



NBTA *news*

NEW BRUNSWICK TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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Teachers

“Do Make a Difference”

In keeping with the NBTA's 100th Anniversary, Celebrating a Century of Learning, we are presenting a series of five articles which represent just a small portion of the impact New Brunswick teachers have on their students, their communities, and their profession.

The NBTA is proud of the contributions its members have made over the past century to the improvement of society in New Brunswick, in Canada, and throughout the world, with the support of CTF and Education International.

We look forward to the next 100 years — one day, one student, and one class at a time.

Saint John Teacher, Kevin Langford, Recognized for Dedication to Music

Accomplished Choirmaster Kevin Langford Honoured at Saint John Fall Convocation

Well-known Saint John area choirmaster, Kevin Langford, was the first of some 77 graduates honoured at the 2003 Fall Convocation Ceremony for the University of New Brunswick Saint John. The graduation took place in the Imperial Theatre on Friday, October 24.

Mr. Langford addressed the convocation following the receipt of a Doctor of Letters honoris causa in recognition of his many years developing the youth of the Greater Saint John area.

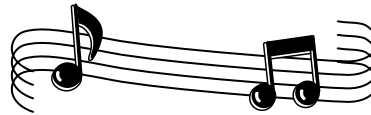
Kevin Langford has been a familiar figure at music festivals and shows in and around Saint John for

many years. Originally from Kingston, Ontario, he is a graduate of Mount Allison University (Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education). He has been

classroom music and choir specialist in the Kennebecasis Valley school system for over 18 years, and is currently employed by School District 6

as a full-time music teacher for Grades 1 to 5 at Rothsay Elementary School.

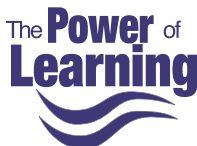
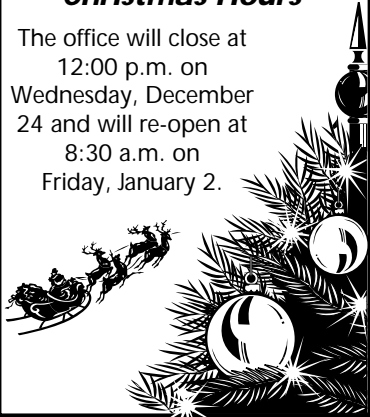
Mr. Langford also teaches voice privately. Noted for his successful approach to voice development and children's choirs, he has given numerous workshops on choral training and conducting. Several of



The President, Board of Directors, and staff of the NBTA wish all of our members a warm and happy holiday season!

Christmas Hours

The office will close at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24 and will re-open at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, January 2.



his graduates have gone on to study voice at the University of Toronto and the University of Western Ontario. Some of his notable former students include Cindy Townsend and Tammy Paige.

Kevin Langford is likely most well known for his work with the various Rotary choirs he conducts, some of which have participated in international choir festivals. Several of his children, youth and community choirs have also won awards in provincial and Canadian national competitions.

Mr. Langford's choirs have made some prestigious appearances



throughout the years, including singing for Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana during their visit to Saint John in 1983, and performances in the World Curling Championship in 1999 and at the East Coast Music Awards in Saint John in 2002. Last fall Mr. Langford directed the Rotary Choir performances during the Installation of UNB's 17th President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. John McLaughlin.

Always a keen contributor in the community, Mr. Langford has also had his choirs perform for the Empty Stocking Fund and other benefit concerts and fundraising events.

An accomplished conductor and choir leader, Mr. Langford has been an adjudicator at a number of music festivals. He has also served on the Canada Council for the Arts for choral awards and grants.



Kevin Langford and his choirs have won the Benjamin Gus Trophy awarded by the NB Competitive Music Festival some 12 times, and have been finalists on numerous occasions in provincial and national music festivals. Other awards granted to Mr. Langford include the Gretchen Betts Conductor Music Festival Award and a Canada 125 award for his work with youth.

(Articles continued on page 4)

Kevin Langford Receives Governor General's Caring Canadian Award

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, recently announced the names of 49 recipients of the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award.

The Governor General's Caring Canadian Award is presented to individuals and groups whose unpaid, voluntary contributions provide extraordinary help or care to people in the community. Recipients have served over a number of years and normally have not been recognized previously by a national or provincial honour.

The Award consists of a framed certificate and a lapel pin for everyday wear. The award symbol represents Canadians who selflessly give of their time and energy to others. Presentations are made by the Governor General in communities across

Canada as her travels permit or by a designate of the Governor General.



Kevin Langford

Kevin James Langford's dedication to music and the teaching of choral singing goes far beyond his duties as a teacher at Rothesay Elementary School. He devotes countless noon hours, evenings and weekends to conducting many youth choirs. His choirs often hold fundraising concerts for local charities.

Despite the fact that his reputation allows him to command high fees for his services, he frequently chooses to conduct and teach free of charge when money is scarce, propelled by his desire to share music. Mr. Langford's enthusiastic approach to music instruction has won the hearts of legions of students, many of whom have gone on to pursue musical careers.

**NBTA Special Rate
with Ramada Hotel
Fredericton
for All
NBTA Members
As of January 2004**

	<i>Single</i>	<i>Double</i>
School Year	\$62.00	\$68.00
Summer	\$82.00	\$92.00



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Brian Bawn

I cannot believe that I am writing this December article already. It seems that I just started this job yesterday and already we are talking about Christmas.

Report cards are finished, parent/teacher meetings are done, elementary schools are getting ready for their Christmas concerts, middle schools are planning their Christmas dances, and high schools are gearing up for the end of first semester.

The QLA and Change

I have been doing a lot of reading lately, and as I was re-reading the Quality Learning Agenda (QLA), a number of questions came to mind. The QLA sets the goal for New Brunswick education of "a system that will be recognized as one of the top three in the country." My first question is: *What are we doing differently today that will lead to this objective in ten years?*

The report promotes quality teaching with more professional development, ensuring that all New Brunswick teachers have adequate training corresponding to the subject areas they teach. Yet we have communities throughout the province that can't attract teachers in certain subject areas. We also have difficulty in attracting certified substitute teachers. How many districts have seen an increase in the use of local permits to replace qualified teachers who are absent from work?

Looking at the Big Picture

My second question is: *What strategies are being implemented to attract and keep qualified candidates as teachers in our province?*

Class Composition

Parents and teachers want what is best for their students, but do current class compositions allow this to happen? I would suggest our current class structure, with such a wide range of abilities of students, is not conducive to providing a quality education to all students. Smaller class sizes, grouping students of similar abilities, textbooks and resources to match their needs, and requiring students to be responsible and accountable for their schoolwork are some of the issues to consider in providing the results we are all looking for. New Brunswick teachers are among the most qualified in all of Canada; let us do the job we know we can do, but give us classes that will allow that to happen.

The question is: *How is the Quality Learning Agenda going to address this issue?* What about the programs that we had in our schools for those students who are not going to pursue post secondary education?

What would be the effect on the system if the government were to announce that over the next five years they were going to increase the number of teachers in the system by one hundred and twenty-five teachers per year for five years without reductions for declining enrollments? Would that allow districts some flexibility in addressing class composition issues by adding extra staffing where needed? Let's change history rather than just repeating it. Drastic changes call for drastic measures, but ones that make educational sense.

Teaching Resources

I have attended many branch meetings and have spoken with superintendents and directors. I am hearing that district resources seem to be stretched to the limit and we

are only in the fourth month of the school year. I would suggest that whatever changes are going to be made under the name of the QLA, they be changes that add resources to our system and not take from one area and give to another within the existing budgets. We are already working in a system that is stressed to the limit now as far as personnel and resources. What does it tell you about a system where teachers have to fight to get paper for photocopying and students don't have sufficient textbooks; is that the kind of quality system that we are striving for? Is that going to help us be in the top three provinces in Canada in ten years?

Striving for Perfection

Will the system ever be perfect? Probably not. Can it be better? Yes. That will only become a reality when we work together to make changes that make sense. I believe that the time is here for students, parents, politicians, administrators and teachers to sit down and decide how we can ensure our system provides quality services for all students, regardless of their needs.

Don't misunderstand me; I believe that having a plan in place is a good idea. Wanting to improve what we are doing is an admirable goal, but my concerns are based on how we achieve those goals. Teachers are major players in the educational system. We have valuable ideas about what it is going to take to make some positive changes that will achieve the goals we all share for education in New Brunswick.

I pray that you will all have a wonderful Christmas Holiday Season and enjoy your much-deserved time off. Remember that family and friends are two of our most prized possessions. Treat them accordingly.

I hope Santa finds the gang at MGT and that he gives them what they deserve. Hope to see you in the New Year!

National Recognition for Teacher/Volunteer, Garth Wade

For more than 20 years, Garth Wade has been a tireless advocate for physical education in New Brunswick, throughout the Maritimes and across Canada. He is known as a leader in the gym for his knowledge and success at implementing the most current education practices, and for involving himself with virtually every initiative aimed at improving physical education and school health in the province.

For his efforts, Garth was recently awarded the R. Tait McKenzie Honour Award at the the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (CAHPERD) held in Winnipeg.

Wade said getting involved in physical education was an easy choice. "I was one of those few people who knew what I wanted to do when I was young. When I was in Grade 9, I knew I wanted to be a physical educator, primarily because of exposure to quality people around me, and I was involved in sport at the time," he said.

Garth was Chair of the QDPE Program Advisory Committee and an executive council member for both CAHPERD and CIRA. He has served as chair and/or member on numerous provincial and national committees, including almost every conference planning committee that have guided the direction of physical and health education for the last 20 years.

In spite of numerous activities, Garth has found the time to volunteer as a coach and organizer. He is a respected assistant coach of the UNB men's basketball team and has coached his school teams in soccer, basketball, badminton, and

volleyball. Many of these teams have won provincial championships. He has been the driving force at UNB for their most important outreach programs — "Heads Up with the Reds".

"The challenge nowadays, and especially in our province, is the sense that individuals don't realize the importance of physical education and physical activity as



Garth Wade (r) receives the R. Tait McKenzie Award of Honour in Winnipeg at the national conference of the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD) from Association President, Nick Forsberg

the baseline to everything they should do in their lives," he said. "Schools need to realize the need for physical education in their curriculum. Educators have been emphasizing other subjects in classrooms, like math, and losing sight of how physical education can help kids learn."

Garth's dedication has not gone unnoticed. In 1988 he was recognized as a CAHPERD National Young Professional; in 1991 he was awarded the Dr. John Meagher Award by NBTA Health and Physical Education Council; in 1993 he received the National Founders Award by CIRA; in 1997 Basketball NB presented him with a Coaching Service Award; and the City of

Fredericton presented him with their "Unsung Hero" Award. This year, UNB presented him with the Jim Born Award for his contribution to athletics. Garth has received recognition locally, provincially and nationally. His career has been one of tireless leadership and service.

The R. Tait McKenzie Award of honour is the most prestigious award presented by CAHPERD. It was first presented at the Montreal Conference in 1948. The Award of Honour is named after the distinguished Canadian physician, sculptor and physical educator, Dr. Robert Tait McKenzie, and epitomizes his professional ideals, his service to humanity and his dedication to the advancement of knowledge and understanding of our related fields of health, physical education, recreation and dance.

The final selection of recipients of the R. Tait McKenzie Award of Honour reflects the recognition by one's peers of the worthiness of one's professional accomplishments over the year, and serves as an inspiration for the younger members of this profession.

Garth says: "Physical education offers many rewards. The benefits are very obvious. I think the key benefit is that it helps people learn better with that idea that is the baseline to everyone's lifestyle. If you develop a healthy lifestyle, you are going to do better academically and live a longer, happy and more productive life."

Garth Wade is currently Physical Education Mentor for District #18, President of the New Brunswick Physical Education Society, and continues to teach Curriculum and Instruction courses for the University of New Brunswick.

Teacher Leads By Example

Oromocto's John Ryan is a pioneer. Not only was his family one of the first to settle in the western section of the town, he has helped revolutionize the art of teaching. By successfully mixing a kind nature with a God-given ability to communicate, Ryan has found the perfect recipe for effective and efficient education.

For the last 32 years, he has been applying that formula to his job teaching students in Fredericton Junction, Oromocto and the Village of Gagetown. "It's a wonderful profession, but a very focused one," Ryan said.

For close to a decade, the son of a former infantry soldier has been an educational icon in a community that boasts of being the birthplace of Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, one of Canada's founding fathers of Confederation.

Aside from his duties as principal at Gagetown School, Ryan also teaches language arts and computers to Grade 5 students. He has become popular with the 140-member student body and staff.

"His leadership style is inclusive; he focuses on the positive," said

Randy Smith, one of the teachers. "He empowers teachers to be all they can be and looks for people with

his love for education that made him want to become a teacher as much as his decision to follow a matter of the heart. He was more interested in being near his high school sweetheart, Carol Shephard, who had decided to enrol in teachers' college. Ryan gave up on an early plan to go into a forestry career to pursue the woman who later became his wife.

Ryan graduated from teachers' college with flying colours in the early 1970s and was hired as a teacher at Sunbury West School in Fredericton Junction. He spent the next 24 years there. In 1996 he accepted a position at what was then Waasis Junior High School in Oromocto.

His time there was limited to a couple of months, as a result of being asked to fill in for the existing Gagetown principal, who had become ill. He has been there ever since. "This is simply a wonderful community," Ryan said of Gagetown, his second home. "The community is the heart of the school and the school is the heart of the community."

He said he will be content to continue on with a lifestyle he has come to love. "I have no plans to retire," Ryan said.



Ryan and his students: Gagetown School principal John Ryan poses with his grade 5 class.

leadership to lead the school."

Being around people was something Ryan became accustomed to at an early age. He was the youngest of five children and the only boy in the family. He arrived in Oromocto with his parents and siblings in 1955 from Moncton. His father, Alex Ryan, a veteran of the Second World War, came to the model town to work as a stationary engineer.

Oddly enough, it wasn't so much

District 17 Superintendent, Marilyn Ball, Recognizes the Work of Teachers

Ball loves job as superintendent

When Marilyn Ball walks into her office on the Miramichi Road, she is greeted by the words of philosopher and scholar Haim Ginott. "As a teacher, I possess tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or an instrument of inspiration," he said.

The declaration reminds Ball of the important role teachers play in the lives of children. The District 17 superintendent of schools said she believes those words with all her

heart. "It's important that the work of teachers be recognized. Teachers work hard to ensure that students learn. We need to celebrate that as much as possible."

As superintendent for the last two years, Ball has worked to ensure students in her district are provided with what they need to succeed early in life. "This job is one that provides incredible satisfaction and challenges," she said. "There is something different every day."

As superintendent, Ball is responsible for 18 schools, approximately 5,700 students, 240 teachers, 80 teaching assistants, 57 bus drivers, 23 secretaries, and an equal number of custodians.

Ball's "big time" responsibilities evolved from life in a "small time" Saskatchewan community. One of five children born to Edward and Dorothy Ball, she spent her early days on a small prairie farm where she helped out with just about every

chore that needed to be done. The only thing she wasn't allowed to do was drive a combine. "I rode a horse to school," Ball recalled. "You either walked, took a bike or brought a horse."

She attended a school that handled students from grades one to eight. Its student body consisted of 16 children — just about enough for a "ball team." Once students from her community near Melville entered grade 9, they were transferred to a larger school — one with more than 600 children. "At first, it was a bit of a culture shock," Ball said.

The administrator said she knew it was time to leave home and start a life of her own when her parents gave her suitcases as a graduation present.

And that's exactly what she did. Ball enrolled in the University of Saskatchewan in Regina and acquired a B.A. in Anthropology with Minors in History and Psychology. She attended school for

a short time in Newfoundland and got married.

While the latter did not work out, Ball was determined to pursue her education and obtained her teaching

me," Ball said. "I decided to try it and I quickly fell in love with it."

After six years of teaching, Ball became a student again, earning a Master's degree in school psychology in Halifax. In the early 1980s, she took a related job in the education system in Bathurst where, among other things, she was involved with special education.

On April 2, 2001, she was hired as District 17 superintendent. "Thank goodness they didn't do it on April 1," Ball said.

Some of her proudest moments since taking the position include involvement in the autonomous learners' program for gifted students, the district drama festival, the evolution of the special education

program, and having teachers become more involved in students' lives. "Seeing progress in education and watching it evolve into something good makes it all worthwhile," Ball said.



Top teacher: Marilyn Ball, Superintendent of schools for District 17, believes it's important to recognize the work of teachers.

certificate at the University of Lethbridge in 1972. She returned to her home province and started working in her new profession. "Teaching was not a career that I chose; it was a career that chose

"Now Danny Has a Voice"

Danny Butler is a five-year-old student in Carol Cummings' class at St. John the Baptist-King Edward School in Saint John. He is a special needs student with a disability called verbal apraxia. Put plainly, he can't speak. He can make a handful of distinct letter sounds. Researchers don't know why, but he and children like him cannot make their flawless anatomy — the tongue, lips and jaw — and their perfectly intelligent minds work together. They simply can't synchronize the precise movements that weave whole words.

What Danny knows is locked inside his mind. Last year, when his teacher asked the class a question, his arm would shoot up, but his words could not come out. This year, they are. For the first time, Danny has a voice of his own. His teacher, his parents and his community gave it to him. *The teacher made it so.*

Carol Cummings is a friendly and confident Quispamsis mother of two who has taught elementary school for 18 years. She learned of Danny in April 2002, months before he started school, at a meeting with a speech therapist and Danny's parents. Such meetings are routine to help a school prepare for a special needs child.

Danny underwent tests and speech therapy sessions at the Saint John Regional Hospital. Many children with apraxia eventually learn to speak after similar intervention. Not Danny. A few months before he would start kindergarten, a specialist told his mother he would never speak normally.

Danny's condition is not unique. About six or eight of the 14,000 students in Saint John's School District 8 have some degree of Danny's disability, estimates Kevin King, supervisor of student services,

and use technology to help them. Danny's speech disorder is "at the severe end of the scale."

That did not deter Mrs. Cummings. She has taught many disabled children. Last year, she also taught a deaf and autistic child. And once she realized that she'd taught Danny's mother, Christine, in grade 6 years before, she asked to have Danny in her class. "Relationships are important to me," she explained. "I thought, 'well, Christine's familiar with me, we have a good relationship, so we'll maintain that'."

Being willing does not make things easy, however. Some classmates already knew Danny. But for others, he was the strange boy who could only utter a soft, slow "wuh-wuh" if he needed a drink, or if excited "ya-hoo". Mrs. Cummings explained to the class that everyone is not the same. They knew one

child was deaf, another girl had various problems, and Danny can't talk. "I wear glasses, so we all have something that makes us different. That's something they could grasp." But acceptance by other kids remained an issue and Danny's mother became very discouraged.

Mrs. Cummings was very determined to help Danny and took on a challenge that would last nine months. It became her homework into the evening and on her weekends, had her writing letters and making phone calls and speaking to churches and service clubs. Giving Danny a voice became her cause. What he (and she) needed was a device. "I had to take Danny where he was, and bring him forward," she said. "Without a communication device, I couldn't do it."

From advice given by the speech therapist in April, she contacted the Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation in Fredericton. When a cancellation came up on short notice, Mrs. Cummings make arrangements with her principal and drove Danny and his mother (who didn't have transportation) to Fredericton.

There they saw something that could help Danny. The same powerful handheld computers that business people use — Palm Pilot is one brand — can also be bought with software that is current technology's best substitute for speech. "Handling one in Fredericton was when I got excited

for Danny," Mrs. Cummings said. "He could grow with this right up to university."

The price quoted from a Vancouver distributor was beyond



St. John the Baptist-King Edward School kindergarten student Danny Butler and his teacher Carol Cummings.

the family's means. The school district was a second option; purchase wouldn't be until the following year and it would belong to the district, which meant Danny would only have access while at school. Mrs. Cummings thought: "You wouldn't expect a normal child to leave his/her voice at school".

And this thought started a fundraising by Mrs. Cummings and Danny's family. Churches, service clubs, and other organizations were contacted and donations started coming in. Mrs. Cummings' husband told his colleagues at work about the fundraising effort and the response was overwhelming. There were also many individual contributions. When times were slow, discouragement would set in; then another donation would appear unexpectedly, and Mrs. Cummings would be more determined than ever. She covered the cost on her own credit card until sufficient funds were raised.

Finally, on July 22, the handheld device was delivered by Ivan Backynsky, a speech therapist who had worked with Danny. This fall, Danny no longer stamps his feet in frustration. Mrs. Cummings loads the Palm Pilot with the phrases or words the class is learning.

Danny will grade this year, and in Mrs. Cummings' view, the contributors made all this possible.

"And for Danny," she said, "all the effort and giving means he's going to be able to say things. He'll be able to express his emotions, to learn, to play. **Now Danny has a voice.**"

An abridged version of an article written by Rob Linke for the Telegraph Journal with excerpts quoted.

Teacher Pension Statements Released

The Public Service Employee Benefits Division, Office of Human Resources is very pleased to announce the upcoming release of the Employee Statements of Benefits for the three-year period commencing September 2000 and ending August 31, 2003, for members of the Teachers' Pension Plan (TPA). It is anticipated that the statements will be delivered to the School Districts by mid-December 2003 for distribution to employees.

New
Nouveau  Brunswick
Office of Human Resources

A statement of benefits will be issued to those employees who were active contributors to this pension plan during this three-year period. Each individualized envelope will contain the employee's statement of benefits along with an information document which explains, in more detail, the information contained therein.

Inquiries relating to the information provided on your statement should be directed in writing to the Public Service Employee Benefits Division at the following address:

**Employee Statements
Public Service Employee Benefits
Division
Office of Human Resources
P. O. Box 6000,
Fredericton, N. B. E3B 5H1**

New Administration of Group Insurance

At its regular meeting on October 24, 2003, the NBTB Board of Directors passed a motion to accept a recommendation from the Group Insurance Trustees that the administration of the Group Insurance plans be taken over by Johnson Inc., beginning January 1, 2004.

Johnson Inc. has been the Group Insurance consultant for New Brunswick teachers for close to 40

years and has been doing the administration in the three other Atlantic Provinces for as long. This change will improve the service to plan members and make the Group Insurance office more efficient at no additional cost.

The Trustees will continue to oversee the insurance plans as they do now. Provided in the takeover will be funds to hire a staff person who will act as liaison between the various stakeholders and assist

members in their dealings with Group Insurance, in addition to serving the administrative needs of the Trustees.

The address and telephone numbers will remain unchanged and there will soon be improvements for communications with the administration office. Further news will appear in upcoming issues of the Group Insurance Newsletter.

“Remember When” Conference Informative

After more than 30 years as a teacher, Heather Neilson says she is looking forward to seeing people change their perception of physical education. Neilson, a physical education mentor with School District 18, joined dozens of other educators for the opening of the third annual Remember When Conference held recently at the University of New Brunswick.

The conference brought together teachers, specialists and other professionals from around the province to discuss physical education, health and recreation issues.

Neilson, an organizer of the event, said the goal of the conference is to provide information on delivering good physical education programs. With many classroom teachers also handling physical education duties, Neilson said, they need certain skills.

“Most school teachers don’t have a background in physical education in particular, so we hope to give them some good skills they can take back to their children,” she said. Obesity and the lack of interest in physical activity among children were on the conference agenda. Neilson said attitudes about physical education have to change. “People

had the perception that physical education was sports,” she said. “They need to understand what physical education is. It’s not an activity. It’s a planned program of instruction.” The purpose of the instruction, Neilson said, is to encourage an attitude of being active.

important role to play in getting children in the right frame of mind about physical education. “We have to get people excited about physical education,” he said. “If you get excited by physical education, your students will be like that. It makes such a difference.”

Scott said teachers have to realize what the situation is for kids nowadays with different entertainment choices. “If we don’t make physical education fun and exciting, then we are in trouble,” he said. Scott, who also works as a consultant with several professional sports teams, said encouraging kids to dream about a future in sports is one way to get them interested in physical activity.

In addition to Scott’s speech, the conference included displays by various groups involved in physical education and several educational sessions on topics such as sports,

leadership and recreation for people with disabilities.

During the conference opening, the Ken Taylor Award was presented to Normal Russell, a volunteer and teacher in District 17. The award honours the dedication and commitment of an individual to physical education.



Make physical education exciting: from left are Kaye Lister, conference participant; UNB kinesiology professor David Scott; and Garth Wade, co-director of the conference.

Neilson said educators have to become more confident in teaching physical education and focus more on fostering skills in students, especially in elementary school.

Keynote speaker, David Scott, shares that belief. Scott, a sports psychology expert and kinesiology professor at the University of New Brunswick, said teachers have an

2003-2004 NBTA PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS REGISTRATION FORM

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

DATE OF SEMINAR _____

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION _____

- _____ January 10 - Saint John, Simonds High
- _____ January 24- Bristol, Carleton North Senior High
- _____ February 7 - Chatham, Dr. Losier Middle School

- December 19
- January 16
- January 30

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

Mailing Address: _____ Dist. _____

Name of Spouse (if attending) _____

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

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

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

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

*** PLEASE NOTE: By signing this registration form you hereby authorize the NBTA to obtain information from the Public Service Employee Benefits Division pertaining specifically to your pensionable service records. This information will be utilized to prepare your individual pension estimates for retirement purposes only ***

Signature: _____

SEMINAR GUIDELINES

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

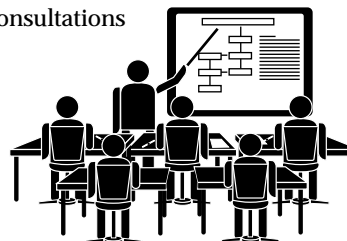
1. All participants must pre-register.
2. A registration fee of \$5.00 for each participant must accompany the application; however, cheques will not be cashed until after the workshop.
3. Travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the participant.
4. A nutrition break will be provided.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

Larry Jamieson
Director of Teacher Welfare Services
New Brunswick Teachers' Association
P.O. Box 752
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6 (Tel. 452-1722)

6. Any interested teachers are eligible to attend.
7. All workshops begin with registration at 8:30 am and sessions at 9:00 am until 1:00 pm.
8. Detach and return the registration form as soon as possible.

PROGRAM _____

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



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

NBTA Credit Union Launches Adopt-A-School Project!

NBTA Credit Union is pleased to announce our Adopt-a-School Project for the school year 2003-2004. Your Credit Union is aware of the terrific impact our teachers have on our youth as well as the amount of dedication they place on their careers.

Each month, commencing October 2003, NBTA Credit Union will hold a draw whereby the winning school will receive a gift of \$100 with our compliments. These draws will continue until September 30, 2004. We are hoping the Adopt-A-School Project will assist schools with special projects and/or fundraising activities.

It was our pleasure to have Jim Dysart of NBTA make our first draw

on October 31. We are very pleased to announce that Leo Hayes High School is the winner of our first "Adopt-A-School" draw for \$100.

Our next draw will take place at the NBTA Credit Union Annual General Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2003, at the NBTF Building.

For further information about NBTA Credit Union services or the Annual Meeting activities, please call our office 452-1826 or 1-800-565-5626, Ext 826.

From the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of NBTA Credit Union, we say **Well Done** to our teachers and all those affiliated in the field of education.

Judy Jewett, General Manager



Jim Dysart, NBTA making the first "Adopt-A-School" draw with NBTA Credit Union MSR- Pauline Knox, dressed for Halloween!

District #17 Teacher - Norman Russell - 2003 Winner of Ken Taylor Award

It is with great pride that the New Brunswick Physical Education Society announces the 2003 recipient of the Ken Taylor Award. Ken Taylor was a tireless advocate for Health and Physical Education in our province. Ken, who left us too soon, was a respected physical educator in Nackawic and also served as the Provincial Consultant for Health and Physical Education with the Department of Education. Ken made significant contributions to the field at the local, provincial and national levels. Ken received the Dr. John Meagher Award from the former NBTA Health & Physical Education Council as well as the R. Tait McKenzie Honour Award from CAHPERD (Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance). The Society is very proud to honour Ken Taylor with its annual award.

The Society would like to recognize Diane Hoyt (Dist. #18) and Monique McTiernan-Black (Dist. #2) as past recipients of the Ken Taylor Award.

Norman Russell has been selected as this year's Ken Taylor Award winner due to his contributions to the field at the local, provincial and national levels. Norman received his

Bachelor of Physical Education in 1980, Bachelor of Education in 1983, and Masters of Education in 2002 from the University of New Brunswick.



Submitted photo: Garth Wade, President NBPEs; Norman Russell, 2003 Ken Taylor Award winner; and Lynn Taylor, sister to Ken Taylor

Norman Russell worked as the Youth Services Co-ordinator and later, Adult Services Co-ordinator for the Department of Leisure Services for the Town of Oromocto. Norman Russell moved on to become the Physical Education teacher at Sunbury West School in District #17 and later served as the Physical Education Mentor for the District.

Norman is currently back at Sunbury West School where he teaches Physical Education and coaches many of the school's teams.

Norman Russell was a valued member of the former NBTA Health and Physical Education Council serving as: Treasurer, Conference Organizer, Presenter, Vice-President, and later as President of the Council. With the birth of the New Brunswick Physical Education Society, Norman Russell represented the Society as President, sitting on CAHPERD's Council of Provinces Committee, as well as the Quality School Health Committee and the Association's Board of Directors.

Norman Russell has fire and passion for his work. He loves kids and spends endless hours as a volunteer working with the children and youth of his school and in the community at large. For the above mentioned body of work that Norman Russell has performed, the New Brunswick Physical Education Society recognized Mr. Russell at its recent Provincial Conference, held in Fredericton.

If further information is required: please contact Garth Wade, President of the NBPEs, 444-4403

What Does “NBTA/NBTF” Do for Me?

This is a question many of us have asked at some point in our teaching careers. I will share some of my thoughts on this.

This October I was invited to participate in NBTA staff retreat. Even though I have been involved with NBTA for over three decades and have a good knowledge of what the organization (NBTA), and NBTA staff do for NBTA members, attending the NBTA staff retreat was quite an education for me. Eight and a half-hour long day wasn't long enough to cover all the various services and areas of NBTA's involvement. At the end of the day I felt somewhat overwhelmed. I cannot possibly explain the incredible amount of hard work NBTA/NBTF staff does nor can I capture everything NBTA and NBTF do for you and me in this short article, but in the acrostic poem below I have attempted to encapsulate some of the significant roles NBTA/NBTF plays in teachers' lives.

Negotiate a contract

Employee grievances & legal assistance

Wellness initiatives

Beginning Teachers' Workshops

Retirement seminars and pension management

Union of New Brunswick Teachers' Federation (NBTA and AEFNB)

NBTA Newsletter

Support branches through grants and liaise with them

Workshops for branch presidents & council executives

Institutes and professional development

Councils (Elementary, Middle Level and High School)

K-12 issues and concerns addressed (recent Math survey)

Teacher training

Educational leave

Act as liaison between teachers and Department of Education

Curriculum development and advocacy

Health and other insurances (Group Insurance)

Educational Improvement Grants

Resolutions seeking continuous improvement

Solicit and lobby for support for teachers

Advice on financial matters

Salary deferral plan

Support for in-school administrators

Official spokesperson for teachers

Certification and licensing issues

Issues related to equity

Awards (Centennial, Aliant, and Branch)

Teacher exchange

Interest free loans

On-line services and assistance

NBTA Board of Directors, provincial executive and committees



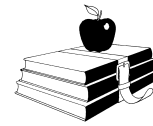
NBTA is YOU and not just the team in Fredericton. All of us together make NBTA what it is. Take pride in your organization and support it by your active participation and involvement. Together we're better!

Your dedication, commitment to education, and daily hard work is greatly appreciated. You make a difference!!

As the holiday season approaches, I am wishing the best of everything for you and your families. My special wish for you is 3Rs (Rest, Relaxation, and Rejuvenation of spirits).

Your colleague in education,
Indu Varma
NBTA Vice-President

A Retired Teacher's Reflections A Fool or a Great Man?



During the 1937-38 school year, I was attending a two-room school in Millville, N.B. It was Depression years and very few jobs available so kids had little choice but to stay in school. I attended a two-room school with grades 1 to 4 and grades 5 to 8. I was in grade 8. That fall, two female teachers were hired but both left by Christmas since the big boys made their lives so hectic. The School District found it difficult to hire teachers due to the bad reputation of the school. Finally they were successful when they learned that a teacher named Elmer Wiley was available. The Board negotiated with Mr. Wiley and he came to Millville in January, 1938. He had taught for several years at Reformatory School so he had no problem in dealing with the big boys who were the troublemakers.

Although I got started off on the wrong foot with him, we soon became good friends. How I got off

on the wrong foot was during a test. At the bottom of the paper I scribbled my name and put it on his desk. A short time later he handed the papers back and on my paper he had written: "A fool or a great man scrawls his name; which are you? Write out your name properly ten times and bring it to me." I did so and at the bottom of the page I daringly wrote: "A man is known by his multitude of words; is that you? It is quite obvious I was influenced by the King James version of the Bible."

He soon came striding down the aisle to my desk and grabbed me by the shoulder and said: "If this wasn't St. Patrick's Day, you would be in trouble." With a smile on his face, he went back to his desk after telling me to see him after school. I wasn't sure what to expect and was greatly surprised when he said he liked what I wrote on my different assignments and told me that one day I would be a writer. He would take some phrases

from my writing and use them in his teaching. I was quite flattered. We got together on many occasions after school and he asked me to undertake a project which was to write a history of Millville. I started it but did not finish it.

I still remember vividly after more than 60 years Elmer Wiley and the impact he had on my younger days in Millville and for some years after.

—Tom McConaghy

Tom McConaghy graduated from the Fredericton Normal School in 1940 and in 1940-41 he taught in a one-room school in Cloverdale, about 9 miles from Hartland, N.B. Following a teaching/writing career of 15 years in Ottawa, he joined the Alberta Teachers' Association as an executive assistant and editor of the ATA Magazine and other publications. He also was a columnist for the Phi Delta Kappan Magazine, writing the In Canada column for 12 years.

REMEMBER THESE DATES



Deadline Dates

Conference Grants — Five weeks prior to opening day

Certification Changes — October 31, 2003; March 31, 2004

Branch Nominations for NBTA Vice-President — February 8, 2004

Deferred Salary Leave Plan Application — January 31, 2004

Election Dates

(a) Ballots mailed to Branch Presidents - On or before April 15, 2004

(b) Voting to take place - April 19-23, 2004 inclusive

(c) Ballots returned to Central Office by 5:00 pm - April 30, 2004

(d) Counting of Ballots - May 5, 2004

(e) Candidates notified - May 5, 2004

NBTA/Beaverbrook/Hagerman Interest-free Loans — March 31, 2004

Centennial Award Nominations — April 1, 2004

Aliant Award Nominations — April 1, 2004

Branch Resolutions for A.G.M. — April 1, 2004

A.G.M. Registration of Delegates — April 1, 2004

Employment Insurance Rebate Report — June 1, 2004

Registration of Branches — June 1, 2004

Report of Branch Meetings — June 1, 2004

Names of Branch Committee Chairpersons — June 1, 2004

NBTA Council Annual Reports — June 15, 2004

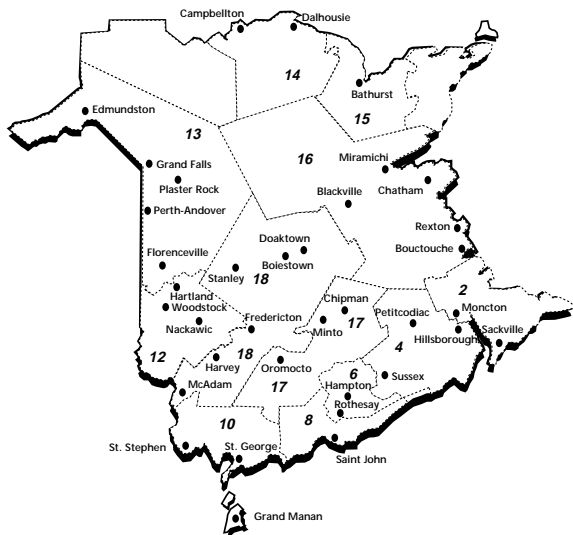
NOTE: Check with NBTA Personal Calendar for key activities within NBTA, NBTf and CTF.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

NBTA AGM — May 28-29, 2004

Retiring Teachers' Luncheon — May 29, 2004

NBTF Board



Gilberte Michaud
Co-President
NBTF



Brian Bawn
Co-President
NBTF



Robert Gagné
Executive Director
NBTF



Reno Thériault
Executive Director
AEFNB



Suzanne Bourgeois
District 1
Branch 13M



Pierrette Gallant
District 11
Branch 13S



André Deschênes
District 1
Branch 51



Félix Bourque
District 1
Branch 52



Daniel J. Martin
(substitute)
District 3
Branch 32



Yvan Durette
District 3
Branch 33



Robert Doucette
District 3
Branch 33



Ivan Keirstead
District 2
Branch 17



Jill Beaulieu
District 6
Branch 18



Daniel Johnson
District 2
Branch 16



Émelda Chiasson
District 3
Branch 1



Peter Murray
District 8
Branch 20



Robert Godin
District 9
Branch 5



Marcel Larocque
District 9
Branch 6



Gille Arseneau
District 9
Branch 7



Nadine Holmes
District 10
Branch 21



Heather Ingalls
District 10
Branch 22



Jonathan Logan
District 10
Branch 23



Paul Michaud
District 14
Branch 50



Parise Pelletier
District 14
Branch 54



Ruth Matthews
District 15
Branch 36



Louise Plourde
District 15
Branch 38



Heather Smith
District 15
Branch 42



Emily Daigle
District 16
Branch 40



Charlotte Casey
District 16
Branch 8

of Directors



Bob Fitzpatrick
Executive Director
NBTA



Pierre Paillard
Past President
AEFNB



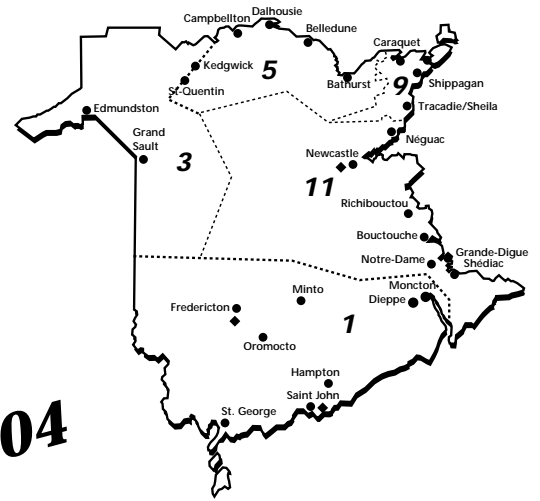
Mary Wilson
Past President
NBTA



Indu Varma
Vice President
NBTA



Louise Landry
Vice President
AEFNB



**School
Year
2003-2004**



Shirley Whitehouse
District 2
Branch 14



Linda Maxwell
District 2
Branch 15



Paul-Emile Mallet
District 2
Branch 15



Sonia Roy
District 5
Branch 35



Lorraine Léger
District 5
Branch 37



Monique Caissie
District 6
Branch 19



Margie Bowlin
District 6
Branch 19



Marc Doucet
District 5
Branch 41



Alain Manuel
District 8
Branch 20



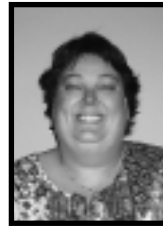
Brian Greig
District 8
Branch 20



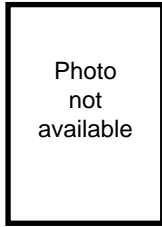
Jacques Verge
District 11
Branch 12



Michel Hébert
District 11
Branch 53



Guylene Lefrançois
District 11
Branch 39



Pat Thorne
District 14
Branch 28



Robina Sharkey
District 14
Branch 29



Brent Shaw
District 14
Branch 30



Sheila Cummings
District 14
Branch 31



Patrick Clancy
District 16
Branch 10



Spencer Bernard
District 17
Branch 24



Noreen Bonnell
District 17
Branch 25



Wes Tingley
District 18
Branch 9



Jocelyne Desjardins
District 18
Branch 26



Blake Robichaud
District 18
Branch 26



Wayne Coburn
District 18
Branch 27

Testing, Testing

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

My daughter, now almost 30, called recently from her home in Pennsylvania to vent. She had just failed, for the second time, an on-line multiple choice test which she was required to pass for her job as a systems analyst. She is a confident, qualified and capable young woman, but this experience had reverted her to the insecure trappings of her adolescence.

"I can't do multiple choice," she wailed over the phone. "I never could do them...I just feel so stupid!"

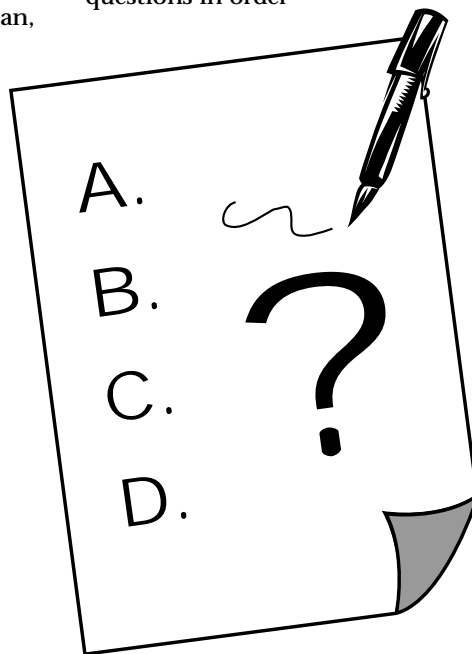
It is true; she never did do well on multiple choice tests, and given that they were a staple of many high school courses, the frustration was frequent during those years. It really took her quite a while to not equate her ability with her low scores on this type of assessment. And in those rare courses where it was the most frequent form of test used, she had to accept that her mark would be low, despite her understanding of the concepts.

With the increased calls for accountability, testing has reached frenzied status in today's school systems. "We need rigorous testing," the public cries! Good classroom teachers know, however, that a variety of assessment strategies is required to accurately portray what a student knows and understands. Tests, however, will probably always be a part of most classroom assessments.

As Rick Wormeli, author of several books and articles on middle level teaching, states: "Rigor in testing does not mean more tests, more test items or more difficult test items. It means that teachers need to put more thought into creating

tests that require increased complexity of response." In "Creating Good Test Questions", (Middle Ground October 2003), he gives advice to teachers that will help make tests a more valuable part of the learning process.

Keeping students like my daughter in mind, it is vital to provide a variety of styles of test questions in order



to reach the individual intricacies of the many brains in your classroom. Questions should not be designed to 'trick' students. When multiple choice questions include such options as a) all of the above except 'd', and c) none of the above, as well as a choice that is worded in the negative, many students simply cannot sort out those options. As Wormeli goes on to say: "An error on these items is related more to reading and logical thinking ability than students' understanding of concepts."

If all of your test questions are factual recall, you are only testing memory, not understanding. Look for ways to ask students to apply their knowledge. For example, instead of asking "Describe the main

character", you might ask the students to compare the character to their favourite TV hero, or 'create the lyrics to an Avril Lavigne song that portray the main character's feelings'.

It is important that the tests match our lessons. Teachers will frequently bemoan the fact that we are pressured to 'teach to the test' for provincial assessments, but in our own teacher-made tests, we have the opportunity to ensure that the test accurately reflects what we have taught. If you teach a procedure one way, it is unfair to call for another approach on the test.

We want our students to succeed on tests; therefore we should do all we can to ensure that the test writing process supports learning. Studies in brain research make it clear that when a student is anxious or afraid (as many students are when faced with a test), the brain just shuts down (the old fight or flight mechanism). On our teacher-made tests, we can reduce that anxiety by removing unnecessary time restrictions. It was wonderful to watch my Grade 9 students relax when they knew that they could take as long to finish the test as they needed. Most finished in the period, but it simply removed the worry and allowed them to concentrate on demonstrating what they knew.

Research also indicates that writing the test in the same location as where the students were taught has an impact on achievement. It is all tied up with the way the brain reconstructs memory. Yet, we frequently move students to a gym or other location to write exams. (Yes, I do know the challenge of logistics in schools, but sometimes there are factors and alternatives that we simply haven't considered!)

Writing pre-tests that prepare students for the real test is another way to help them achieve. Teachers in the Florenceville Middle School Learning team used this strategy as

part of their action research for their School Based Learning Team Grant last year. The students wrote the 'practice' test, marked it, worked together to sort out their misunderstandings, and felt more confident going into the 'real' test.

Roland Barth, in an article titled **"My Personal Vision of a Good School"** tells of a high school whose staff decided that the exam mark could only bring a student's mark UP. The mark to date was a good indicator of the work of the year, but if the exam produced a higher mark, then it would elevate the year's mark, but no one's mark would go down. What happened was that students studied like crazy, free of the anxiety that they would 'fail' and ruin their whole year's work. Seems more productive than the incredible stress that often surrounds end-of-year exams, doesn't it?

Tests have been a part of school culture forever, and while I deplore the current environment where standardized testing has assumed gigantic (and often counterproductive) proportions in our system, I believe that there is a place, in a balanced assessment structure, for teacher-made tests. However, it falls to teachers to ensure that our own tests are meaningful, fair and support learning. It is a challenge, but an important one. Take some time to review that test you are giving next, and see if it makes the grade! (and ask me for Rick Wormeli's article...it has some great tips!)

Decoding Grades

An article by the same name appeared in the September 2003 issue of *American School Board Journal*. The author challenges the intricate system of providing marks to students in the public school system. Marks for effort, marks for homework, marks for behaviour. He

asks, "Shouldn't the student's performance rating be based on the question, 'Did the student learn what he or she was taught?'" This is a great two-pager, and would stimulate a lot of discussion at a staff or team meeting.

Teaching Them All

It's always a challenge attempting to span the wide range of abilities in today's classroom and provide meaningful instruction for them all. Two articles from the October 2003 issue of *Educational Leadership* offer food for thought and practical suggestions. **"Raising the**



Expectations for the Gifted" by Colleen Willard-Holt and **"Deciding to Teach Them All"** by differentiation guru Carol Ann Tomlinson are well worth reading.

This is Boring...

Sound familiar? Students are pretty quick to slip into that mood and teachers are often at a loss as to how to 'motivate' them. The bottom line is you really cannot motivate anyone else! We can only motivate ourselves, and students' motivation must also come from within. In a fascinating article called **"Boredom and Its Opposite"** (*Educational Leadership September 2003*) authors share their research on boredom in learners. It is not, contrary to popular opinion, the

teacher's voice, personality or instructional style that are the key factors in producing boredom, but rather it is the curriculum.

Learners have four intrinsic drives: mastery, understanding, interpersonal and self-expression, say the authors. They go on to give practical example and tips as to how teachers can design their curriculum around student interests.

Dyslexia

We may have all heard of dyslexia and perhaps think we have an understanding of this particular learning disability, but *Alberta Teachers Association Magazine, Fall 2003* has produced an excellent summary of the condition. The article is written in 'an informal and non-scientific style' and provides teachers with both information and strategies.

Teaming Tips

Teachers at all levels (not just middle school) are appreciating the benefits of working together as a team to support their teaching and students' learning. I offer two great articles related to teaming. **The Spirit of Teaming** (*Middle Ground October 2003*) offers advice about the central elements of a good team. Joan Maute writes about the value of teams as a way to keep things small and close, especially in large schools. I loved this article.

The National Middle School Association *"Classroom Connections"* provides a two-page tip sheet that focuses on ways to embed professional development into your team. (It's no surprise that I loved this one, too!)

Holiday Hopes

The term has sped by and my hope for all teachers is for a restful and joyous holiday season. Enjoy!



Mark Your Calendars!
Learning Today: Teaching Tomorrow



Combined Council Conference
November 12, 2004, Moncton Coliseum and Agrena Complex
Conference Hotel: Delta Beausejour

• International Speakers • Extensive Publisher Displays • Social Events
Watch for more details!

Skills for Administrators' Workshop

Educational Leadership: Walking the Line between Professionalism and Productivity

This two-day leadership symposium will engage principals in reflection and dialogue centered around the challenge of being both colleague and leader within the school community. A focus on building collaborative cultures within a school staff and reducing conflict will be highlights of the two days. Case studies will be used.

When: January 26, 27, 2004 (9:00 am - 3:30 pm both days)

Where: NBTF Building, Fredericton

Facilitators: Nancy Roach, Director Professional Development, NBTA
Bob Fitzpatrick, Executive Director, NBTA
Others TBA



This professional learning opportunity is a tri-partner initiative between the NBTA, the Department of Education, and the School Districts

Open to all interested participants (maximum 40)

Release time and financial support must be negotiated with your school district. Educational Improvement Grants may be applied for through the NBTA/ DOE provincial fund.

Skills for Administrators' Workshop

Registration Form

Name: _____

School: _____

Position: _____

School phone: _____ School fax: _____

Email: _____

Please return registration form to:

Nancy Roach
Director Professional Development, NBTA
Fax: 506-453-9795
Email: roachn@nbnet.nb.ca



Participants will be notified by fax of their confirmed seat in the workshop.

School Based Learning Team Recipients Selected

It is obvious that teachers throughout the province are interested in working collaboratively to improve teaching and learning in their schools. This year there were 70 applications for the \$1000 School Based Learning Team Grants. In its second year, the initiative is a partnership between the NBTA and the Department of Education, with the Middle Level Council sponsoring an additional grant for a middle level school. A joint committee selected the 15 recipients based on the guidelines and quality of the application. **A thorough analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the various applications will be provided in an article in the January NBTA News.**

Grant Recipients

Albert Street Middle School
Understanding Poetry at the Middle Level

Belleisle Regional High
Improving Poetry

Centreville Community School
Applying Math Skills to Everyday Life

Evergreen Park School
Orientation in Kindergarten: Community Connections

George Street Middle School
Incorporating Technology in Math Curriculum

Harbour View High School
Improving Essay Writing Through Writing Lab

Loch Lomond School
Hands-On Learning in 'You and Your World'

Lower Coverdale School
Higher Order Thinking Skills (K-5)

Minto Memorial High
Using Formulae in Math and Science

Riverview High School
Improving Instructional Strategies

Salisbury Elementary
Literacy Centers in Kindergarten

Sir James Dunn Academy
Technology Learning Centers: Math and Science

South Bathurst School
Developing Strategies for ADHD Learners

Sussex Corner School
Using Non-Fiction to Meet K-2 Outcomes

Upper Miramichi Elementary
Home and School Partnerships To Develop Math Patterns and Relationships



Honorable Mentions

Bayview Elementary
Connecting Elements of Literature to the World Beyond School

Millville Elementary School
Author's Away

Oromocto High School
Integration of Graphing Technology in Grade 10

Queen Elizabeth School
Creating Math Centers in Grade 5

Southern Carleton Elementary
Linking Physical Activity to Academic Learning

St. Stephen Elementary
Best Practices for Teaching Writing

Sunbury West School
Reading Comprehension K-2

Sussex Elementary School
Non-Fiction Writing

Tide Head School
Marginal Writers

Saint John High School
Developing Instructional Strategies for Struggling Learners in Grade 9 Math

Centreville Community School
Improving Writing at K-2

George Street Middle School
Motivating FSL Students Through Use of Thematic Projects

George Street Middle School
Improving Mental Math Skills

Harbour View High School
Reading Comprehension Across the High School Curriculum



CONGRATULATIONS!

Students To Take Part In Tomatosphere Project

Astronaut visits area high school promoting science

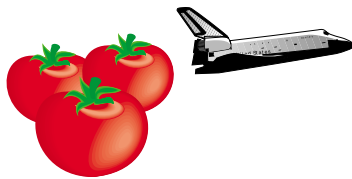
Students at Leo Hayes High School say a visit from Canadian astronaut Robert Thirsk and scientist Michael Dixon has inspired them to aim for the stars and settle for Mars. Thirsk, who was an astronaut on the space shuttle Columbia, told about 450 grade 9 students the next big challenge for space pioneers is to visit Mars. He said a life-support system must be developed first, however, and the only way to do that is to borrow from the plant life that exists on earth.

Dixon is formerly from Campbellton and is chair of environmental biology at the University of Guelph. He said scientists need to learn the technology that will allow them to grow plant life on Mars, where the temperature ranges from -80C to -100 C. He said on a good day temperatures may warm to the freezing point.

Thirsk told the students they could take part in an important space exploration study. He invited the students and teachers to sign up for the Tomatosphere project. The project, sponsored by Heinz Canada, the University of Guelph, Crestech and the federal government, challenges students to uncover clues about space farming by germinating

and growing tomato seeds from three different sources.

Thirsk said the seeds in one category have been exposed to an atmosphere much like that of Mars. Another category of seed has been exposed to a type of Mars-greenhouse environment. The benchmark category of seed is normally what is planted in Canada.



“We are asking students to grow the three sets of tomato plants and record measurements in germination and growth and to report back to us,” he said.

The project is open to students in grades 3 to 6 and grades 10 and 11. “Science is required for space exploration,” Thirsk said. “It is absolutely necessary to take plants with us (to Mars). We have to do that in order to resupply us with food, oxygen and water.”

Student Scott MacKinnon, 14, of Douglas, said he was inspired by Thirsk and is anxious to help out with the Tomatosphere project. “I

am going to take part in the experiment,” he said.

Pat O'Donnell, 13, of Cherry Avenue, said he found the facts and figures presented by Thirsk and Dixon interesting. “They answered a lot of questions I had about Mars and whether life can be possible on the planet,” he said. “It would be really cool to try to grow something on Mars.”

Jon Mann, 14, of Carrington Lane, said he is interested in the Tomatosphere project and is anxious to begin the experiment. “I knew you couldn't live on Mars,” he said. “I didn't know all the details and all the work that has to go into putting life on Mars.”

Thirsk said he figures a staffed flight to Mars won't occur for another 15 to 20 years. “I hope it does happen in my lifetime. The next destination is Mars because it is similar to Earth. Mars is neither too close nor too far from the sun to rule out developing a life support system there. Mars is about half the size of the earth and about a third of earth's gravity,” said Thirsk.

More information about the Tomatosphere project can be obtained at www.tomatosphere.org. *Reprinted from the Daily Gleaner, November 14, 2003*

Youth Violence Educational Video

Worlds Apart ... Coming Together

“She said, he said ...” Together, we can!



This educational video is to help in the development of effective youth violence prevention programs. The video dramatizes research findings from youth violence prevention initiatives in six rural Atlantic communities.

A research team of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research, called the *Creative Peaceful Learning Environments Team*, conducted the research. They evaluated violence prevention programs for and with adolescents in Harvey, Chipman, Saint John, and Grand Manan in

New Brunswick; and Stephenville Crossing and Peninsula in Newfoundland. This research was part of a three-year national research, funded by Status of Women Canada. Membership on the Team included representatives from the N.B. Department of Education, the NBTA, N.B. school districts 2, 8, 13, 17, and 18 and students and faculty in the UNB Psychology Department.

The video, with accompanying handbook, suggests a need for both gender-segregated opportunities for youth to talk about the violence

issues in their communities. The research findings, which are depicted in the video, emphasize that it takes respectful cooperation between teens and youth leaders for community change to take hold. Ultimately, the video is designed to promote and support youth-sensitive, community-based interventions to reduce violence.

For further information or to order the video, contact: the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research, Tel. 453-3595, Fax 453-4788, email: fvrc@unb.ca

Elementary Council News



Hello once again! It is hard to believe that it is December already. While the next few weeks will be quite hectic for all teachers, look into your students' eyes to remind you of the simple joys and pleasures of the upcoming season.

Your Elementary Council Executive will be meeting on December 5 and 6.



This will be our first meeting in Saint John — the site of next May's Council Day! We will be seeing the venues, checking out accommodations and learning more about the presenters and their seminars. Be sure to watch next month's issue of the Elementary Council News to read all about the latest updates!



Congratulations go out to Garth Wade on a job well done! The Elementary Council sponsored the New Brunswick Physical Education, Health and Recreation Provincial Conference which was held on November 7 and was a big success! We hope that everyone who participated felt that it was well worth it! Way to go!

Our own Elementary Council President, Hazel Lane-Coates, was fortunate to attend the Canadian Parliamentary Democracy session in Ottawa where she represented the Social Studies teachers of New Brunswick. She, along with five other teachers from around New

Brunswick, were in attendance at this conference that ran from November 2 to November 7. Please check future issues of the *NBTA News* for more information and photographs from this very special conference!

I hope that all elementary teachers have checked out our web site! It's at www.nbta.ca, then click on the Elementary Council button. Lisa Kerr continues to take your ideas, thoughts and suggestions. If any one of you has anything you feel would help another teacher, is something interesting you've tried in your class, or just sounds like a great idea, please email it to Lisa so she can share it with the rest of us.



As always, many wonderful things have been and will be happening in our schools. A special note of thanks is sent out to all those schools that held Remembrance Day services. It is such a significant day and we, as educators, should discuss the meaning and importance of this day to ensure that it is properly acknowledged.



Students at Port Elgin Regional School were pleased to get a visit from a really "insect"eresting guy! Danny Golding visited our school on Thursday, November 13, all the way from Newfoundland, and treated us to a very interesting

presentation. Mr. Golding talked about the importance, existence and abundance of insects in our world and brought along many wonderful examples to share. From the beautiful monarch butterfly to the hairy eight-legged tarantula, there was definitely something for all to enjoy!



The Port Elgin Regional School Band and School Choir are planning a wonderful performance to get you into the holiday spirit. Both groups will be performing at Midnight Madness in Sackville, NB on the night of December 5, 2003. They will be performing a variety of selections throughout the night in the downtown area. If you are in the Sackville area on that Friday night, please pay this amazing group of students a visit!

We all hope that each and every one of you has a greatly-deserved and well-earned Christmas break. We wish you and yours a very wonderful Christmas holiday with much laughter, joy and happiness. Please email Debbi or me at debsloan@nbed.nb.ca, natalie.richardson@nbed.nb.ca if you have anything that you would like us to add to this column.



Take care,
Natalie Richardson
Port Elgin Regional School



"Education is helping the child realize his potentialities."
— Erich Fromm



• High School Council •



President's Message



Randy Hunter

Can you believe it? Two weeks will find us completing the finishing touches of another Christmas season. It is unbelievable how quickly

time is passing. It seems like only yesterday that we were beginning the school year with all its changes, challenges and anticipation, and here we are approximately half way through yet another school year.

Let this season be a time for reflection of all the wonderful things you are doing. You do make a difference in the lives of our youth.

Your High School Council Program is just about on its way to print. Once again an opportunity for you to network with your colleagues, and a special thank-you is extended to all the people who make this program possible.

I hope that you have made the necessary arrangements for accommodations. The Moncton area is busy at most times, but hosting a national event in this city makes it even busier. Our sessions/social will be held at Bernice MacNaughton High School. Further details will follow in regard to your Council Day as they become available.

Once again, I am asking for your input. I realize teachers are getting busier and busier each year. Please do not feel that you are out there all

alone. If there are curriculum ideas, institutes you would like to offer or have offered, articles you would like to see in our communications, or general concerns that you have, please get in touch with me or one of your council executive. We are continuously looking for ideas to better serve you.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 6 and 7, 2004 (imagine that!)

Have a wonderful Holiday Season and take time to relax and enjoy family and friends.



Your High School Council at Work



Your High School Council Executive met in Moncton on the weekend of November 14-15 to discuss various issues concerning our councils as well as prepare for our Spring Council Day on May 7, 2004, which will take place in Moncton at Bernice MacNaughton High School.

Reservations for Spring Council

Once again, a reminder to make your reservations for our Council Day early. Our social is on Thursday, May 6 and council presentations Friday, May 7.

Early booking is important as it has come to our attention that other large groups are meeting in Moncton at the same time and room space will be difficult to book if you delay.

Professional Development

Educational Improvement Grants are available to our members for professional development. Listed below are grants approved (to date) July 1 to December 31, 2003 and January 1 to June 30, 2004.

Educational Improvement Grants (PD) High School Council

Approved & Pending July 1 to December 31, 2003

Barbara Smith	1023	Canadian Student Leadership	Sept. 30-Oct. 4
Peter Smith	0619	American Psychological Assoc.	August 7-19
Grant Williams	1826	ASCD Conf. Teaching & Learning	Oct. 16-18
Louise Christie	1454	Prairie Home Ec Conference	July 4-6
Dorothy Firth	1538	Moving Beyond Bullies ...	Oct. 1-3
		Smoking, Helsinki, Finland	Aug. 2-12
	0619	Clary Wilbur, Stephanie Lawson, Susan Rourke, Peter Guravich Rosemary Southard	

Approved & Pending January 1 to June 30, 2004

Brenda MacDonald	1826	Euroschool Teacher Exchange	Feb. 21-Mar. 5
Andrew Jones	1022	Euroschool Teacher Exchange	Feb. 21-Mar. 5

Deadlines for submission of news to NBTA News

- December 12
- February 6
- March 5
- April 2 
- May
- (Newsflash - 4p)
- May 31

Sincerely,
Brenda MacPherson
Communications Chairperson
Simonds High School
brenda.macpherson@nbed.nb.ca
or Fax (506) 658-4641

Wishing you all a
wonderful Holiday
Season!

Teacher Awards

Your Council provides up to nine Teacher Recognition Awards plus a Teacher of the Year Award. The selection of the appropriate candidates is an important decision and we are very dependent upon the quality of the various school nominees. A committee of the executive will review the credentials of the candidates submitted for consideration by our membership.

To ensure that each high school is represented, we are preparing an information package to be sent to each school principal before the New Year. We are asking that each school establish a working committee to consider worthy candidates for these prestigious awards. These are important recognition awards and it is very important that the best

possible candidates be nominated. We are entirely dependent upon you to submit appropriate nominees. Please take this task very seriously and submit complete information on the most worthy individuals for consideration. Your co-operation in this regard would be very much appreciated. The application deadline is **March 14** and application forms are available on our website at

<http://www.highschool.nbta.ca>

All nominations should be submitted to:

Awards Committee
Brenda MacPherson
Simonds High School
1490 Hickey Road
Saint John, N.B. E2J 4E7

Who will you nominate?



Wellness Highlights

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Betsy Colwell-Burley, Districts 6, 8, 10
1-800-563-3938
Thérèse Gallant, Districts 2, 15, 16
1-888-763-5050

Time Saver Tips



- Establish routines and schedules •
- Delegate and ask for help •
- Be flexible •

" The urgent things are
seldom important
and important
things are seldom
urgent "



" Live and let live."
- Felise, 1866

Myth - I have to take care of (control) everyone and everything in my life.

Fact - Letting go of control in all parts of your life is essential to freeing up enough time to reach your life's purpose.

One of the reasons you may not have all the time you need is because you are trying to control all the people and parts in your life. There's lots of power in being needed, and you get to play the role of the victim because you are always so busy taking care of others.

The sad part is that when you build relationships based on dependency, you may be crippling others' ability to stand on their own two feet and make mature decisions.

Try This - If you feel the need to control everything, ask yourself why. I can't urge you strongly enough to let others - especially those closest to you - do what they can for themselves. We all need to learn from experience what works and what doesn't. Don't cripple others for life with your need to be needed.



*Sylvia Patzlaf,
Doing More with Less: How to get control of the time you have*

DELEGATE

DIFFICULTIES:

- Have been disappointed in the past
- Afraid someone else can't do the job as well as you can.
- Afraid someone will do the job better.
- Don't want to take the time to provide adequate information or instruction

TO EFFECTIVELY DELEGATE:

- Determine who is most capable.
- Anticipate problems (ie. others' support)
- Thoroughly explain task, expectations, budgets, deadlines and monitor plans.
- Communicate results
- Have delegate summarize his/her understanding.
- Be realistic in demands and expectations.

TIPS FOR DELEGATING

- involve a parent to help run off materials, make games, etc.
- use student tutors to remediate skill areas
- allow students to do filing and alphabetizing
- have students design and create the class bulletin boards



Quispamsis Middle School Activities



Wellness Morning: Carla Olive, Margie Bowlin (Principal), and Anne Marie Milner. Absent is Paul Chiswell who was busy preparing the pineapple for the morning feast.



"Bringing the Curriculum to Life": Grade 7 Immersion classes visited Fundy National Park this fall and learned about the local ecosystem and the tides.

Head of the class.

Johnson — Committed to Canadian Educators.



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AROUND HERE, IT'S SUNNY 322 DAYS OUT OF THE YEAR.
Don't forget your shades! ***** CODE:70367

HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT TEACHING JUST GOT EVEN MORE REWARDING: TEACH IN SUNNY FLORIDA!

VIF (Visiting International Faculty Program) places qualified teachers in ten U.S. states, including Florida. You will receive a competitive salary, benefits, a full orientation, and unparalleled support. For a complete list of requirements, please visit www.vifprogram.com. If you still have questions, e-mail us at canada@vifprogram.com or call toll-free at 877.798.4115. It'll change your life—as well as the students'—forever. *****



Stop Racism National Video Competition

How To Enter



Students between 12-18 years of age inclusive (must be under 19 years of age as of March 21, 2003), are eligible to enter the *Racism. Stop It!* National Video Competition. Students must produce a 60 to 90 seconds video that represents their team's thoughts on eliminating racial discrimination. Students can use their own personal film making style: experimental, narrative, animated, high-tech, or documentary. Whatever helps to get

their message across. Students can feature as many people as they like in their video - capture their whole school on camera if they have something to say about eliminating racial discrimination. However, the production team can consist of only five people. Of course, teachers can help, but it must be the students' own creative efforts.

Students can enter the *Racism. Stop It!* National Video Competition by filling out the entry form and

sending it and the video to the nearest Canadian Heritage office as indicated on the form.

Entry forms can be obtained at the following web address : <http://www.pch.gc.ca/march-21-mars>

The deadline for the 2004 *Racism. Stop It!* National Video Competition is January 15, 2004.

Information:
 Claire LeBlanc, Program Officer
 Canadian Heritage
 (506) 851-7717

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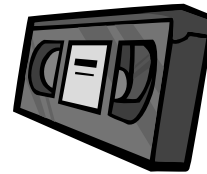
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- Shopping
- The option of attending one, two or all three of the games listed above



The tour will depart Moncton and Fredericton on Thursday, March 25, 2004 and return on Sunday, March 28, 2004.

A great Christmas gift for only \$395.00.

**DEADLINE FOR PARTICIPATION IS
 DECEMBER 29, 2004**



Contact: **Dave Blakney** at 850-4356 or
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Announcements

NFB Launches Hands-On Animation Web site for Kids

Inspired by the NFB's successful *Talespinners Collection* and the "Spin Your Own Tale" workshops held across Canada this year, the National Film Board has designed a Hands-On Workshop Web site for teachers to help children 9 to 12 make animated films.

Combining creativity with media literacy, Hands-On offers workshop plans, curriculum information and a kids section with interactive games and child-friendly instructions on how to animate, from the basics of storyboarding to making own claymation figures. Besides giving some know-how to beginners, the site also provides info on what's happening in the animation world, with links to other NFB animation sites.

Talespinners, the springboard for the interactive workshops, is an award-winning collection of eight short animated films for children that bring to the screen exceptional stories that explore a range of multicultural themes. For more information, visit www.nfb.ca/talespinners.

To see the Hands-On site, visit www.nfb.ca/handson.

Research Fellowship in Children's Literature

The Eileen Wallace Research Fellowship in Children's Literature, valued up to \$5,000 per annum, invites proposals for research and scholarship using the resources of the University of New Brunswick's Eileen Wallace Children's Literature Collection. Proposals are welcomed from anyone who can provide evidence of competence and scholarly background and outline a practical and worthwhile project using the resources of the Collection. Application forms are available from: Children's Literature Collection, Harriet Irving Library, UNB, P.O. Box 4400, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5A3, Tel. 452-6044, website: <http://www.lib.unb.ca/collections/clc/>. Deadline for application is March 1 of any year, with fellowship to be awarded after July 1 of the same year.

Plastics Design Challenge

The Environment and Plastics Industry Association (EPIC) recently launched the "Let's Reuse It!" Design Challenge, asking students across Canada in grades 4-6 to create a new plastic product using discarded plastic items.

To help teachers get involved in the contest, EPIC has created a large, four-colour poster that contains all of the necessary contest information. Copies of the poster are available by contacting: Rita Gauvin, (905) 678-7405, ext. 231 or e-mail: rgauvin@cpia.ca. Complete contest details are available on the EPIC website (www.plastics.ca/teachers).



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