carry cash prizes of \$5000 and \$1000 respectively, given to the recipient's school and to be spent under the teacher's direction.

Lise Bourgeois — Certificate of Achievement

During the 2001-2002 school year, Lise taught grade 8 mathematics and physical education at George Street Middle School. She introduces math concepts to students in fun and interesting ways. As a result, 95.7 percent of students achieved passing grades in math, students score well in French Immersion, and two "problem students" received awards for exemplary improvement.

Mlle Bourgeois shares her enthusiasm and experience with others:

- built up an extensive library of professional materials
- developed summer institute program, *"Classroom Management: Strategies for Beginning Teachers"* and presented it to more than 140 teachers in full-day workshop settings
- mentored a first-year teacher
- served on mathematics school district committees and helped in the development of user-friendly math projects and activities for middle-school students and yearly math outcome mapping plans for teachers.

One student's comment sent into the selection committee stated: "We did the space unit in math. We broke up into groups and gave ourselves a title, created a logo, and a song. Mlle Bourgeois videotaped us. We do competitive math games. I look forward to going to math class. (E.H.)"

John Murphy — Certificate of Achievement

John retired in June 2002 after 26 years teaching in New Brunswick schools. He had taught visual arts and theatre arts to grades 9 - 12 students at Hampton High School before retirement.

His teaching philosophy is "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act toward one another in a spirit of brotherhood." (*Universal Declaration of Human Rights*).

John created dynamic and compelling humanitarian projects that attract interest and participation from the entire school community. He instigated and facilitated *Between the Lines*, a millennium art project displaying more than 60 pieces of student art at the New Brunswick Museum, inspired by John Peters Humphrey, author of the first draft of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and a New Brunswick native. The students organized all aspects of display from program design to grand opening and guest speakers.

He initiated the "30 Hour Fast Blast" at school to raise money for AIDS hospices in South Africa and land mine victims in Nicaragua. In addition to fasting, students spent the weekend creating art projects with the help of local artists and community members, including a quilt-like mural of painted wooden blocks.

Students were challenged to develop their own style and techniques, design and complete independent study projects, take on public speaking and dramatic presentations, and work together to stage theatre productions.

One of John's fellow teachers stated: "You would be hard pressed to find a student at Hampton High School whose high school experience has not been enhanced through his or her

involvement in one or another of John's projects."

The NBTA would like to acknowledge this exemplary accomplishment and congratulate John and Lise on being awarded a Certificate of Achievement.

Information on the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence can be obtained by calling 1-800-575-9200, email: pmawards@ic.gc.ca or visit the website at www.schoolnet.ca/pma

Positive Playgrounds: Putting the "Play" back into playgrounds!

Positive Playgrounds Program Manual and Comprehensive Resource of Outdoor and Indoor Games gives you all the tools you'll need to implement and teach K-6 students traditional and cooperative games that encourage positive social skills and physical fitness. Easy, step-by-step instructions and over 180 games. Rave reviews from administrators, teachers, parents and students!

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visit our website at:

www.positiveplaygrounds.ab.ca



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Disability Awareness Week Drawing/Writing Contest

During Disability Awareness Week (DAW) 2002, a provincial disability prevention and health promotion drawing/writing contest was held. Approximately 1700 entries were received from all over New Brunswick.

The grand prize winner was Kristin Blackmore from Fredericton who is 13 years old. Kristin's colorful drawing depicts six different precautions individuals can take to avoid preventable disabilities. As the grand prize winner, Kristin received a cash award plus an assortment of Disability Awareness Week promotional items. The "Wizards", a grade 6/7



Fredericton's own Kristen Blackmore won the Grand Prize in a province wide contest for provincial disability and health promotion. There were 1700 entries this year.

Accelerated Learning Class from Lorne Middle School in Saint John were also recognized for their group

entry to the contest. The judges felt that their submission of various poems, drawings and stories was quite poignant. The "Wizards" also received a cash award which was used for a class party. Disability Awareness Week promotional items were also given to the class.

In addition to the two grand prizes, one hundred additional prizes were awarded. The complete list of winners is available at the Premier's Council website at www.gnb.ca/0048.

The planning committee for Disability Awareness Week expects a similar contest to be held next year. The dates for DAW 2003 are June 1 - June 7.



NBTA Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 28, 2002

"Shotgun" Start - 9:30am

Rockwood Park Golf Course, Saint John



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

All entries and PAYMENTS must be received by Friday, September 20, 2002.

Fee: \$45.00 per golfer (includes green fees, meal, gratuities, HST, prizes). Make cheques payable to:

NBTA Golf Tournament and mail to:

Ed Lester
375 Cushing Street, West
Saint John, N.B.
E2M 2V8
Telephone (506) 674-1541
Fax (506) 635-8906

Entry Form

4 Person Scramble
* minimum 3 drivers for each player.

If you do not have a partner or partners, we will find one or more for you.

All golf carts (25) reserved through Ed Lester (\$26.00 tax included)

Name _____

Team names: 1) _____

Golf Cart _____

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FOR TEACHERS



TEACHER COUNSELLING SERVICES

Ann Kennedy, Districts 14, 17, 18

1-800-561-1727

Betsy Colwell-Burley, Districts 6, 8, 10

1-800-563-3938

Thérèse Gallant, Districts 2, 15, 16

1-888-763-5050

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Welcome Back Teachers

As part of the support services provided to teachers, we invite you to contact us about personal or professional issues.

We can assist you in coping with stress, developing a healthy life style, and improving your general well-being.

Please do not hesitate to access our services at the numbers above.



Ann Kennedy
Coordinator



Betsy Colwell-Burley
Counsellor/Consultant



Thérèse Gallant
Counsellor/Consultant

Take time for **YOU!**

A Community of Learners Go To Space

At Forest Hills Elementary School in Saint John, staff and students are building a community of learners. Moving beyond upper grades becoming Reading Buddies; this year the grade 5 classes wrote fairy tales for the primary grades. By the year's end, the primary students were writing books of riddles for the older students.

Activities like the aforementioned led the grade 5 classes to create a Space Camp in June to close out the school year. The theatre became the Milky Way with constellations and drawings, etc. The Mini-gym became the Solar System. Each planet or station had a grade 5 tour guide to lead the "Earthlings" as well as help perform a space-related activity.

The Grade 5 teachers, Alfred Fequet and Chris Tobin, were able to enjoy the students' enthusiasm as they

the camp.

This project became a greatly anticipated event in our school, both by the students and staff. Many parents also were excited when they had the opportunity to experience it for themselves. With entire school participation, we feel that it was well worth the effort that was put into **Space Camp 2002**.

It is hoped that this is the beginning of a new school tradition. "What theme will be developed next year and how will it be better than this year?" is the question that is being asked now. One can only imagine!!



**Sharon Davidson, Chris Tobin,
and Alfred Fequet
Forest Hills Elementary School**



Grade 5 students from Forest Hills Elementary School, Saint John, participate in the beginning of a new school tradition.

researched and developed the Space Camp. There was also a great deal of audiovisual help under the guidance of music teacher, Mrs. Liz Brewer, which helped the younger students develop a "spacy" attitude. This audio component helped Mrs. Brewer find that new spark to renew the students' interest in music as they spent many classes listening to and evaluating appropriate music for



Forest Hills Elementary School students having a great time at "Space Camp 2002".



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REMEMBER THESE DATES



Deadline Dates

Conference Grants — Five weeks prior to opening day

Certification Changes — October 31, 2002; March 31, 2003

Project Overseas — November 15, 2002

Branch Nominations for NBTA Vice-President — February 8, 2003

Educational Leave — November 8, 2002

Deferred Salary Leave Plan Application — January 31, 2003

Election Dates

(a) Ballots mailed to Branch Presidents - On or before April 15, 2003

(b) Voting to take place - April 21-25, 2003 inclusive

(c) Ballots returned to Central Office by 5:00 pm - May 2, 2003

(d) Counting of Ballots - May 7, 2003

(e) Candidates notified - May 7, 2003

NBTA/Beaverbrook/Hagerman Interest-free Loans — March 31, 2003

Centennial Award Nominations — April 1, 2003

Aliant Telecom Award Nominations — April 1, 2003

Branch Resolutions for A.G.M. — April 1, 2003

A.G.M. Registration of Delegates — April 1, 2003

Employment Insurance Rebate Report — June 2, 2003

Registration of Branches — June 2, 2003

Report of Branch Meetings — June 2, 2003

Names of Branch Committee Chairpersons — June 2, 2003

NBTA Council Annual Reports — June 16, 2003

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

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

NBTA Credit Union A.G.M. — November 13, 2002

Retiring Teachers' Luncheon — May 31, 2003

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: Jim Dysart, Director of Communications and Research, NBTA, 452-1720.

**Deadline for applications:
October 31, 2002**

Welcome

New Teachers

Find out more about your professional organization, the Code of Professional Conduct, your health insurance and other useful information.

Saturday, September 21, 2002

NBTF Building
650 Montgomery Street
Fredericton, N.B.

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

Lunch is provided and transportation costs reimbursed for groups from each district.

Prizes and giveaways!!

For information, contact:
Your School Rep, Branch Director
or NBTA at 452-1720.



NBTA Bowling Tournament



Where:

Bowlarama Lanes, Saint John West

When:

October 18th - 20th, 2002



Registration:

\$45/Bowler

\$225/Team - 5 bowlers per team.

First 20 teams to send fee to register accepted

To register your team, send \$45 (cheque payable to:
NBTA Bowling Tournament) registration fee to:

Esther Casey
29 Currie Avenue
Saint John, NB
E2K 3A9

#658-5364 (school) #642-4219 (home)

Attention Young Artists!

2003 Canada Winter Games National Artists Program

Are you a young New Brunswick dancer, musician, dramatist, or visual artist, between the ages of 16 and 23 years of age, interested in participating in the National Artists Program at the 2003 Bathurst-Campbellton Canada Winter Games?

The successful applicant must:

- meet age restrictions
- not be using his/her artistic ability as the principle means of financial support
- agree to be present for the duration of the Games from February 22 to March 8, 2003

Application deadline: Friday, October 11, 2002

For information, contact:

Caroline Walker, Coordinator
Cultural Component,
2003 Canada Winter Games
Culture and Sport Secretariat
P.O. Box 6000, Fredericton, NB E3B 6H1
Tel.: (506) 444-5303
e-mail: caroline.walker@gnb.ca
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To register:

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Forum for Young Canadians

Forum for Young Canadians is held each spring, bringing together high school students from all corners of the country to learn first-hand about the Government of Canada. In late April 2002, a group of 13 teachers from the Yukon to Shediac and many points in between assembled to participate in the weeklong conference. In addition to attending many sessions, teachers observed students participate in simulations that could be used in the history/law/political science classroom, such as conduct an election, debate proposed legislation, and organize a First Ministers' meeting.

Highlights of this very enriching week included: • Visiting Question Period in both the House of Commons and Senate • Meeting with Members of Parliament at a formal dinner • Talking with Senators at a special breakfast • Participating in sessions on the roles and responsibilities of the media, an ambassador, a Deputy Minister, the Privy Council and the Prime Minister's Office • Learning about the responsibilities of Parliamentary Committees • Attending an engaging presentation by the Law Commission of Canada • Learning about the Senate and its contributions to the political and legislative processes • Observing an Elections Canada simulation • Visiting the Supreme Court, as well as touring Ottawa and visiting points of interest.

Besides having access to Parliament, teachers were the beneficiaries of valuable resources, great contacts and insights about how our political system works. As one teacher remarked, "I knew the basic structure of the government and the history, but now I understand on a much deeper level."

Another teacher enthusiastically commented that the week was the most enriching professional development experience of her career.

If you or your students would be interested, look for an information package sent to all senior schools in the fall or contact the Forum at www.forum.ca



New Brunswick was very well represented at the recent Forum conference in Ottawa. At the Member of Parliament dinner were (l-r): Denise Pugh (Miramichi), Marie-Reine Mallet (Bathurst), Angela Williams (Moncton), Christine Cummings (Saint John), Odette Bourgeois (Shediac)

Coming soon to a theatre near you!!

New Brunswick Centre for Educational Administration Fall Professional Development Activities *(Details to follow)*

1. Workshop: Professional Growth Planning
Mary Lee Judah, Alberta Teachers' Association, Instructor
(for teachers and administrators)

October 21 — Fredericton

October 22 — Miramichi

October 23 — Saint John

2. Conference for Parents and Educators
(for parents, DEC and PSSC Members, teachers, administrators)
November 12 — Wu Conference Centre, UNB, Fredericton

3. Leadership Forum
(sponsored by NBCEA, NBTA, DOE)
(for all "leaders" from classrooms to board rooms)
November 25, Wu Conference Centre, UNB, Fredericton

Fee: \$90 per event

Early registration details will be sent to district offices, schools and Department.

For information, contact:

NBCEA, Faculty of Education, UNB, Tel. 506-453-3502,
Fax 506-458-7157 or e-mail: tmaclean@unb.ca

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To register, return the attached registration form

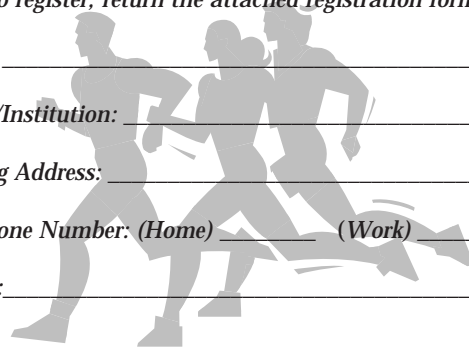
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(506) 444-3095**



The Order of the Maple Leaf: Citizenship at the Middle School Level

Due to space requirements, this article will be published in two parts, with the remainder carried in the next issue of NBTAs News, October 2.

"As teachers, we constantly seek to instill personal responsibility in our students, not just in their work, but also in the way they conduct themselves, in and outside of class. We look for ways to motivate all students and to reward them in some tangible fashion. As a society we also seek to engender in our students a sense of pride, make them knowledgeable about their country and its democratic system. The ultimate goal is to have them become responsible citizens of the school and of the community.

The focus on civic education is crucial to maintaining a healthy democracy. Personal responsibility and a sense of duty enable our society to flourish and meet the needs of all its citizens. It ... *"Means a great deal more than just being nice to one another; it is the lubricant that keeps a society running smoothly. So vital is it, in fact, that some philosophers say that we have a duty to act civilly - especially here in Canada, where we must live with diversity" ...*

However, we must not become complacent and assume students will somehow acquire these traits. When at times these same characteristics seem to be ridiculed by pop culture or find less support in our society as a whole, our job as teachers becomes even more of a challenge. How can we rise to the challenge?

"No one becomes an active citizen by accident. Like anything else it has to be learned."

Such an endeavor is not always an easy one. How does a school attempt to encourage such multiple attributes and assure that all students will have a role to play? Can any program provide the potential for all students to be participants? Rothesay Park School in Rothesay, New Brunswick,

decided to take up the challenge and to answer such important questions. Their response was *"The Order of the Maple Leaf"*.

What is the "Order of the Maple Leaf"?

In 1997 there was a reorganization of schools throughout the province of New Brunswick. Rothesay Park School (elementary) became Rothesay Park, a Middle School consisting of grades 6,7, and 8. This process was seen as, *"A window of opportunity to break from the "junior" high school mold ..."* It was a chance to make change and implement new initiatives based on the Middle School philosophy of all inclusive, where no one is neglected, and students and staff are all part of

A nation, as a society, forms a moral person, and every member of it is personally responsible for his society."

— *Thomas Jefferson*

the greater school community.

Based on the fact that a school community is a microcosm of society with individuals of various socio-economic backgrounds, talents, experiences, behaviours, attitudes and experience, the staff of Rothesay Park decided to implement a program that would motivate students to be responsible citizens both inside and outside of the school community. As stated in one of eight recommendations contained in the "Report of the Task Force on Education of Young Adolescents", Carnegie Corporation, (1989), Middle Schools should: *"create small communities for learning where stable, close, mutually respectful relationships with adults and peers are considered fundamental for intellectual development and personal growth ..."*

As we want citizens to display attributes of good citizenship, such as responsibility, politeness and good conduct, so do we want to encourage these same characteristics

in our schools and communities at large. The Order of the Maple Leaf was seen as way to recognize good citizenship among students in a tangible way. Accordingly, no deserving student who meets the criteria would go unrecognized. It would be a way of highlighting and celebrating those students who contribute in a positive way to the school as a whole, yet don't stand out or aren't singled out for the usual academic or sport awards. All students, therefore, regardless of their academic or athletic ability could be potential award winners, and could be celebrated as true models of good citizens of their school and of their home community.

As Mr. Robert Pichette, guest speaker at the ceremony on February 7, 2002 emphasized, the Order of the Maple Leaf *"is a real valuable lesson in civics... As young Canadians you are making a difference in the world."*

The Principal of the school, Mr. Frank White, reiterated Mr. Pichette's sentiment when he stated that the goal of the Order of the Maple Leaf is, *"To promote good citizenship in both the school community and the community at large: to recognize and reward student achievement; to enhance student knowledge of government, government officials, and prominent Canadian citizens; and to instill a sense of pride in the school and the community."*

How was the idea conceived?

It was a teacher on staff, Mr. Richard Hatt, who conceived the idea of the "Order of the Maple Leaf." He was inspired while preparing a unit for his grade six class on the novel, *The Door in the Wall*, which has as its theme the Middle Ages. He toyed with the idea of establishing for his grade six class an "Order of Chivalry." The idea was to create an award system where students would be recognized for work done well, as well as honourable behaviour. This initial concept, after consulting with the administrative staff, developed into

a program where each student in the school had the potential of being recognized. Canada's highest honour, the "Order of Canada", served as a model, and as a select few of deserving Canadians can receive the "Order of Canada" with progressive levels, so, too, could a student at Rothesay Park progress through the levels of the "Order of the Maple Leaf." The substantial difference being that the Order of the Maple Leaf can be awarded to every student who meets the prescribed criteria and is deserving of the award.

The Governor General's office was contacted to see if his Excellency, Romeo LeBlanc, would lend his support to the program. He liked the concept and gave his support by way of a congratulatory letter, which is given to each student inducted into the Order. His successor, the current Governor General, her Excellency Adrienne Clarkson, has also given her support by issuing a congratulatory letter.

How does it work?

First and foremost, students must be outstanding citizens of the school community. Therefore, homework must be completed as assigned. Students are to work diligently and must be cooperative with teachers and their fellow students. Students cannot be subjects of any disciplinary action, (e.g., detention, warning letters or suspensions, not willing to abide by the rules of the class, not speaking French at all times in an immersion classroom). Students are to be courteous and polite with teachers, other adults and classmates. They are to be well-behaved and display a comportment expected and desired from students.

Every student, who meets the necessary criteria described above and is deserving, can receive the Order of the Maple Leaf. First, students are inducted as a "Member" of the Order. From this initial step members can progress to "Officer" and "Companion" status. Hence, there is always a new goal to strive for and achieve.

In accordance with the three years at Middle School, students may become "Members" in their first year and are rewarded with a medallion.

This specially designed red and gold Maple Leaf Medallion is placed on a blue neck ribbon (incidentally, the colours of the Governor General of Canada and of the school). A congratulatory letter from the Governor General of Canada is also presented to the student. Maple Leaf pins are added to the neck ribbon as a student progresses from level to level. Students may become an "Officer" in their second year and have the privilege of designing their own "Coat-of-Arms" which is displayed in the cafeteria. It is only in the third year that students may become "Companions". Their special reward is an event or excursion arranged by the school in collaboration with their parents.

The usual progression for receiving the Order of the Maple Leaf for a student who meets all the criteria each year of his/her Middle School career is as follows:

Grade 6: Ceremony 1-Member	Medallion
Ceremony 2	1st Pin
Grade 7: Ceremony 3-Officer	2nd Pin
Ceremony 4	3rd Pin
Grade 8: Ceremony 5-Companion	4th Pin
Ceremony 6	5th Pin

It is important to note that any student may receive an award at any stage in his years at Middle School.

He/she, for example, may not meet all the requirements until the second ceremony of Grade 7 and begin by becoming a "Member" and carry on through the levels. However, the potential is there to obtain five pins and the status of "Companion.". Secondly, following each ceremony, students start fresh in their work towards obtaining the next level. Past deviations are not carried over. Each student begins with a clean slate. Therefore, in the course of each academic year, a student has two opportunities to

achieve the award.

The Ceremony

Twice an academic year, an evening ceremony is held. Therefore, students can be successful winners and participate in the awards ceremony on potentially two separate occasions. Presentations are made in the presence of parents, grandparents, family and friends. Students who are appropriately dressed are presented their award by an invited prominent Canadian citizen. Again, the emphasis is on presenting examples of true citizenship. A reception is held after the ceremony where students and adults can meet special guests, take photos and socialize.

...to be continued next issue

Paul-Emile Chiasson, Ph.D., has been in the provincial education system for 17 years. He has taught primarily French Immersion and French Second Language at the Middle and High School levels. The past two years he has worked at UNBSJ as Acting Education Coordinator and currently is an FSL Supervisor in District 8.

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Superior Middle recognized as 'Inviting School'

The International Inviting Schools Award was bestowed on the staff of Superior Middle School, School District 15 this summer. The award recognizes the past and present staff's efforts for being intentionally inviting to all that enter the school. The staff is one of 13 schools being recognized.

With emphasis on the 5 P's of schooling: people, place, process, programs and policies, the philosophy is that an inviting place will create the best learning environment. The ten-year effort has teachers, students and parents very satisfied with their education and experiences at Bathurst's middle school according to the provincial survey results and the frequent positive comments about our friendly atmosphere.

People do make this school a great place to be. Teams of teachers know their students very well. Rallies and awards recognizing students' accomplishments, acts of kindness, and talents make students want to come to school. Parents often volunteer. Over the years,



The staff at Superior Middle School in Bathurst received 1 of 13 International Inviting School Awards for the school year 2001-2002.

employees of Brunswick Mining and Smelting, Wal-Mart, McDonald's, IODE and many other local businesses have been a great support. Our Invitational team initiates and oversees major projects that help to make our building more appealing. Colorful displays decorate the halls and classrooms of the well-maintained building. There is no graffiti, damage or litter even after a busy day.

Teachers also make the program alive and interesting for students. Plaques, recognition letters, and medals abound. Daily, teachers

volunteer for 10-15 after-school activities. But, the day does not end there as sports, drama and band are healthy. For example, last year 90 musicians were invited to the National Festival. Superior's long-standing affiliation with the Heritage and Science Fairs permits students to enter other national stages and oodles of parents to visit us.

Colleagues work closely in teams, on curricular committees, pilot projects or professional committees in the pursuit of continual improvement. Teachers use a variety of teaching strategies to ensure learning for all, regularly contact parents, implement many integrated

units and celebrate learning in a variety of ways. Students understand what is required of them in and out of the classroom and that they must be responsible citizens. And what is absolutely crucial to an inviting school, students observe teachers who are kind, enthusiastic, caring and respectful to all on a daily basis.

The award will be presented to a representative group of teachers in Atlanta, Georgia in October.

You are invited to the Launch of WOW!!

Words on Work – Women's Speaker Bureau

Hosted by: The Honourable Marilyn Trenholme Counsell,
Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick

When: Wednesday, September 25, 2002, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Where: Old Government House, 1st Floor, 51 Woodstock Road
Fredericton, New Brunswick

(Please present this invitation at the front door)

RSUP: Rebecca Ortiz (1-800-790-9113) or rortiz@tlp.on.ca

The Learning Partnership is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to bringing together business, education, labour, policymakers and the community to develop partnerships that strengthen public education in Canada. More than one million students and teachers have participated in one or more TLP programs since its inception in 1993. As champions of public education in Canada, we strengthen our programs through research on best practices and policy discussions. Visit us at www.tlp.on.ca

For more information about WOW! visit www.wordsonwork.ca

The Government of Ontario, through the Ontario Women's Directorate, is the founding sponsor of Words on Work.



NBTA Sponsored Course Instructors Receive Training

On July 29, eight New Brunswick teachers, accompanied by NBTA President Mary Wilson and NBTA Director of Professional Development, Nancy Roach, departed Moncton Airport for an entertaining Westjet flight to Hamilton, Ontario.

The eight teachers were the successful applicants in a province-wide call for instructors for the newly-established NBTA Sponsored Professional Courses. Fifty-two teachers applied to be the first NB educators to be trained, and the NBTA Teacher Education and Certification Committee was very pleased with the response and the process used to select the applicants. Each course instructor has had previous experience delivering professional development material to colleagues.

The teachers spent a full week at Brock University in St. Catherine's,

Ontario where they joined 40 Ontario teachers who were also being trained as instructors. The long hot days in the classroom were demanding but rewarding, and instructors came away feeling both prepared and enthusiastic for the challenge of delivering these courses to interested teachers in New Brunswick.

Each of the four courses is grounded in research and practicalities, with an emphasis on strategies that can be applied in classrooms to improve teaching, learning and classroom management.

Courses may be taken for certification credit towards a



Front: (l-r) Kathy Prosser, Nancy Roach, Anne Senechal, Cheryl Miles. 2nd Row: Mary Wilson, Shelley Ward-Cain, Joy Hanson, Chris Aube
3rd Row: Derek O'Brien, Paul Dunnnett

Certificate V or for professional interest. If you are interested in a course, please see the accompanying article and registration form in this issue, or check the NBTA website for registration information.



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NBTA Sponsored Professional Courses Available in Eight Locations

NBTA is pleased to announce that Professional Courses will be available in eight locations throughout the province for the Fall term, September-December 2002 (*see chart on following page*). Additional courses may be offered as the program develops and expands.

Certification and Tuition

The tuition fee for each course is \$325 and courses may be taken for certification towards Certificate V or for professional growth. These courses are considered 4000 level (3 credit hour) equivalents and have been approved by the Minister's Advisory Committee (pending approval of new regulations). It is recommended that each participant request individual pre-approval from the Registrar for Teacher Certification. A maximum of four NBTA sponsored courses is allowable for application toward Cert V.

An income tax receipt will be issued upon completion of the course.

Registration

The *registration form on page 30* (or on NBTA website, www.nbta.ca) should be completed and forwarded to Nancy Roach, NBTA Director of Professional Development, along with a cheque or money order payable to NBTA in the amount of \$325. The fee includes all materials for the course.

Applications **MUST** be received not later than two weeks prior to the course. A maximum of 24 participants/class will be strictly adhered to, and application date will be the determining factor in securing a place. A minimum of 10 candidates guarantees a course; however, an instructor may choose to offer the course to a smaller group.

Confirmation

You will be notified by fax or email of the status of your course and your registration position (i.e., confirmed, waiting list, course

anceled etc.). Please **DO NOT** just arrive during the first class. You cannot assume there will be space or materials for you.

Course Details

Each course is 36 hours of classroom time offered over a 10-12 week period. In most cases, this will be configured as 12 three-hour sessions, although individual instructors may choose to make minor adjustments in the configurations but not in the total number of hours. A minimum of nine additional hours of action assignments will be required.

Course materials will be available at the first class.

Each class is designed to involve theory, classroom application, reflection and professional reading and dialogue that will enable teachers to strengthen their instruction, improve student achievement and contribute to a well-managed and positive classroom atmosphere.

Evaluation

Courses will be evaluated by the instructor based on attendance, participation and Portfolio/Action Research. Either letter grades or Pass/Fail may be used. If a participant is taking the course for professional growth only, he/she may request that the instructor not issue a grade.

A course transcript and certificate of completion will be provided by NBTA Central Office. An official list of course participants will be forwarded to the Registrar of Teacher Certification.

Attendance

Participants are expected to attend all classes. Absenteeism will have a direct effect on the course grade. When extenuating circumstances affect a participant's attendance, participation or portfolio, instructors will confer with the NBTA Director of Professional Development.

Withdrawal/Refund Policy

Participants who withdraw from the course will be eligible for a full refund only if the withdrawal is requested at least a week prior to the start of the course.

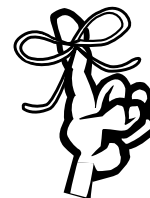
Withdrawals prior to the halfway mark of the class will receive a refund of \$120.

Withdrawals after the halfway mark of the class will not be eligible for a refund.

Course Copyright

Courses sponsored by the NBTA are the property of NBTA or are provided by the NBTA under purchased agreement with the Course Creators (Performance Learning Systems). Only those individuals trained by NBTA as Course Instructors shall have the authority to copy and use course materials for instruction of teachers. Course participants will be authorized to make use of materials provided for their classroom use only.

NBTA Sponsored Professional Courses



*Applications
MUST be received
not later than
two weeks prior
to the course.*

Additional Information
 If you require additional information about NBTA Sponsored Professional Courses, you may contact one of the instructors listed below, or Nancy Roach, Director of Professional Development , NBTA at 506-452-1740 or roachn@nbnet.nb.ca

Course No	Course Title	Instructor	Location	Start Date/Time
TLC-02F	Teaching Through Learning Channels	Cheryl Miles	NBTF Building Fredericton	Tues., Sept. 17, 6-9 pm
TLC-02F	Teaching Through Learning Channels	Chris Aube	Superior Middle Bathurst	Wed., Oct. 2 Plus 1 weekend
CL-02F	Achieving Student Outcomes Through Cooperative Learning	Paul Dunnett	KVHS Quispamsis	Thurs., Oct. 3, 6:30-9:30 pm Plus 2 Saturdays
CL-02F	Achieving Student Outcomes Through Cooperative Learning	Joy Hanson	Woodstock (Southern Carleton Elementary)	Wed., Sept. 25, 6-9 pm
MAGIC-02F	Meaningful Activities to Generate Interesting Classrooms	Kathy Prosser	Moncton High	Fri., Sept 20, 6:30-9:30 pm & Sat.am, Sept 21, 9-12 6 alternate weekends
MAGIC-02F	Meaningful Activities to Generate Interesting Classrooms	Derek O'Brien	St. Stephen Element.	Fri., Sept 27, 6-9 pm & Sat.am, Sept 28, 9-12 6 alternate weekends
STAR-02F	Successful Teaching for Accepting Responsibility	Shelley Ward-Cain	Dist. 16 Board Office Miramichi	Fri., Sept 27, 6-9 pm & Sat.am, Sept 28, 9-12 6 alternate weekends
STAR-02F	Successful Teaching for Accepting Responsibility	Anne Senechal	John Caldwell School Grand Falls	Wed., Sept. 25, 6-9 pm

NBTA Sponsored Professional Courses Fall 2002

Course Descriptions

(see www.plsweb.com for full descriptions)

Teaching Through Learning Channels™

Teaching Through Learning Channels trains educators to use brain compatible strategies that reach students' natural learning channels.

Achieving Outcomes Through Cooperative Learning™

Achieving Student Outcomes Through Cooperative Learning shows educators ways to work with students in groups and demonstrates how to weave a student's mastery of

subject matter with the development of lifelong interpersonal and questioning skills.

Meaningful Activities to Generate Interesting Classrooms™

Meaningful Activities to Generate Interesting Classrooms is an exciting hands-on course that offers teachers opportunities to learn about and acquire a multitude of engaging activities that go beyond the text book and worksheet. Participation in over 60 activities will give you practice in creating, evaluating and

adapting ideas to your own specific curriculum needs-immediately useful in your day-to-day classroom at any grade level.

Successful Teaching For Acceptance of Responsibility™

This course gives the techniques and skills necessary to help students become increasingly self-responsible. Educators learn how to increase their own sense of personal power and in turn empower others.

NBTA Sponsored Professional Course Registration Form

Name: _____ *Current Certificate Level:* _____

Home Address: _____

School: _____

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

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

Course details:

Course Title: _____

Course Number: _____ *Location:* _____

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

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

- *Note: You are NOT officially registered until NBTA Central Office has received your application form AND your cheque (which will not be cashed until the course begins).*
- *Classes will be filled on a first come first serve basis with a maximum of 24 participants.*
- *Date of receipt of application and cheque/money order will be a factor in securing your place.*
- *Confirmation will be sent by fax or e-mail indicating your status in the class (i.e. confirmed, waiting list etc.)*

Please attach cheque for \$325 payable to NBTA and mail to:

*Nancy Roach
Director Professional Development NBTA
PO Box 752
Fredericton, NB E3B 5R6*



Our Great Adventure

NBTA Executive Director Bob Fitzpatrick was on educational leave this past school year. He, along with his wife Sheila, and their two children, Kyle (14) and Cassandra (9), were living in Brisbane, Australia for the year. Bob agreed to share some of their experiences with our readers and to give us a glimpse of the Australian culture and education system. This is the final in a series of articles that have appeared in NBTA News.

The Final Chapter: We're Baaack!

The Reef

"Due to the extremely rough seas today, we will exchange your ticket for another day or issue a full refund, but we strongly suggest that you not come with us if you have any misgivings whatsoever."

Any misgivings! This person had just informed us that, although the weather was fine here on the island and the water would be calm on *The Great Barrier Reef*, we would experience 2.5 meter swells on our way to the reef and on the return voyage this evening. Although I did all in my power to avoid considering what seven foot waves would do to the high-speed catamaran we were about to board it was impossible to completely suppress all images. Remember I don't like a turbulent bathtub, so two hours each way on this relatively small boat was somewhat unnerving.

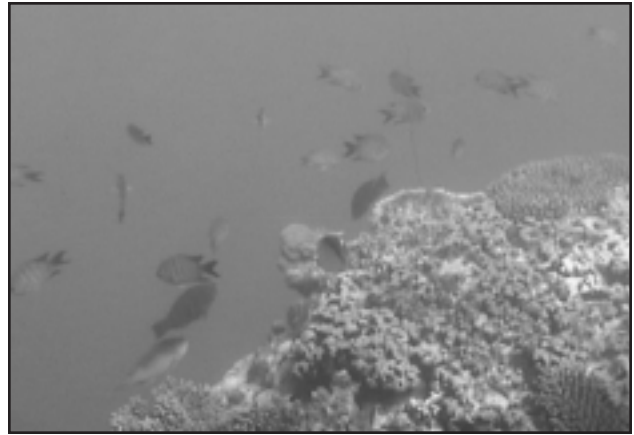
We had been on Hamilton Island, an hour's boat ride off the North East coast of Australia, for four days now and since this was our last day we had decided we were going to the reef unless the boat was cancelled. We should have taken the trip to the reef a day or two before but we had been having too much fun.

Hamilton Island is a wonderful resort island. Almost all transportation on the island is by golf cart but there really aren't many parts of the resort that can't be reached with an easy ten-minute walk. Five hotels sharing twelve restaurants, seven swimming pools and a beach, which is the base for lessons in a multitude of water sports including sailing, scuba diving, snorkeling, sea kayaking and windsurfing, make up the resort. And the weather had been so good

that we had been postponing the excursion to the reef.

We had made the sixteen-hour drive north from Brisbane to experience the Great Barrier Reef and we were not going to be stopped by a little rough water. We all decided that we would make the trip and our resolve was rock solid until we got on the boat. We were immediately greeted by crewmembers who were encouraging, almost begging, every passenger to take a seasickness pill. We all took our pills and I was refused a second helping. The trip was just as rough as they warned us it would be and at least half of the 130 passengers were ill. One of my enduring memories will be the skill, composure and obviously strong stomachs of the crew. The amazing thing is that I believe every person would tell you that it was worth it.

Time and space won't permit me to tell you all about our day on the reef so I will only say that it has to be seen in person to be believed. Stretching over two thousand kilometers, this living coral reef (actually 2900 individual reefs living very closely together) is breathtaking. Never in my life did I expect to see so many fish and so many different varieties of fish, along with countless different types of coral and much of it only ten or twelve feet deep. The tour company had a huge pontoon anchored out beside the reef with scuba gear for everyone and diving platforms and a glass bottomed "submarine" which



The *Great Barrier Reef* was one of the greatest highlights of their trip to Australia.

took everyone on tours of the reef.

Although the trip to the reef was much rougher than we would have hoped it simply strengthens the memory of one of the most amazing days of our lives. The day on the reef was a highlight of our adventure in Australia and something I know none of us will ever forget. (No I didn't get sick although I must admit I was tempted a few times.)

The Trip Home

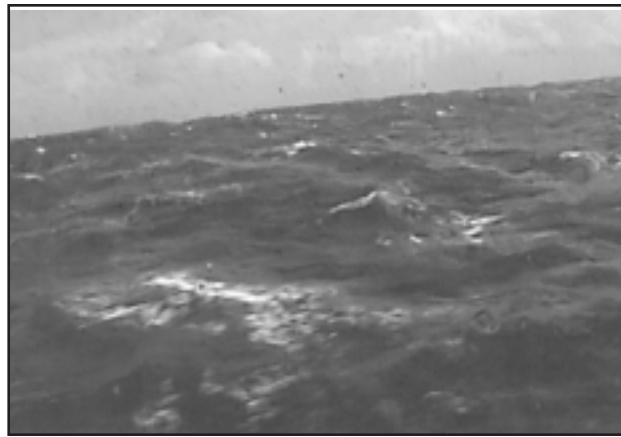
The journey home was largely uneventful except for two little bumps in the road. We had our hand luggage thoroughly searched in Los Angeles when a customs' dog selected our luggage for special treatment. What it had smelled was an apple and the U.S. is being very careful about what kind of produce comes into the country. We also had a credit card taken from our luggage. We received a call in Toronto to inform us that one of our cards was being used in Los Angeles and Tijuana. Other than that the trip was great. We didn't mind the fourteen-hour flight from Sydney to L.A. and we seemed to recover from the thirty odd hours in transit more

quickly than we did on arrival in Australia.

Memories

We spent one of the most magnificent years imaginable. It was good for all of us individually and as a family. Our lifestyle was such that we had to do without many of the material things we seem to think we need in Canada like an extra television or two, a dishwasher, two cars. We lived life more simply in Australia and we had more time to be a family with Sheila not working and me having a very different timetable than at home.

We made good friends and we loved the country and its people and there is little doubt that we will return someday if only for a visit. The university and teachers' unions



Bob and his family experienced some nasty waves on the way to the *Great Barrier Reef*.

were so accommodating to me that I will be looking for ways to repay their hospitality for years to come and the kids will always remember their school experiences fondly. Sheila has never been able to spend more time with the kids or more time for herself and she made

lifelong friends through her sports teams and through the kids.

We'll never forget the wonderful climate, the breathtaking scenery or the unique animal life but we have all commented that it is still good to be home. We didn't long for the material things or the snow or the bitterly cold winter days. We longed for our family and friends and we have all expressed our elation at being back in Canada, but I think Cassie expressed it best when we landed in Toronto on May 31st. The plane was just touching down and the co-pilot came on the intercom and said, "Welcome to Canada."

Cassie pumped her fist in the air and said in her best stage whisper, "YEEES!"

9-11 Equals Friendships?

A friendly submission from Gisèle Julien (Immersion teacher at Park Street School, Fredericton, N.B.)

When tragedy strikes, Canadians, Maritimers, New Brunswickers are always there and eager to lend a helping hand. On that unbelievable day almost a year ago, I was teaching my grade five class when an announcement came over the P.A.: "Teachers, please read your email before lunch". This was to become a day not to be forgotten.

Soon after the email was read, a TV was put in the staff room to try to capture the tragedies of the day. It was very difficult to concentrate on teaching. At the time, I don't think anyone had any idea of the scope and magnitude of the situation.

In the following days, we were trying to deal with the horror and the despair of the people affected. Even though we were over a 1000 kilometres away, this was a current event on everyone's mind. My students were coming in with stories from home, from TV and

newspapers, and from the playground. Adults were having difficulty understanding and coping. How were elementary children supposed to understand?

As teachers, we are always trying to keep abreast with the times and face all challenges. What are the current events, new curriculum, what are children's interests these days? But I know I was not prepared to face an event of this magnitude in Teachers College.

So what do you do?

The questions asked by the 9 and 10-year-olds had to be answered to the best of our ability. My students at first wanted to know the height of the Towers and of other tall world buildings. I researched the Internet and printed out any information and pictures that my students could understand. They were also hearing of people donating money or their help to the people of New York. The father of a child in our class. That helped us relate a little to the tragedy. The children had to be reassured they were safe at school

and in our community.

How could I, as a teacher, help students understand that even as young as they were they could help? Our class had given a donation to the Red Cross, but I wanted to find a link to children's interests. Children like to make friendship bracelets and exchange them with friends. I decided that this could connect the students of Park Street School in Fredericton to students in or near New York. In doing this, the students in the States would know that they had friends across the world, but especially at Park Street School.

The ball got rolling. My principal, Mr. Chris Treadwell, supported my idea. I made an announcement to students that if they had an interest in making friendship bracelets to send to students in the U.S.A. that we would meet at recess on Wednesdays. I gathered books from the library on making friendship bracelets and found some sites on the Internet. So for several Wednesdays at recess, we would

meet and make bracelets. CBC interviewed us about our project, now named *Project TLC (Tender Loving Care)*. Our local *Northside News* and our *Park Street School Chronicle* published articles so parents and our community would be informed about our project. Our project also was displayed proudly at the School District 18 Enrichment Showcase at Old Government House in May, 2002.

I supervised and coached these students but then had difficulty locating a recipient school in the New York area. Then one day, one of my students, Jennah, told me the name of a school her cousins attended. The father of a student at that school died in the first tower plane crash". I checked the school website and contacted the principal, Sister Julie Francis, by e-mail. She responded: "Anything that can help these children cope would be wonderful".

The project gained momentum. A grade 3 student, Natasha, made 150 bracelets with her mother. I was so impressed with this 8-year-old that I e-mailed ATV to submit her name as "Maritimer of the Week".

Soon afterwards Natasha was awarded this title. In recognizing this award, Fred Baxter of *Northside News* stated: "By way of reminding them (US students) that friendships are indeed important and that they have friends in another country, those who made the friendship bracelets are themselves proudly wearing one of their own creations."... "In this, the International Year of the Volunteer, what better examples of the present and future volunteerism than which has been demonstrated."

On November 16, we sent a package to St. Monica School in Methuen, MA, U.S.A. containing 305 friendship bracelets (each attached to a card with the name of the student who made it), a large Canadian flag, some Canadian flag pins (thanks to our MP, Mr. Andy Scott), and our *Park Street School Chronicles*. To quote the principal of the school: "Our children are very excited about having a friend in Canada. ...We

had a wonderful ceremony opening the box and distributing all the nice things you sent. We are preparing to send some cards and letters. ... Our local newspaper came to our school and wrote a nice article about your wonderful gifts."

Soon, we did receive lots of cards made by the students and some personal letters from them as well. Our Park Street students were very proud about their deeds.

A surprise package arrived early in February from St. Monica School. In the box we found newspaper clippings, lots of photos, some letters and hand-made fleece headbands for all students of our school. The fleece had been donated



by a local mill, Malden Mills. There was a U.S. flag pinned to each one. The headbands were sewn by students, parents, relatives and friends of the school. A videotape showed ceremonies and assemblies held at the school. The Mayor Sharon M. Pollard, a U.S. government representative Arthur J. Broadhurst, and Canadian Consul General Ronald A. Irwin were in attendance. Students, parents and I got such a good feeling that we had helped these students and families in some way.

The Canadian flag was celebrating it's 37th birthday on February 15, 2002. Park Street School celebrated it and St. Monica School was proud of our flag at their school. Sister Julie had this to say: "Congratulations on your Flag's Birthday! We have your Flag hanging in our hall. Many people inquire about the significance of our having the Canadian Flag next to the American Flag. Our

students are so happy to tell them about their Canadian friends."

Another package arrived from the Mayor of Methuen containing coloring books for all our students.

Later in the year, two of Park Street School students (Jennah and her sister Shannon), visited St. Monica School. The following is an account of Jennah's visit to the school: "On April 2, my sister Shannon and I had the opportunity to visit St. Monica School in Methuen, MA. While we were there we had the pleasure of meeting Sister Julie (the principal), Sister Ruth, Sister Alice and other teachers. We also met the choir. The choir is much different at St. Monica School.

It is bigger and so is the method of teaching. There is a small group of students who learn a song and then the instructor plays it. At meetings they teach it to the rest of the class. I found this very interesting.

I also bought books at their book fair, met the grade 5 social studies teacher who said "Bonjour" when we met, and saw the computer lab.

The playground is a parking lot! They have no balls and only the younger grades are allowed to have jump ropes. As you can see there are many differences.

All in all I had a wonderful time. The experience was "interesting". I felt that I was doing something that was extremely special and it was so nice to see the faces of the people who have bonded with Park Street students. One of my favorite things was meeting the 5th grader who received my bracelet.

The most intriguing part of it all was the bus that took me the half a mile to St. Monica with my cousins. The bus was one of two with the same number. The way we knew which one was ours was a huge bright purple ribbon on the front. As you can see through the differences there are similarities".

I am amazed how this *TLC Project*, which was aimed at "just wanting to help", has created such strong bonds of friendship.

Announcements

International Conference on Technical and Vocational Education and Training

This TVET Conference, *Developing Skills for the New Economy*, will be held October 17-19, 2002 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The conference will feature the work of 33 academic paper presenters and 28 workshop facilitators.

For more information, contact: Conference Coordinator Laurissa Evancio at: evancio@ms.umanitoba.ca www.umanitoba.ca/unevoc/2002conference

2002-2003 Physical Activity Contribution Program

Health Canada's Physical Activity Unit is pleased to announce that details on the 2002-2003 Physical Activity Contribution Program are now posted on the World Wide Web on Health Canada's Fitness and Active Living website which can be located at www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hppb/fitness/index.html.

These documents describe all aspects of the Physical Activity Contribution Program. These Guidelines will help to determine if the proposed activities of the applicant are directly supportive of the mandate, goals and priorities of Health Canada. Instructions are also provided to help organizations prepare letters of intent and proposals for consideration of contribution funding by Health Canada.

'At Risk' Students' Resource

Gary Phillips, author and presenter, specializes in helping teachers deal with 'at risk' students. Online resources including his free monthly newsletter, and discussion groups are available at www.garyphillips.com or call toll free 866 666 6423 for more information.

Skills Development & Entrepreneurship Workshop

This workshop will be held September 27, 2002 at the Fredericton Inn, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. It will be of interest to Career Development Practitioners, Entrepreneurship and Business Educators, Youth Counselors and Youth. Dynamic keynote presenters: Linda Nazareth, Dr. Bob Richards, Martin Latulippe
Registration is \$28.75, buffet

luncheon included; free registration to the first 20 students!

Conference Contact: Kathy Watt (506) 472-6306, kawatt@nbnet.nb.ca, www.fadmin.unb.ca/watts/welcome

Conference on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Circle of Hope/Knowledge/Understanding/Solutions — a gathering of hearts, minds and resources on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects that will be held at the Fredericton Inn from November 19 -21, 2002. Check out the NB Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effects Network website at www.circle-of-hope.ca or call (506)450-4242 for more information.

Careers of the Future Online

Future Works is a valuable resource used to promote and educate audiences seeking direction for future career decision. The resources are available at ww.bccareerfrontiers.ca

Fall Music Workshop

The Kodaly Society of Nova Scotia is pleased to announce their fall workshop, *A Day Down Under*, Saturday, September 28, 2002 in Halifax. Guest clinician will be Ms. Jenni Allen, Head of Junior School Music, Scotch College, Hawthorn, Australia.

For further information, contact Maureen at (w) 826-1200, (f) 826-1206 or macdoume@staff.ednet.ns.ca

Symposium on "Building Safer Schools and Communities"

This Symposium will be held on October 16/17, 2002 in Chatham, Ontario and will feature representation from education, law enforcement, child and family support services, social service agencies, member of the criminal justice system, health units and other community stakeholders.

Topics include Youth Violence, School Threat Risk Assessment, Community Protocols. For further information, contact: Dave Wood, Tel. 519-352-1901, Fax 519-351-9800, E-mail: info@getsetnow.org

Statistics Canada Resources

Learning Resources at www.statcan.ca/english/edu

www.statcan.ca/english/edu is a special area of the Statistics Canada website for students and teachers. It provides them with a vast array of free Canadian information and teaching resources relevant to the classroom.

Summit on Performance Accountability and Assessment in Education

This 2nd Annual Canadian Summit will be held November 5-6, 2002 in Toronto. Hear from a top-notch faculty of education administrators and classroom experts on what accountability and assessment practices are working.

For further information, call 1-877-927-7936 or online at www.CanadianInstitute.com

17th Annual CACE Conference

This national conference will be held October 27-29, 2002 in Edmonton, Alberta. *Fantasy to Reality: Communicating in 2002* will explore the fantasies and realities facing communicators in the education field in 2002. For further information, call (780) 447-9467, e-mail: dswiniarski@teachers.ab.ca

"Meeting the Challenge: Inclusion and Diversity in Education" Conference

will be held November 3-5, 2002 in Mississauga, Ontario. The conference will be of interest to parents, educators, administrators, students and policymakers. For more information, contact: The Canadian Association for Community Living, (416) 661-9611, e-mail: info@cacl.ca, www.cacl.ca

CD-ROM Available

The Bend in the Road is a multimedia CD-ROM presentation about the life, work, and influence of Canadian hero and internationally acclaimed writer, Lucy Maud Montgomery. It is ideal for classroom use; students from elementary grades through graduate school will find ideas and materials to pursue. For further information visit the website at www.lmmontgomery.ca, e-mail: lmminst@upei.ca, (902)628-4346.





Welcome Back

to the

2002-2003 School Year!

NBTA Credit Union is a **full-service** member owned financial institution that serves the teachers of New Brunswick and their families. Our expanded bond now serves, children living outside the home, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, parents, in-laws and more. Call us for details! We will be pleased to assist you with your financial needs.

The Credit Union has upgraded our telephone system allowing members to select the person directly to whom they wish to speak. Below is a reference guide for your convenience.

 NBTA Credit Union Directory  1-800-565-5626 or 506-452-1724	
Name	Extension
Loan Department Bev Cadger, Loans & Mortgage Officer Pam Rumble, Loans & Mortgage Officer Jackie Jardine, Loans & Mortgage Officer Tracy McFarlane, Loans Clerk	822 823 824 825
Account Inquiries/General Inquiries Pauline Knox, Investment Clerk/Member Service Representative	828
Public Relations/New Accounts/Closed Accounts Lynne Horsnell Shanks, Public Relations Officer/Member Service Representative	826
Accounting Department Sharon Keays, Accounting Clerk	827
Management Judy Jewett, Assistant Manager Mike Cody, General Manager	744 725

Plan to attend NBTA Credit Union's Annual General Meeting, November 13, 2002. (Wednesday, 7:30 pm)



NEED SOMETHING?
 Have you changed schools, districts, home addresses, e-mails, financial service needs? Call or e-mail to remind us.



NBTA Credit Union

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