

# NB

November 7, 2007  
Vol. L, No. 3

# TA News



*New Brunswick Teachers' Association*

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**Next Final Copy Deadline  
For NBTA News:  
Friday, November 16**



## NBTA Board of Directors October Update

**M**inister of Education, **Kelly Lamrock**, discussed a number of current issues with the NBTA Board of Directors meeting on October 24, 2007. The Minister spoke to the representatives about funding for education, the Innovative Learning Fund and the French Second Language Review. He indicated that he would like to see a reduction in the number of curricular outcomes in order to allow for more experiential learning among students. Mr. Lamrock responded to many questions from Board members and expressed the importance of teacher input into various improvements he is seeking in the education system.

**FSL Review Commissioners, Patricia Lee and Jim Croll, visited the Board** and explained the process of the review they are conducting into French Second Language delivery in the province. They emphasized the importance they are placing on input from teachers — the front-line professionals — in their considerations. A wide range of other stakeholders are being

consulted province-wide.

Their report will be presented to the Minister of Education at the end of January 2008, and because their mandate has the status of a commission rather than simply a study, it will eventually have to be tabled in the legislature. The NBTA position on FSL delivery was debated and determined by the Board of Directors the day after the visit by the Commissioners. The details of this response and the results of the FSL Teacher Opinion Survey will be available on our website on November 14, coinciding with the NBTA public submission to the Commissioners.

**NBTA Priorities:** The main issues the NBTA will be concentrating its efforts on over the next two years were discussed and approved by the Board. The Association will focus upon (in no particular order): School Safety, Class Composition, Bargaining, Assessment, French Second Language Input, the Innovative Learning Fund, and Education Finance. Further details on these priorities are available on the NBTA Website.

## NBTA Website: Members Only

### Please Register Now!

This site will be a **primary method of communications during the upcoming round of negotiations** and in sharing other important information with our members. So far only a small percentage of our membership have signed on. Go to [www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca) to register.



The Equity in Education Committee reported that one of their primary goals this year will be to bring more attention to the **NBTA Policy on Anti-Homophobia and Anti-Heterosexism**. The policy was adopted last year, but the Committee feels it should receive a higher level of visibility with the membership and the public in general.

**The future of the hard copy version of the NBTA News was the focus of significant discussion.** Environmental issues, cost, technology, and timelines factors were all examined, as well as the continued demand from many teachers for paper copies. Last year, the Board decided to work toward reducing the number of hard copies of the *NBTA News*. The NBTA Public Relations Committee may have some specific recommendations about the *NBTA News* in early 2008.

**There is a new resource available on the NBTA website which guides teachers through the certification process.** The interactive tool allows educators to follow their own path through the process and branches out to a wealth



(l-r) Minister of Education, Kelly Lamrock; NBTA President, Brent Shaw; and NBTA Vice-President, Noreen Bonnell.

of specific information. It links to forms, policies, and even various educational institutions. This resource is available under Teacher Certification tab on the NBTA website.

**The Council Day this school year will take place May 2.** Elementary and Middle level teachers will be meeting in

Moncton, while the High School sessions will be held in Saint John. A pilot program of attaching specialist strands to the council sessions will continue at least for one more year. The Elementary Council will host an Art strand, Middle Level - Music, and Phys Ed. will be hosted by High School. A combined council session will take in Moncton for all three levels on May 1, 2009 in Moncton.

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

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



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

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



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Brent Shaw

## So Many Things...

Hello Colleagues and Friends,

I have a hard time believing I have been in the President's seat for nearly 3 months. I have to admit, it has been a bit of a whirlwind. There is always much to do; the big decision is usually how to get it all squeezed in.

Many issues have arisen since the last newsletter. The lack of funding is a huge issue. Although NBTA has been expressing concerns about the lack of resources in recent years, the shortfall in general operating funds at the school level is particularly acute this year. I have been contacted by teachers and administrators in various parts of the province telling me that they are struggling to cope with reduced budgets.

The Innovative Learning Fund (ILF) is seen as a positive step by many, but there have been some teething troubles. The application forms are not user-friendly, and many teachers have spent an incredible amount of time filling them out. This, at a time when teacher workload issues have been identified in "When Kids Come First" as something which must be examined. The truly disappointing part is that some of these teachers will have made these efforts without a positive result. There is not enough money in the fund to support all the applications that have been received. Furthermore, many teachers are applying for money that was previously available from their school or district. Survival of existing initiatives, rather than innovation, seems to be a common motivating factor behind their applications.

The French Second Language review being conducted by the province has been another key area of interest for teachers. A goal has been to ensure that the two Commissioners involved in the study have as much access as

possible to the opinions of teachers. Over 1700 NBTA members responded to our survey in a short two-week period. The Commissioners have met with our Board of Directors and have participated in discussion groups with teachers representing various FSL programs and those in English classrooms. The NBTA will make its formal submission on FSL in mid-November. I cannot predict the results of their study, but can guarantee that we will have been heard.

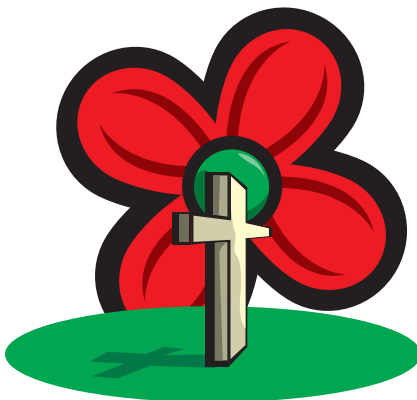
The October Board has come and gone. If you haven't had an opportunity to attend a Board of Directors' meeting, you could not imagine how hard these elected volunteers work on your behalf. The Board of Directors came to Fredericton on Tuesday, October 23, 2007. They had an NBTA Board meeting on the 24th and 25th. On the 26th they were representing you at the Federation Board of Directors. The Board also stayed in Fredericton Friday to attend an evening session and then all day Saturday the 27th for a Labour Education Workshop put on by our Federation. It is important for you to keep your elected representatives informed of concerns and contact them for information. The dedication of these individuals is amazing. They leave their families, friends, and colleagues to fill their roles in Fredericton, most often with longer days at the tables than their school day would have been.

A special hello to my friends and colleagues at CNHS.

Take care and enjoy this gorgeous time of year.

Yours truly,

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



# 2007-2008 NBTA PENSION SEMINARS

## REGISTRATION FORM

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

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

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ November 24 - Saint John, Simonds High
- \_\_\_\_\_ December 5 - Bristol, Carleton North Senior High
- \_\_\_\_\_ January 12 - Fredericton, NBTf Building
- \_\_\_\_\_ January 26 - Miramichi, Dr. Losier Middle School
- \_\_\_\_\_ February 2 - Sussex, Sussex High School

- November 16
- November 28
- December 21
- January 18
- January 25

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 2008 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Compensation 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: \_\_\_\_\_

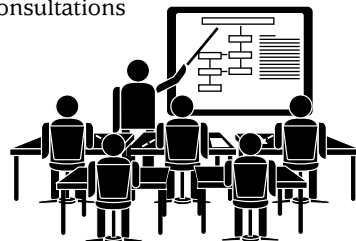
## SEMINAR GUIDELINES

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. *(Except Bristol, where registration will begin at 4:30pm -- Seminar at 5:00pm)*
8. Detach and return the registration form as soon as possible.

### PROGRAM \_\_\_\_\_

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



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

# NBTA Board of Directors



School Year  
2007-2008



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Bob Fitzpatrick  
Executive Director



Heather Smith  
Acting Past President



Noreen Bonnell  
Vice-President



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0215



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0215



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0216



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Jill Beaulieu  
0618



Sheena Stephens-Perkins  
0619



Derrick Sleep  
0820



Adam McKim  
0820



Aldena Higgins-Harris  
1021



Heather Ingalls  
1022



Marla Anderson  
1023



Pat Thorne  
1428



Nancy Dickson  
1429



Chris Brown  
1430



Sheila Cummings  
1431



Stuart Dunbar  
1450



Parise Pelletier  
1454



Dawn Beckingham-Noël  
1536



Jack O'Brien  
1538



Jocelyne Schwenger (Alt)  
1542



Grant Hendry  
1608



Patrick Clancy  
1610



Barry Robertson  
1640



Ronna Gauthier  
1724



Sheridan Mawhinney (Alt)  
1725



Yvonne Caverhill  
1809



Marilyn Kaufman  
1826



Wayne Coburn  
1827

# School-Based Learning Team Grants

*In a true Learning Community, everyone learns.*

## ⇒ What is a School-Based Learning Team?

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

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

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

## ⇒ What is a School-Based Learning Team Grant?

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

## ⇒ What is the Purpose of the grant?

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

expertise in the form of resource people.

## ⇒ How often should the team meet?

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

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

## ⇒ How is a SBLT different from a study group?

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

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

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

## ⇒ How many grants will be available?

For the calendar year January '08 – December '08, 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](http://www.nbta.ca)). A school may submit more than one application provided the guidelines above are represented in each application. **Deadline for applications is December 7, 2007.** Successful applicants will be notified by January 11, 2008.

## ⇒ 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 previous years' results.



See application on following page.

# NBTA School-Based Learning Team Grants Application Form

School \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Title of Your Team's 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?

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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: **Ardith Shirley, Director of Professional Development, NBTA**  
**PO Box 752, Fredericton, NB E3B 5R6**

**Deadline for applications: December 7, 2007**

Successful schools will be notified by January 11, 2008. 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.

## Making Every Minute Count

by Ardith Shirley, Director of Professional Development

**A**s I sit down to prepare this month's article, I find my thoughts returning to a recurring theme – **TIME**. As teachers, time (especially the lack of it!) is a constant source of discussion, consideration and debate. In the past week alone I have listened as teachers have conferred on maximum instructional times, finding enough time to meet and plan with their colleagues, appropriate timing for assessments, duty minutes, etc. Obviously, this list of "timely" teacher issues could continue, but alas, time escapes me and an NBTA deadline looms!

Whatever the teacher conversation with regards to time, two things are clear – there just isn't enough of it **and** teachers are masterful at making every minute count.

Speaking of time, can you believe it's already November! By now you have spent scores of hours with the students you teach. You have come to see their personalities, warts and all. Sometimes your students may delight you; at other times they may disappoint. Some are easy to "love", while others may inspire a small but silent personal celebration when they are absent. By now, some students have pushed your buttons, tested your patience and maybe even caused you to weep with despair or frustration.

**"Attitude Adjustments"** by Rick Wormelli (Teaching K-8, October, 2003, Vol.34, No.2 ) may be "timely", especially in the midst of those potential November "blahs". In his article, Mr. Wormelli maintains that cultivating and maintaining a healthy attitude is necessary to keep you at the top of your game in the classroom and beyond. The article proceeds to outline 7 very practical actions that teachers can take to cultivate that "can-do" attitude in themselves, as well as their students.

### Considerations for "Making" More Time in our Classrooms

While facilitating the *Non-Verbal Classroom Management Workshop* at Edith Cavell School in October, Claudette Landry shared that teachers who can effortlessly gain the attention of all of their students non-verbally can usually do so in thirty seconds or less. She argued that saving this amount of time on a daily basis, each time a teacher requires student attention, could potentially add the equivalent of 3 weeks of instructional time to the school year. Wow!

Also, in the October issue of *Middle Ground*, Randy Sprick and K. Daniels co-authored an article called **"Taming the Tardies: Every Minute Counts"**. This school's action plan to tackle the frustrating problem of tardiness is one that demonstrates a whole school approach to facilitate change, bring about positive results and "make" time.

In my travels and times spent in conversations with many of you over the past few months, one common theme I keep hearing is that of Professional Learning Communities. Many of you want more information for reflection and study. Still others wonder, "Is this a topic or initiative that is unique to my school or district?"

Rick Dufour's recent article, *Professional Learning Communities: A Bandwagon, an Idea Worth considering, or Our Best Hope for High Levels of Learning?* (Middle School Journal – September 2007, P.4-7) offers a clarification of PLC concepts and is therefore an excellent source for those wanting a quick reference on the topic. One thing is for sure, PLCs are being talked about and debated in the world wide educational community and certainly the phenomenon is not limited to one particular geographical area or jurisdiction.

### Websites to Check Out:



<http://www.allthingsplc.info/>  
The All Things PLC website provides research, articles, data and tools to educators who seek information about Professional Learning Communities at Work.

<http://www.dotolearn.com/>  
This site contains all kinds of educational games, songs, communication cards, print resources and information that may prove useful in planning for students with special needs.

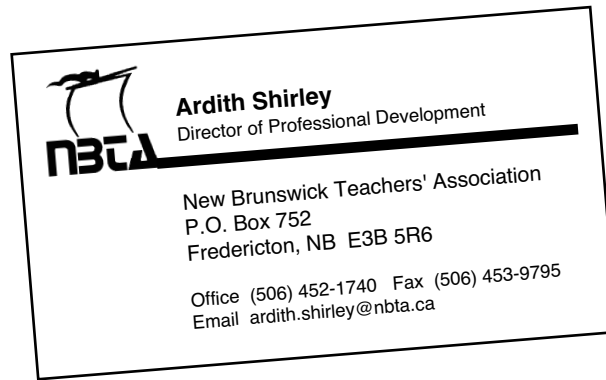
## Teacher Timesaver

Assign each student in your class a number by going through the roll book. Instruct the students that each time they turn in a paper their number should be in the right hand corner of the paper. Whenever papers are collected, have a student volunteer put them in numerical order. This allows for a quick check to see if anyone has not turned in their work AND the papers are in alphabetical order and ready for easy recording in the teachers' record book!





**Finally**, if you have come across an article, quote, book, website or other PD experience that you would recommend to others, I would LOVE to hear from you. Send me an email with the details and perhaps we can include it in a future "PD Page"!



## Quotable Quotes

*"I wonder if we encourage our students to feel and respond as well as to think and to reason? Perhaps we are so busy teaching their minds that we forget we are reaching their hearts. I tell people I have the best job in the world. I love what I do, because it is about relationships."* — Michael Lemrow (Principal Leadership, September 2007, p.68)

*"We know that students are more likely to stay in school when their intellect is engaged and challenged. It should come as no surprise that the same is true for teachers."* — Aleta Margolis, Executive Director, Center for Inspired Teaching, The Washington Post, July 7, 2007

## Council Planning

I had the privilege of meeting with the Elementary, Middle and High School Councils Co-coordinating Committees last month. The plans for the May 2nd Council day are well underway. Elementary Council (whose size prohibits their using a school) will be at the Moncton Coliseum while the Middle Level Council will also be hosting their program in Moncton at another location. The High School Council will be held in Saint John. The Pilot Specialist strand that was held for the first time on Council Day 2007 will continue for Year 2. The Elementary Council will host an **Art** specialist program, a **Music** specialist program will be hosted by Middle Level and a **Physical Education** specialist strand will be hosted by the High School Council.

As always, teachers are welcome to register for whichever council day program they prefer. While it may seem a bit early, time will fly and May 2nd will be here before we know it! Talk with your colleagues and begin to make Council Day plans now.

**IT'S NOT OKAY...**  
... for students or staff to use the words "gay", "faggot", "queer", or "dyke" as put-downs.

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

- Inserted by NBTA Equity in Education Committee

# Non-Verbal Classroom Management Workshop



**O**n Wednesday, October 10, forty-six teachers from around the province spent a very worthwhile day exploring non-verbal classroom management techniques. Research shows that 80 per cent of communication is non-verbal. Training for teachers to increase their non-verbal communication skills is based on the work of Michael Grinder, the national director of Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) in Education.

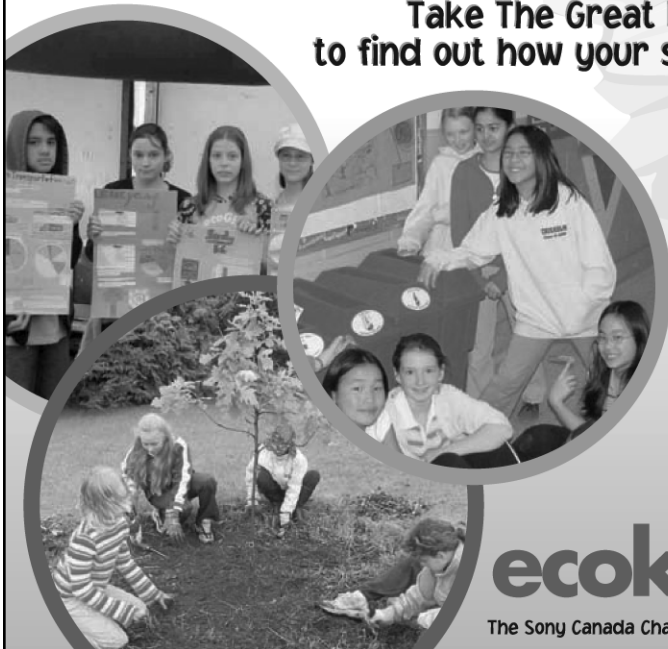
The workshop was facilitated by Claudette Landry and took place at Edith Cavell School in Moncton. As these photos attest, participants enjoyed her very practical approach that allowed them to practice the techniques she demonstrated with one another throughout the day.



## Make a difference for the Earth

Take The Great EcoKids Challenge! Visit [ecokids.ca](http://ecokids.ca) to find out how your school or youth group can get involved.

**Win great prizes from SONY such as a BRAVIA 32" LCD TV for your school and individual prizes such as Cyber-shot digital cameras and Walkman MP3 players.**



[ecokids.ca](http://ecokids.ca)

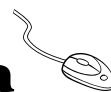


**SONY**

Celebrating 10 years of partnership

The Sony Canada Charitable Foundation is the proud sponsor of The Great EcoKids Challenge!

# Online Education Portal to Connect Students and Teachers Across Canada



**S**tudents and teachers in classrooms across Canada now have a direct link to Vancouver 2010, the positive influence of the Olympic and Paralympic Movements and the three pillars of sport, culture and sustainability through an online, bilingual e-magazine ('e-zine') and portal located at [vancouver2010.com/edu](http://vancouver2010.com/edu). This new portal on the Internet, known as /EDU, serves as the foundation for what is expected to become a lively online interactive community - one that will connect teachers, students (from kindergarten through grade 12) and schools, while celebrating the spirit of the 2010 Winter Games.

In its initial stages, the /EDU portal will target Canadian schools, teachers and students looking to build content and maximize opportunities to showcase local and national education resources. In the coming weeks, a teachers' forum moderated by the University of British Columbia will come online at

/EDU. Also among its many offerings, /EDU provides links to programs affiliated with non-profit organizations including the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) and the Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC), as well as Canadian museums, environmental groups and arts and culture organizations.

Education programs are integral to the mandate of the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC). With the support of the BC Ministry of Education, VANOC is working with representatives from each of the 13 ministries responsible for education in Canada. Each ministry has agreed to work with VANOC to inform and involve teachers in the program; identify the best education resources in sport, culture and sustainability; and collaborate on the development of new educational resources as opportunities arise.

"Vancouver 2010 creates a climate of possibility that helps us discover the greatness inside ourselves," said John Furlong, VANOC Chief Executive Officer. "Through the Vancouver 2010 website, /EDU will connect students to students, teachers to teachers and schools to schools from across Canada. It will provide them with Olympic and Paralympic resources to help them set their own podiums and identify their own dreams."

"We're supportive of VANOC's on-line education program /EDU because much like the athletes who compete at the Canada Games, each Province and Territory can show what they have to offer" said Sue Hylland, President and CEO of the Canada Games Council. "/EDU is also a means of bringing sport and many other aspects of the 2010 Winter Games into communities across Canada through youth in the classroom, a goal that we already support through our outreach to youth in schools."

## REMEMBER THESE DATES



### DEADLINE DATES

**Conference Grants** — Five weeks prior to opening day

**Certification Changes** — October 31, 2007; March 31, 2008

**Project Overseas** — November 1, 2007

**Branch Nominations for NBTA Vice-President** — February 1, 2008

**Educational Leave** — November 2, 2007

**Deferred Salary Leave Plan Application** — January 31, 2008

#### Election Dates

- Ballots mailed to Branch Presidents - On or before April 15, 2008
- Voting to take place - April 21-25, 2008 inclusive
- Ballots returned to Central Office by 5:00 pm - May 2, 2008
- Counting of Ballots - May 7, 2008
- Candidates notified - May 7, 2008

**NBTA/Beaverbrook/Hagerman Interest-free Loans** — March 31, 2008

**Centennial Award Nominations** — April 1, 2008

**Aliant Award Nominations** — April 1, 2008

**Outstanding Educational Leadership** — April 1, 2008

**Branch Resolutions for A.G.M.** — April 1, 2008

**A.G.M. Registration of Delegates** — April 1, 2008

**Employment Insurance Rebate Report** — June 1, 2008

**Registration of Branches** — June 1, 2008

**Report of Branch Meetings** — June 1, 2008

**Names of Branch Committee Chairpersons** — June 1, 2008

**NBTA Council Annual Reports** — June 13, 2008

### OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

**NBTA AGM** — May 30-31, 2008

**NBTA Credit Union A.G.M.** — November 15, 2007

**Retiring Teachers' Luncheon** — May 31, 2008



## Aren't the Days Just Flying By?

**T**hat's the way I feel, too! On October 19th (the evening) and the morning of the 20th, the Elementary Council held its first executive meeting of 2007-2008 in Fredericton. As the mission of Council is to help with the professional development needs of our members by planning activities to aid in their success as curriculum workers, we spent much time planning institutes and our upcoming Council Day. We are looking forward to being in Moncton for May 2008.

Although the executive is elected at the AGM in May, we've had a number of changes as a result of new positions and changes in people's lives. We thank Nathalie Graham for the expertise and dedication she has displayed over the last three years with Council and wish her well as she adjusts to life in a middle school. At the same time, we are happy to welcome Erica, Tracey and Kelly to share with us the excitement of bringing another Council Day to fruition.

If you wish to contact an executive member to share your thoughts or concerns, please do not hesitate to do so.

At the same time as we plan Council Day, we also plan institutes throughout the province related to specific curriculum areas. In order to meet the needs of everyone, we are asking you to help us in our planning. We would like to know what subject areas you would like to see as an institute and which part of the province you would like to see an institute take place. Send your input and suggestions to [karla.roy@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:karla.roy@nbed.nb.ca).

As well as planning sessions for teachers, we also have the opportunity to share our/your concerns with the Department of



Education. We do this by having a committee that meets, shares concerns, writes a report and presents it in a meeting each February with Darlene Whitehouse-Sheehan. Darlene has always been receptive to the shared concerns. To aid us in our preparation for this meeting, Jean White, who is our executive liaison on the Curriculum Committee, is requesting your feedback regarding the following. You are encouraged to share your thoughts and concerns with her at [jean.white@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:jean.white@nbed.nb.ca).

#### Language Arts

1. Should the Department of Education establish provincial reading levels at each grade level?
2. Are the expectations at each grade level appropriate?
3. Would you like to see a compact LA curriculum document? Do you have and suggestions for improvement?
4. Do you think the LA document

should be set up similar to the Math curriculum document?

5. Do you think we need curriculum outcomes for spelling?
6. Do you think there is a disconnect between the Grade 2 and Grade 4 writing expectations and results?
7. Is it a challenge to schedule 90 minutes of uninterrupted Literacy daily?

#### Health

1. Do you think the expectations are realistic for K-4?
2. Do you feel comfortable assessing your students in this area?
3. What would help with assessing students?
4. Do you think there are enough resources to implement the program? What would you like to have available or added?

#### Technology

1. Are there enough technology resources in your school to support technology initiatives?
2. What are your concerns?

#### Math

1. Where are the greatest concerns – resources, materials, inservice?
2. Do you think the difficulties students are encountering in math are related to literacy? Do you have and suggestions for improvements?

#### Art

1. How could Art concepts and skills be better delivered?

#### Science

1. What changes are necessary to improve the science curriculum?
2. Are resources adequate?

Kindest Regards,  
Rona Howald

## Your Executive

(Acting) President	Peter Gorham	peter.gorham@nbed.nb.ca
Past President	Rona Howald	rona.howald@nbed.nb.ca
(Acting) 1st VP	Donna Losier	donna.losier@nbed.nb.ca
(Acting) 2nd VP	Alyssa MacIsaac	alyssa.macisaac@nbed.nb.ca
Secretary	Moirra Armstrong	moirra.armstrong@nbed.nb.ca
Treasurer	Kelly Gorham-Gaines	kelly.gaines@nbed.nb.ca

### Members-at-Large



Jean White	jean.white@nbed.nb.ca
Karla Roy	karla.roy@nbed.nb.ca
Erica LeBlanc	erica.leblanc@nbed.nb.ca
Tracey Moody	tracey.moody@nbed.nb.ca
Kelly Patt	kelly.patt@nbed.nb.ca

## Terry Fox at Hampton Elementary School

**H**ampton Elementary is very proud to say that we raised \$614.00 this year for the Terry Fox Cancer Research Foundation. Students were challenged to raise \$1 per student which would result in Mr. Leland, our Phys Ed teacher, wearing a pink tutu. The students took the challenge and had so much success, they were further challenged during a mid-week assembly. The male teachers on staff — Mr. Goss, our Vice-Principal, Mr. Fillion and Mr. Magee, both grade 4 teachers — were willing to join Mr. Leland in tutus and other outrageous "dance clothing". The deal was for every \$25 raised beyond the original challenge, another tutu would appear. During this assembly the students listened attentively while Mrs. Jillian Urquart shared her experiences with cancer



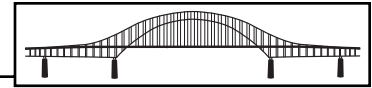
and how she and her family had to focus on the positive while going through the harsh cancer treatments.

Mrs. Cullinan, our official "Tutu Designer", frantically worked at home and at school to ensure that all 4 men would have something to wear for the Terry Fox Run/Walk

scheduled for Friday, September 29th. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, so we were unable to meet with students from the Hampton area schools this year. However, students and staff alike had fun dancing through the halls of Hampton Elementary to YMCA and other fun music. Most of all, everyone had a great laugh with Mr. Leland, Mr. Goss, Mr. Fillion and Mr. Magee while raising money for such a worthwhile cause.

Hampton Elementary wants to say a big THANK YOU to all four men for being such good sports! We CELEBRATE your generous, fun loving spirit! God bless you.

Jennifer Seely  
Hampton Elementary  
Resource & Methods Teacher



## “Rebooting the System”



**Moncton,  
Friday,  
May 2, 2008**

**Make plans now  
to attend!**

## Harkins Middle School Receives \$10,000 for New Instruments

Miramichi, October 1st, 2007 - Harkins Middle School was thrilled to learn that it is the recipient of a \$10,000 Band Aid musical instrument grant. MusiCan, the national music education charity of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) made the announcement official on October 1st. Derek Hutchison, Principal at Harkins, received the e-mail, congratulating the school on the success of their application. He noted that Harkins was one of about 50 schools across the country to receive help for its music program. The money will be used to purchase new instruments to replace the “aged, broken and battered” ones.

The students at Harkins are excited about the new instruments and the difference they will make to

its general music program as well as to their band. “The School District and the school administration have been very supportive of the effort to renew and revitalize the inventory of instruments here at Harkins,” says Gina Cormier, music teacher at the middle school. Many instruments were repaired in the spring and several new instruments were acquired over the summer. These efforts, along with the instruments that will be purchased through this grant, will ensure the future of the music program at Harkins Middle School for years to come.



Gina Cormier, Music Teacher  
Harkins Middle School  
Miramichi NB  
gina.cormier@nbed.nb.ca  
Phone: 627-4088



## Middle Level Teaching Treats



Every month we will feature a few teaching treats and a website that teachers across the province are using. Please share your teaching treat by e-mailing: [lise.martin-keilty@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:lise.martin-keilty@nbed.nb.ca) and your teaching treat could appear here in the next months! We know there are lots of great ideas out there. Thanks in advance for sharing!

1. *The use of STICKERS!* Middle level students are not too old to have stickers on their tests/assignments for a job well done. As an adult learner for my certificate 5, my professor used them on my assignments and it put a big smile on my face. Use stickers and watch your students smile! It works and the local Dollar Stores have lots!
2. *PASS THE PAPER:* This activity

will get your students moving, get blood flowing to the brain and maximize learning and retention. This can be used as a review activity.

- Every student writes a question and answer on a small piece of paper (or a spelling word).
  - All students get up and walk around the room to music.
  - When the music stops, students turn around and pair up with the closest person.
  - They ask each other the question and answer on his/her sheet.
  - When done, they exchange pieces of paper so they don’t have the same one.
  - Repeat as many times as you want.
3. *WEBSITE:* Check out [www.webquest.org](http://www.webquest.org). This is a database of on-line projects and lessons for every subject area.

▶ Middle Level Council is looking for a **WEBSITE MANAGER** to assist in expanding and updating its website. If you are interested, please contact John Irvine, President, at Woodstock Middle School or [irvinjod@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:irvinjod@nbed.nb.ca).



▶ National Middle School Association website: [www.nmsa.org](http://www.nmsa.org)  
<<http://www.nmsa.org/>>

This website is the **EXHAUSTIVE** and **COMPREHENSIVE** resource site for all your middle school inquiries. Check it out!

# Tribes School and Parent Night

Facilitated by Allison Maxwell, October 16, 2007

**F**orest Hills School has been training its entire staff in TRIBES Learning Communities. The TRIBES process is a facilitative student centered teaching model that promotes communal responsibility for learning and positive human relations.

The grade 5 classes held a parent night where parents were introduced to the concept so they could further support their children. Involving parents in an introduction circle, parents presented themselves and the name of their student. Parents were asked to form Tribes and discuss some aspirations for their child this year at Forest Hills School. The parents regrouped in a community circle and their ideas and aspirations were shared by the teachers, while the group listened attentively.

Some samples of the aspirations of parents:



- Hope my child will learn how to work with others.
- Learn to deal with frustration when dealing with others.
- To have enough confidence to ask questions and not feel embarrassed.
- We would like our children to want to be at school learning.

The evening was concluded with a discussion in a circle about "what did I learn tonight?" Some of the

responses of parents:

- His attitude towards school has changed towards the positive, as he smiles more and talks about school with happiness.
- I learned how my son is learning to express himself.
- I realize now how my daughter is learning and is so happy about it. I must rethink how I deal with her, I am from the old school.
- I know why my

daughter is so eager to get up for school; it's because of the Tribes process and her wonderful teacher.

- I learned that Tribes is a great way to learn.

For further information on TRIBES Learning Communities, contact Forest Hills School, or Allison Maxwell (trainer) at St. Malachy's High School, or check out the website: [www.tribes.com](http://www.tribes.com)

## High School Council News



• High School Council •

## President's Message



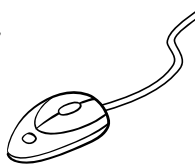
**Derek Taggart**

On Friday, May 2, 2008, where will you be? In case you haven't already heard, this year's High School Council Conference will be taking place in Saint John. If you are interested in presenting at the conference, please feel free to contact me ([derek.taggart@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:derek.taggart@nbed.nb.ca)), our Program Chair - Angela Murphy ([angela.murphy@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:angela.murphy@nbed.nb.ca)) or any other member of the Council Executive. Contact information for

the High School Council Executive, presenter for Council Day, and a lot of other essential information regarding the operations of the Council can be located on our website -

<http://highschool.nbta.ca>. It is never too early to think about booking your hotel room in Saint John!

There are two key areas where the High School Council Executive provides services to its members. The first is the Educational Improvement



Grants that are used by members to help defray conference costs (application is available on the NBTA website - [www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca)). The second is to help organize and fund professional development institutes that would be of interest to our members. There are already a number of institute initiatives in the planning for the 2007-2008 school year (look for registration details in future issues of the *NBTA News*). If you would like to help plan and organize an institute for your specialized subject area, please contact any member of your High School Council Executive. We would be thrilled to assist you!

I would like to take a moment to remind all teachers to brag about the incredible things that are happening in your high schools. If you have any item throughout the year that you think would be interesting for other High School Council members to read about,

contact Martin Daigle ([daiglem@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:daiglem@nbed.nb.ca)) and he will make sure that it gets published in the *NBTA News*.

In conclusion, your High School Council Executive had its first meeting during the morning of Saturday October 20 and discussed

new business and plans for the year ahead. If you ever have any items you would like to see included on an agenda for these meetings, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of your other High School Executive members. I look forward to seeing all of you on May 2! – Derek

## Educational Improvement Grant Funds Depleted

Teachers should note that due to high demand, the funds for NBTA/DOE Provincial and Elementary and High School Council Educational Improvement Grants (i.e., for conferences and other professional development) have been depleted for activities taking place between now and December 31, 2007.

Applications can be made at any time for NBTA/DOE Provincial and/or Council funding for activities taking place after January 1, 2008.

### March Break Specials!

► **Punta Cana, D.R.**

March 1, 2008

Gran Bahia Principe Bavaro – 5 Star

**\$1599** + \$300 tax

*Direct from Halifax.*

► **Cayo Coco, Cuba**

March 1, 2008

Iberostar Daiquiri – 4 Star

**\$1247** + \$205.50 tax

*Direct from Halifax, connectors for other cities available.*

► **Varadero, Cuba**

February 29, 2008

Barcelo Solymar – 4 Star

**\$1380** + \$220 tax

*Direct from Halifax, connectors for other cities available.*



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



**France Côté-Allain (MHS)**

(506)384-3886 or (506)850-8211

Email – [fallain@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:fallain@nb.sympatico.ca)

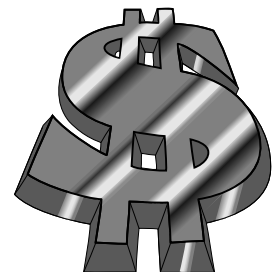
**Sylvette Deveau CTC**

(506)863-5117

[sdeveau@searsholidays.com](mailto:sdeveau@searsholidays.com)

## Notice: June 2008 Retirees

Teachers who will be retiring at the end of June 2008 will receive any residual (summer) money owed to them on the July 4, 2008 pay date. First pension deposit will occur on July 23/24 as long as all necessary paperwork has been completed.





# Welcome to New Teachers' Workshop a Big Success!

Over 150 early career teachers from across New Brunswick gave up a sunny Saturday in late September to attend the NBTA Welcome to New Teachers' Workshop at the NBTF Building in Fredericton. Participants came from all corners of the province, including Eel River Crossing, Hillsborough, Edmundston and White Head Island, which is accessible only from Grand Manan. Divided sessions on Teacher

Welfare (Pension and Group Insurance), Professional Development, and Legal/Code of Ethics were conducted by NBTA Staff. As well, NBTF Staff conducted a session on the Collective Agreement and Policies such as 701 (Pupil Protection), 703 (Positive Learning Environment) and 311 (Use of Technology). There were popular question and answer periods where teachers could seek out specific

services and responses in various parts of the building. Information booths set up by the NBTA Credit Union Ltd. and Johnson Inc. were very busy as well. It was a chance for some to renew recent acquaintances as many encountered university friends. By all admissions, there was too much to learn in one day, but everyone at least went away knowing who to ask or where to find the information they needed.

*(... continued on following page)*



NBTA President, Brent Shaw, greets Jennifer Gaudet of Carleton North High School, while Jennifer Rogers of Nashwaaksis Memorial School looks on.



A group of new teachers participating in one of the divided sessions.



Leo Sheehy, NBTA Director for Branch 0217, Hillsborough (left) with new teacher Stephen Harris of Caledonia Regional School.



(l-r) Danielle Dube (Woodstock High), Holly Manzer (Morna Heights School), Kati Norman (St. George Elementary) and Karen Howland (Keswick Ridge)

## About the workshop:

*"I thought the topics presented were comprehensive and still of interest to me as a newer, but not brand new teacher."*

*"It was great...Way to go."*

*"I only wish I had the opportunity to attend when I was a first-year teacher, as it was a great refresher for me."*

*"Seminars were well-planned and informative."*

## About the first weeks of teaching:

*"Really good on the whole. A little manic at times."*

*"Overwhelming, exhausting, frightening, isolating...yet I love my job."*

*"Very hectic, but rewarding. The experience has been very positive, thanks to great support from my colleagues."*

*"EEEEEEK!"*

## Teacher's Vacation Specials!

### • Dominican Republic

Saturday, March 1 — Saturday March 8, 2008

Royal Golden Section, Gran Bahia Principe Punta Cana - 5 ★

**From \$1749** + \$309 tax

Departing from Moncton

(Optional \$50 transportation service, Saint John - Moncton return)

**\$200 reserves your seat!**

### • Easter in New York (5-day tour of NY)

March 20-24, 2008

- 2 nights accommodations in Portland ME
- 2 nights accommodations in NYC (48th St. / Times Square)
- Full morning guided tour of NYC
- Saturday evening group dinner while in NYC
- 2 continental breakfasts in Portland
- Portage included for 4 nights

**From \$575** + taxes per person

**\$200 deposit by December 14 reserves your seat!**



**Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd.,**  
Toll free 1-888-636-8080,  
[www.collinstours.ca](http://www.collinstours.ca)

## Work as a teacher in the U.S.A.

Teacher: David

Home Country: Canada

U.S.A. Placement: Georgia

Professional Goal: Broaden my overall teaching experience

Personal Goal: Go whitewater rafting on the Chattooga River

How He Got Started: [www.vifprogram.com](http://www.vifprogram.com)



Hundreds of teachers like David are teaching in the U.S.A. and gaining experience that will advance their careers. You can, too. Visit [www.vifprogram.com](http://www.vifprogram.com).



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*In this issue of NBTA News, we are featuring articles submitted by teachers Heather Brown, Kathy Irvine, and John Howe. The article highlights much of the work in progress by the Department of Education, Provincial Comprehensive and Developmental Guidance and Counselling Committee.*

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## Guidance Professional Development

*Submitted by Heather Brown, GMCS Guidance Center, Grand Manan Community School*

**A**nother busy year at school has begun, and year three of the Department of Education, Provincial Comprehensive and Developmental Guidance and Counselling Committee work has begun.

This committee started meeting under the direction of John Tingley, Learning Specialist for Educational Programs and Services. Guidance Counsellors across the province were selected to represent each District, for a minimum three-year commitment. Now it feels as we truly have "only just begun".

The Committee members are:

Don Henderson, District 2  
John Howe, District 6  
Ellen Turnbull, District 8  
Sharon Nesbit, District 8  
Heather Brown, District 10  
Kathryn Irvine, District 14  
Darren Oakes, District 15  
Connie Daley, District 16  
Wendy Wood, District 17  
Jane Fiander, District 18

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*"...we are acting as a sounding board for the MacKay Report, and developing PD opportunities that will complement the When Kids Come First document."*

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We began our work by looking at resources many of us are using now, and recommending resources to be added to the provincial curriculum documents. We have also met to address concerns on the new Guidance Certification process. We looked at possible barriers to the process, and what specific training individuals will be looking for.

Presently, we are acting as a sounding board for the MacKay Report, and developing PD opportunities that will complement the *When Kids Come First* document. Perhaps one of our most important tasks is recommending those opportunities for Guidance Counsellors/teachers. As a working

committee, we have had the chance to discuss the real issues facing guidance personnel on the front lines, and to influence upcoming conferences and workshops. We welcome input from all of our Guidance colleagues.

Another important part of our work has been to navigate the Guidance and Counselling Portal. We encourage everyone to check it out on a regular basis, as we will be posting upcoming PD sessions, conferences, and resources. (<https://portal.nbed.nb.ca/sites/gc/default.aspx>) Please feel free to contact anyone on the Advisory Committee with your suggestions or concerns.

## Comprehensive Skill-Based Workshop

*Submitted by Kathy Irvine, Guidance Counsellor, Southern Carleton Elementary School*

**M**ore than 175 Guidance Counsellors from across the province are still feeling the impact from a two-day training opportunity held in October 2006 in Moncton. This conference became a reality through the sponsorship of the Department of Education, along with organization and coordination by John Tingley, Provincial Learning Specialist for Guidance and Counselling.

Representatives from various districts, Public Safety and Police personnel, individuals from First Nations, as well as a number of members from the media, joined the Guidance Counsellors to compose an audience of approximately 250. As the conference began and a rather quiet, unassuming individual approached the podium, little did those in attendance appreciate the life-changing experience that would

soon be theirs.

The conference speaker, Mr. Kevin Cameron, held many credentials. He was a Board Certified Expert in Traumatic Stress. His biography included training as both a marital and family therapist, as well as a play-based therapist. He had worked with inner-city housing projects in Halifax, street kids in Edmonton, and in a variety of roles in child welfare and young offender systems throughout Alberta.

During the tragic 1999 school shooting in Taber, Alberta, Mr. Cameron led the Taber Crisis Response Team. Two weeks later, he

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*"... little did those in attendance appreciate the life-changing experience that would soon be theirs."*

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***“... he began the development of the Traumatic Event Systems (TES) model that helped to explain, describe and predict significant aspects of the traumatic aftermath from the school shooting locally, provincially and nationally.”***

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was seconded by the Alberta government to the Taber response project. In this capacity, he began the development of the Traumatic Event Systems (TES) model that helped to explain, describe and predict significant aspects of the traumatic aftermath from the school shooting locally, provincially and nationally. This model included a basis for differentiating between crises vs. traumatic events, and a process for individual and systems recovery.

Mr. Cameron's mandate for this October conference was to deliver a two-day, Level 1 Training in Threat Assessment which would provide a draft for those in attendance. Individual Districts would build on

this training to create the protocols appropriate to address their individual needs. Ultimately, this comprehensive skill-based workshop was structured for those professionals in the school and community system (school principals, police, student services coordinators, therapists, etc.) who were, or would be, conducting the actual threat/risk assessments. Mr. Cameron shared numerous real case studies which were a key part of the training.

By the end of the two days, a new field of student threat/risk assessment had been presented. Those attending had gained insight into known school shooters and other violent youth, as well as the

thousands of threat-makers in the aftermath of these high profile school shootings. Attendees were also provided protocols for threat/risk assessment and appropriate team interventions.

Various school districts, along with other professionals throughout the province, have remained in contact with Mr. Cameron and have since lined up further workshops including Threat Assessment Level 11 Training. The knowledge base from which Kevin Cameron drew, along with his practical, well organized and captivating delivery, left participants equipped to better face some of the challenges that they could face around assessing potential threats and risk.

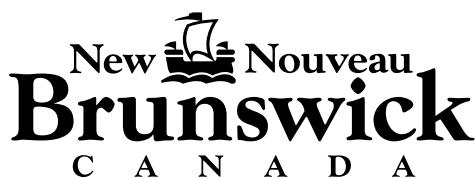
## **Career Connections Conference**

*Submitted by John Howe, Guidance Counsellor, Kennebecasis Valley High School*

**K**nowing that counsellors are constantly being asked to assist students in their post secondary decisions, there is naturally a huge requirement to understand the latest career development trends and ideas. When I was in high school three decades ago, my only involvement with my counsellor was one session whereby I completed an interest inventory, which was then scored and discussed. This one-off session did little to assist me in considering a future career. Nowadays we know that career development is an on-going process from birth to old age. In order to be of any real assistance to students, guidance counsellors need to know how to assist students as they prepare them to succeed in the real world.

One way the Province of New Brunswick, Dept of Ed., Programs and Services Branch has addressed this need was by hosting a two-day Career Connections Conference at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Fredericton, October 16 and 17, 2007. This two-day conference

focused on the developmental nature of careers, providing counsellors from across the province with the opportunity to learn the newest career information and ideas in order to assist the students in all provincial schools to enter the world of work.



The keynote speaker was Chad Foster, best-selling author, motivational speaker and television host. Following a two-year cross-country fact-finding tour, Mr. Foster found that young people in America were receiving an incomplete education because they were not fully prepared with the 21st century skills necessary to find satisfying careers. In his latest release, *High*

*School 101*, Chad Foster outlines an innovative strategy that focuses on preparing students for the various transitions in their lives, from middle school, high school, and into the workplace. Mr. Foster also wrote the informative bestsellers, *Teenagers Preparing for the Real World* and *Financial Literacy for Teens*. As keynote speaker, Mr. Foster provided a lot of useful information in an informative and entertaining format.

During the two-day conference, there were 24 individual session choices. Session topics included essential skills in literacy in the workplace; careers in hospitality and tourism sectors: the on-line version of the Real Game, the next generation; Future to Discover, findings and future direction; Road Builders Association of New Brunswick, and Sussex Potash Mining, to name just a few.

Many thanks go out to John Tingley and the members of the Provincial Guidance Advisory Committee for planning and hosting this useful and informative conference.



# UNB and St. Thomas University to Host Major National Conference



**J**ohn McLaughlin, president of the University of New Brunswick, and Michael Higgins, president of St. Thomas University, are pleased to announce that their institutions have been chosen by the Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences to host Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in 2011. The largest academic gathering in Canada, the annual congress traditionally attracts between 5,500 and 8,000 people.

Drs. Higgins and McLaughlin have appointed William Sweet, vice-president (academic) at St. Thomas, and Greg Kealey, vice-president (research) at UNB, to chair the Congress 2011 steering committee. UNB history professor, Linda Kealey, has been appointed academic convenor and will be responsible for the overall organization and management of the congress. Over the next four years, they will be joined by numerous colleagues from both institutions, including UNB Saint John, in planning this major national event.

"This is a very important and prestigious event which we are honoured to host," said Dr. McLaughlin. "We are looking forward to a very productive

partnership between our two institutions."

Dr. Higgins noted, "The congress is the largest multidisciplinary conference of researchers and scholars in North America. I have been a participant throughout my career and regard this event as central to the intellectual vitality of the country."

Brad Woodside, mayor of Fredericton, stated, "This event will be the largest conference in the city's

***"This is a very important and prestigious event which we are honoured to host..."***

history. In addition to the academic and cultural advantages, we expect the event to have a major positive impact on the city's economy."

The Federation promotes research, scholarship and teaching in the humanities and social sciences, highlighting a better understanding of the importance of such work for Canada and the world.

It works for the advancement and dissemination of knowledge in the humanities and social sciences and, as a Federation of learned societies, facilitates the work of individual and groups of scholars. Its largest activity is the annual congress.

Now in its 76th year, the congress is an important meeting place for new and established academics and researchers working in such diverse areas as anthropology, music, translation, communication and disability studies, English language and literature, francophone 19th-century literature, geography, the history and philosophy of science, international development, political science, social work, theatre research, women studies and many more.

In May of this year, approximately 5,700 delegates representing over 68 learned societies came to the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon from all over North America, Europe, Africa and Asia to present their research and to debate some of the most important social and cultural questions of the day.

The congress, then known as the Learned Societies, was last held at UNB in Fredericton in 1977.



## NBTA 2007 Golf Tournament

The annual NBTA Fun Golf Tournament was held in Saint John at the Rockwood Park Golf Course, September 22, 2007. Over 110 participants enjoyed the golf, meal, and prizes.

We would like to thank the following sponsors: NBTA, NBTA Credit Union Ltd., Moosehead Breweries, Rockwood Park Golf Course, Quiznos (St. Andrews).

Closest to the hole winners: #3 Gary Wade, #6 Sir Dennis Pinet, #10 Dave Manning, #18 Bob Fitzpatrick.

**Pictured (l-r): Trevor Perry, Peter Murray, Brent Shaw, Pat Elliott, Dave Manning, Gordie Kline**

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

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

## Preparing Teacher Leaders of Tomorrow

**Date:** November 26, 2007 (9am - 4pm)

**Location:** NBTF Building, Fredericton

**Facilitators:** Beverley Park (NLTA), Melinda Cook (NBTA), Ardith Shirley (NBTA)

**Participants:** Open registration; Limit 40

**Registration Deadline:** November 14, 2007

In this workshop, administrators will explore tools and strategies that initiate and promote distributed, sustainable leadership in their school community. The guiding principle of this one-day workshop will be, "Strong leaders build cultures that outlive them".

## Educational Leadership: Walking the Line Between Professionalism and Productivity

**Date:** January 22nd and 23rd, 2008 (9am – 4pm)

**Location:** NBTF Building, Fredericton

**Facilitators:** Bob Fitzpatrick (NBTA), Ardith Shirley (NBTA), others TBA

**Participants:** Open registration; Limit 40

**Registration Deadline:** January 15, 2008



This two-day workshop is a repeat of the popular program offered in the 2005 series. It will engage in-school administrators in reflection and dialogue centered around the challenge of being both a colleague and a leader within your school community. A focus on both Policies and People will be developed through case studies, interactive activities and sharing. Building collaborative cultures and reducing conflict will be highlights of the two days.

**Please fax the registration form to:  
Ardith Shirley, Director of Professional Development, at 506-453-9795.**

## Skills for Administrators Series 2007-2008

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to register for:

\_\_\_ **Preparing Teacher Leaders of Tomorrow** (November 26, 2007)

\_\_\_ **Educational Leadership: Walking the Line Between Professionalism and Productivity**  
(January 22-23, 2008)

**You will be emailed with a confirmation of your seat.**

# Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program

*Do you know an emerging environmental leader?*

All across Canada, from St. John's to Tofino, high school students are stepping forward to help the environment. Through their committed involvement in volunteer and extracurricular activities, they are having a positive impact on both their local communities and our country as a whole. Toyota Canada Inc. and Earth Day Canada take pride in acknowledging the valuable work of these students and rewarding their efforts as they move on to post-secondary studies.

The Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program is once again offering 15 scholarships of \$5000 each to high school students who are entering their first year of college or university. One exceptional student, chosen from the 15 regional scholarship winners, will also be presented with the Toyota Earth Day

Scholarship National Award and a Panasonic notebook computer at the National Award Ceremony.

To date, \$350,000 has helped 70 exceptional young Canadians to achieve their academic goals.



We know that environmental science students are not the only people who want to make a difference for the environment. That's why we encourage

applications from environmentally active students from all walks of life, regardless of their preferred program of study. Past scholarship recipients have entered various academic fields, including engineering, fine arts, medicine, and political science.

Young people all over the country are busy making a huge difference now, but they are also emerging as the environmental leaders of tomorrow. If you know a student from your local community whose passion for the environment is expressed through dedication and hard work in extracurricular activities and volunteer initiatives, they may qualify for a Toyota Earth Day Scholarship.

**The deadline for applications is January 31, 2008.**

Please visit [www.earthday.ca/scholarship](http://www.earthday.ca/scholarship) for more information or to download the application.



## LAW DAY CONTEST 2008

High school social studies, civics, history and law students are invited to answer the question:

**What does "Independence of the Judiciary" mean?**

Entries may be received in essay, poem, poster or other creative format.

The multi-media program Try Judging™, accessible without cost to any teacher or student at [www.tryjudging.ca](http://www.tryjudging.ca) or [www.essayezdejuger.ca](http://www.essayezdejuger.ca), provides the information upon which students may base their entries.

Entries will be judged by three judges.  
3 winners will be announced on Law Day April 17, 2008.  
3 winners and their teachers will be flown economy class to Ottawa May 11-13, 2008.

The winners and teachers will enjoy a dinner hosted by the Chief Justice of Canada, a visit to the Supreme Court and Museum of Civilization, and a tour of Canada's Parliament Buildings.

**Entries are to be submitted no later than March 31, 2008 to:**

**Law Day Contest**  
Canadian Superior Courts Judges Association  
203 - 4 Beechwood Ave.  
Ottawa, ON K1L 8L9  
[fmcardle@cscja-acjcs.ca](mailto:fmcardle@cscja-acjcs.ca)



# Plan Ahead for This Year's Class Trip



Last spring, over 300 New Brunswick middle school students participated in the *Explore* program at Mount Allison University. During their 24-hour visit, students slept in residence, ate three healthy meals in Jennings Dining Hall, and experienced five hours of interactive lessons led by Mount Allison Summer Ambassadors.

Another 400 + students from New Brunswick middle schools participated in *Mini Explore*, a condensed version of the program.

*Explore* is educational, fun and

provides a rare and invaluable look inside the walls of a university campus.

Here's what some students had to say about their experience:

### Question: What did you learn?

- "I learned that university is more than just textbooks"
- "I learned about the stock market and how people fix old paintings"
- "Stuff about medieval music, how it sounded and how it was written"
- "I learned what a piano looks like inside and I learned about Mozart

and the music artists"

- "I learned how to properly brush off fossils, about different composers"
- "I learned about psychology and that I have a blind spot"
- "I learned that going on a class trip can be educational"

*Explore* is open to grades 5-7. *Mini Explore* is open to grades 3-7. Both programs take place in May and June.

For more information check out the website: <http://www.mta.ca/conference/explore/index.html> or email: [summer@mta.ca](mailto:summer@mta.ca)



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# Rothesay Park Middle School Student - Lily Mark - Winner of "My Hero" Contest

Lily Francis Mark was recently chosen as the Atlantic Regional winner in the 'My Hero' Contest, sponsored by Abraxis Oncology and Willow Breast Cancer Support Canada.

Lily is a 10-year-old grade 6 student at Rothesay Park Middle School in District 6 and her teacher, Libby O'Hara, is proud of her accomplishment. "Lily has a way with words. Her ability to express why she believes her mom is her hero has paid off in a big way. Lily entered a contest in support of breast cancer and explained why she feels her mom deserves the title of "Hero." Lily's mom was diagnosed with breast cancer when Lily was only 1 and 1/2 years old. She wrote about her mom's courage and her commitment to her Dragon Boat team which practices every Tuesday and Thursday night. This is also where Lily can be found enjoying the company of survivors like her mom. Lily is a delightful young lady who is kind and thoughtful. Her essay won her a \$2500.00 educational grant in the form of a Registered Education Savings Plan. Congratulations for such an inspiring and heartfelt essay."

Beginning in May, Canadian children aged eight to twelve were asked to submit a short essay on why their mother or other female family member, who has been affected by breast cancer, is their hero. The review panel included members of the Canadian children's media, as well as representatives of Willow Breast Cancer Support Canada.

"We received many incredibly inspiring stories through the eyes of children affected by breast cancer from across the country," said Lyndal Walker, vice president of Abraxis Oncology. "The children we heard from helped in every imaginable way; from helping to educate their friends at school, to getting involved in various fundraising efforts to help further breast cancer research."

*The New Brunswick Teachers'*



Association congratulates Lily on winning this contest.

Abraxis Oncology, a wholly owned division of Abraxis BioScience Inc., is devoted to the global development and commercialization of next generation cancer therapies.

Willow is best in class among breast cancer education and support organizations providing all Canadians impacted by the disease with timely and relevant information, education and unique peer support.  
[www.breastcancerheroes.ca/](http://www.breastcancerheroes.ca/)

## Lily's "Hero" ...

*To me, a hero is someone who is there for you; through the good and the bad, someone you can trust, count on and someone that you love who loves you too. Lucky for me, my mom is ALL of those things.*

*Unlike imaginary heroes, like Superman and Spiderman... my mom doesn't wear a cape, or fly and leap over buildings. She wears a pink ribbon and paddles.*

*When my mother was 37, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. I was only one and a half, and it was hard on everyone. But it made my family stronger, especially my mom.*

*Five years later she joined a dragon boat team called "Breasts Ahoy". They are all breast cancer survivors just like her and they've been together for almost 5 years.*

*A year after she joined that team she published her first book called "Something Completely Different". It's about breast cancer, dragon boating*

*and her life.*

*For the past 5 years, I have gone paddling almost every Tuesday and Thursday with my mom and her team. I don't paddle but I do sit on the boat and have a great time. I think a lot of the women, and men on her team. I have made a bunch of nice friends from that team and, one of the best things about it is that my family and I travel all over the Maritimes to go to dragon boat festivals! It is beautiful to see them paddle!*

*A lot of people don't survive after being diagnosed with breast cancer. If my mom wasn't a survivor, I don't know what I would be doing, where I would be, or who I would be. She's been there for me everyday for the past 10 and half years and she truly is, my hero.*



# Teachers Without Borders - Canada

## www.twbcanada.org

### Get Involved!

There are many ways you can get involved:

- by being a part of travelling workshops equipping teachers in other countries with resources and best practices,
- by helping to develop and/or donating educational resources,
- by collaborating with and mentoring teachers across the globe, or
- by connecting your class with a class in another country for collaborative learning projects and friendship.



### Contact us:

Teachers Without Borders  
Canada, New Brunswick Co-ordinator  
Jeff Holder, [jholder@twbcanada.org](mailto:jholder@twbcanada.org)  
[www.twbcanada.org](http://www.twbcanada.org), [info@twbcanada.org](mailto:info@twbcanada.org)  
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- Mediation

**Yvonne Vaughan**

MA M.ED CCC

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1-506-454-2216  
or  
1-506-461-8440  
(cell)

\* Insurance Coverage \*

## 28<sup>th</sup> Annual NBTA Men Teachers' Curling Bonspiel

**Carleton Curling Club, Saint John, NB**

**January 25, 26, 27, 2008**

**Registration: \$120.00/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, Chairperson,  
NBTA Men Teachers' Curling Bonspiel,  
21 Meadow Drive,  
Rothsay, NB E2H 1K9  
Tel: 847-5429 Fax: 847-5424  
Email: [kilfoilt@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:kilfoilt@nbnet.nb.ca)



# Branch 1430 Hosts Wellness PD Day

**W**hen Branch 1430 Professional Development Committee polled their teachers on possible themes for future professional development, they received an overwhelming response that teachers needed to have a wellness day. So with the support of Superintendent Lisa Gallagher, the committee began planning for the October 1 Wellness Day.

The day began with Dianne Lunn bringing greetings from District Office. Keynote Speaker Michael Ketchum, Counsellor/Consultant, NBTA Professional Counselling Service for Teachers, then shared a message of being passionate about

your work and that it is okay to enjoy your work as educators. In fact, teachers should be proud of the contribution they make to the students in their care. However, if teachers are not well, then the quality of education will be greatly diminished.

The divided sessions began with a myriad of options for teachers to learn about being and staying well throughout the school year. There were physical activities including walking, tennis, biking and Yoga, along with sessions on art and music therapy, photography, and scrapbooking. Sessions were also offered on pension planning, nutrition and women's wellness.

The organizers — Chiara Pacione, Mary Turnbull, Graydon Dingee and school PD representatives, are to be commended for putting together a tremendous program for the teachers of NBTA Branch 1430. The day helped teachers to be well and in turn will enhance the education of their students in the days to come.

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*"...as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."*

— Marianne Williamson

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Graydon Dingee, David Phillips and Chris Brown try their hand at Art Therapy



Teachers, led by Ted Deweyert, participate in Walking for Wellness



Presenter Ann Kennedy explains the details of jewelry making to Pam Green and Colleen Wiley



Peter McLaughlin leads a group of teachers in Music Therapy

## New Seminar Series

# Transition To Life After Teaching Seminar

## Lifestyle Planning ~ The Social Side

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ November 17 - Moncton, Edith Cavell School  
 \_\_\_\_\_ January 26 - Fredericton, NBTF Building

November 5  
 January 14

Name of Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of Years of Teaching: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**This is NOT a Financial Planning Seminar.**  
**(see page 4 for more information on financial planning)**

## Seminar Guidelines

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

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

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

- What are New Brunswick teachers doing after retirement?
- How do I know that I am ready to retire?
- I'm scared to retire, is this normal?
- What will I do with my time?
- My friends are still at school, who will I socialize with?
- Come and hear first-hand from recently-retired teachers.
- Hear about the results of a survey to New Brunswick teachers in 2006.



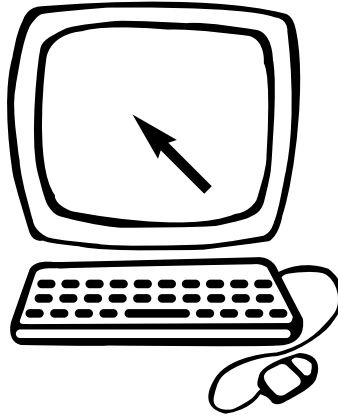
# Technology Access and Use in High Schools: the Pitfalls and Promises

**C**omputer access and training are now deemed necessary for young people to become active and productive members of society, and both educators and parents today are investing heavily in time and money to provide this access and training. But is the investment paying dividends?

Since 2002, sociologists Dianne Looker and Victor Thiessen have been studying the use of computers in schools for the Equity and Technology Alliance Research Project. Their research included surveys and interviews in selected schools in Nunavut and Nova Scotia, Canada, and in the Western Cape, South Africa. Based on their findings, a 34-minute documentary, *Technology Access and Use in High Schools: the Pitfalls and Promises* was made and is available at <http://promisesandpitfalls.wordpress.com/>. A number of questions that were raised about ICT in the classroom are listed with the documentary and could be used as the basis for discussions between educators about this topic.

Filming for the documentary took place in schools in Nova Scotia, Canada and the Western Cape, South Africa that were interested in participating; they were not chosen for any other reason. The documentary shows remarkable similarities between schools: regardless of gender, class, race or cultural background differences, young people universally enjoy working with computers and believe that they will use them in their future careers, and teachers express similar concerns about the promises and pitfalls of computer use in the classroom.

The documentary supports Looker and Thiessen's finding that it is premature to conclude that ICT use improves young people's educational performance, that there are immense differences in access and use of computer technology in



schools, both between countries and between population groups within countries, and that schools implement ICT into their curriculum in different ways. In some schools, use of ICT appears to be associated with better learning outcomes, while in others it does not. The researchers also found that educational performance is highest among students who use ICT in moderation; students who seldom or never use ICT, as well as those who use ICT very frequently, exhibit poorer academic outcomes.

The research and the

documentary were supported in Canada by Dalhousie University and Mount Saint Vincent University, and in South Africa by Stellenbosch University, and were funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

by Barbara Cottrell  
Atlantic Centre for the Study of  
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# Wellness Highlights

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Niel Cameron, Districts 2, 15, 16

1-888-763-5050

Michael Ketchum, Districts 14, 17, 18

1-800-561-1727

## November – Sleep/Relaxation

# “Sleep Secrets”

## Did You Know?

### A Guide to Better Sleep — Selecting the Best Mattress & Foundation for You

Don't look to the warranty to determine whether it is time for a new mattress. The warranty does not indicate how long your mattress will maintain optimum comfort and support. When you are thinking of buying a new mattress you should think of it in the same way that you would when you are buying a new car. You should:

**Test-drive:** Lay down on the mattress - in all different sleeping positions. If you don't sleep alone, make sure you go shopping with your partner and lie down on the bed together.



**Size:** Check that the bed is wide enough to fit you comfortably. Sleep studies show that we turn between forty and sixty times a night and that we require room to move freely so that we don't wake up. Experts recommend that if you sleep with a partner, you may want a Queen or King size mattress.

**Support:** To check if your mattress offers appropriate support, lie on your back and try sliding the flat of your hand under the small of your back. If the mattress is too soft you will have difficulty getting your hand underneath; if it is too hard, your hand will move freely beneath you as there will be a space between the mattress and your spine. When your hand fits snugly under the small of your back and the mattress, then you know that this will allow your spine to rest in its natural “s” shape.

**Care:** Improper care throughout the life of your mattress can shorten its life span. See “Mattress Care Tips” for more information.

**Sleep Set Advances:** Technological and medical advances, combined with industry research and development, have not only led to changes in mattress design and construction but also to improvements in the comfort and support available in today's mattresses, leading to a better night's sleep.

— Better Sleep Council of Canada, [www.bettersleep.ca](http://www.bettersleep.ca)

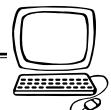
## Suggested Activity from the Binder

Bedtime Book Exchange



## Suggested Website from the Binder

Chapters – [www.chapters.ca](http://www.chapters.ca)



## A Touch of Humour

“Live one day at a time. After all, isn't that why they were put in consecutive order?”

— Anonymous, [www.mikekerr.com](http://www.mikekerr.com)



# Announcements

## McCord Museum Website

A new personal space is offered to you, completely free, on the McCord Museum website! Visit the webpage "My McCord" ([www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/mymccord](http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/mymccord)) to register and create your account.

Now, "My McCord" will allow you to comment on, annotate, and tag images, and also to add personal images. You will also more easily be able to access all your folders.

Try these new tools by exploring our latest Web initiatives, displaying Aboriginal cultures. This year, 5,000 artifacts from First Nations collections have been added, bringing the new McCord Museum "Keys to History" digital on-line collection total to 135,000.

Also, you can explore resources that correspond to several themes drawn from the curricula by consulting the webpage "Resources": [www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/eduweb/resources](http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/eduweb/resources). Here you can find a selection of images, games, thematic tours, video clips, lesson plans, etc. for nearly fifty subjects.

The McCord Museum still offers teachers free Web Resources assistance and training. Simply let us know your needs!

## Environmental Education Program

Canon Canada and WWF-Canada are pleased to announce the national launch of the *Schools for a Living Planet* program. The free online teaching resource is designed to help elementary school teachers enhance environmental education in the classroom, and can supplement subjects from science to language arts and social studies.

Access to the *Schools for a Living Planet* program can be found through the WWF-Canada homepage ([www.wwf.ca](http://www.wwf.ca)), or at [www.wwf.ca/schools](http://www.wwf.ca/schools). Once registered, educators, parents, youth leaders and others can freely access all material on the site. The plans and activities are targeted to grades three through eight and have been designed to complement provincial and territorial curricula.

To further engage students and

teachers around environmental activities, WWF-Canada will announce a cross-country eco-challenge to mobilize Canadian classrooms to take action against climate change. Prizing for this competition will be provided by Canon Canada and WWF-Canada, and will include printers from Canon Canada's newly launched EcoSense line. For further details on the contest, please visit [www.wwf.ca/schools](http://www.wwf.ca/schools).

## Kiwanis Read-a-thon

Dear Educators,

The Kiwanis Read-a-thon is the largest Read-a-thon in the world.

Kiwanis Club of Ottawa and Kiwanis International is delighted to share this innovative literacy improvement project with your school or organization regardless of location in the world, and it's free.

The Read-a-thon is designed to encourage children to become better readers, by reading more often, trying out new books—and having fun doing it.

Simply visit our web site at <http://www.kiwanisreadathon.org> to register on-line.

Once we've received your school registration form, we will provide you access to the teacher tool-kit with teacher-tested and approved materials that will help you launch and implement a Read-a-thon.

Resource materials include an implementation checklist, backpack handouts, reading records, classroom and school wide activities and more!

Kiwanis is proud to have this opportunity to help schools around the world implement their literacy initiatives. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lee-Ann Scott

Kiwanis Read-a-thon  
#201-1283 Algoma Road  
Ottawa, ON K1B 3W7  
Tel: 613-290-5504  
Fax: 613-233-3718



Email: [info@kiwanisreadathon.org](mailto:info@kiwanisreadathon.org)  
[www.kiwanisreadathon.org](http://www.kiwanisreadathon.org)

## Government of Canada Forums

The Foundation for the Study of Processes of Government in Canada is a not-for-profit charitable organization. It was established in 1975 to promote understanding of the role and function of the three levels of government in Canada and the meaning of Canadian citizenship. The Foundation offers two forums, one for students and one for teachers.

### Forum for Young Canadians —

Each school may nominate qualified students between the ages of 15 and 19. The 2008 scheduled dates are March 1-8, March 29-April 5, April 12-19 and April 19-26. All sessions are held in Ottawa. This year all application and promotional materials will be sent by e-mail and will also be available for downloading on the website. Spaces are limited and nominations are due **November 15, 2007**. Late nominations will be considered if spaces are available.

### Forum Teachers' Conference —

This conference is one of the best professional development conferences and affords teachers one of the richest experiences in learning the various processes of government. This year's conference will be held **April 19-26, 2008**. Sixteen teachers are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information or to apply for both forums, visit the website at: [www.forum.ca](http://www.forum.ca)



New Brunswick Teachers' Association  
 650 Montgomery Street,  
 P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB  
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## Come to our Annual General Meeting!

NBTA Credit Union is a full-service financial provider owned entirely by its members.

We are holding our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, November 15th with registration beginning at 7:00 PM. This year's AGM will be held at the NBTF Building - 650 Montgomery Street, Fredericton.

We hope to see you there! Not a member-owner yet? Contact us today!



**CREDIT UNION**

**NBTA**

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