



November 2011
Vol. LIV No. 2

NEW BRUNSWICK TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

New Teachers Welcomed



Stay Connected



Facebook
New Brunswick Teachers'
Association



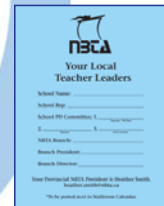
NBTA News
Electronic version on the
website or hard copy



New Look Website
www.nbta.ca



Twitter
@NBTeachersAssn



Local Leaders
Your School Rep, Branch
President, NBTA Director,
PD Committee

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**The deadline for
the next NBTA
News is January 15.
We welcome all
submissions from
teachers!**

A Message from the President



Heather Smith

So... What Does the President Do Anyway?

Have you ever heard this question asked or pondered it yourself? If so, read on. If you have never wondered what the role of the NBTA President is, I invite you to read what I have discovered after two and a half whirlwind months on the job.

My first day was August 2nd. I had my new cell phone, an iPhone, very unlike my antiquated flip phone, and an unfamiliar Mac computer. I sat at my new desk and thought, "Now what do I do?" If I were starting a new teaching position, I would have known exactly where to start. However, I was now in foreign territory!

Within three hours I was on my way to Saint John to welcome over 100 teachers from the Atlantic Provinces to CONTACT, followed the next week by our Leadership Conference which began the process of setting the priorities for my two years as President. During the third week of August, the Executive met for Orientation and our summer meet-

ing. Before I knew it, the school year was beginning. ***By early September, I had learned that this position offers many unique and challenging opportunities, but it also carries with it immense responsibilities.***

If you have been on an NBTA committee, perhaps the NBTA President of the day attended all or part of your meeting ***since he or she is a member of all committees.*** If you have attended a Summer Leadership Conference, you would have heard an NBTA President address the assembled group, and he or she would have presided over the two or three days of meetings. If you have been a member of the Board of Directors or attended the provincial AGM, you would have seen the President acting as chairperson. ***The President has the responsibility to call special meetings when required by the needs of the Association and is the presiding officer of the NBTA.***

Maybe you have heard the President on TV or radio or have read his or her comments in the provincial newspapers. ***The President is the official spokesperson of the Association.*** This doesn't mean that I have the authority to say whatever I please. On the contrary. ***I must adhere to Association policy, Board and AGM decisions.*** Notably, since I speak in the best interest of New Brunswick Anglophone teachers, there may be times when I may have to put my personal beliefs aside. Media training is a must!

Whenever possible, the President attends the funeral of an NBTA member. Sadly, I have attended four such funerals since the beginning of September. This is certainly not a pleasant responsibility of the position. However, I have left each funeral with a feeling of pride in the accomplishments of each of these teachers, and conscious of the love and esteem in which they were held by their colleagues, students, communities, and families.

I invite you to follow my activities

on Twitter since I now 'tweet', another first for me! I have made it my goal to ***attend a Rep meeting in each of the 27 Branches*** during my term as President. I have attended 4 already. My tweets also refer to the many external meetings I attend, where it is vital that the voices of teachers are heard and considered. ***I sit on the Minister's Advisory Committees*** on Early Learning And Childcare and Bullying, and attended the Education Stakeholder's Summit. ***I met with Presidents*** from the Atlantic Provinces and Nunavut and will meet with other Canadian Presidents next month.

I also have a strong belief that NBTA Presidents should be in schools as much as possible. I visited Port Elgin Regional School in October to ***learn firsthand*** how having a Community Health Centre in the same building has benefits for the school. I read to a primary class and loved it! I attended a meeting of the Moncton High School Transition Committee. Over the next 21 months, I hope to visit many more schools.

My days are busy and my workload is challenging. ***I work with a committed, creative and insightful staff*** whose goal is to serve New Brunswick teachers. I am honoured to join them in this endeavour! ***Perhaps most importantly I work for you, the teachers of New Brunswick.*** Feel free to contact me with concerns or comments at heather.smith@nbta.ca

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather".

PS: Meaghan was the only person who answered the "Hink Pink" in my last write-up! I'd love to receive more this time; give it a try. Remember... the answer is two rhyming words.

What do you call a modern song about geography?

NBTA Board of Directors Meet



October 20, 2011 - NBTA President Heather Smith, NBTA Vice-President Adam McKim, and Acting Past President Ronna Gauthier



Dr. Gordon Porter shared with the Board an update on the review of inclusion he is leading on behalf of DOE/ECD. The report is expected to be finalized and submitted to the Minister next month.

New Ways to Stay Connected with the NBTA

by Blake Robichaud, NBTA Staff

Advances in technology, the explosion of electronic communication, and the advent of social media have created huge challenges and opportunities. New modes of staying informed have arrived, but the sheer volume of information available means a message sent is not always a message received. Take into account the frenetic pace of teachers' work and home lives, and it is not always easy for teachers to stay current about their Association. NBTA has made significant changes this fall that offer new, and hopefully user-friendly, ways for teachers to stay up-to-date. At the same time, we do not intend to abandon some more traditional modes of communication that remain effective. In short, we endeavour to offer teachers as many ways as possible to stay connected with the NBTA.

"NBTeachersAssn" on Twitter

The use of Twitter is growing by leaps and bounds. The mainstream media, politicians, and many teacher organizations now use Twitter. It can be described as a personalized newsfeed and provides the opportunity for the NBTA to send extra information to those who select to receive it. We follow the basic rule of limiting our tweets to factual information that may be of interest to members. Most tweets contain links to further information, such as a website, document or article. It is also an additional mode to advise teachers of communiqués, surveys or announcements from the NBTA/F. In these cases, members would be directed to check their e-mail or the members-only site for more information.

Signing up for a Twitter account is quick and easy. There is no requirement or expectation that users tweet and a large number of them never do. Twitter is hard to beat as a method of staying up-to-date on exactly the information that interests you.

You can also follow the President of the NBTA on Twitter ("**HSmith-NBTA**") and there are many wonderful pedagogical sources.



"New Brunswick Teachers' Association" on Facebook

Our tweets are synchronized to appear on Facebook as well. At this point, these posts are "read-only." We are cautious about what information we put on Facebook and Twitter due to their public nature. However, we have thousands of members on Facebook, and we hope that many of them will find it convenient to "like" our page, so our updates will show up in their newsfeeds.

New-look Website at www.nbta.ca

Our tweets are also synchronized to appear in the right hand column of our new-look website. The ones

shown change as newer tweets arrive, but you can always press the "View More on Twitter" button to see all our previous entries.

NBTA News

We encourage members to continue to access the newsletter whether in hard copy or electronically via the website. Beginning with this issue, in order to simplify the distribution to schools, we will be sending out hard copies at a ratio of one for every two teachers in a building. The intent is that these be placed in staff rooms and that teachers feel free to take a copy home. There should be enough copies remaining in common areas for teachers to leaf through when they have the opportunity. If schools wish additional copies they can contact eileen.mcneil@nbta.ca.

E-mails

Our members are deluged by e-mails. The NBTA does not want to add to this burden and therefore, limits the amount of mass e-mails it sends. However, e-mail can still be a very effective communication tool in some circumstances. The NBTA tries to limit its e-mails to information members "need" to know or act upon.

Local Leaders

Communication with the central NBTA, whatever the mode, is, of course, only one pathway for teachers to stay informed. Don't forget to talk to your local NBTA leaders such as: School Reps; School or Branch PD Reps; Branch President; or members on the NBTA Board of Directors.



“Think Before You Post”

Safer Social Networking & Electronic Communication for Teachers



Teachers employ an increasing amount of technology to support the learning of their students. Every teacher communicates through e-mail and thousands of our members also access social media. The NBTA itself utilizes Facebook and Twitter as additional modes to communicate with members, the media and the public. **We do not discourage teachers from using social media.** Electronic communication and social media can be effective and enjoyable tools for teachers, but they must be used cautiously. Here are some simple suggestions to assist you in keeping your experiences positive:

- **Teachers are teachers 24 hours a day:** With this comes added responsibilities that others in the general public do not assume. You may use social networking for private/personal reasons, but your comments can be public and permanent. You cannot take off your “teacher hat” in public comment.
- **Use and Understand Privacy Settings, but...ALWAYS** consider that everything you write could become public.
- **Your relationship with stu-**

dents must be professional, not private. Social media encourages casual dialogue and relationships, but it is too easy to write something that may be perceived as unprofessional or inappropriate. The results could be very serious. Teachers should communicate electronically with students only in a formal fashion, for professional reasons, and through school-approved channels.

- **Teachers should not be Facebook “friends” with students.** Serious concerns could arise relating to Policies 701 (Pupil Protection), 311(Information and Communication Technology Use) and the NBTA Code of Professional Conduct (Ethics). Teachers can be “friendly” with their students, but they should not be “friends” because they have been placed in a special trust relationship and position of authority. Modes of communication have changed, but the boundaries of the teacher-student relationship have not. Teachers should not give electronic advice to students about their personal lives, but leave this to trained Guidance personnel through their officially-endorsed channels.

- **Notify parents/guardians** if you are using social media as a learning tool.
- **Confidentiality:** Events that happen within school or with specific students should not be discussed in any electronic fashion other than formally through proper channels.
- **E-mails:** These communications should be clear (leaving no leeway for misinterpretation), concise, and factual. What is stated in an e-mail is every bit as official as a formal letter in hard copy, so similar care should be exercised. Sensitive/challenging conversations should take place in person or by phone. Access to e-mails relating to students may be requested by parents under the Right to Information Act.
- **A Positive Image:** The thousands of personal interactions between teachers and individuals create the overall positive view of the profession held by the vast majority of the general public. Social media may have an even larger audience and potential to reinforce the positive image of teachers. Teachers should not have inappropriate materials (words or pictures) on their accounts and should monitor what others might post about them. Questionable items should be removed as soon as possible.
- **“Think before you post”** Before pressing “send,” “post” or “tweet” take an extra minute or two to review what you have written.

Also, see tips for students on protecting their online identities — page 29.

NBTA Welcomes New Teachers

September 17th, 2011, saw 43 new teachers along with several Branch Directors, Presidents, and Council Presidents attend NBTA's annual "Welcome to New Teachers Workshop" at the NBTF Building in Fredericton. This workshop allowed participants to connect with fellow professionals as well as to learn information about topics such as pension, legal rights and responsibilities, professional development and the Code of Ethics. A heartfelt **thank you** to all Branch volunteers who promoted this event and who go to great lengths to ensure new teachers feel welcomed and supported as they become part of the New Brunswick Teachers' Association.



NBTA President Heather Smith welcomed new teachers as they arrived for the workshop.



NBTA staff were on hand to answer any questions the new teachers had.

***I found useful...
"The various topics and useful information. Also, seeing everyone who works for NBTA - nice to put a face to a name."***

***I found useful...
"The activities (skits) helped to remember what was being shared. Level of energy was great. Everyone presenting wanted those in attendance to learn."***

"All the information and the ability to talk to everyone in their fields."



Cooperative Discipline Institute for Early Career Teachers

Twenty-four enthusiastic contract and supply teachers attended the Cooperative Discipline institute held at the NBTF Building in Fredericton on October 5th. This NBTA sponsored opportunity for professional development brought teachers from around the province together to learn new strategies and to reflect on current practice. The teachers spent the day learning about 5 main concepts related to classroom management:

- Students choose their behavior
- Behavioral choices are often influenced by classroom management styles
- The 4 goals of misbehavior
- Building self-esteem through encouragement
- Teacher action plan process

The twenty-four participants eagerly engaged in discussions, activities and demonstrations in order to increase their knowledge and skills in the area of classroom management. Thank you to both the participants and the districts and schools who supported them in attending this event.

“I really enjoyed this session. Good information. Easy strategies to implement in the classroom.”



“It was extremely helpful because it was based on experiences from peers and solutions were provided.”

A Tree for Trevor



A tree was planted at Riverview High School in September in remembrance of Trevor Nason who passed away earlier that month. Nason had been featured earlier this year in the NBTA News after winning the Discovery Channel's Iron Science Teacher National Contest.

Fredericton Teacher wins *A Day Made Better* Award from Grand & Toy

by Katy Culberson, Grade 1 Teacher, Park Street School

Every day across Canada, dedicated public school teachers are mentoring our nation's next leaders through creativity, dedication and sometimes even with money from their own pocket to ensure students have the tools to learn.

A Day Made Better is Grand & Toy's way of thanking these unsung heroes and providing them with some long overdue recognition.

"Yesterday was a shock, to say the least. We all entered the gym with our classes for a 'surprise' assembly. The administration would not give us any information regarding the details of the assembly, so we were left guessing.

"I sat down with my grade 1 and 2 students prepared to hear what I thought was an exciting sum-up to our highly successful school fundraiser. Was I ever wrong!

"Grand & Toy took the microphone to fill us in on the big secret, following a brief introduction to the assembly by two of my own grade 2 students. Even this did not tip me off!

"So with a few kind words and an introduction to the meaning of the award, I was called up to the front of the room to sit in my new ergonomic chair with a beautiful bouquet and a large box full of \$1500 of school supplies sitting at my feet.

"My family and children were

there to celebrate with me and the whole school erupted in cheers.

"You can't imagine my shock to have been selected for this award. I was told that I was in the top 3 out of the 17 winners in the country, which was flattering. I'm grateful to have been recognized by Grand & Toy but that is certainly not why I do the things that I do in my classroom. I do it because it is my passion and what I believe my students deserve. They deserve my best so that they can learn to be at their best."

http://www.grandandtoy.com/sites/core/aboutUs_admb.aspx



On October 4th, Katy Culberson, Park Street School, Fredericton, won Grand & Toy's "A Day Made Better" Award.

A Banner Year for Michael O'Toole

In May 2011, Michael O'Toole received one of the NBTA's major provincial awards, the Bell Aliant Award for Excellence in Teaching.

from a News Release by Emily Farlow

Michael O'Toole, from Sugarloaf Senior High School in Campbellton has been recognized by the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence. The Awards honour Canada's outstanding elementary and secondary school teachers who use information and communications technology (ICT) to better equip their students with the skills needed to excel in a 21st-Century society and economy.

With his support, Mr. O'Toole's grade 11 and 12 students take over the airways and live-broadcast from their own in-house radio station, create videos and brochures that raise awareness about drinking and driving, racism and Aboriginal history and learn to support themselves while doing it.

As a recipient of a Certificate of Achievement, Mr. O'Toole will receive a certificate and pin, along with a letter from the Prime Minister.



He will also receive a cash award of \$1,000 that can be used for professional development or equipment, resource materials, website development, teaching aids, or other tools to improve teaching and student learning. Sugarloaf Senior High School will also receive a certificate recognizing its support of, and contribution to, Mr. O'Toole's achievement.

Award recipients were honoured at a ceremony in Ottawa, fittingly held

on World Teachers' Day. The event also marked the launch of the nomination process for the 2011-12 Prime Minister's Awards.

"Great teachers inspire great minds to be their best," said the Honourable Peter Van Loan. "Today, we celebrate outstanding educators who are igniting the curiosity of their students and making Canada a better place, one child at a time."

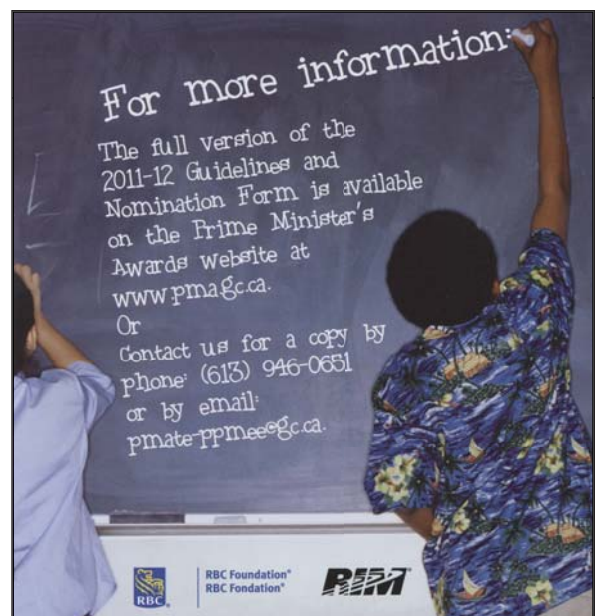
This year, 84 Prime Minister's Awards were presented to teachers and early childhood educators, either individually or to teams, from across Canada. The Awards include 26 national Certificates of Excellence and 58 regional Certificates of Achievement for educational excellence at all levels, from preschool to secondary school. All award recipients were recognized as exceptionally innovative leaders who help students excel and young children get the best possible start in life.

The 2011-2012 Prime Minister's Awards For Excellence in Teaching

Guidelines and nomination forms for the 2011 Prime Minister's Awards for **Teaching Excellence** and **Excellence in Early Childhood Education** are now available at www.pma.gc.ca. Nominate someone today and help ensure that more outstanding Canadian educators receive the recognition they deserve! Nominations will be accepted until **November 30th**.

**Nominations until
November 30, 2011**

www.pma.gc.ca



**From
CTF**

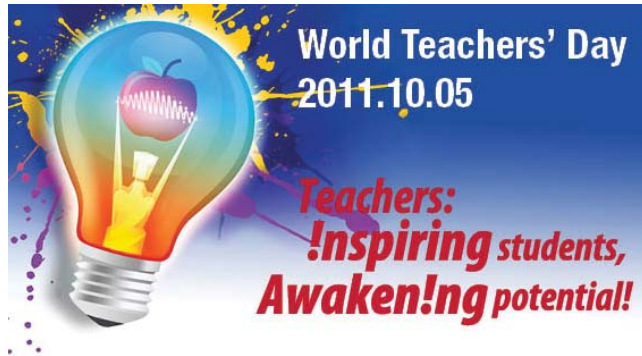
2011 World Teachers' Day

Canadian teachers inspire students, awaken potential

Teachers across Canada joined more than 30 million of their colleagues around the globe marking World Teachers' Day on October 5th. The national theme for this year's celebration was "Teachers: Inspiring Students, Awaken!ng Potential".

"It is the dedication of Canada's well-educated, highly professional teaching force that has created one of the best public education systems in the world," said Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) President Paul Taillefer. "By drawing on their substantial pool of experience, expertise and knowledge, Canadian teachers can continue to enhance public education in order to inspire students and awaken their potential."

Referring to *The Voice of Canadian Teachers on Teaching and Learning*, an extensive report released by the Federation this past summer, the CTF President noted that in a recent na-



tional survey "almost nine out of ten teachers stated their belief that some of the very important purposes of public education include preparing students to become responsible citizens, ensuring that students acquire the basic skills of reading, writing and mathematics, and preparing students to be lifelong learners.

"However," warned Taillefer, "teachers also expressed their frustration that education policy decisions are increasingly being informed by

people with little or no background in education. Often ignored in the debate on the future of public education is the voice of teachers who play such a crucial role in inspiring and educating Canada's future generation."

October 5th, World Teachers' Day, is the annual celebration of the valuable work of teachers in Canada and around the globe. World Teachers' Day was the brainchild of a former Canadian teacher leader, Norman Goble. First recognized in 1994, World Teachers' Day now profiles the work of over 30 million educators around the world.

CTF is the only organization that speaks nationally on behalf of the Canadian teaching profession. An alliance of 17 Member organizations representing nearly 200,000 teachers across the country, CTF is also a member of the international body of teachers, Education International.

GREEN High Schools Program Set to Launch Across Canada

In partnership with the SEEDS Foundation, ECO Canada has launched a new GREEN High Schools program - a national initiative that encourages secondary students to create environmental projects while exploring the wealth of environmental career opportunities available.

According to ECO Canada, a skilled labour shortage in the environmental sector coupled with a growing demand for environmental employees provides a vast array of career opportunities for the next generation of graduates. A recent study produced by Harris/Decima, on behalf of Canon Canada, also reports a growing

56% of secondary students are more than ready to join the ranks of Canada's environmental professionals. However, 51% of those surveyed are unsure of the types of environmental careers available. The GREEN High Schools program attempts to fill this gap by connecting environmental education with career exploration.

Students will be expected to research post-secondary programs and related career opportunities as they engage in activities that:

- Enhance the environment,
- Communicate about the environment, and/or
- Demonstrate the sustainable use of

resources.

This year's pilot program is limited to 50 schools. Participating students, educators, and schools will receive national recognition for their efforts, including a chance to receive a school profile on the ECO Canada website, be featured in national and local media press releases, and receive student certificates of recognition. Interested teachers are encouraged to register early by sending an email to Rebecca Dickson at career.awareness@eco.ca.

www.eco.ca/greenhighschools





by Claire Tremblay; reproduced with permission from Ottawa Life Magazine, September 13, 2011

<http://www.ottawalife.com/index.php/connecting-to-citizenship/>

What do flash mobs, online petitions and Facebook have in common? For the Canadian Teachers' Federation, they are all ways Canadians can express their views in a modern democracy. And the Canadian Teachers' Federation is making sure Canada's students learn to exercise this powerful democratic tool effectively and responsibly.

Digital citizenship – the use of electronic media to effectively express opinions and advocate – is the theme of Media Literacy Week, a joint initiative of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and the Media Awareness Network (MNet) this November. MNet, a non-profit media literacy organization founded in 1996, helps teach youth how the media works through education and awareness programs and digital resources, showing them how to navigate the digital world to become engaged citizens.

For Paul Taillefer, newly appointed President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, educating youth on how to use the Internet to affect positive change is vital.

"While creating blogs, downloading apps and socializing online seems second nature to youth, they don't always think critically about what they are doing," says Taillefer. "They don't necessarily know how they can use these tools...teaching young people how to find and evaluate a wide range of views is essential to producing engaged, well-informed and respectful adults."

Examples of irresponsible use of the internet includes cyberbullying, disrespectful attitudes towards people for differing political views and the promotion of racist, homophobic and sexist attitudes. "All of which are not conducive to nurturing a positive and democratic society," adds Taillefer.

The power of the Internet to mobilize and connect youth is undeniable. For example, social media gave

Canadians a front row seat to the Vancouver riots after the Canucks' loss on June 15 and during last year's G20 riots in Toronto. On both occasions, social media played a role in sharing photographs, video and stories with the media and the public at large. During the Vancouver riots, Facebook and Twitter were used to recruit over 10,000 young volunteers to clean up Vancouver's streets. Social media tools also captured and spread footage of the Vancouver riot Kiss. On the opposite end of the scale, vigilantes used social media to track down suspected rioters to take justice into their own hands.



photo from www.ottawalife.com

To assist its aim of teaching responsible digital citizenship, the CTF will tie its Media Literacy Week activities with its social justice initiative, Imagineaction. Imagineaction helps teachers engage students in social justice projects by offering subsidies of \$750 to help teachers launch education projects related to the environment, democracy, health and/or citizenship education. The programs allow participants to share their social justice projects online through text, pictures, video and other media.

Here's an example of Imagineaction. Students at Avon View High School, Nova Scotia, had identified a new problem at their school and used the project to help resolve it. Students were reporting they did not feel comfortable meeting new students at their school due to the existence of

several cliques (social groups). The students and their teacher initiated an Imagineaction project called "real-friends." Together the students used technology to put together a book written by students and edited by their teacher.

Teachers play an important role in promoting responsible digital citizenship on a daily basis. They are increasingly integrating media and digital literacy in the classroom. Cell phones, iPods and Web 2 tools are used to engage students in group discussions, media productions, digital art projects and community group projects.

Taillefer points to some great web sites to help students exercise their digital citizenship including Student Vote, Canadian Youth Politics, Rock the Vote and Facebook groups including Canadian Youth for Respectful Democracy, Political Education for Youth and Hand in Hand for Peace. Student Vote, for instance, is a non-profit and non-partisan organization that aims to help young Canadians learn how to exercise their democratic rights. The web site has conducted eleven parallel elections of youth since 2003. Canadian Youth Politics acts as a discussion board for young people in Canada while Rock the Vote engages youth in political advocacy and encourages voter registration.

Organizations working with the Canadian Teachers' Federation's Media Literacy Week this November include the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), the Manitoba Teachers' Society (MTS), the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association (NLTA), the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU), the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA).

www.media-awareness.ca







Your Responses About NBTA's Election by Electronic Means

In May 2011, the NBTA conducted an online Zoomerang survey of members requesting feedback on our first-ever provincial election carried out by electronic means. Over 1350 teachers assisted us by responding. The information was shared with the NBTA Nomination Committee and Board of Directors to help guide their recommendations and decision-making regarding the mode of future elections. Teachers are very busy so the NBTA uses surveys sparingly.

1. Did you vote in the recent election for NBTA Vice-President?



Yes		1197	91%
No		123	9%
Total		1320	100%

2. *If you DID VOTE please proceed to Question # 3. If you DID NOT VOTE, please check the box below which would best describe the main reason. If "other," please check off and specify. Please also write any additional comments in the box provided.



Confidentiality concerns		4	3%
Lack of interest		5	4%
Too busy		12	10%
Lack of information		19	15%
Technical difficulties		14	11%
Other, please specify and/or add additional comments*		72	57%
Total		126	100%

* 3/4 of respondents who clicked "Other" identified some form of "I forgot."

3. Prior to the voting, do you believe you received adequate basic election information?



Yes		1212	92%
No		105	8%
Total		1317	100%
73 Responses			

4. Did you feel that the actual voting procedure on the website worked well?



Yes		1210	95%
No		65	5%
Total		1275	100%
149 Responses			

Your Responses About NBTA's Election by Electronic Means






5. Did you feel you had adequate information about the candidates and their views to make an informed decision?

Yes		1137	87%
No		169	13%
Total		1306	100%






6. On the electronic ballot, do you believe there should have been an option to check a box labelled "abstention/spoiled ballot" for members wishing to express dissatisfaction?

Yes		464	36%
No		835	64%
Total		1299	100%
88 Responses			



7. This year's election followed the tradition, used for paper balloting, of allowing 5 days for voting. What length of time do you feel should be allocated for voting?

5 days		889	67%
4 days		14	1%
3 days		100	8%
2 days		83	6%
No opinion		237	18%
Total		1323	100%

8. Overall, the way the April 2011 NBTA election was conducted was:

1 Poor		15	1%
2 Fair		45	3%
3 Good		239	18%
4 Very Good		595	45%
5 Excellent		422	32%
Total		1316	100%

9. What method should the NBTA use for future provincial elections?

Paper ballots		83	6%
Electronic		1235	94%
Total		1318	100%

2011-2012 NBTA Pension Seminars Registration

Date of Seminar:

- _____ November 23 - St. Stephen, St. Stephen High
- _____ December 3 - Saint John, Simonds High
- _____ January 7 - Fredericton, NBTF Building
- _____ January 21 - Miramichi, Dr. Losier Middle School
- _____ February 4 - Sussex, Sussex High School

Deadline for Registration:

- November 16
- November 25
- December 22
- January 13
- January 27

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

Mailing Address: _____ Dist. _____

_____ Name of Spouse (if attending) _____

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

No. of pension years you will have accumulated to June 2011 _____ Certificate Level: _____

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

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

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

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

Signature: _____

Seminar Guidelines

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

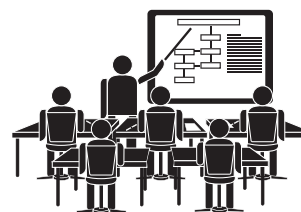
1. All participants must pre-register.
2. A registration fee of \$5.00 for each participant must accompany the application; however, cheques will not be cashed until after the workshop.
3. Travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the participant.
4. A nutrition break will be provided.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

Michael Ketchum
NBTA Staff Officer
New Brunswick Teachers' Association
P.O. Box 752
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6 (Tel. 452-1722)

6. Any interested teachers are eligible to attend.
7. All workshops begin with registration at 8:30 am and sessions at 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. (Except St. Stephen, where registration will begin at 4:30pm -- Seminar at 5:00pm)

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



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

Got Breakfast? NBTA Equity in Education Take on Breakfast!

by Jamie Thibodeau and Lisa Rogers

Two St. Thomas University social work students are teaming up with the NBTA Equity in Education Committee to create awareness of the connection between hunger and learning. Through researching family poverty, nutrition policies, and existing breakfast programs, we are working on developing a breakfast program manual for public schools in New Brunswick (K-12). The Breakfast Manual will include sections regarding research, steps for starting a program in your school, tips and strategies, types of breakfast programs, funding, and resources available.

***But...we still
need your help!***



We are looking to intersperse stories throughout the Breakfast Program Manual that will connect with and inspire teachers. We want to include both stories about successful Breakfast Programs and their benefits, as well as stories about children who are in need of them. Teachers can connect with stories about

children who are coming to school hungry because they experience it every-day. We want to encourage schools to take action by including stories of how children excel when they are fed nutritious foods.

If you know of any stories like these that could be included in our manual, your help would be greatly appreciated. Keep in mind that we understand the

role of confidentiality in making this manual and will uphold it when adding these stories.

So if you have any feedback, questions, or stories you would like to share, please feel free to email them to Lisa and Jamie at: breakfastmanual@nbta.ca or Kim at: kim.mckay@nbta.ca.

Pride Parade - Saint John



School-Based Learning Team Grants 2012

In a true Learning Community, everyone learns.

- **What is a School-Based Learning Team?**

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

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

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

- **What is a School-Based Learning Team Grant?**

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

- **What is the purpose of the grant?**

The grant is intended to support the work of the Learning Team.

Such support may include providing some release time for the team to meet, purchasing resources to support the efforts of the team, accessing expertise in the form of resource people, etc.

- **How often should the team meet?**

The SBLT grant extends from the calendar year January to December 2012. The team is required to meet a minimum of 18 hours throughout the year for which the grant has been awarded. Team members determine when the meetings will take place.

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

- **How is a SBLT different from a study group?**

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

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

Yes. The Staff Officer for Professional Issues for the NBTA will meet with each Learning Team to help them launch their work. A template for recording the work of the team will be provided and protocols for examining student work will be introduced. These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for both accountability and productivity

but will not restrict the direction and creativity of the team.

- **How many grants will be available?**

For the calendar year January 2012 – December 2012, there will be five \$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 application to be received is December 12,

2011. Successful applicants will be notified by email by January 13, 2012.

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

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

The guiding question of a School Based-Learning Team is:
“What is happening differently in our classrooms as a result of what we are doing and learning in our Team?”

See application on following page.

NBTA School-Based Learning Team Grants 2012

Application Form

School: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Name of Team Contact Person: _____

Email for Contact Person: _____

Title of Your Team Project: _____

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?

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

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

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

Comment on the schedule your team will develop for completing the minimum 18 hours of meeting time for your team between January and December 2012.

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

Send completed application form to: **Kimberley McKay, Staff Officer for Professional Issues, NBTA
PO Box 752, Fredericton, NB E3B 5R6**

Deadline for receipt of applications: December 12, 2011

Successful schools will be notified by January 13, 2012. An NBTA Committee will base selection on factors including the thoughtful development of the application form, distribution of various levels (K-12) and geographic considerations.

***Welcome to the first edition of the POINT page.
This page will be dedicated to the challenges and
opportunities of early career teachers.***

Congratulations! You have chosen a career full of opportunities, challenges, pure joy (and at times, pure frustration!) As an early career teacher in New Brunswick, you bring many talents to our classrooms. Your enthusiasm for learning, your belief in students, your efforts in making connections, and your professionalism make you a tremendous asset to our schools. Thank you for choosing to teach.

Introduction to POINT

The New Brunswick Teachers' Association recognizes the importance of supporting new teachers as they develop their professional identity, reflect on their professional practice, and purposefully seek out formal & informal cultures of learning. To this end, NBTA will continue to provide funding to Branches to assist with new teacher initiatives.

WHAT?

POINT stands for the **Professional Orientation and Induction of New Teachers**. POINT is not a "pre-packaged" program but rather is the banner name for any activity or event that NBTA funds in support of new teachers.

WHO?

The target audience for POINT will be new teachers who possess a first-time contract, a long-term supply or are in the first year of teaching in New Brunswick.

WHEN?

Each branch will be given a small sum of money to support contact with new teachers. It is suggested that funds be used to support initial contact with teachers near the beginning of the school year, as well as a second contact during the winter months that traditionally can be more challenging for new teachers.

Final Considerations

The majority of new teachers are eager to grow, to share some of their own knowledge, to foster student achievement and to feel like they are a genuine part of the school culture. Teacher induction goes a long way to supporting them in reaching this goal. Further, "the tradition that as a beginner you cope is not a tradition that any professional should accept." (Ramsey, 2005)

Congratulations to our Winners!

NBTA Registration Prize Draws

September 15th

Weekend for 2 at Ramada Fredericton

Megan Keehn – Coles Island School

**Winners of iTunes Gift Card
or NBTA Logo Product**

Terry Munn – Simonds High

Carole LaPointe-Nowak – Harvey Elementary

Samantha Robichaud – Lower Lincoln Elementary

Eleanor Brown – Superior Middle

Ellen Whittaker-Brown – District 6

Shane Hoyt – Leo Hayes High

Catherine Glencross – Port Elgin Regional

Christopher Matheson – Miramichi Valley High

Tracey Johnston – Florenceville Middle

Mary Ellen Lee – St. George Elementary

October 1st

iPad 2

Tanya Campbell – Bessborough School, Moncton

**Winners of iTunes Gift Card
or NBTA Logo Product**

Debbie May – Chipman Forest Avenue School

Michael Butler – Barnhill Memorial School

Anie Cormier – Harrison Trimble High

Deborah Giberson – Bathurst High

Robyn Slipp – Supply Teacher, District 17

Katherine Campbell – MacAdam Avenue School

Lynn Carney – North & South Esk Elementary

Mona Blais – John Caldwell School

Susan Crossley – Kennebecassis Valley High School

Alyson Forbes – Vincent Massey Elementary

Enter for
a chance to **WIN**
1 of 5 gift cards valued at
\$1,000

Exclusively for NBTF active and retired members. Simply request a home or auto insurance quote by December 1, 2011 for your chance to win a gift card from a retailer of your choice. (Existing policyholders are automatically entered.)

www.johnson.ca/nbtf | 1.800.563.0677 (Provide Group ID Code: 63)

Johnson Inc. – Proud to be One of Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2011*.

Home and auto insurance is available through Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance agency. Policies are primarily underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company (Unifund). Unifund and Johnson Inc. share common ownership. Contest runs from February 1st to December 1st, 2011. No purchase necessary. Existing policyholders are automatically entered in the contest. The contest is open to New Brunswick Teachers' Federation members. One (1) \$1,000 gift card will be awarded to each winner. Chances of winning depend on the number of entries received. Winners must correctly answer a skill-testing question. Certain conditions may apply. Visit www.johnson.ca/nbtf for full contest details. *Mediacorp Canada Inc. MVM August 2011

JOHNSON 



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NBTA Committees

Direct Input from Teachers

**Member of the NBTA Board of Directors*

Ad Hoc 21st Century Learning Committee

Jason Reath	Riverview (RHS)
John Irvine	Woodstock (WMS)
Nic Boucher	Minto (ME/MS)
Jane Fiander	Harvey Station (HHS)
Judith Haley	St. Stephen (MES)
Sara Currie	Saint John (LLS)
Karla Roy	Fredericton (PSS)
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Melinda Cook	NBTA Staff
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Remainder TBA	

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Cheryl Richardson	Miramichi (HMS)
Lise Martin-Keilty	Fredericton (GSMS)

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Janice Bueno	Riverview (FLBS)
Donna Losier	Bathurst (PHES)
Erica LeBlanc	Oromocto (SSES)
Roberte Melanson	Fredericton (BCMS)
Karla Roy	Fredericton (PSS)



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on Key Issues

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Barbara Brown	Miramichi (IBPS)
Paul Mourant*	Rexton (EWGMS)
Blake Robichaud	NBTA Staff



NBTA thanks all those teachers volunteering their time and energy to serve their Association, whether it is on a provincial committee or at the local level!

“Learning to Focus on our Strengths”

by Ardith Shirley, NBTA Staff Officer - Professional Development

“Great learners question the labels given them and ultimately know that they must be the authors of their own lives.” — Kirsten Olson

As I prepared to write down a few thoughts for this month's news, a couple of events contributed to my thinking. On October 5th, I listened to the CBC interview by Terry Seguin of New Brunswicker **Dr. David Bardsley** author of *The Less Than Perfect Child*. (To hear the interview for yourself, the podcast is available at: <http://www.cbc.ca/information-morningfredericton/2011/10/05/dr-david-bardsley/>)

Dr. Bardsley's story is a remarkable one to say the least. As a child growing up here in NB in the 1950s, he was diagnosed as being “mentally retarded” and even institutionalized. At one point near the end of the interview Terry asks Dr. Bardsley how he believes he overcame the odds to become a very successful dental surgeon in Vancouver. He is quick to respond and credit the support of his parents. “They insisted that I focus on my ability rather than my disability.” His parents also noted that his behaviours improved after vigorous physical activity and followed their gut to insist that his job every day was to “play as hard as you can.”

Dr. Bardsley believes that this optimism and focus on physical fitness allowed him to overcome his challenges and eventually make his way through university and medical school. It was over 20 years, later and rather by accident, that Dr. Bardsley finally discovered that what he actually had was Turette's Syndrome. Listening to Dr. Bardsley describe his thoughts and feelings from the perspective of a “strange

little child” is something from which every teacher and parent can benefit.

The second event that has shaped my learning this month occurred on the evening of October 13th when I attended a public lecture at UNB by Dr. Kieran Eagan. Dr. Eagan is the author of the recent book, *Learning in Depth: A simple innovation that can transform schooling*. Dr. Eagan's work at Simon Fraser University has inspired many to abandon some of their more traditional school structures, with curriculum miles wide and millimeters deep, in favour of students studying one topic “in-depth” for their entire K-12 experience. The idea is not that curriculum is ignored, but rather that it forces both students and educators to think “outside the box” in order to meet curricular outcomes through the lens of the students' assigned topic. I have to confess that when I first read Dr. Eagan's work I was more than a bit skeptical. It was during his lecture that a light bulb went off in my head and I realized that the basic premise of “in-depth” learning is that it is SO different from our usual approach and school structure that it forces the entire system to adjust and accommodate. Perhaps it really isn't about the topic after all, but the learning process we use to explore. I left the lecture not completely sold, but certainly intrigued and wanting to know more...

Council Day 2012

It may seem like May 4, 2012 is still a long way away, but our three Councils are already working very hard to provide three quality programs at three sites in the province on our Council Day. (See locations and specifics below.)

This year, our Councils are pleased to continue their recruitment strategy for session presenters – there is currently a

call for proposals to present at any of our three Council Day Programs posted on our website.

If you have expertise that you would be willing to share with your NB colleagues, we welcome you to apply using the specifics as outlined in the *Agreement of Service* that is found under the *Council Day* icon.

Should your proposal be accepted, confirmation of your inclusion in the Council Day Program could be expected by February.

We know that there are many NB teachers who have phenomenal expertise to share with their colleagues...**we need you!**

Share Your Expertise!

Mark Your Calendar!
Council Day 2012, Friday, May 4th

Presenters Needed!

Elementary & Phys. Ed. Specialist Strand – Moncton
Middle Level & Art Specialist Strand – Fredericton
High School & Music Specialist Strand – Saint John

Do you have expertise that you are willing to share with your colleagues? Why not answer the Council's Call for Proposals and offer a session as part of one of our Council Day Programs? Go to www.nbta.ca. Click on:



May I Recommend?

The August 2011 issue of *Middle Ground* is a great source of professional reading worthy of your time. Two of my favourite articles were: *Spotlight on Student Led Conferences* by Amy Brady and *Building Our Data Analysis Skills* by Rick Wormeli. Both of these articles remind teachers about the complexity and considerations that come with grading and communication regarding our students learning with their loved ones. (A nice reminder that it really shouldn't be taken for granted or assumed as an important skill set for educators.)

Kappan magazine's September 2011 issue contains a great article titled "*I Learned to Believe in Me*" by Kirsten Olsen. (I actually stole my opening quote for this article from here.) In four short pages, Ms. Olsen explores the findings of 10 years of research into the learning experiences of what she terms "great and resilient" learners. She contends that understanding these characteristics can help individual learners understand what is required to improve their own learning as well as show schools how to support learners of all kinds. (Certainly many links between this work and Universal Design for Learning or UDL work.) A nice addition is that *Kappan* now produces a professional development discussion guide with each of its issues that lends itself well for use as an activity for a school based professional development activity.

The September issue of *Educational Leadership* is titled *Promoting Respectful Schools*. There are two articles in this issue that I choose to highlight for you:

Respect – Where Do We Start by Marie-Nathalie Beaudoin makes the link between the respectful behavior of students in a school to the well being of staff and the health of their professional relationships.

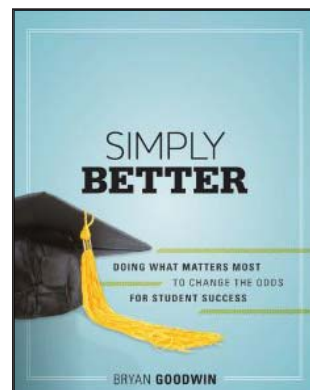
The Threat of Accountabalism by Phillip Schlechty is a well written 2-page commentary on the concerns he has with the obsession with "accountability" in our public school system that only focuses on standardized test scores. While clearly a US lens, many of his ideas apply in our NB context as well.

Book Give-Away!

Congratulations to last month's book draw winner – Bonnie Demmons of Harry Miller Middle School in School District 6. A copy of "*Teaching Boys Who Struggle in School*" by Kathleen Palmer Cleveland. is on its way to you, Bonnie!

This month we are giving away a copy of *Simply Better: Doing What Matters Most to Change the Odds for Student Success* by Bryan Goodwin.

In order to have a chance to win, simply drop me an email at the email address below before **Friday, December 23rd** with the subject line – Book Give-Away.



Website of the Month:

Project-based learning is certainly a topic that has been top of mind for NB educators for a while now. Another permutation of that same idea is "Place-based learning". Curious? Check out this link:

<http://www.edutopia.org/place-based-learning-measures>

Closing Quote:

"Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid."

— Albert Einstein

Councils

Elementary Council

by Barb Schofield and Teena Allison, Kindergarten Teachers, St. Andrew's Elementary School

Delivering an effective Literacy program in Kindergarten, at Saint Andrew's Elementary, requires a lot of patience, guidance, and repetition, along with the use of multiple resources. On a daily basis we listen to the alphabet song and practice our Zoo Phonics letters, sounds, and signals. In our Kindergarten classroom, we use *The Wright Skills Kit* along with many other resources to help us meet many of the literacy expectations. Each of these lessons is reinforced with Smartboard visuals so students can see and hear what they are learning.

The Daily 5 has proven to be a very effective resource in our classroom. Students are exposed to and practice many aspects of literacy on a daily basis using this program.

We also follow the Lucy Calkins writing program. Before we teach a lesson from the Lucy Calkins program, we model what we want our students to do so they too can become independent writers. Often times, it is the students telling us which letters to write down because they help with stretching out each word.

We use every opportunity available to have 'teaching moments'. For

example, when we do our daily calendar, we sing the days of the week song and introduce the number 7 to go with. These moments are taught throughout the day, in every subject.

Teamwork and respect are also very important in Kindergarten so that every child learns in a positive and stress free environment. As Kindergarten teachers, we work very well collaboratively to make sure both classes are getting the best of both worlds. Two heads are better than one. Team teaching is also effective when routines are established.

Middle Level Council

Diary of a Middle School Teacher

by John Irvine, Woodstock Middle School

The following stories and anecdotes are not about one particular school or student but a compilation of three decades of teaching comprised of twenty-nine years at the Middle School level.

July 8th,
Dear Diary,

Another school year has just ended and vacation is now underway. Decided to take a little get away trip to Bangor and walked into a famous national department store chain. There it sat, a major display of school supplies and a large sign that read, "Back to School." I cringed.



September 9th,
Dear Diary,

Another year has begun and the first week is almost over. This is my 31st year of teaching and I get that same feeling of anticipation every year. Although for some reason there seem to be far more aches and pains in the joints than there used to be.

I am always amazed and surprised how students today are far more bold and confident in their opinions and what they will say to a teacher. Three lovely grade eight girls came up to me today during my lunchtime duty in the cafeteria and asked me the following question,

"Mr. Irvine, if you had a personal hygiene issue would you want us to tell you?"

My mind raced as I thought of all the possible problems I could have. With fear and trepidation I told them that I would want to know.

"Well, you have nose hair."

Yes my age is truly showing. I am growing hair where I don't want it while I can't seem to grow enough on the top of my head. I had a laugh with them and thanked them for their keen observation. Such are middle school students in the year 2011.

October 10th,
Dear Diary,

Thanksgiving has already arrived. I have so much to be thankful for including good health, three great children and a wonderful wife, and yes, I am very thankful to be a teacher. Daily, I work with many incredible young people and colleagues. Although we all have challenging days, we are blessed, indeed privileged, to have the opportunity to make an impact in the lives of children.



Councils

Middle Level Council Day - Friday, May 4th

Our local committee, which consists of Lise Martin-Keilty, Sarah Brooks, Heather Ingalls, Diane Russell, Janet Robinson, Wendy Hubert and Pierre Plourde, have already met and started to plan this wonderful day in downtown Fredericton.

Who? Middle level teachers and Art specialists from across the province.

Where? George Street Middle School & Fredericton's new convention centre.

Theme: The Art and Heart Teaching

Keynote: Debbie Silver

Debbie Silver is an award-winning educator with 30 years experience as a classroom teacher, staff development instructor, and university professor. Her numerous recognitions include being named the *Louisiana State Teacher of the Year*. Along the way she

has taught almost every grade level and most every kind of student.

Dr. Silver has been an invited author for several educational journals and has given keynotes at state, national, and international conferences in 49 states, Canada, Europe, and Asia. She has been a featured teacher for the *PBS OnLine Teacher Chat* and for KDS (Knowledge Delivery Systems).



Debbie's book, *Drumming to the Beat of Different Marchers: Finding the Rhythm for Teaching Differentiated Learning*, has just been updated and re-released by Incentive Publications. Songs she co-wrote with Monte Selby are featured on his CDs. She is married to Dr. Lawrence Silver, and together they have 5 sons.

Host Hotel: Crowne Plaza, Downtown Fredericton... start booking now, rooms have been blocked off until March Break.

Sessions: We have over 20 sessions and tours already booked in many different areas. If you have expertise, or something to share, please contact one of our committee members.

Looking forward to learning with you this spring at Council Day 2012.

High School Council

by Shane Sturgeon, High School Council Communications

The High School Council Executive met in Fredericton on September 23. The 2011-12 High School Council is comprised of:

- President: Angela Murphy
- Vice-President: Sheridan Mawhinney
- Secretary: Alice Walker
- Treasurer: Marla Anderson
- Past President: Randy Hunter
- Registrar: Shane Hoyt
- On-Site Chair: Paul Lenarczyk
- PD Chair: Jane Porter
- Communications: Shane Sturgeon
- Program: Adam Trider
- Member at Large: Mary Anderson
- Member at Large: Shyann Watters

This year's High School Council Day Conference will be held in Saint John on Friday, May 4, 2012 and will host the Music Strand this year. Rafe

Esquith and Brian Thwaits have been booked as keynotes and it would be worth your while to check them out on Youtube. If you are interested in presenting, please contact Adam Trider (adam.trider@nbed.nb.ca) for further details.

Dr. Doug Fisher will be presenting a literacy institute on Friday, April 27, 2012, at the NBTA building in Fredericton. It is a joint Middle Level/High School Council institute entitled *Better Learning Through Structured Teaching*. The registration deadline is Monday, April 2, 2012. Please contact Jane Porter for more details (jane.porter@nbed.nb.ca). **Also, see following page.**

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter (@NBTAHSCouncil) for more updates regarding High School Council activities and Council Day information. See you in Saint John!



Better Learning Through Structured Teaching

A Joint Middle Level/High School Council Institute

What?

Building student competence requires precision teaching and not prescriptive methods for engaging students. This session focuses on the Gradual Release of Responsibility and provides participants with information about implementation of an instructional framework that ensures student success, including establishing purpose, modeling thinking, guiding instruction, productive group work, and independent learning tasks. We will examine the outcomes of high quality instruction, including increases in student achievement and decreases in attendance problems.

Purpose and Objectives

- 1) To introduce a structured teaching model based on the Gradual Release of Responsibility
- 2) To view classroom video footage, and discuss with peers, the instructional moves that develop student competence
- 3) Determine what to look for, based on the Gradual Release of Responsibility, in classroom observations

Where?

NBTF Building
650 Montgomery Street
Fredericton, NB

When?

Friday, April 27, 2012 (9:00 am to 4:00 pm)

Presenter:

Douglas Fisher, Ph.D., is a Professor of Language and Literacy Education in the Department of Teacher Education at San Diego State University and a classroom teacher at Health Sciences High & Middle College. He is a member of the California Reading Hall of Fame and is the recipient of an International Reading Association Celebrate Literacy Award, the Farmer Award for Excellence in Writing from the National Council of Teachers of English, as well as a Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education. He has published numerous articles and books on school-wide approaches to improving student achievement, reading and literacy, differentiated instruction, assessment, and curriculum design. He is a board member of the Literacy Research Association (formerly the National Reading Conference) and co-editor of NCTE's middle level journal, *Voices from the Middle*. He is highly sought after for his dynamic and engaging professional development workshops.



Questions:

Jane Porter (jane.porter@nbed.nb.ca)
Hartland Community School, 217 Rockland Road
Hartland, NB E7P 0A2

Registration Deadline: April 2, 2012

Better Learning Through Structured Teaching

A Joint Middle Level/High School Council Institute

Friday, April 27, 2012

NBTF Building, 650 Montgomery Street
Fredericton, NB

Name: _____

School: _____

Phone Number: _____

Position: _____

Email: _____

Meal Preference (Circle one): Vegetarian Regular

\$25 made payable to **High School Council** (break and lunch included). Send cheque to:

Jane Porter, Hartland Community School
217 Rockland Road, Hartland, NB E7P 0A2

Registration Deadline: April 2, 2012

Wellness Highlights

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING SERVICE FOR TEACHERS



How WELLthy are you?

Wellness should encompass our whole being. Our physical, social, spiritual and psychological needs are inter-related and to achieve an optimum level of health, we should adopt proactive habits that nurture our whole person. If we neglect even one area, we can become out-of-balance. And if we are out-of-balance, illnesses may develop both mentally and physically.

To maintain balance, we need to look after our physical body, our emotional needs, and our inner self. This may seem like quite a daunting task, given our very busy schedules at school and at home. There are times when we must make ourselves our priority. The Wellness Program was created within the Professional Counselling Service for Teachers to encourage and assist teachers and school staffs to take time to focus on their own wellness. The role of school wellness representatives is to promote wellness within schools but they can't do it alone. Your input and suggestions are needed so share them with your rep. If you can help organize a staff activity, I can assure you the assistance will be appreciated. Taking time to enjoy a lunch, participating in Secret Spook/Santa/Pal, doing Zumba, or geocaching with your co-workers are some examples of wellness activities. Some may focus on fitness and healthy eating while others are just plain fun and provide an opportunity to have time together to share some laughs.

One of the big challenges school wellness reps encounter is getting people involved. It is unrealistic to think that every staff member will participate in all wellness activities. But we do encourage you to take advantage of and participate in those things that you do enjoy, or be bold, try something brand new. You might be surprised at how much fun you have!

Our District Wellness Facilitators are also committed to promoting wellness. They plan the rep meetings and they are responsible for creating the monthly WOW newsletter. They are a part of our team that provides vision and ideas for new initiatives to continuously enhance our current program. They also provide support to our wellness reps when needed.

Make getting WELLthy a priority for you this year. See what is happening in your school or offer to help organize something for your staff. Your MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT will benefit!



Wellness Facilitators

- District 2** Neil Boyce, Chantal Frenette, Chris Platis
- District 6** Kathy Aubin-Martin, Michelle Brenton & Heather Whittaker
- District 8** Sandra Harrington, Ann McAloney, Jill Roach
- District 10** Ellie Lord, Jonathan Logan
- District 14** Lisa Doucette, Joy Hanson, Lorelei Purvis, Mary Turnbull
- District 15** Randy Hunter, Sandra Lavigne
- District 16** Andrew Stewart, Rob Woodburn
- District 17** Robin Buchanan, Janice Shaw
- District 18** Dawn Decourcey, Stephen Everett, Mark Garnett, Kathy Szo

Carmen Meehan

Coordinator, Districts 6, 8, 10
1-800-563-3938
634-2901
carmen.meehan@nb.aibn.com

Michael LeBlanc

Districts 14, 17, 18
1-800-561-1727
462-0208
michael.leblanc@nb.aibn.com

Lisa Calhoun

Districts 2, 15, 16
1-888-763-5050
855-5243
lisa.calhoun@nb.aibn.com

NBTA Board of Directors Meet



How can you help kids protect themselves and their futures online?

submitted by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada



Today's world is vastly different from that of a generation ago. Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than when it comes to information and communications technology, and media. And without question, today's youth are the first in line to deal with the effects of this change.

A generation ago, when teachers and other community leaders talked to kids about media awareness, it had to do with how onscreen images and advertisements could affect how they viewed the world and themselves. In comparison, today's youth are not just the audience, but also the actors. Advertisers not only seek to influence, but learn as much as possible about – and even track – them.

On top of it all, what kids post online can have dramatic and lasting effects on relationships with their peers and even their future academic and employment prospects. As has been said, “the Net never forgets.” Increasingly, it's important for educators, community leaders and parents to give today's kids guidance in this brave new world.

Of course, it's difficult to fill that role when many of us lack the knowledge because we lack the experience. Let's face it. It's hard to put ourselves in the shoes of kids today and their reality of constant texts, tweets, wall postings and cellphone videos that can be filmed and shared with billions of people in a matter of minutes.

While this environment has the potential for youth to show off their imagination and creative flair like never before, it also includes the unfortunate realities of “cyberbullying”

and “sexting.”

Thankfully, there is a new resource which can help you learn about this world and provide guidance to your students who walk in it every day.

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada has developed a resource kit to help teachers and community leaders talk with younger Canadians about protecting their privacy online.

The youth presentation package – **Protecting Your Online Rep** – offers people who work with youth the information necessary to offer an engaging and effective presentation in their own schools and communities.

The package includes a PowerPoint presentation with detailed speaking notes for each slide, along with class

discussion topics, targeted at Grades 9 to 12. In addition, presentations for Grades 7-8 and 4-6 are in development and will be available later this year.

The goal of the new tool is to teach young people that technology can affect their privacy, and to show them how to build a secure online identity and keep their personal information safe.

It was built from discussions held with students and teachers across the country, whose needs and concerns influenced its content and design.

It's been made to equip educators to deliver relevant information on a sometimes difficult subject in an interesting and engaging way.

If you're interested in talking to your students about protecting their online rep in an increasingly online world, you can find the presentation materials online right here: <http://www.youthprivacy.ca/en/9-12presentation.html>

For more information, please contact Kristen Yates at 613-947-7240 or kristen.yates@priv.gc.ca

www.youthprivacy.ca/en/9-12presentation.html

Asthma: What's Keeping Kids Out of School?

by Allison Burns, R.R.T., C.A.E.

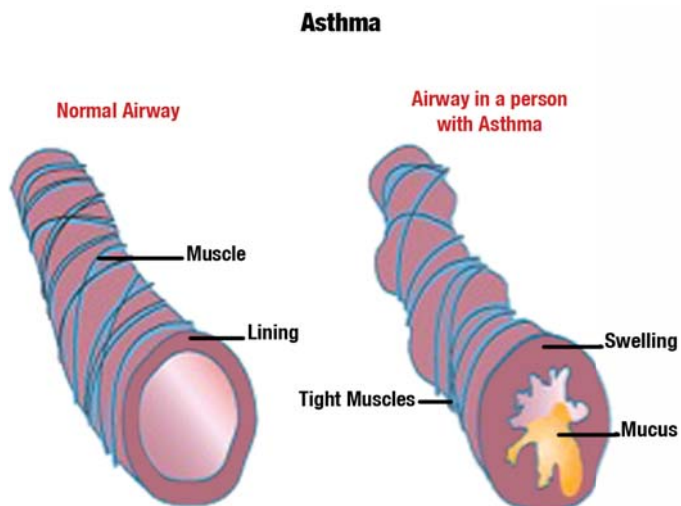
Asthma

Did you know that asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism for students and that it is the third leading cause of work loss for adults? It is now estimated that 12% of children have asthma in Canada.

Asthma is a chronic, reversible condition...that means it doesn't go away, but it can be completely controlled and the patient can live symptom free with the right medications and avoidance of triggers.

Two things occur with Asthma...

- The first problem is the muscles on the outside of the breathing tubes twitch and cause shortness of breath, cough and wheeze. A rescue medication like Ventolin or Bricanyl should be taken to help with these symptoms. The rescue medication works quickly, but doesn't last for long.
- The second problem is the muscles on the inside of the breathing tubes swell and become inflamed. This is harder to fix and requires a preventative medication which should be taken every day to keep it in the system. When the inflammation is ignored, symptoms become more frequent and severe.



30 Second Asthma Test

Here is a 30 second asthma test which is a quick yes/no test to see if asthma is controlled. If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, consider making an appointment with either your family physician or an asthma clinic.

- Is rescue medication needed more than three times a week for symptoms?
- Do you have symptoms (cough, wheeze, shortness of breath) more than three times a week?
- Do you have night time symptoms?
- Do you have symptoms when you exercise?
- Do you miss school, work or social activities because of your asthma symptoms?

Tips for Teachers

- People who take puffers should always use a spacer. This one thing will triple the amount of medication that reaches the lungs. It doesn't matter what your age is or how well coordinated you are, you shouldn't use one without the other. Some students don't want to use their spacer device because they are worried that they will be made fun of. Please take some time to explain to students the benefits of these devices.
- If your student uses their rescue medication every day, this should be mentioned to their parent/guardian.
- If exercise is difficult, a student may use their rescue (blue) puffer fifteen minutes before the physical activity to open their airways.



Did You Know...

September is the worst month of the year for asthma and many ER and doctors visits occur 17-18 days after Labour Day. Medications should be restarted the first day of school to avoid having a problem during the peak time.

The Fredericton Asthma Education Clinic is an educational resource for both patients and the community. If you have any questions, or for more information, please feel free to contact Allison Burns, R.R.T., C.A.E. at 506-447-4739 or Allison.burns@horizonnb.ca

Teach Nutrition.org

Created exclusively for teachers who educate children about, healthy eating. Rated by teachers such as you as one of THE best sites for nutrition education support!

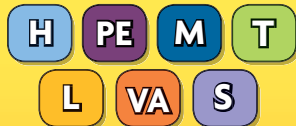


- ✓ Explore our new tips, tools and strategies to help take your nutrition teaching to the next level
- ✓ Discover our free cross-curricular programs
- ✓ Request a free teacher workshop
- ✓ Order free resources for students and parents
- ✓ Submit an entry to our Teach Nutrition Award and win \$100! View past winners' innovative teaching ideas



Power4Bones is a **FREE** cross-curricular **GRADE 5** program.

It is designed to make teaching healthy living easy while meeting your provincial curriculum expectations across many subjects.



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"It's probably the best laid out program I have seen in 30 years. The interactive components allow kids to apply the concepts to their own lives. Tasks integrate language, arts, science, health and computer skills. That demonstrates what an incredible program it is!"

— Grade 5 teacher, Ottawa (ON)



REGISTER TODAY!

1-866-27-BONES OR
www.POWER4BONES.COM



This engaging easy-to-use program includes Web challenges, comics, a public service announcement activity and lots of **PRIZES!** **JUST REGISTER** and everything will be delivered to your classroom!



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Osteoporosis Canada
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32nd Annual NBTA Men Teachers' Curling Bonspiel



Carleton Curling Club, Saint John, NB
January 20, 21, 22, 2012
Registration: \$140.00/team

Not more than 18 teams will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Entries must include skip's name, address, telephone number, and team members. (If you want to participate but aren't on a team, contact Terry)

Send entries and cheque to:

Terry Kilfoil, Chairman
NBTA Men Teachers' Curling Bonspiel
21 Meadow Drive
Rothesay, NB E2H 1K9
Tel 847-5429
Fax 847-5424

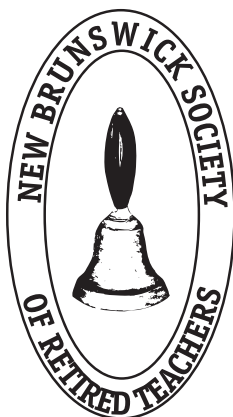
Email: kilfoilt@nbnet.nb.ca

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ATTENTION RETIRED TEACHERS

If you are a recently retired teacher or know someone who is, you are encouraged to join your professional organization: the New Brunswick Society of Retired Teachers. Membership in the NBSRT has the following benefits:

- Being part of a growing organization of over 2000 members.
- *Reflections* magazine published three times per year.
- Representation on the NBTF Group Insurance Trustees.
- School Days Museum filled with teaching memorabilia and artifacts.
- Affiliations with NBTA, Canadian Association of Retired Teachers, SERFNB, Coalition for Seniors and Nursing Home Residents Rights.
- Deduction of dues at source.



For membership information contact Vernon Harding, Membership Secretary, (506) 459-2633, or e-mail at tutoris@nbnet.nb.ca

Roger H. Nesbitt, President
New Brunswick Society of Retired Teachers

Welcome

Joan Wright & Associates welcomes **Ann Kennedy**, Individual and Family Counselor, to their practice. For full details on therapeutic services provided, as well as upcoming workshops, see [**www.joanwright.ca**](http://www.joanwright.ca)

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I'm a vice-principal now and I credit part of my promotion to having been a student of UNB. Those of us who have had the UNB experience are really proud of it, and we spread the word to as many people as we can.

*-Avenelle Fortune-Johnson
Online Master of Education
Graduate*

Application Deadlines:

January 31 (to start in July)

August 31 (to start in January)



College of
**EXTENDED
LEARNING**

NBTA Golf Tournament

September 24, 2011

On Saturday, September 24th, teachers from around the province gathered for the NBTA Golf Tournament at the Gage Golf and Curling Club in Oromocto.



Rob Doucette (right) is awarded the Men's Closest to the Pin from Bob Brannen.



NBTA Credit Union's Mark Gorman (right) awards Matt Murray with the Men's Longest Drive.



Heather Smith (right) accepts the Women's Longest Drive, on behalf of Pat Thorne, from NBTA Credit Union's Mark Gorman.



Shaun Davis, Tim Dow, Curtis Skead, Josh Collins

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Director, Business Development

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<http://met.ubc.ca/nb.htm>



**Crandall
University**

Crandall University has openings in the Advanced Certificate in Literacy Education for the upcoming January and March 2012 class timetables:

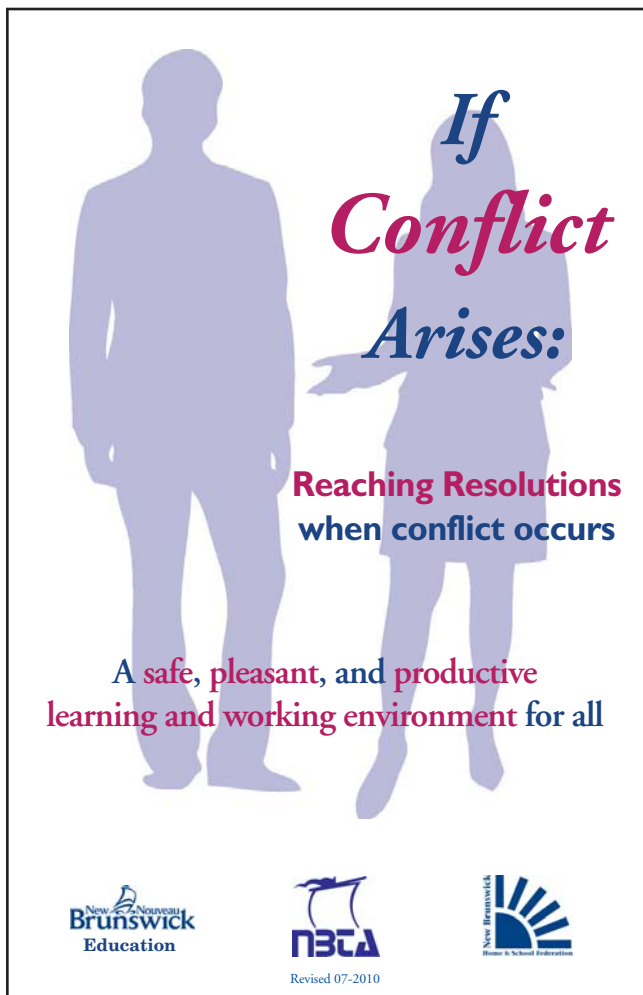
- ED6316D – **Cultural Literacy: Connections for Teaching and Learning** with Dr. Stacie Reck. **January 7 - March 24**
- ED6346H – **Literacy and Technology: Connections for Teaching and Learning** with Professor Chris Quek. **January 7 - March 24**
- ED6106H – **Addressing the Needs of Struggling Readers** with Dr. Joan-Flagg Williams. **March 31 - June 16**
- ED6126G – **Language and Reading: Development, Processes and Remediation** with Professor Nancy MacIntosh. **March 31 - June 16**

These 4 courses, two of which are scheduled to begin on Saturday, January 7th and the other two on Saturday, March 31st are part of the 5 course package designed to provide teachers holding a Certificate 5 with the Department of Education to upgrade to a Certificate 6 in Advanced Literacy Education.

For more information or to register, please contact Barry Veno at barry.veno@crandallu.ca or telephone at 863-6454.

If Conflict Arises Resource

Throughout the 2009-2010 school year the NBTA School Learning Environments Committee worked in conjunction with the Department of Education and the New Brunswick Home and School Association to revise the brochure *When Conflict Arises: Communication Between Home and School*. The revised brochure reflects changes to Policy 703 and continues to emphasize the importance of effective communication in resolving conflict. Schools may request copies by contacting NBTA central office (452-8921).



*If
Conflict
Arises:*

**Reaching Resolutions
when conflict occurs**

**A safe, pleasant, and productive
learning and working environment for all**

New Brunswick
Education

NBTA
Revised 07-2010

New Brunswick
Home & School Education

Updated Resource Available

DISCIPLINE & CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT



**Strategies and Guidelines for Teachers and
Administrators
2010**

Copies of *Discipline & Classroom Management* (2010 Edition) are available on-line at www.nbta.ca (RESOURCES > DOCUMENTS). It replaces the extremely popular 2002 Edition which was known as the "Chili" document due to the colour of its cover. If schools wish to have more copies of the new version, they can contact Eileen McNeil at eileen.mcneil@nbta.ca

HeartSpeak

HeartSpeak supports a collaborative mentoring model for youth/students (approximate age range 12–22) within our communities and schools. HeartSpeak mentors with media - engaging participants in the production of video resource(s) related to healthy relationships and living.

Contact info@heartsspeak.ca about video workshops/tailoring presentations/DVDs.

www.heartsspeak.ca



Canadian Hero Fund

The Canadian Hero Fund (www.herofund.ca) is running its Highway of Heroes Remembrance Campaign in conjunction with its '11 for 11' campaign (www.11for11.ca) this November for a second year. Last November, the Canadian Hero Fund's '11 for 11' campaign raised over \$40,000 and the Highway of Heroes Remembrance Cam-

paign reached over 30 schools. Schools participated by having their choirs (and/or bands) perform The Trews' "Highway of Heroes" song (with others opting to play the music video) and some schools hosting casual dress days benefiting the Canadian Hero Fund's scholarships programme. The Canadian Hero Fund endeavours to provide post-secondary scholarships to the children of fallen Canadian soldiers, so that their mother's or father's ultimate sacrifice does not curtail their educational opportunities. The Trews wrote "Highway of Heroes" in 2010 and all proceeds from the song support the Canadian Hero Fund's scholarships programme.



Our goal this year is to have even more schools participating in the campaign to continue to instil new relevance to the tradition of remembrance. The Highway of Heroes song brings a 21st Century sound and a new relevance to Remembrance Day for young Canadian school children. Remembrance Day should be more relevant than ever to today's young people. The Canadian Hero Fund stresses an apolitical message of awareness – a message that young people, who do not choose where they are sent, are serving our country every day.

www.herofund.ca

WFP Challenges All Canadian Schools

Want to play an online game and help donate free rice for the world's hungry at the same time? The UN World Food Programme (WFP) is challenging all Canadian students to get involved with the **Canadian Freerice School Challenge** to see which school can raise the most rice while learning vocabulary, language, math, geography or science skills.

freerice.com



1 right = 10 grains



5 right = 50 grains



Play and feed hungry people

What's New At Veterans Affairs Canada

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) offers educators a wide selection of free, bilingual learning resources about Remembrance and our country's military history. Teachers can request high-quality printed versions of many of our materials at no charge using our on-line ordering system or instantly access electronic versions in your library using the VAC Web site.

New Veterans Affairs Canada Web Features

VAC has launched new Web features over the past year on various topics such as:

- Land of the Morning Calm - Canadians in Korea;
- Black Canadians in Uniform;
- 95th Anniversary of the Battles of the Somme and Beaumont-Hamel;
- 65th Anniversary of Canadians in Southeast Asia;
- the Sicilian Campaign (an interactive SmartBoard presentation)

and much more. Check out our anniversaries and features section today!

Veterans' Week Materials

VAC has distributed millions of copies of our two Veterans' Week youth newspapers to schools across Canada over the years. These bilingual colour newspapers come in class sets of 30, ideal for use in a classroom or library.

- **Tales of Animals in War** (ages 5 to 11) - introduces concepts of remembrance using the Remembrance Clubhouse animal characters. This year, they visit the Peace Tower in Ottawa and learn about the many ways animals have helped men and

women in uniform over the years.

- **The Canada Remembers Times** (ages 12 to 18) - explores interesting chapters from Canada's military heritage, from the South African War to today, including stories about the Battles of the Somme and Beaumont-Hamel, Canada's engagement in Afghanistan, and much more.
- **Postcards for Peace** - a popular learning activity that allows youth to send postcards expressing their personal thanks to Veterans and Canadian Forces members.
- **Bookmarks** - ideal for use in a school library where students can receive them and make Remembrance visible every time they open their books.

An accompanying on-line educator's guide and colourful Veterans' Week posters are also available.

Multimedia Learning Kits

VAC has changed the design of its multimedia learning kits on Canada's participation in the First and Second World Wars. The two learning kits are now available on a single data disc, which is packaged in an attractive DVD case, for convenience of storage and use. This new product includes additional content such as historical publications and videos. Order yours on-line at no charge and check it out for yourself!

New Learning Modules

Two new online learning modules devoted to the *Battles of the Somme and Beaumont Hamel* and *The Defence of Hong Kong* are now available. They contain multiple learning as well as historical and information handouts.

Keep an eye out for these and other new initiatives by visiting the "Teachers Resources" section of the Veterans Affairs Canada Web site.

New Historical Sheets

We have also created several new historical sheets, ranging from Newfoundlanders' experiences during the First World War's Gallipoli Campaign to how Canadian Forces members have helped the people of Cambodia in more recent years. Browse our more than 40 historical sheets and learn more about our country's military heritage.

We hope you find the school year productive, rewarding and enjoyable!!!! All the best,

- The Canada Remembers Learning Team

www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers

The ABCs of Mental Health

A Teacher Resource

This Resource provides information formatted to be accessible, easy-to-use, and helpful for teachers and other educational professionals who wish to recognize and understand behaviour that causes them concern. It provides prevention and early intervention strategies to promote learning and mental health, and tips on finding help for children with mental health problems.

Currently you can access the usability testing version of the Teacher Resource at:

www.hincksdellcrest.org/abc



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Atlantic Education International



Information Sessions for Teachers interested in working abroad and Potential host families for international students

Are you interested in teaching abroad or hosting an international student for a term or the full year in NB? If so, please attend one of the following sessions:

Bathurst – November 14, Chalmers PD Centre, Bathurst High
 4:30pm Teaching abroad information session
 7:00pm Host Family Session

Saint John – November 15, Donaldson Rm, Saint John Board Office
 4:30pm Teaching abroad information session
 7:00pm Host Family Session

Fredericton – November 16, Room 204C NBTA Building
 4:30pm Teaching abroad information session,
 7:00pm Host Family Session

Moncton – November 17, Bernice MacNaughton High Library
 4:30pm Teaching abroad information session
 7:00pm Host Family Session

Information will be available regarding remuneration, contracts, homestay experience, length of terms, etc.

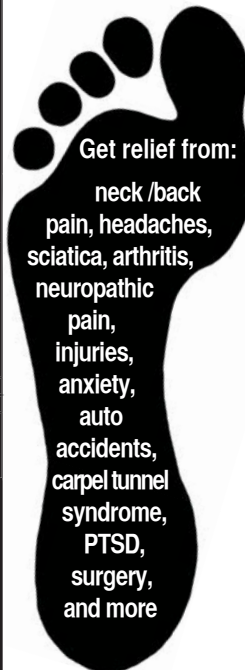
Please call (506) 453-8300 for details.

We are looking for new, current or retired teachers and caring, family homes for international students.

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A PATHWAY TO HEALING located in Fredericton Medical Clinic – Suite 404
**Linda Culp is registered as a Certified Reflexologist with Johnson Insurance Inc \$600 of coverage per year/referral not required*

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 Hours: Monday to Friday, Telephone Service 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 In-Branch Service: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

