

# NBTA News



October 6, 2004  
Vol. XLVII, No. 2

*New Brunswick Teachers' Association*

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**Next Final Copy Deadline  
For NBTA News:  
Friday, October 22**

The Power of  
**Learning**



## Welcome to New Teachers 2004-2005

It was standing room only at the NBTF Building on a rainy Saturday, September 18, as the NBTA welcomed more than 180 new teachers at the annual Welcome to New Teachers Workshop.

Teachers from every branch in the province travelled to Fredericton where they met the NBTA administrative staff and members of their local Branch Rep Councils and the NBTA Provincial Executive.

The teachers attended sessions on Federation business (contracts and negotiations), Professional Development and Certification, Pensions, Group Insurance, Policy 701 and 703, and Wellness. In addition, they met with

representatives from the NBTA Credit Union (who also sponsored a wonderful nutrition break), and Johnson Incorporated. At the popular "Doctor Is In" session, teachers were able to have questions answered that were specific to their individual situations.

An excellent lunch and a wide array of prizes, along with a chance to meet old friends and share the joys of their first weeks on the job, rounded out the day. All in attendance agreed that it was a worthwhile experience. "I have learned so much", remarked one young teacher enthusiastically. "It was worth giving up a Saturday for!"



# NBTA's Newest Members Enjoy New Teachers' Workshop



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## President's Message



Brian Bawn

*Brian Bawn*

I trust everyone has settled into your routine and that your classes have finally been set. I know how busy the first few weeks of school are and it has been the same here at the NBTF Building. The staff took part in many of your opening professional development sessions and everyone helped present at our *Welcome to New Teachers Workshop* on September 18.

We had over 180 new teachers attend the workshop and we had a great day welcoming them into our profession.

Just a reminder, to each of you, to keep an eye out for our new teachers. They are trying to make sense of all the routines, schedules, meetings, parents, students and all the other things we are faced with on the start up of a new school year. Try and remember what it was like when you started teaching and how much you appreciated it when someone took the time to show you some of the shortcuts or those things that were really important to do now and those things that could wait until a little later.

The demographics are changing. In some of our schools we have as many as 1/3 of the staffs made up of new teachers. What exciting schools they will be to teach in. Just think of

the new ideas and enthusiasm and challenges that those new teachers will bring to their schools and administrators. Remember, as well, that we have many new and first time administrators in our schools. NBTA will continue to offer support for new teachers and new administrators as we move through this change in demographics over the next few years.

On the negotiations front, we are meeting with the Conciliation Board on October 12-15 and within thirty days of our meetings they must file a written report. This report will be presented to all teachers at branch meetings and you will get to vote on whether you feel it is acceptable or not. We will continue through the process until we reach the best possible deal for teachers. You will be kept as up to date as possible as the process unfolds. Thank you for your continuing confidence and patience.

We continue to meet with Department of Education officials on those issues that are important to teachers. The relationship that we have been able to develop over the past year has never been better and it is in large part due to the willingness of the Minister of Education Madeleine Dube, Deputy Minister John Kershaw, and Assistant Deputy Minister Terry McInerney to meet and discuss issues with us – issues that affect students, teachers, their classrooms and workloads daily. We don't always agree on all issues but we are always able to meet and discuss the issues. I am looking forward to continuing that relationship with them.

We were included in discussions for revisions to Policy 701. The revisions have been completed and by November all administrators are to be in-serviced on those changes by Department of Education officials. They will be responsible for in-servicing their teachers. The revisions address some of the concerns that teachers have raised over Policy 701 and we believe that the changes are an improvement to

the old policy.

The NBTA Board of Directors have struck an ad hoc committee on Inclusionary Practices. It will meet this year to compile information and at the same time the Department of Education has hired a consultant to review the whole area of special education. Hopefully, we will have some input into that review as the process unfolds.

I have received a few calls and e-mails on the audio visual resources at Instructional Resources that were closed down in the Department of Education restructuring last June. The person who is in charge of identifying the resources and copying them for districts is Ron White. His phone number, fax and e-mail are as follows: ph. 453-6533, fax 453-3325, Ron.WHITE@gnb.ca. If you have any concerns or questions regarding these services, you should contact him.

A reminder that the NBTA Sponsored Professional Courses have all been approved and are again being offered this school year. They are being offered in 15 different locations. We have a schedule of courses for the complete school year. You can obtain all the pertinent information and application forms on our website at [www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca).

We are really excited about our upcoming Combined Council Conference on November 12 in Moncton. The quality of the presenters will be second to none. Similar conferences to hear these speakers would cost you hundreds of dollars and NBTA members get to attend for \$30, if you register before October 8. Register early and make your reservations if you are planning on attending the social functions the evening of November 11. All the information is on the website and in your NBTA Newsletter. I hope to see you at the dance and the conference. I guarantee it will be a memorable experience for all who attend.

It was nice to see all my old friends at MGT last month and to see that they haven't lost their sense of humor. Hope everyone has an awesome year.



# Learning Today – Teaching Tomorrow

In this issue of NBTA News, we are featuring the fourth and fifth in a series of presenter profiles for the November 12th, 2004 Combined NBTA Councils Conference. The Combined NBTA Councils would like to introduce you to Dr. David Sousa and Murray Banks.

## Dr. David Sousa

**D**r. Sousa is an international educational consultant and author of "How the Brain Learns" (Second Edition), "How the Special Needs Brain Learns," "How the Gifted Brain Learns," and "The Leadership Brain". Dr. Sousa explains the latest research on brain learning and translates it into practical and effective classroom strategies. His newest book, "The Leadership Brain," suggests ways for educators to lead today's schools more effectively.

Dr. Sousa has conducted workshops in hundreds of school districts on brain research, instructional skills, and science education at the Pre-K to 12 and university levels. He has made presentations at national conventions of educational organizations and has served as a consultant to regional and local school districts across the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia.

Dr. Sousa has a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Massachusetts State College at Bridgewater, a Master of Arts in Teaching degree in science from Harvard University, and a doctorate from Rutgers

University. His teaching experience covers all levels. He has taught junior and senior high school science, served as a K-12 director of science, and as Supervisor of Instruction for the West Orange, NJ, schools. He then became superintendent of the New Providence, NJ, public schools. He has been an adjunct professor of education at Seton Hall University and a visiting lecturer at Rutgers University.

Prior to his career in New Jersey, Dr. Sousa taught at the American School of Paris, France, and served for five years as a Foreign Service Officer and science advisor at the U.S.A. diplomatic missions in Geneva and Vienna. In 1992, Dr. Sousa was president of the National Staff Development Council. He has received numerous awards from professional associations, school districts, educational foundations, and Bridgewater State College (Distinguished Alumni Award) for his commitment to research, staff development, and science education.

Dr. David Sousa will be delivering two sessions during the November 12th, 2004 Combined NBTA

Councils Conference. The first is entitled *How the Brain Learns* and the second is entitled *How the Special Needs Brain Learns*. In these keynote presentations,

Dr. Sousa will review some of the fascinating new scientific research about how the brain learns. It will include the effects of emotions on learning, the controversy over the brain's "windows of opportunity," what the brain of today's student expects in school, the students' changing modality preferences, some new insights into learning "disorders" and how daily body rhythms can affect teachers and student performance. Dr. Sousa will then discuss how educators can use this information to ensure that all students benefit from schools and classrooms that are brain-compatible.



Dr. David Sousa

## Murray Banks

**M**urray Banks is one of the nation's most sought after speakers in the area of lifestyle and its impact on performance. His success as an educator, athlete and long-time professional speaker, coupled with his genuine optimism and enthusiasm make every presentation a starting point for personal and professional growth. And, he knows something about performance...he is a world class athlete and honored educator.

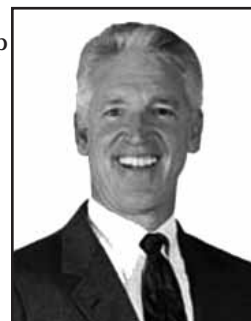
Murray Banks is a passionate teacher. He's taught at every level - elementary, middle school, high

school and at a major university. He's taught in a city school district and in a small, rural school in Vermont. In 1982 he was honored as Vermont's Teacher of the Year, and in 1983 received national recognition as an Outstanding Educator.

At the same time Murray was garnering educational honors, he was winning his first of four national championships in the triathlon. In 1984, he took a leave from teaching to focus on training for the Ironman Triathlon World Championship in Hawaii. Two times he has been one of the top finishers

in the World Championship and his success there led to his present career as a professional speaker. Racing the finest skiers from Europe and Scandinavia, Murray recently won the masters world championship in cross-country skiing.

Murray Banks utilizes his skills as



Murray Banks

an award-winning educator to create presentations that inspire and challenge his audiences to bring adaptability, enthusiasm and optimism to their work. He is a master storyteller with a knack for finding humor in the most unlikely situations. Murray's messages are always personal, interactive and entertaining whether they're delivered before 4000 in a convention center or 40 at a

management retreat.

As a world-champion athlete, Murray knows the importance of focus, intensity and goals. But he also knows the necessity of balance, which he finds in the woodlands and meadows of Vermont. Murray, his wife Janie, and their two sons, Jeff and Steve, live in a rustic, post and beam home in the shadow of Mount Mansfield, where they love to run, hike, ski and eat Ben &

Jerry's Ice Cream!

Murray Banks will be delivering a session during the November 12th, 2004 Combined NBTA Councils Conference entitled *Performance and Lifestyle*. Murray's classroom stories and student anecdotes are poignant and hilarious, and because Murray frequently works with Fortune 500 companies, he brings a challenging message about performance, accountability and success.

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NBTF Labour Relations Officer

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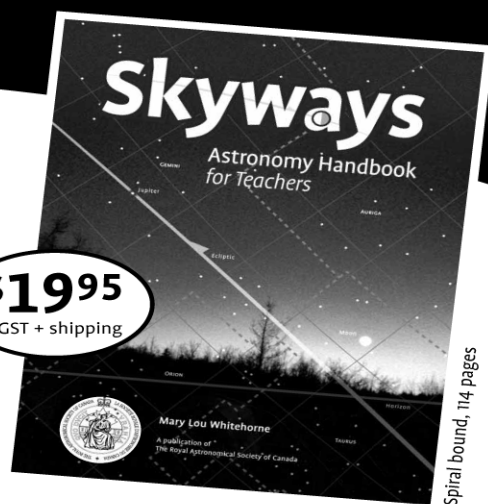
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## Conference Schedule

### November 12, 2004, Moncton Coliseum and Agrena

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:45 am - 8:45 am   | Registration and admission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 8:45 am             | Opening Remarks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 9:00 am - 10:00 am  | Crystal Kuykendall: <i>Ensuring That All Students Learn</i><br>(sponsored by the Anglophone School Districts)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 10:00 am - 10:30 am | Nutrition Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 10:30 am - 11:30 am | Choice of Three Keynotes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Sousa: <i>How the Brain Learns</i><br/>(sponsored by the NB Department of Education)</li> <li>• Murray Banks: <i>The Challenge of Leadership</i><br/>(sponsored by the NBTA Credit Union)</li> <li>• Todd Whitaker: <i>How to Deal With Difficult Parents (or Parents in Difficult Situations)</i><br/>(sponsored by Johnson Inc. and Harvey Studios)</li> </ul> |
| 11:30 am - 1:00 pm  | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm   | Choice of Three Keynotes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Sousa: <i>How the Special Needs Brain Learns</i></li> <li>• Murray Banks: <i>Performance and Lifestyle - Take Better Care of Yourself!</i></li> <li>• Todd Whitaker: <i>How to Deal With Difficult Parents (or Parents in Difficult Situations)</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                   |
| 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm   | Closing Keynote: Rex Murphy<br><i>Canadian Education: What is it and does it matter?</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3:15 pm             | Prizes and Farewell                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

#### — REMINDER —

- as many as 90 publisher displays with merchandise for sale
- options for purchasing lunch on-site (avoid the traffic!)
- super social on Thursday evening at Delta Beausejour with East Coast Band: *Barnacle*

Registration both online (Credit card only) and manually through the *NBTA News*.

**Registration Begins  
September 1, 2004!**

## Accommodations for Combined NBTA Councils Conference

### November 11 & 12, 2004

| Hotel                      | Rate                        | Reservation     |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Hotel Moncton              | 89.00(standard)             | 1-800--563-2489 |
| Delta Beausejour           | 119.00(sgl/dbl)             | 506-854-4344    |
| Ramada Crystal Palace      | 109.95(sgl/dbl)             | 1-800-561-7108  |
| Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel | 89.00(sgl/dbl)              | 1-866-854-4656  |
|                            | 99.00(triple/quad)          |                 |
|                            | 109.00(Executive)           |                 |
| Rodd Park House Inn        | 95.00(sgl/dbl)              | 506-382-1664    |
| Chateau Moncton            | 99.00(sgl/dbl, bkfst incl)  | 1-800-576-4040  |
| Holiday Inn Express        | 109.00(sgl/dbl, bkfst incl) | 506-384-1050    |
|                            | 129.00(Executive)           |                 |
| Super 8 Hotel & Suites     | 93.60(sgl) 102.60(dbl)      | 506-388-0888    |
|                            | (bkfst incl)                |                 |
| Amsterdam Inn              | 73.00(sgl) 83.00(dbl)       | 506-383-5050    |
|                            | (bkfst incl)                |                 |
| Coastal Inn                | 79.00(sgl) 92.00(dbl)       | 506-859-2486    |
| Colonial Inn               | 79.00(sgl)                  | 506-382-3395    |
| Country Inn                | 76.00(sgl/dbl) 89.00(suite) | 506-852-7000    |
| Comfort Inn                | 75.00(sgl) 85.00(dbl)       | 506-384-3175    |

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
The Conference Hotel for November 12, 2004 is the Delta Beausejour (1-800-268-1133). Delegates are advised to indicate their group affiliation when making reservations. Credit card numbers are required.



# Learning Today - Teaching Tomorrow

Important Information: Please read carefully before you register!

- On-line registration requires a credit card.
- If you do not wish to use a credit card, please refer to the September *NBTA News* or print the registration form from our NBTA site [www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca) and send cheque or money order as instructed. (For your security, no credit cards will be accepted with the manual registration process.)
- Early registration has benefits! Register before October 8 and your confirmation, receipt, bar coded entrance name card and lunch ticket (if selected) will be couriered to you. The day of the conference you will be in the fast lane for entrance!
- You must provide either a school name/district office name OR (if you do not work at a school or district office) an alternate address to ensure that your materials will reach you prior to the conference.
- Registration fees vary with preferred rates given to NBTA members (active and retired). Please read the descriptions carefully to ensure that you are selecting the appropriate category fee.
- All registrations received after October 8 will be considered late registrations. (Save \$\$: register early!) We cannot guarantee that you will receive your confirmation materials prior to the conference if you register after this date.
- Registration fees:
 

|                |              |             |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|
|                | <b>early</b> | <b>late</b> |
| NBTA Members   | \$30         | \$ 50       |
| Non Members    | \$40         | \$ 60       |
| (school-based) |              |             |
| Others:        | \$75         | \$100       |
- ALL late or on-site registrations will be required to use a separate entrance procedure the day of the conference. (Save time: register early!)
- Lunch Options: There are 4 options for lunch. You will be required to select one when you register.
  - *Picnic Lunch*: 1 1/2 sandwiches, fruit, cookie and beverage (prepared fresh by Atlantic Superstore) - \$7.00
  - *Pasta Buffet*: hot and cold pasta buffet (and beverage) prepared and served on site by Gastons catering - \$12.00
  - *Concession Stands*: individual purchase of lunch from concession stands such as Tim Hortons, Pizza, etc.
  - *Lunch off site*: Moncton offers a range of restaurants if you wish to drive off site.

**NOTE:** Lunch hour is the perfect time to visit the wide range of publisher displays to view, purchase, sample, or enter for prize draws.

**REGISTRATION FORM  
ON FOLLOWING PAGE!**

## Search Associates International Job Fair

Are **YOU** interested in teaching at a Private International School? There are several hundred job openings available to you around the world. Teach a North American curriculum to English-speaking students living abroad.

Some of the benefits include: • airfare (yearly) • housing and utilities • life insurance • retirement fund • free tuition for dependents • medical insurance • tax free salary (US\$) • Moving expenses • Settling in allowance • Contracts for 1 or 2 yrs.

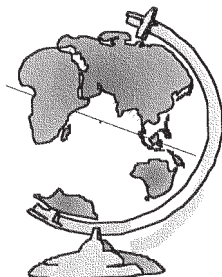
This is a great opportunity for those teachers who want to experience a new culture and teach with other colleagues from around the world.

Plan to attend the SEARCH Associates international job fair in Toronto Feb. 7-9 where over 50 schools from around the world will be recruiting teachers for the upcoming (Aug. 2005) school year.

To attend any SEARCH Associate fair is by invitation only. Please apply early.

There will be a workshop for NB teachers and B.Ed. students in Fredericton in November. Details to follow.

For more information contact Ray Sparks: [raysparks@eastlink.ca](mailto:raysparks@eastlink.ca) or visit our website: [www.searchassociates.com](http://www.searchassociates.com)



## Mark your calendars - Feb 3 & 4, 2005 (Fredericton) NB PES "REMEMBER WHEN" Conference on Health & Physical Education

**Keynote: Marshall Button** (Lucien)

**Sessions:**

- **Marion Rose** - "Step Lively" Dance Resource
- Speed Stacks
- Icebox Inc. (Mental Training)
- Tchoukball
- Comprehensive School Health and many more.

Registration information will be distributed in mid fall (2004).

For additional information contact: Diane Hoyt (506) 444-3095 [diane.hoyt@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:diane.hoyt@nbed.nb.ca) or Garth Wade (506) 444-4403 [garth.wade@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:garth.wade@nbed.nb.ca)





# Learning Today - Teaching Tomorrow FAQ's

To whom should cheques be payable?

Please make all cheques payable to *Learning Today - Teaching Tomorrow*. If you have already sent it made out otherwise, do not worry. We have made adjustments.

Why do we have to pay since teachers already pay Council dues? How does this conference price compare to other comparable conferences?

Your \$12 Council dues allow the three councils to operate. They conduct their business and meet on weekends to organize PD events, administer Council grants, explore curriculum issues and promote and encourage other professional development initiatives. The dues cover the costs of this work.

However, a conference, with speakers' fees, presenter honoraria, nutrition break costs, advertising, and all other associated costs of mounting a major conference must come from the conference registration fees. The goal is never to make money, but to attempt to break even...no easy feat when the Councils can never tell how many teachers will actually attend!

A recent check of other conferences organized by teacher association councils reveals, for example, the Nova Scotia Teacher Council conferences ranging from \$89 to \$99. The Canadian Association of Principals, which has several of the same speakers on their program as on our November 12 conference, has a registration fee of \$249.

What happens if I register after October 8?

Registrations after October 8 will require the late fee. As well, we cannot guarantee that your conference entry badge will be sent to you prior to the event. This means you will need to go to a special line the morning of the conference (get there early!) while others will be easily admitted into the Coliseum by showing their scannable name badge.



What happens if I forget to bring my conference materials, name tag, lunch ticket, etc, that will be delivered to me before the conference?

It will be like going to a concert and forgetting your ticket! Of course, you will be given the opportunity to solve the problem, but it will mean going to a special line to sort things out with the registration committee. Best advice: remind each other and **BRING EVERYTHING YOU NEED WITH YOU!**

Are there alternatives if I decide that I can't go to the conference?

By virtue of our Collective Agreement, teachers are responsible to participate in Professional Development on the one Council day we have left in our calendar year (for this school year, that day is November 12). We encourage teachers to attend the Combined Council Conference. However, if you choose not to go (and we understand that there are reasons why teachers may be unable to attend), you must submit an Alternate Proposal to your school or Branch PD Committee.

This proposal should indicate how you, as an individual professional educator, are going to spend the day involved in professional learning.

Your plan should concentrate on the learning, rather than your completing tasks that you may have on your 'to-do' list.

Your professional association has requested that schools and districts refrain from organizing group activities that will create a conflict of choices for teachers.

Why do interns and B Ed students have to pay a registration fee? Aren't council conferences usually free for them?

Please be assured that the Committee spent a lot of time considering the dilemma of what to do about interns (and supply teachers).

As you know, we are expecting large numbers of people to attend the conference, including those from outside the system. The slate of presenters is such that our conference costs are way above average, so financial consideration is a real factor. We had heard that some professors were considering bringing whole classes to the conference... people recognize what a good learning opportunity it will be. So with that in mind, the Committee had to question how we could offer a free registration to interns.

Because there is no database identifying who is an intern, we knew that verifying who was actually doing an internship would not be easy. We certainly don't have the manpower to check each one. We asked is it fair to offer a free registration to a student who is interning now, but not to one who will be interning in January (for example). Since the website allows public access to registration, there is also no way to control if someone were to register on-line and 'claim' to be a student or intern. And of course, we knew that if large numbers of students were admitted free, then the costs of their nutrition breaks, conference bags, etc., might be significant and certainly not recoverable.

Thus the decision was made that

we had to charge everyone.

Then came the question of how much to charge. It is common knowledge that some teachers continue to question why there needs to be a fee at all since they already pay dues. The Committee felt that while we must have a registration fee to recover conference costs, membership had to have advantages. Therefore, we made the decision to give the best rate to all NBTA members, both current and retired. Everyone else who is 'school based' (and we placed all BEd students here) would pay the additional \$10.

We certainly appreciate that this may be problematic for some interns, but felt that this was still the decision that served both the members and the conference fiscal concerns in the fairest manner. It has been suggested to some who have inquired that schools might be encouraged to 'assist' their interns with registration in some way, if there are any discretionary funds available. This solves the problem of

knowing who is actually an intern. If the school can help these individuals, then it might make the conference more accessible to them, and is a sort of personal way of thanking them for their work at the school. Of course, not all schools will be able to do this, or will consider it appropriate. It is merely a suggestion for consideration.

Because of the size of the event, we have tried to make a number of changes with this conference (higher late fees, returning the scannable name tags before the conference, much higher fees for School District personnel, etc.) that will set it apart from the regular Council conferences. Of course, once the individual councils return to the smaller formats, they can revert to whatever system works best for them.

Why would I consider staying at the Coliseum over the lunch hour? Going out to lunch is a treat!

The lunch period is the best time

to visit the many displays that will be set up for the Publisher Trade Show. Many booths will have materials for sale and will be offering specials and prize draws. By taking advantage of one of the pre-purchase lunch options, or using the Coliseum Concessions, you will not have to miss a session to visit the displays. You will also not have to fight the traffic!

Plan to have a nice dinner either the night before or on Friday after the conference and you have the best of both worlds.

Will there be lots of parking?

The Coliseum has hundreds of free parking spaces! However, please give yourself some extra time to get to the venue...there will be many people traveling that day!

Is there a coat check available?

Because November can be coat weather, a coat cheque will be available. The \$1 fee will go to the Moncton High School student club who will be manning the booth.

## Super Social at Learning Today - Teaching Tomorrow

On Thursday evening, November 11, all delegates to the *Learning Today - Teaching Tomorrow* conference are invited to a super social evening at the Delta Beausejour Hotel in downtown Moncton.

From 8:30 pm till midnight, the ballroom will rock to the sounds of East Coast music band, *Barnacle*. With a solid track record of sold-out shows from coast to coast, including opening for Nellie Furtado, The Tea Party, Tom Cochran, The Moffats, Blue Rodeo, and a tour with Dr. Hook, as well as strong sales from their debut CD 'Maniac', *Barnacle* is taking their career to a new level.

*Barnacle* has a strong rock/rock folk group sensibility to their sound and are guaranteed to have everyone on the dance floor from the first to last note!

If you are looking for a slightly quieter venue to catch up with your friends from around the province, try the Coffee House located in the Shediac Room also at the Hotel. Here you will be entertained by teacher talent!

Refreshments and cash bar available in both rooms. Don't miss out on the fun before the learning!

## Directions to the Moncton Coliseum and Agrena

1. From Fredericton and Saint John  
Take the Moncton Center exit, continue straight, through the lights to Coliseum on left.
2. From Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia  
Take 15 East to Killam Drive Exit, continue on Killam until Coliseum on left.
3. From Delta Beauséjour Hotel  
Turn left onto Main Street, continue on Main until Causeway Traffic Circle. Turn right onto Wheeler Blvd and take Killam Exit.
4. From Crystal Palace  
Turn left on Paul Street, continue to underpass, take left onto 15 East and continue to Killam Drive Exit.

Having trouble accessing the registration form for the Learning Today - Teaching Tomorrow Conference?

Try this link which will avoid the pop-up menus which may be the problem.

[http://www.nbta.ca/Learning\\_today/registration.html](http://www.nbta.ca/Learning_today/registration.html)

# The Importance of Detail

- Quality of Applications and Nominations Critical •

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***Every additional detail which enhances the committees' ability to choose one from many excellent and deserving nominees is important.***

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Each year, hundreds of applications or nomination papers are prepared by teachers and submitted to committees or panels charged with the responsibility of choosing, from among all submissions, a limited number of successful applicants.

Whether applying for an Educational Leave, or submitting nominations for the NBTA Centennial Award, the Aliant Telecom Award, or applying for any other competition, providing proper and complete information is critical to the success of the application.

## Educational Leave Forms Now Available

The Educational Leave Forms (Form D 2005-2006) are now available through school district offices. The form consists of four pages, each with four copies. Persons considering applying for an educational leave for the 2005-2006 school year should get the form as soon as possible to ensure sufficient time for completion and submission of forms and related documentation prior to the deadline of November 5, 2004. This is a strictly applied deadline.

Each question on the form is asked for a specific purpose and therefore is very important. The number of very deserving applicants far exceeds the number of educational leaves available, and therefore the committee relies very heavily on the responses recorded for various questions to help distinguish among very similar and deserving applications.

In responding to open-ended questions, particularly in section V, applicants are encouraged to prepare responses prior to transfer to the

form. If additional space is required, additional sheets could be attached and referenced under the appropriate question.

Of particular importance is the response to Part V, question 2 - "Detailed Specific Plans". Part of the mandate of the committee is to ensure numerous factors are balanced in the selection process. Geographical consideration, gender, array of disciplines pursued, length of study, and relevance to professional growth of the applicant and the needs of the system are all factors which are considered. To this end, the committee is less likely to consider vague or poorly-developed plans, and are more likely to consider applications which exhibit a well-conceptualized program or series of activities, and which clearly defines the expectations for professional growth.

It is also extremely important to indicate any special conditions which may have a bearing, conditions such as relation to position changes, deadlines for coursework completion, demands of internships, or particular availability of programs or activities of importance to the success of the educational leave.

Finally, all applicants must remember that over 60% of all valid and deserving applicants are rejected primarily due to lack of sufficient leaves to meet demand. In all cases, applicants can be assured that each member of the committee is committed to making the process as fair and impartial as possible. Those who are unsuccessful are strongly encouraged to re-apply in subsequent years.

Nominations for NBTA Centennial Award and Aliant Telecom Award for Excellence in Teaching

The NBTA Centennial Award is presented each year to an individual in recognition of having made a significant contribution to education in New Brunswick. It has traditionally honoured a long and prestigious career of involvement in the profession.

The Aliant Telecom Award for Excellence in Teaching is presented to an NBTA member recognized by peers and the community who exhibits excellence in teaching through ongoing commitment to students and pedagogical approaches.

Each award has its own application form and must be sent separately to the NBTA Selection Committee as described on the form.

Once again, the quality of the submissions can be enhanced greatly by ensuring a substantial amount of documentation from a variety of sources is provided. Further, the sponsors of the nomination should synthesize the contents of various supporting statements in a single overview of the recipient's activities and contributions which would merit consideration.

The deadline for nominations for each of these awards this year is **April 1, 2005**. Branches wishing to nominate persons should start getting supportive documentation now to ensure a complete, well-rounded and detailed submission. Every additional detail which enhances the committees' ability to choose one from many excellent and deserving nominees is important.

# School-Based Learning Teams Grants

*In a true Learning Community, everyone learns.*

🍏 What is a School-Based Learning Team?

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

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

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

🍏 What is a School-Based Learning Team Grant?

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

🍏 What is the Purpose of the grant?

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

efforts of the team, accessing expertise in the form of resource people.

🍏 How often should the team meet?

The SBLT grant extends from the calendar year January to December 2005. The team is required to meet a minimum of 18 hours throughout the year for which the grant has been awarded. Team members determine when the meetings will take place.

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

🍏 How is a SBLT different from a study group?

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

Actually examining student work is an important part of a Learning Team.

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

Yes. Nancy Roach, Director of Professional Development for the NBTA or Mark Holland of the Department of Education, will meet with each Learning Team to help them launch their work. A template for recording the work of the team will be provided and protocols for examining student work will be introduced. These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for

both accountability and productivity but will not restrict the direction and creativity of the team.

🍏 How many grants will be available?

For the calendar year January '05 – December '05, there will be nine \$1000 grants available.

🍏 How does my school apply? Complete the application form accompanying this article or found on the NBTA website

(www.nbta.ca). A school may submit more than one application provided the guidelines above are represented in each application. Deadline for applications is November 3, 2004. Successful applicants will be notified by November 26.

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

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

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

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

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See [www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca) for an article highlighting last year's applicants.



***See application on following page.***



# **NBTA/Department of Education School-Based Learning Team Grant Application Form**

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Team Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete the following after carefully reading the information about School-Based Learning Teams that accompanies this form. Feel free to attach additional pages.**

*What aspect of student learning will be the focus of this Learning Team?*

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*How and why did your team determine the need for this focus?*

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*How will the team monitor the impact of your efforts on your students?*

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*Who are the members of your School-Based Learning Team? Indicate their teaching assignment within the school?*

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*Comment on the schedule your team will develop for completing the minimum 18 hours of meeting time for your team between January and December.*

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*Please add any other comments which you feel are relevant to your application.*

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**Send completed application form to Nancy Roach, Director of Professional Development , NBTA, PO Box 752, Fredericton, NB E3B 5R6**

Deadline for applications: November 3, 2004

Successful schools will be notified by November 26. A joint NBTA/Department of Education Committee will base selection on factors including the thoughtful development of the application form, distribution of various levels (K-12) and geographic considerations.



# *Upgrade Your Teaching Certificate Classification Level!*

## **Distance Education Courses For Busy Teachers**

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- Acquire up to one extra year of University Grad Credit (31.5 semester credits)
- All courses are fully accredited through Portland State University. Travel is not required.

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[info@montessoritraining.net](mailto:info@montessoritraining.net)

[www.montessoritraining.net/  
university\\_credit/faq.htm](http://www.montessoritraining.net/university_credit/faq.htm)

# 2004-2005 NBTA PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS REGISTRATION FORM

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

**DATE OF SEMINAR** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ October 23 - Bathurst, Bathurst High School
- \_\_\_\_\_ November 6 - Moncton, Riverview Middle School
- \_\_\_\_\_ **November 24 - Bristol, Carleton North Senior High** →
- \_\_\_\_\_ December 4 - Saint John, Simonds High
- \_\_\_\_\_ January 8 - Fredericton, NBTF Building
- \_\_\_\_\_ January 22 - Chatham, Dr. Losier Middle School
- \_\_\_\_\_ February 5 - Sussex, Sussex High School

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION** \_\_\_\_\_

- October 15
- October 29
- November 16 →
- November 26
- December 17
- January 14
- January 28

**Date & Time  
Change**  
for Bristol Session Only!  
  
Registration @ 5:00 pm  
Session @ 5:30-8:30 pm

Name of Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ S.I. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Dist. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of Spouse (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_

No. of pension years you will have accumulated to June 2004 \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate Level: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

YES  NO

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## SEMINAR GUIDELINES

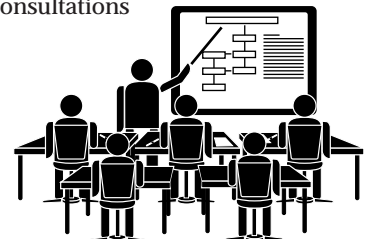
The following guidelines should be noted for participation in these seminars:

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

Larry Jamieson  
 Director of Teacher Welfare Services  
 New Brunswick Teachers' Association  
 P.O. Box 752  
 Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6 (Tel. 452-1722)
6. Any interested teachers are eligible to attend.
7. All workshops begin with registration at 8:30 am and sessions at 9:00 am until 1:00 pm.
8. Detach and return the registration form as soon as possible.

**PROGRAM** \_\_\_\_\_

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



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

## Assessing Our Assessment

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

In a recent session I attended, the facilitator asked the adults in the room to recall an incident from their past that related to a mark or grade. Everybody had a story, dredged from many years ago but fresh and still fraught with emotion.

Mine relates to the day I decided that I didn't like being called "Miss 9-oh" after making 90% on a test. I was socially humiliated and decided it wasn't cool for a girl to do that well (not one of my finer feminist moments, I might add!). My mother declares I never made 90 again, but surely she is exaggerating...??

The majority of the stories in that room (and in your staff rooms, I'll wager) recalled the struggle to achieve a good mark in the face of obstacles. It may have been a subject that was a challenge, or a teacher who seemed to want to control the marks in ways that made the learner feel helpless. Adults will tell these stories and the anger, the embarrassment and the frustration that is so deeply associated with the memory will rise to the surface all over again.

What is it about marks and marking that gives it such a prominent place within our system? The more important question is why do we continue to create situations where a grade, an arbitrary number assigned by one individual to another, has the power to play havoc with lives. One mark can cause a student to miss a high school graduation, to be excluded from an extracurricular program, to lose a summer job, to feel either smart or dumb, a success or a failure.

Unfortunately, our assessment is often used as a 'sort and select' mechanism, keeping students in or out of some category or opportunity. Students frequently feel that

assessment is something that is done TO them. Hence we hear, "That teacher failed me...she doesn't like me", or "There's nothing I can do, this is my mark!"

Such a system (and it has been around a long time) puts tremendous pressure on both students and teachers. Rick Stiggins,



author of "Classroom Assessment for Student Learning: Doing It Right Using It Well" argues that we have spent much of the last decades involved in the assessment OF learning rather than assessment FOR learning.

Stiggins' premise is simple. If we see testing, marking, grading as an end result, that is, only as a measure of what students have learned, it will always be something that we, as teachers, do to kids. Rather, he suggests that the primary user of assessment should be the student! The entire assessment process should be seen as part of (not separate from) the learning process.

Effective assessment, Stiggins says, should

- provide effective feedback to students;
- involve students in their own learning;
- result in adjustments to teaching;
- recognize the effect that

assessment has on motivation and self-esteem;

- recognize the need for students to be able to assess themselves and understand how to improve.

British author Ruth Sutton (Assessment For Learning) also supports the idea that as teachers we need to create a different sort of context for our assessments. How many times have we heard teachers lament about the 'hours of marking' that come with the job. By adjusting our approach, we can help shift the responsibility for assessment from the teacher to the learner. She suggests that we should divide our assessment time in thirds: 1/3 should involve deep and meaningful feedback to students (marking, annotations, conferences, etc.); 1/3 of the assessment should be quick and impressionistic (checklists, observations, ) and 1/3 should be done by someone other than you (peer assessment, self assessment, technology, parents, etc.)

Taking the time to train students in meaningful ways to self assess creates a climate where the learner feels more empowered. Each student has a clearer idea of what needs to be done to achieve success, and Sutton's research suggests that they are much more motivated to do so. Check out her website for great strategies to involve students in self-assessment at [www.aiaa.org.uk/assessment.htm](http://www.aiaa.org.uk/assessment.htm).

There is a great cartoon that shows two kids chatting. One says "If all we are doing is taking tests, do we have to learn anything?" I know that the current assessment climate can suggest to students that that's what learning is...a series of tests, but I challenge teachers to dispel that myth. Let's demystify assessment and involve the student. Let's make assessment FOR learning a part of how we shape the classrooms of New Brunswick. If you are looking for your own



## *(PD Potpourri continued...)*

professional growth goal, why not make learning more about assessment FOR learning part of your learning for this school year?

### Differentiated Grading

While we are on the topic of assessment, Rick Wormeli, a regular contributor to NSMA's Middle Ground, writes a provocative article on the topic of differentiating grades in the August 2004 issue. You may not agree with everything he says, but he will challenge you to examine some of your grading practices. Are they really best for all learners? This would make a great discussion paper at a staff meeting...for any grades.

### Lesson Aids

Every year, the British Columbia Teachers' Federation produces a catalogue of lesson aids which range from full unit plans, to reading response sheets, to CD's. The materials are all listed in the catalogue which is in the NBTF resource center, or online at [www.bctf.ca/LessonAids/](http://www.bctf.ca/LessonAids/). The costs for ordering are reasonable and many of the materials look terrific.

### Active Learning

Teachers of Phys Ed or those involved with extracurricular sport might appreciate two articles from the August **Middle Ground**. *What's*

*Happening in School Sport* is an interesting discussion about some of the trends in middle school sport. *Cultivating Adolescents' Need to Explore* in the same issue shares one school's journey to make its sport program more inclusive.

### Technology: Making it Work

An interesting article and short workshop guide would be valuable to both Principals and technology mentors. It explores the challenge of making the change from using technology for technology's sake, to using technology to enhance learning. Getting there isn't easy. Published in the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) newsletter **Leadership Compass**, the article is titled *Learning From and With Computers*.

### Teacher Exchange: Still a Great PD Opportunity

This school year, two New Brunswick teachers will be exchanging their jobs and homes with teachers in Australia (January-December). If teaching a year in another country or province sounds exciting to you, visit the **Canadian Education Exchange Foundation** website at [www.ceef.ca](http://www.ceef.ca). The coordinator, Carole Wilkins, is very helpful and the NB Department of

Education supports this PD opportunity by paying the application fees for our teachers. You should have 5 years of experience and be a flexible personality. If interested, plan to connect with the NB Exchange Teacher Organization (NBETO), a social network of NB teachers who have done an exchange (and loved it!!) Call me for more details.

### Learning Today - Teaching Tomorrow

We are expecting thousands of New Brunswick's educators to join us in Moncton. Plan to visit your local cenotaph the morning of November 11, then come to Moncton. Check the details of the super social evening and the fabulous keynote speakers. Stay on and shop for the weekend! Just don't miss it! Make cheques payable to Learning Today - Teaching Tomorrow or register online with a credit card. Early registration closes October 8!!

### Closing Quote

As teachers, our challenge comes in two parts: 1) keep students from losing confidence in themselves as learners to begin with, and 2) rekindle confidence among those students who have lost faith in themselves as capable learners.

—Rick Stiggins

## NBTA Sponsored Professional Courses

- Courses offered in locations around the province.
- Check NBTA Website or mustard coloured brochure in your school.
- Registrations for Winter Courses MUST be received by December 1.
- Courses have a limit of 24 seats.
- In order to proceed with most courses, we must have 10 participants, so please register if you have an interest.
- Cheques will not be cashed until the course begins.
- Maximum of 4 NBTA courses allowed toward Cert 5 (combination of NBTA and AICE may not exceed 6 courses)



*Upgrade: It is in your best interest!*



## Elementary Council News

**C**ouncil Day! I've been anticipating the upcoming combined day for ever so long now ... the opportunity to hear informative and motivational speakers ... to reconnect with friends who work in distant locales... to attend the social on Thursday evening — you did register, didn't you?

Elementary schools all over the province have moved into full gear now and the Council is working to reflect the working situations you experience. A survey put out by our curriculum committees enclosed with this issue of *NBTA News*. With the feedback you provide, we will be better able to express to the

Department of Education the varied roles and duties our teachers perform. So, complete your survey and bring it with you on Council Day. Pass it in at the Elementary Council table and we will give you a token of appreciation.

### Upcoming Institute

In December, James Leo Levesque will host a session for primary Immersion teachers on leveling books and shared reading. Watch for the registration form in the November *NBTA News*.

Looking forward to seeing you in Moncton!

*Rona Howald  
President*



## Meet Some Elementary Council Executives

Hi Folks,

Welcome to the first week of October. I hope your first month was great and as fun as ours was here at Port Elgin Regional School. Since we have three members of the Elementary Council Executive here at Port Elgin, I thought I would put faces to the names and introduce you to our council executive a few at a time. We'll start with our Past President, Hazel Coates.



Hazel Coates

Hazel has served on the Elementary Council for five years — one year as Director, two as Vice-President, two years as President, and is currently handing over

the reins and acting in an advisory role to our current President, Rona Howald. Hazel teaches Grade 2 here

at Port Elgin Regional. She lives in Amherst, N.S. and is the mom of two grown boys. She is proud to be mastering the art/sport of golf in her spare time and we here at PERS love her nutty sense of humour and unequivocal skill at performing "The Robot".

My co-author of Elementary Council News and partner is Member-at-large, Natalie Richardson.

This is Natalie's second year on the Elementary Council. She also served on the Curriculum Committee for two years with one of those years as the Curriculum Committee Liaison to the Elementary Council. She enjoys writing the monthly Elementary Council News and welcomes e-mails about things happening in your school.

Natalie teaches Grades 1/2 here at Port Elgin Regional and this summer also taught at a summer reading camp for struggling readers entering grade 3. She is thrilled to report that

every kid in the program improved in his/her reading levels.

Natalie just recently became engaged to be married and plans are underway for her upcoming nuptials. She's hoping to be married next summer. Congratulations, Natalie!

Look for intros of our other council members in future issues of *NBTA News*. As always, we welcome comments and tips for upcoming issues of the Elementary Council News. Please e-mail us at [debsloan@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:debsloan@nbed.nb.ca). Until next time ...

Take care!



Natalie Richardson

*Debbi Sloan  
2nd Vice-President*

# Sussex Corner Elementary Off to a Great Start

I trust that everyone is "falling" into a routine and that the year is going well.

Sussex Corner Elementary School is in full swing with many activities already happening. We have had balloonists here at our school - a hot air balloon right in the gymnasium - imagine. This was in conjunction with the Sussex Balloon Fiesta. Last Friday our school did a walk for Terry Fox and District Six - Year of Healthy Living Initiative.

Once again Sun Life Financial donated \$5000.00 to Sussex Corner Elementary on behalf of its employees and Clarica advisors. Clarica advisor, Mr. Clifford Chestnut from the Clarica Financial Center in Sussex - Saint John, presented S.C.E.S. with the Clarica Education Grant.

The purpose of the grant is to support the Big Buddy Math program, which is a student leadership initiative that directly involves all kindergarten to grade five students. This program began



last year with the initial \$5000.00 grant provided by Clarica, so we are very pleased to be awarded additional funds to enhance our existing endeavor.

Big Buddy Math encourages students who have a high interest in mathematics to assist other students who require extra support or

practise. Funding last year enabled us to focus on grades three through five; this year's additional funding means the program can be extended to students in kindergarten through grade two. Students will receive individual math kits that include hands-on tools called manipulatives. The kits will be used during classroom instruction, and will also be available for students to take home to practise and reinforce their learning by reviewing concepts with their family members.

The primary objective of this endeavor is to develop skills and competencies in the areas of *leadership* and *mathematics*.

*Sandra Tingley  
Sussex Corner Elementary School*

## Deadlines for submission of news to *NBTA News*

- October 22 • November 19 • December 10 • February 4
- March 11 • April 8 • May 13 (Newsflash - 4p) • May 30

## High School Council News



• *High School Council* •

## President's Message



Randy Hunter

On behalf of the NBTA High School Council, I welcome you wholeheartedly to the 2004-2005 school year.

I would like to name the members of the Executive for

this year: Derek Taggart, Shane Hoyt, Malcolm Bowes, Jonathan Hunter,

Lynn Steeves, Judy Comeau, Nancy Vessie, Michael Gunter, Helen Crawford, Grant Hendry, June MacNairn. I would like to publicly thank these dedicated individuals for everything they do for the teachers of this province.

Council Day is November 12. The itinerary looks great and the organizers deserve a huge *thank you*. Have you registered? Have you made accommodation reservations? The last gathering of this magnitude was 12 years ago, so please do your

utmost to attend.

Your Executive will be meeting the evening of November 12 and 13 a.m. We will be setting dates for future meetings and I will inform you of these dates. If you have items you would like to see on the agenda, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of your other members.

I look forward to another great year of working for you. All the best!

Randy

# Introducing Our New High School Council Executive Members

The following teachers, after six years on council, are no longer serving. They include Judy Astle, Dorothy Firth, Peggy Kirkpatrick and Brenda MacPherson. We want to thank them for their dedication, wonderful help and cheerfulness.

We wish to welcome two members to our council who will help fill the void made by the departure of the above. Our new members are Helen Crawford and Grant Hendry. Their biographies have been written by each individual; I would not précis for fear of changing their stories.

**Helen Crawford** was on Educational Leave (2003-2004) and is returning to the classroom to teach at Tobique Valley Middle/High School in Plaster Rock. She served as branch president during the 90's and



Helen Crawford

acted as secretary/treasurer in the 80's. She has been on deferred leave on two different occasions. Helen used her deferred leave to travel and seek new hobbies. During her years of teaching, she has taught in Nigeria, Miramichi, and Tobique Valley. She is looking forward to working with the high school council.

**Grant Hendry** is originally from Ontario. He began his teaching career at MVHS in 1980, in the Science department. From 1985-1989 he taught Science in Blackville. From 1989-1991 he was VP at Millerton Elementary/Junior High.

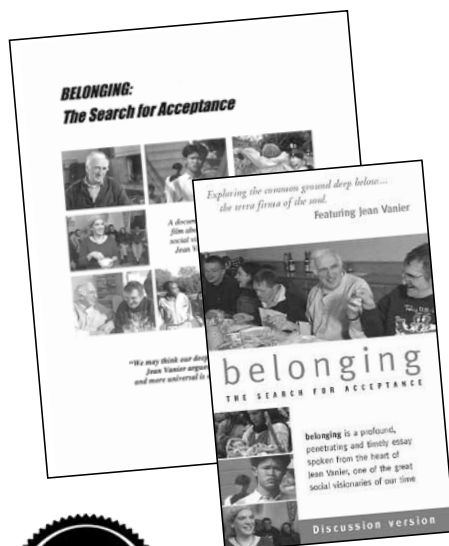
At NSER he was VP from 1991-1995; from 1996 to the present he is a classroom teacher. He has been married 21 years this summer (04) and he is the father of three children. The oldest is a helicopter pilot with the armed forces at CFB in Edmonton. Twins are in Science at UNB/Mt. A. Grant says that family is the most important thing in his life. He is presently the NBTA branch president for District 1608. Grant also says he would rather be in the classroom.



Grant Hendry

Nancy K Vessie  
Communications Officer  
High School Council

## The Social Vision of Jean Vanier



### belonging

THE SEARCH FOR ACCEPTANCE

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905-770-7696



Teacher's guide is CSC approved.



L'Arche Canada



## CSA's Distance Learning Program

**T**he Canadian Space Agency is pleased to offer Canadian educators and students the opportunity to engage in interactive and curriculum-relevant distance learning workshops with our space scientists and engineers.

The CSA's newly established Distance Learning Program aims to bridge the digital divide between the education and scientific communities. Its workshops, delivered by videoconference, support the national mathematics, science and technology standards stated in the Pan-Canadian Protocols. These enriched learning opportunities are available to both

primary and secondary students, and are opened to educators for professional development purposes. All workshops are delivered using the unique theme of space to inspire the next generation to explore the sciences, pursue studies and careers in science and technology and foster a scientifically literate population.

Interested in bringing our scientists and engineers to your class virtually? Please visit the Distance Learning Program portion of our web site for further information at [http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/youth\\_educators/educators/distance.asp](http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/youth_educators/educators/distance.asp)

## Mark Your Calendar!

The New Brunswick Society of Retired Teachers Biennial will be held May 2, 3, and 4, 2005 in Sussex, N.B. A time for business, meeting friends, social events, and fun. Your directors will have information this fall. Plan now.

*Gordon Lewis  
Chair of Host Committee*



## NBTA Annual Bowling Tournament

Where: Bathurst



When: October 15, 16 and 17, 2004

Organizer: Val D'Amours/  
Atholville team

Cost: \$225 per team  
(maximum 3 men out of 5 players)

Questions: Marcellin Lurette  
(753-4114)

Pre-registration: \$45 by Sept. 25

To whom:  
Ola Cormier, 77 Route 933  
Grand Barachois, N.B. E4P 8K6  
(532-0031)



**Information will follow after  
the registration of the team.**



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# National Science and Technology Week (NSTW)

"National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) is a ten-day celebration of science, engineering, and technology. Its goal is to help create an innovative culture that: values entrepreneurship; fosters scientific research; aggressively applies new technologies; and celebrates national science, engineering, and technology achievements ... Events across the country will encourage Canadians of all ages to discover new frontiers, learn something different, and appreciate the contribution that science and technology make to our economy and our way of life."

*Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada (NSERC) website*

NSTW is in its 15th year and will run from Friday, October 15 to Sunday, October 22, 2004, with many events planned by volunteers across Canada, including the Maritimes. Nationally, NSTW '04 will kick off with the Canadian Geoscience Council's "Geoscience

Summit 2004" on October 16 and 17 in Ottawa ([www.geoscience.ca](http://www.geoscience.ca)).

This year, UNBF & UNBSJ (faculties of Science, Engineering, Forestry, Computer Science, & Kinesiology) and Science East, together with the broader S&T community (RPC, NB DNR, NB AFA, CFS, and local S&T industries), are planning numerous activities to celebrate NSTW '04 with the financial help of the S&T community and UNB. UNB also hopes to help teachers further introduce S&T to students at all levels through school visits, lab tours, providing educational resources and contacts, etc. We invite you to contact our various faculties directly with any requests. <http://www.unb.ca/acad-f.html>

NRCan, Industry Canada, NSERC, & NRC have always played a central role in NSTW, although all activities are run at the grassroots level by volunteers from the S&T community. Professional engineering and geoscience organizations across Canada, government departments, several universities, and industry typically get involved.

NRCan's NSTW website ([www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/nstw-snst](http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/nstw-snst)) will be posting all activities by region. S&T is fundamentally important to Canadians (& NBers) and

NSTW is a way to bring that to kids and the general public. If you want to get involved with activities planned at UNB (with Science East & the local S&T community), please watch the website "UNB News" for an update on activities. <http://www.unb.ca/>



## 2004-2005

# Mathieu Da Costa Challenge



**Deadline  
December 10, 2004**

Entries accompanied by the Consent Form must be sent to the Canadian Teachers' Federation and postmarked no later than **December 10, 2004**.



**Contact the Canadian Teachers' Federation for a complete package or visit our Web site at [www.ctf-fce.ca](http://www.ctf-fce.ca):**

2490 Don Reid Dr. Ottawa, ON K1H 1E1 Tel. (613) 232-1505 / Fax (613) 232-1886 / Toll Free 1 866 283-1505 / [jgall@ctf-fce.ca](mailto:jgall@ctf-fce.ca)

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## What you can win

Each winner, accompanied by a parent/guardian, will win a trip to Ottawa, with transportation, hotel and meals included; attend the Awards Ceremony and a cultural evening in Ottawa in February 2005; receive a Certificate of Achievement and prizes.

## What do you have to do?

Tell the stories or illustrate the achievements of people whose work has not been well recognized or celebrated in the history of Canada. Show how specific individuals from Canada's Aboriginal, African and other ethnocultural origins have contributed to the building and development of Canada.

## The categories

One winner from each age group (9-11, 12-14 and 15-18)  
Best Essay or Short Story in English / Best Essay or Short Story in French  
Best Artistic Representation

**Canada**



*CTF supports and endorses the program coordinated by Family Services Canada called Families and Schools Together (F&ST). Coordinated in more than 30 communities across Canada, the program targets children between 5 and 12 who experience academic or behavioural problems in the classroom. The program brings together the children, their families, teachers, school administrators and community workers (such as addiction specialists or social workers) to the school for eight weekly meetings. The meetings are fun and non-threatening...in the form of meals, games, singsongs, and chatting with community workers and teachers. The program is producing serious results — teachers are seeing a decrease in behaviour problems and the students' parents become more engaged in the school.*



## Families and Schools Together (F&ST)

In more than 30 communities across Canada, an innovative family support and prevention program is helping children succeed in school.

Co-ordinated nationally by Family Service Canada, Families and Schools Together (F&ST) targets children between the ages of five and twelve years old who are having academic or behavioural problems in the classroom. The program brings the children, their families, teachers, school administrators and community workers, such as addiction specialists or social workers, to the school for eight weekly meetings.

"I got involved because I agreed with the philosophy of the program," says Jennifer Pirri, a grade 3-4 teacher at Connaught Public School in Ottawa, Ontario. "As teachers we often mention that for a positive learning environment, it is important to have full participation from all three partners: parents, students and teachers. F&ST is a program that allows us to foster this relationship."

Far from being a somber event focused on grades or homework, F&ST meetings are about family fun and community support. Families share a meal, play games, sing songs and meet community workers and teachers in a non-threatening environment.

And while it may seem light and airy on the surface, the F&ST program is producing serious results. According to national evaluations, teachers see an average decrease in child behaviour problems of nearly 20% after the eight-week program, and continued success as families

graduate to F&STWORKS – a 22-month follow-up program led by parents.

"The general in-class work and homework completion of the student improves when they enter the F&ST program," explains Ms. Pirri, who has participated in two F&ST sessions in the past two years. "One particular student, who is now in grade 7, still visits me and shares work that he has completed successfully in his intermediate school. His attitude toward learning really changed during the course of the F&ST program."

Mary Jo Holmes, a school counsellor for grades K to 6 at Margaret Park School in Winnipeg, Manitoba, agrees. She has been working with the F&ST program for the past seven years.

"I believe the program has helped some students gain confidence and self-esteem, so they are making more positive choices," explains Ms. Holmes. "As well, teachers involved in F&ST have told me they enjoy seeing how students from their classes interact with their parents during the F&ST evening. F&ST gives them an insight into family dynamics they may not have had the opportunity to see before."

As an added bonus to all this, parents' involvement and contact with their child's school increased dramatically after participating in the F&ST program, including a 200% increase with respect to volunteerism in the classroom and 198% increase with respect to fundraising.

"This is the part I see as having changed the most," says Ms. Holmes. "Parents have told us they feel part

of the school community now {after F&ST}, where previously they felt afraid to come into the building."

"F&ST is about building relationships," says Judi Varga-Toth, National Programs Manager at Family Service Canada – the organization that oversees training and quality assurance for every F&ST program in Canada.

"Lately, there has been new research showing how parents' involvement with their child's school during their early years is associated with higher grades and lower rates of high school dropout. And F&ST really demonstrates how that works," she says. "By strengthening the relationship between parent and child, and parents and teachers, you are creating a strong support network where children can really flourish."

For more information about the F&ST program, contact Family Service Canada at 1-800-668-7808, or <http://www.familyservicecanada.org/fast/>.



# Certification Update

By Nancy Roach  
roachn@nbnet.nb.ca



## Ways to Acquire Certificate 6

With the recent changes in certification regulations, there are now several approaches that teachers can take to acquire a certificate 6.

- *Masters in Education Degree:* This is the traditional route to a Certificate 6. By completing an approved Masters of Education program from an approved university, a New Brunswick teacher can secure a Certificate 6. The Office of Teacher Certification (Yves King), not the NBTA, must approve the program. Most M.Ed's, with 36 credit hours of work or equivalent, will be accepted. These include programs from both on-line and traditional programs, provided the institutions are recognized by the OTC.

- *Non Masters Certificate 6:* This option can be completed several ways as well. A teacher may complete 30 credit hours of graduate level work, all in the same subject discipline (a teachable area). For example, 30 credit hours in the field of technology, all done at the graduate level, will secure a Certificate 6. However, it is often really hard to find enough courses to satisfy this demand.

The other non-degree option is a bit more complex in its requirements, but may actually be easier to access than the 30 credit hours all in the same discipline. The details below, with examples, may help teachers understand this option. A teacher will need:

- 10 courses (30 credit hours) at the graduate level (6000 level).

The courses may come from any combination of universities (on-line, summer courses, etc.) as long as they are all at the graduate level.

— The courses must result in your getting an additional minor or upgrading a minor to a major. By this, I mean that you have to look at your undergrad courses and identify a teachable area where you have some coursework (let's say you have 4 undergrad courses in English on your transcript). You would need to take 2 additional courses (making a total of 6 courses or 18 credit hours) in English at the 6000 level or 6000 level Education courses related to teaching English. This gives you a new minor! (remember you count both your undergrad courses and the new courses to equal the 6 courses needed for

## Graduate Courses for Teachers

### Upgrade your teacher certification through

- Distance Learning
- Summer Institutes
- Evening and Weekend Classes

### Programs include

- Educational Technology
- Curriculum Studies
- Leadership
- Special Education
- Counselling

### Beginning Online 2004

- Philosophy of Education
- Introduction to Educational Tech.
- Research Literacy
- Curriculum Foundations
- Theoretical Developments in Curriculum Studies
- Principles of Assessment
- Community Perspectives on School and Society

### Summer Institutes 2005

- Inclusive Education (July 7-21)
- Learning and Technology (July 28-August 11)



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## This Year at Science East

In July, Science East presented two Summer Institutes providing elementary and middle school teachers with resources to enhance their science lessons. Our thanks to those who attended for making this year's Institutes the most rewarding yet for all concerned.

For 2004-05, Science East is developing a new series of demonstrations and workshops for students, professional development workshops for teachers, and expanded outreach programs. Look on our web site [www.scienceeast.nb.ca](http://www.scienceeast.nb.ca) or call 457-2340 for more information.

We're looking forward to working with you again this year.

SCIENCE EAST  SCIENCE EAST



*(Certification continued...)*

this minor ... if you only had 3 English courses undergrad you would need to take 3 more. The total has to be 6). It's a case of being able to show that you are now more qualified to teach something!

— Then you need a concentration of 3 courses (9 credit hours) in one of these strands:

Administration, Student Services (i.e., Guidance or Special Ed), Curriculum or General Pedagogy (such as the Human Rights course at STU).

— The remaining courses can be any courses of your choice (as long as they are 6000 level).

Basically, the one big rule is that any Education courses (except Adult Ed) at the 6000 (graduate) level from any accredited university is an eligible course. (This includes most Canadian universities...the American

ones vary and need to be checked by Yves King). This also includes on-line courses.

What this does is allow teachers the chance to check out what's out there (best done by on-line searches or sending for catalogues from universities). We try to advertise what we know in the *NBTA News*, but we can never cover all the options...i.e., UPEI, MUN in Newfoundland, Mt. St. Vincent's, St. FX, etc., as well as UNB and STU. The latter are just venturing into the Graduate level course offerings...I expect this to really help access in the next few years.

Let's say you had the three history courses in your undergrad, and you took 3 graduate level education courses related to either history or social studies as in my first example, you would have the minor and have acquired 3 of your required 10 courses. Now you need a 'concentration' of 3 more courses in either Student Services (Guidance,

for example), Administration, Curriculum or General Pedagogy (i.e., teaching strategies, the Human Rights course from STU that's advertised in *NBTA News*, etc.). Pick an area that interests you and would be useful. Again, these courses can come from **any** university source.

The remaining 4 courses are entirely your choice, again as long as they are 6000 level.

In each case, you need to write or email Yves King and have him approve the course before you take it. You start by writing him and having him open a file on you. He records each course as you take it. Once you have all 10, you fill out a form requesting a Certificate upgrade (available at [www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca) Click on Certification) and he authorizes your certificate upgrade.

It takes time and effort, but I encourage each of you to consider your future. For many reasons, upgrading your certificate is a wise professional move.

## Attention Disorder Clinic

- Childhood and Adult AD/HD Assessments
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## Counselling Services

- Anger and Stress Management
- Self - Esteem
- Relationship Counselling

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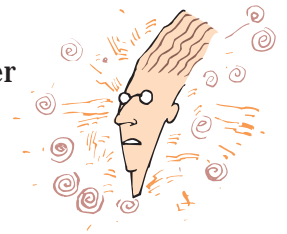


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1-888-763-5050

## Releasing Mind Clutter

**Myth:** I have no control over my day. My boss, my family, and other commitments rule my time.

**Fact:** You are the only one who has control of your time.



*Doing More with Less: How to Get Control of the Time You Have* (Sylvia Patzlaff)

If you

- worry about meeting the expectations of others
- feel a sense of inadequacy
- feel anxious about how others perceive you
- feel guilty about wasted, opportunities missed
- feel guilty about lack of involvement with family or friends
- have unresolved conflicts with co-workers, your partner, family members or others who are important to you
- feel fearful of not doing things perfectly,

then you can focus on what you can control. Ask yourself the following:

- What's the worst thing that will happen if I don't get this done today?
- Do I need to do this or can it be delegated?
- Life is an "unfinishedness", so undone projects are a symbol of my being alive.
- The greatest waste of time is to spend it being stressed or irritated.
- I'm a human being, not a human doing.
- Is this going to make any difference in my life a week from today?

Tips to Release Mind Clutter

- Practice noticing the beauty around you.
- Read good books that have nothing to do with your vocation.
- Develop a hobby.
- Find a way to discover and use your creative talents and energies.
- Spend time each week outside in a quiet, lovely place.

- Remind yourself that you are a human being, not a human doing.



**“What’s the best use of your time right now?”**

*— Alan Lakein*

# Announcements

## Statistics Canada's Online Publication

"Education Matters" is a free, on-line publication released every two months. A source of facts and analysis on education, training and learning, "Education Matters" also offers quick access to the latest education indicators and in-depth research from Statistics Canada. It is an invaluable research tool for policy analysts, researchers, academics and journalists and a key source of information for teachers, parents and many others.

It also links electronically to a wide variety of data, news on education, learning resources and tables, charts and analysis.

You may reproduce any portion of Education News with a mention of the source, Statistics Canada. <http://www.statcan.ca/english/free/pub/81-004-XIE/200409/main.htm>

## Second Canadian Conference on Literacy and Health

This conference will be held October 17-19, 2004 in Ottawa, Ontario. The theme will be *Staying the Course: Literacy and Health in the First Decade*. Addressing health literacy means breaking down the barriers to health that low literacy creates. The preliminary program for the Canadian Public Health Association's Second Canadian Conference on Literacy and Health is now available at <http://www.cpha.ca/literacyandhealth>. The conference will

provide a national forum to discuss what is being done to improve the health of Canadians with low literacy skills in the areas of practice, policy and research.

## Atlantic Canada Conference on Learning Disabilities "Cracking the Code"

Featuring America's top learning expert Dr. Mel Levine, October 15 & 16, 2004, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

For registration materials and program, check the Website <http://ldans.nsnet.org>.

## National Forum on Mathematics Education

"Why Teach Mathematics?" is the overall theme of this forum to be held May 6-8, 2005 on the campus of the University of Toronto.

The purpose of this invitational forum is to develop a national ongoing conversation, among educators at all levels of schooling about important issues and concerns in the development and future of mathematics education in Canada. The projects, initiatives, and statements developed during this forum will be shared widely with policymakers, school divisions, universities, colleges, parents, students, and the general public in a variety of ways.

For further information, contact: Florence Glanfield, University of Saskatchewan, Tel. 306-966-7564, Fax 306-966-7658.

## Ann Connor Brimer Writing Award

The Nova Scotia Library Association is seeking nominations for the 15th annual award, a \$10,000 prize for a children's book which makes an outstanding contribution to children's literature in Atlantic Canada. The purpose of this award is to recognize excellence in writing.

Deadline date for nominations is **October 30, 2004**. For further information, please contact: Lara McAllister, Bedford Public Library, Tel. 902-490-5855, Fax 902-490-5752, E-mail: [mcallil@halifaxpubliclibraries.ca](mailto:mcallil@halifaxpubliclibraries.ca)

## 2005 Anti-Litter Calendar

This calendar is the result of a country-wide contest that was open to students from kindergarten to grade eight. The calendar showcases a total of 13 original pieces of artwork. The Environment and Plastics Industry Council (EPIC) launched the calendar contest in September 2003 in an effort to raise awareness of littering.

There are limited hard copies of the calendar but an electronic version is available from both the EPIC web site ([www.plastics.ca/epic](http://www.plastics.ca/epic)) and the Anti-Litter web site ([www.plastics.ca/anti-litter](http://www.plastics.ca/anti-litter)).

EPIC is looking forward to running the contest again next year. Check the website ([www.plastics.ca/teachers](http://www.plastics.ca/teachers)) regularly for more details.

## Crime Prevention Conference/AGM

The Crime Prevention Association of New Brunswick Conference and Annual General Meeting will be held November 5-6, 2004 in Fredericton, N.B. The theme will be "Crime Prevention Through Social Inclusion 'Everyone Needs to be Involved'."

For further information, contact: Linda Patterson 1-800-665-4900; Joanne Thomson 454-1445.

CARP is Canada's Association for the Fifty-Plus, representing 400,000 members, 50 or over, retired or still working. Its mission is to protect and promote the rights and quality of life for older Canadians. CARP needs your voice! For a free info packet, including a recent issue of Canada's 50Plus magazine, contact:

Wayne and Barb Harrigan  
NB Reps for CARP  
Phone: (506)386-2187  
Fax: (506)860-7235  
e-mail: [wbharrig@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:wbharrig@nb.sympatico.ca)



# Congratulations!

## NBTA Credit Union Scholarship Winners



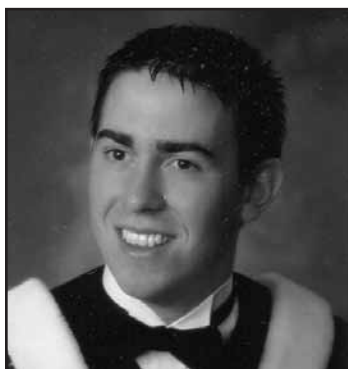
Becky Graham



Courtney Griffin



Katlin McCluskey



Peter Batt



Rosalie McLaughlin



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### NBTA Credit Union 33rd Annual General Meeting

Where?  
NBTF Building, Fredericton

When?  
Thursday, November 18, 2004,  
7:30 pm

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