

NBTA News

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New Brunswick Teachers' Association

So, How Was the Conference?

By Nancy Roach

For the Learning Today-Teaching Tomorrow Organizing Committee

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**Next Final Copy Deadline
For NBTA News:
Friday, December 10**

The Power of Learning



So, how was the *Learning Today-Teaching Tomorrow Conference*? It depends who you ask. The comments below reflect the views of teachers who completed evaluation forms or submitted follow-up emails.

In general terms, the conference was an unqualified success. With over 4700 registrants, the event attracted the attention of teachers and others in the field of education, both here in New Brunswick and the surrounding area. We had delegates from PEI, Nova Scotia, and even two teachers from Manitoba! By far, the majority of the evaluations and after-conference feedback have been positive.

"Please extend to your organizing committee a sincere congratulations for a wonderful day in Moncton. I was inspired from start to finish. I felt challenged by Dr. Kuykendall's presentation, informed by David Sousa, entertained by Todd Whitaker, and inspired by Rex Murphy. What a great way to end the day. Mr. Murphy's remarks made me feel very proud of my vocation."

"Let us do our own thing for PD. A big session is too much. Did not enjoy my experience!"

Was it perfect? No, it wasn't and I want to assure teachers that the committee, while appreciative of all the positive feedback, is preparing a full report that will address some of the areas that didn't work quite as we planned.

Here are some of the aspects of the conference that are receiving post-event scrutiny:

Registration

For the first time, the NBTA offered an on-line registration option and members seemed to be very pleased with it. More than 1400 people chose this method for registering and the comments suggested that once we ironed out the little bugs on the site, it worked well. Now that this infrastructure is in place, we will look for other ways to make use of the convenience of on-line registration.

"The on-line registration was much faster and easier than mailing a cheque."



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 Friday, December 24, 2004 and will re-open at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 4, 2005.



"I really appreciated the speed of the pre-registered check-in."

"Long lines; needed far more people to scan."

Traffic and Parking

"We got here early and had no problems."

"Anticipation of traffic problems – nice to see corrections for end of conference."

"Perhaps the police should have been directing early morning traffic problems..."

OK, let's get this one out of the way!! If you got there early, both aspects were quite manageable. However, the line from the Berry Mills exit was unacceptable! Teachers need to know that the committee requested that the Moncton RCMP be on hand for traffic support, and they assured us that it would not be necessary. "We have thousands of people coming to hockey games and there is never a problem!" they stated. Despite our suggestion that this was a far different scenario, they chose not to attend...until Jim Dysart was standing in the middle of the road himself, directing traffic! That brought them to the scene pretty quickly, and they assured us the mistake would not happen again. I believe their presence at the end of the day was helpful.

The same is true for the parking. Coliseum staff assured us that parking attendants were unnecessary...We have hockey games..." etc. Indeed, there was an entire back lot that was almost empty, but if people don't know it's there, it isn't much use.

Lesson learned.

The Schedule

"Schedules did not run according to schedule, even when keynote speakers were standing and waiting."

"Didn't like the domino effect of other sessions starting late."

Of course, the traffic and parking had an impact on the schedule, and those who admonished us for the

delays had a point. It said, '8:45 sharp', so why wasn't it? This is another of those 'best laid plans' situations. Despite extensive communication with the agent for Dr. Crystal Kuykendall, she ended up booking her flight into Fredericton with a midnight Thursday arrival. I immediately asked the assistant to change it, explaining about the drive, etc. The answer was no...the reasons don't matter. Her 'host' picked her up at

"It was a day that had to energize people and if it didn't, nothing could. It made me proud to be a teacher. Thank you for a wonderful day."

midnight, took her to the hotel and arranged to be there at 6:45 am for the drive to Moncton. It sounded like a plan.

Several factors, including illness and the traffic, prevented her from getting to the Coliseum at the appointed time (despite the host driving on the shoulder, passing cars on the left, trying to make it!! She deserves a medal!!)

I knew she was on route, but it's tough to start when the keynote speaker isn't there! I also knew how good she would be, and wasn't about to tell her that she should 'cut it short'. Likewise the other speakers were prepared for their hour (s) so we tried to adjust the day's schedule so that no one was shortchanged of either break time or session time.

The Program

There is wide-spread consensus that the speakers were excellent. We wanted there to be both inspiration and information...we think that the choices of speakers allowed for that.

However, as we know, no one speaker has universal appeal. The comments on evaluation sheets reaffirmed this:

"Every session I went to I thought how can it get any better than this, and yet, Mr. Murphy was far beyond anything I could have hoped for."

"I did not enjoy the guest speaker Rex Murphy. I found it too political and a mixed message."

"I really enjoyed Dr. Kuykendall and Dr. Whitaker. I missed Sousa as I went to Banks. I came away with a few practical ideas; again, it was the renewed enthusiasm and the dusting the cobwebs off my vision of school that made my trip to Moncton worthwhile."

"Good idea to put Rex at the end of the day."

"Rex Murphy's talk was too dry for the end of the day."

"This was the best council day I have ever attended. The keynote speakers were terrific."

Canadian content was mentioned (or lack thereof). It is true

that most of the speakers (Rex Murphy excepted) were from the States and a few people took exception to that. When planning this event, we looked for the speakers who were well-known in educational fields in North America, who had not spoken to NB teachers before, and who would normally be beyond the costs limitations for our smaller council conferences. These speakers fit that profile.

"...the best pd experience they had ever encountered. Everyone (at our school in the North)) said they would rather have a combined conference than individual ones with smaller breakout sessions. It seems the only way we can afford really good keynotes. People would be receptive to having this more frequently even if it meant paying more than \$30 registration fee. Most people from remote locations have to spend more than the \$30 that they would rather have the most worthwhile experience for their dollars spent."

"Too far, too big, too expensive for northern teachers. Tough to meet individual professional goals in this setting."

Food

This was one of our biggest concerns...we knew that feeding people, both at nutrition break and lunch, was going to be a huge challenge. We were right! That is why we asked you to indicate your lunch preferences. I think for the

most part, those who pre-paid for either the boxed lunch or the pasta buffet felt reasonably comfortable with their choices. (I knew as soon as I viewed the 'sample lunch' at the Superstore that the non-environmentally friendly packaging was going to raise a concern, but the lunch itself was such high quality, and presented in a way that was appealing, that I compromised.)

We had had several meetings re concession stands. I had even given them the numbers who had indicated that they were planning to eat at the concessions...but I am guessing that many people who had indicated they were going off-site, actually chose to stay, thus creating an even greater demand on those stations. We can definitely improve on this if we hold a future event, but I am also hoping that teachers will be more familiar with the lunch options and realize the importance of making those choices on the registration form.

Nutrition Break worked reasonably well. In fact, there were food, water and cookies left over, but I know that some of you did not know where to find it! It's a tough building to get to know, and despite the map and the signage, it presented obstacles.

"I didn't find a nutrition break table."

"I was amazed that so many people had food and water and Tim's coffee in such a short time!"

So, was the conference a success?

Again, it depends who you ask. Some of you loved the large venue, the keynote format and the bustling

atmosphere that is part of a large conference. Others (the minority it appears) found it too big and overwhelming.

"Hats off to you and your committee for booking such inspirational speakers. I am sure that people will agree that we haven't had such an upbeat and fun Council day in quite a while! It was well worth the drive to Moncton!"

"I prefer individual smaller councils with more divided sessions."

"Much better than small group format which can be intimidating."



"It was a day that had to energize people and if it didn't, nothing could. It made me proud to be a teacher. Thank you for a wonderful day."

"The caliber of speakers, the organization, even the box lunches were very impressive. I plan to retire in June after 33 years of service, and the Moncton Combined Council Conference was one of the best I have attended since I began teaching in 1972!"

Some found it excellent value for their money; others continue to resent the costs (any costs) that are essential when organizing a conference.

"Do we really need to waste resources/sponsorship for more canvas bags/pens/prizes?"

"Appreciated the free pens, paper, etc."

"Money well-spent!"

Some want to do it again; others suggested that it was just a bad idea.

"I hope you will never try to do this again. I loathe this type of event."

"The caliber of speakers was novel and outstanding...certainly they evoked worthwhile introspective notions among us as professionals. More please!"

"Thank you for a wonderful conference. Let's do it again!"

Will we do it again?

Suffice it to say, that we know that no single event can meet the needs of all our teachers. There is real merit in the smaller council conferences, where teachers share strategies and ideas in small sessions with their colleagues. I believe there is also a place in our professional development plans for large scale events like this one, that are different in nature, focus and results. They can act as catalysts for new learning and motivate us to celebrate our profession.

If the NBTA Councils, PD Committee and Board (these are YOUR representatives) decide that a Combined Council Conference is a good thing to perhaps consider on some sort of regular basis, then I am sure there are teachers who will welcome that decision.

We will keep you posted.

Special Thanks

I would be remiss if I did not publicly acknowledge the work of your colleagues - the nine teachers who formed the *Learning Today-Teaching Tomorrow* Organizing Committee.

They worked tirelessly, mostly after they had already done a full day's work, to deal with the thousands of details that come with this sort of conference.

Thank you Carter Assels, Linda Maxwell, Robin Andersen, Moira Armstrong, Kim Silliker, Kathy Prosser, Rick Wood (retired), Fred Veysey, and Derek Taggart. You are amazing professionals and I considered it a privilege to work with you.

Do You Want To Comment on the Learning Today-Teaching Tomorrow Conference?

Visit www.nbta.ca and click on the conference icon. You will find both an on-line option for sending us your feedback, and a copy of the full evaluation form which can be downloaded and faxed to us. The choice is yours.

Every comment will be forwarded to the committee and will become part of the final report to the NBTA Board of Directors.



President's Message



Brian Bawn

Brian Bawn

I am writing this article after just returning from our amazing Combined Council Conference in Moncton, *Learning Today - Teaching Tomorrow*. Those of us who chose to arrive on Thursday evening and take in the social activities were certainly not disappointed. What a great opportunity to relax and catch up on some old friendships and to dance to some great music from the Halifax band, *Barnacle*.

Friday's conference was awesome and to have 4700 educators in one place was both wonderful and powerful. What a professional development opportunity that was missed by those who were unable to attend.

The quality of the presenters at the conference was second to none, and I don't see how you could have attended and heard Crystal Kuykendall and Rex Murphy and not left the conference feeling proud to be a teacher and knowing that we really do make a difference in the lives of our students.

Having two teenage daughters in grade 8 and grade 11, I marvel at the job teachers do in not only providing a quality education to

their students, but in volunteering their time and expertise to do all the other activities that make schools such active and exciting places for our students. We all know that education does not only take place in the classroom. I want to take this opportunity on behalf of my family and the families of all your students to thank you for enriching the lives of our children by all you do for them.

It doesn't happen often enough, but I know when I do hear of how successful former students have become, and their parents or they take the time to thank me for the small part that they believe I have had in their success, it makes me feel special. I hope you feel special as well.

The negotiations process continues to unfold and by the time you read this article we will have received our report from the Conciliation Board and will start planning our branch meetings to explain the report to teachers. You will vote on whether to accept the report or not, and whether we should go to binding arbitration or not. Both votes, by NBTF policy, will come with recommendations and explanations to the membership. We are getting closer to the end of the process and you will be kept as up to date as possible on what is occurring as we work towards a satisfactory tentative agreement for teachers. It is your duty to stay informed and ask any questions that you need answered to be clear on what is happening and what you are being asked to vote on. I thank you again for your continued support and encouragement. Together we will reach the best possible agreement for teachers.

On Saturday, November 6, the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation held a workshop for grievance officers and their alternates. It was a full-day workshop on grievance procedures and the purpose was to keep grievance officers as up to date

with procedures and timelines as possible. Every branch has a grievance officer and if you have a concern where you believe an article of our collective agreement has been violated, you should call your local grievance officer and discuss your concern with him/her. Your school NBTA representative should have the name of your grievance officer or be able to get it for you from your director or branch president. Don't hesitate to call if you have a concern; it is your right to question if you believe there is a violation of any article relating to your working conditions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the grievance officers for working on your behalf.

I would like to extend Season's Greetings to you and your family and I pray that your holidays will be a time of relaxation, laughter and wonderful memories.

Hello to my friends at MGT. I hope Santa finds each of you and treats you like you deserve to be treated. I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year. Happy Holidays!



NBTA Sponsored Professional Courses

NBTA Sponsored Professional Courses will be offered after Christmas. Please see the NBTA website www.nbta.ca for full details re course costs, registration form, etc.

Please register by December 1 to ensure that courses will have sufficient numbers to proceed. Cheques may be post dated to the first day of class.

These courses are approved toward Certificate 5 and are also excellent for professional growth. Our teachers have consistently applauded their value. Register early to avoid disappointment!

Course No.	Course Name	Instructor	Location	Start Date/Time
STAR-05W	Successful Teaching for Acceptance of Responsibility	Shelley Ward-Cain	Dist. 16 Office Miramichi	12 Wednesdays (6-9) Start Jan. 5
MAGIC-05W	Meaningful Activities to Generate Interesting Classrooms	Derek O'Brien	St. Stephen Elem.	8 Weds. - Start Jan. 5, Plus 2 Sats. - Jan.22, Feb.19 (9-4)
CL-05W	Achieving Student Outcomes Through Cooperative Learning	Joy Hanson	NBTF Building Fredericton	Fri. (6-9), Sat. (9-12) Start Jan.7/8 6 alternating weekends
LR-05W	Learning to Read: Beginning Reading Instruction	Anne Senechal	Carleton North High Bristol	Tues. & Thurs. (4-5:30) Jan.4, Jan. 6, through to March 31
DM-05S	Designing Motivation for All Learners	Julie Kilcollins	Southern Victoria High Perth-Andover	8 Tuesdays (6-9) Start Mar. 22 Plus 2 Sats. - Apr 2, May 14 (9-4)
DM-05S	Designing Motivation for All Learners	Jill Beaulieu	KVHS - Quispamsis	Fri. (6-9) Mar 18, Sat.(9-12) Mar. 19 5 Tuesdays - Mar. 29 - Apr. 30 (6-9) 2 Sats. (9-4) Apr. 30, May 7
DM-05S	Designing Motivation for All Learners	Pam Sheridan	MacNaughton High Moncton	10 Thursdays (6-9) Start Mar. 17 Plus 2 Sats (9-12) Mar. 19, Apr. 23
TLC-05S	Teaching Through Learning Channels	Cheryl Miles	Oromocto High Oromocto	12 Tuesdays (6-9) Start March 15
LR-05S	Learning to Read: Beginning Reading Instruction	Kathy Prosser	School TBA Rexton	6 Sats. - Mar. 19, Apr. 2, Apr 9, Apr. 16, Apr. 23, Apr. 30 (9-4)
LR-05S	Learning to Read: Beginning Reading Instruction	Philip Sexsmith	Dist. 08 Office Millidgeville North	6 Saturdays (9-4) May 7 - June 11

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Welcome Teachers to the Turnaround Achievement Awards

By Ed Caissie, Retired Teacher and School Supervisor

Forever it seems, students have been awarded for academic, athletic, and artistic achievements. But when, as educators, have we really recognized those students who have turned their lives around? Ernest and Susan McFadzen, owners of Kingswood Park in Fredericton, have taken on this challenge over the last nine years. In 1994 the McFadzen's approached District 18 with a proposal to recognize those students at all grade levels who had made a marked improvement towards turning their lives around. Each May of the last nine years, an Awards Evening attended by 300 to 400 people, has been organized, financed, and directed by the Kingswood staff. District 17 was invited to participate in 1996 and has been involved every year since

then.

The program reflects marked improvement in behaviour, attitude, and/or academics. It shows that there are students with serious educational and personal problems who do change their futures through changing their attitudes. The Turnaround Program recognizes the students from each school who

have demonstrated the most effort, commitment and perseverance in turning around his or her life in the

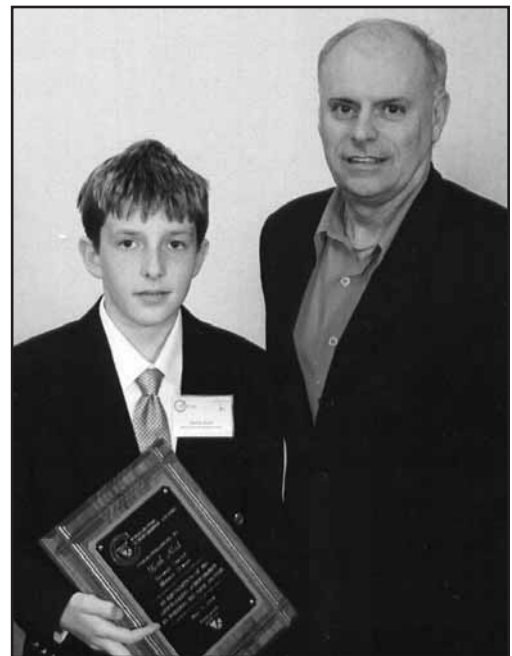
fact of adversity. The turnaround we have witnessed with many of these students in the program over the last nine years has been truly remarkable.

New Brunswick is the first and only province in Canada to offer this program. It also recognizes education's unsung heroes — the teachers and counselors who care



(l-r) Principal, Alfred Paul-Elias; student Billy Ellis; teacher Aleida Fox, Devon Middle School

deeply about individual students who take the time to develop a relationship with a student, to continue to say "You are going to be okay", or "You can do this; I know you can do this", or "I believe in you." For it is the teacher or



Keith Reid and teacher Ron Jessome, George Street Middle School

Lori Peterson: Teaching in the U.S.A.

Home Country: Canada

U.S.A. Placement: Georgia

Professional Goal: Start an international folk music program

Personal Goal: Go hiking in the Grand Canyon

How She Got Started: www.vifprogram.com



Lori is teaching in the U.S.A. and gaining experience that will advance her career. Find out how you can do the same. Visit www.vifprogram.com, call 877-798-4115, or email canada@vifprogram.com.



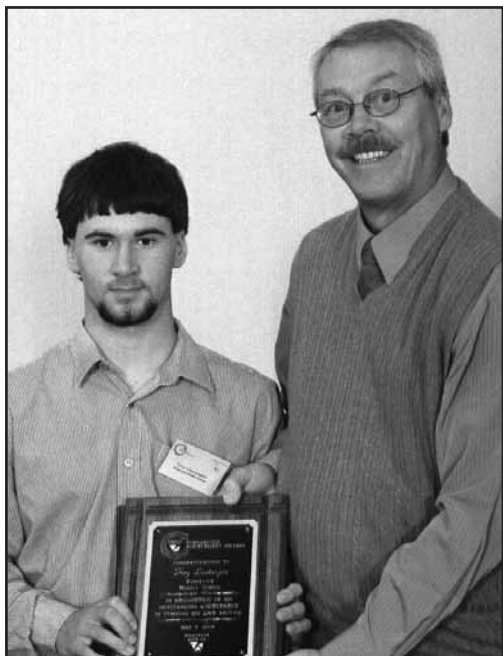
Paid Advertisement

counselor who continues to demonstrate belief in the students that will help facilitate the “turn around”. The program operates in this manner of sequence:

1. An information package is given to Districts 17 and 18 including guidelines, application forms, etc., from Kingswood Park.
2. Kingswood representatives meet with the District representative.
3. Meeting with Principals when possible (as a group)
4. Schools select one representative from each school, two from the larger high schools.
5. Applications sent to the District Office — they, in turn, send them to Kingswood — Kingswood has no say in who is selected; that is a school and district responsibility.
6. Kingswood orders the plaques and organizes the award evening. First Wednesday in May has been the day the banquet has been held.

All grade twelve students receiving awards also receive a scholarship of \$300 to \$500 if they continue their education.

The scholarship funds are a shared commitment by Kingswood and the provincial government. In



Troy Lanteigne and teacher Tony Burns, Ridgeview Middle School

the past nine years, \$47,000 in scholarship money has been awarded to grade twelve students.

For a program such as this to be successful, it's important for someone from the community to take the organizational and financial responsibility and allow the schools in the District to select the deserving students.

I have been involved with the program for the last six years and I must say it's very satisfying to have the teachers speak in such glowing terms of the students and their achievements. The teachers have made a profound difference in the lives of so many students.

The Turnaround Achievement Awards demonstrate outstanding commitment of a business family, Ernest and Susan McFadzen, to education. I will leave you with a few comments from people who have attended the Turnaround Achievement Awards evening.

“The Turnaround Achievement Awards are one of the highlights of the school year. The recognition of students who made significant achievement in spite of difficult circumstances is important not only for the youth, but also to those who have provided the critical support to make it happen. Parents, teachers, relatives, friends, and the school community come together and share this proud moment and provide the incentive for future success.”

— Alex Dingwall,
Superintendent, School District 18

“We further believe that this recognition by a significant adult in their lives will have a lasting impact on the lives of these students.”



(l-r) Teacher Sheridan Mawhinney; student Kyle Gallant; teacher Erma Brian, Oromocto High School

—Robert E. Gerard, Assistant Director, Student Services Unit

“Winning the Turnaround Achievement Award has boosted my self-esteem, and given me the confidence I need to continue in my efforts of staying ‘turned around’.”

— Amy Jardany
Albert Street School

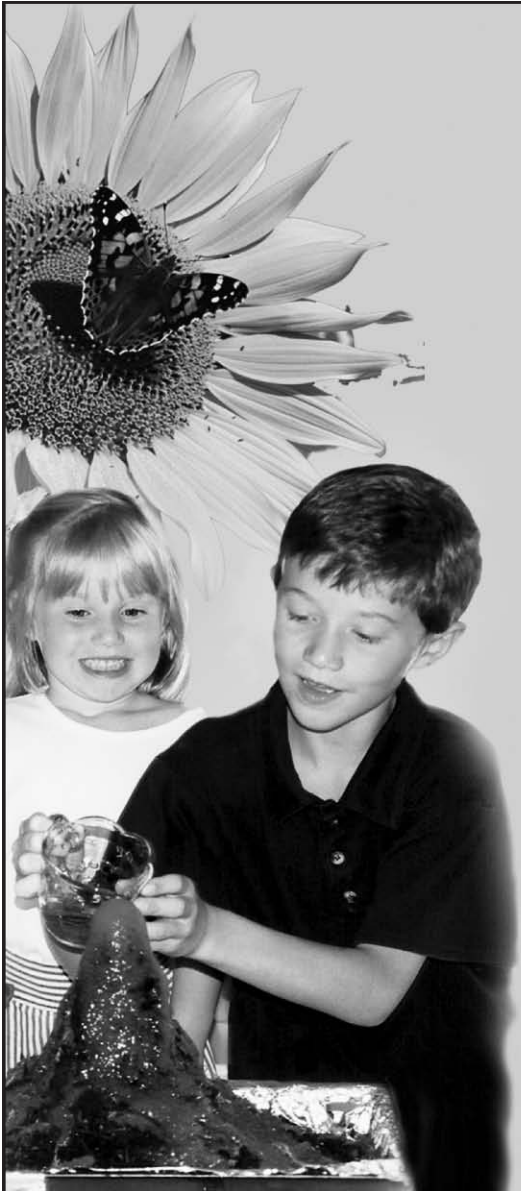
“My Mom and Dad were proud of me for my hard work.”

—Cody Narvey,
Gesner Elementary, Oromocto

“You may never know the impact of this recognition on a child who has very rarely received a word of praise in his or her life - not even at home; but I assure you it is an impact that helps to build a foundation for positive self-esteem and self-confidence.”

—Eve Nills Nash
Behavioural Intervention Mentor
School District 18





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Young Naturalists' Club

New Brunswick has a Young Naturalists' Club! The Young Naturalists' Club (YNC) has been created in order to encourage youth from 6 to 12 years of age to explore and appreciate the natural world around them. Our new YNC magazine is full of exciting articles, games and activities designed to help youth learn about nature. In addition, local clubs all over the province will give young naturalists the opportunity to meet with each other and explore the natural world first-hand.

The YNC's bilingual magazine will be appreciated by youth, parents and teachers alike. The magazine

makes an excellent gift for enthusiastic young naturalists! Nature educators are also sure to love the fascinating and informative articles written by naturalists across the province.

An individual or family membership costs only \$15 per year. Your family will receive a subscription to our quarterly magazine and each young naturalist will receive a membership pack and will be able to participate in all the fun activities offered by your local Club.

Classroom or library memberships are also \$15 per year, entitling the class or library to two

copies of each issue of the YNC magazine.

To join, visit our website at www.naturenb.ca to download a membership form, or contact us by email at federation@naturenb.ca or by phone at (506)459-4209.



CTF News



Commonwealth Teacher Recruitment Protocol

The Protocol was adopted September 1, 2004 by Ministers of Education at a meeting in Lincolnshire, England.

The Ministerial Meeting was chaired by Nigeria's Minister of Education and attended by education ministers and senior officials from 26 countries and territories.

The Ministers accomplished a major feat in drafting a Protocol on Teacher Recruitment and Retention that was acceptable to the participating Commonwealth countries. The extent of teacher recruitment throughout the Commonwealth has had disastrous effects on many countries in the developing world, most notably in Africa and the Caribbean. Of the industrialized Commonwealth countries, England has been the most active in recruiting teachers to meet its own shortages. In addition to the negative effects that this recruitment has on the source country which has invested many

years and scarce dollars into the training of these teachers, the treatment of the teachers upon their arrival in England has been totally unacceptable.

The protocol requires the recruiting country to accept responsibility for orientation of the recruited teacher to the cultural, economic and curricular differences they will experience. It also requires teachers to be employed by a school or education authority and not by recruitment agencies as had been the practice. In addition, the protocol affirms the right of the source country to deny organized recruiting of its teachers when they are needed at home.

Canada had been hesitant to get involved in the deliberations as they had anticipated any protocol would include a requirement for compensation by the recruiting country to the source country and also that involvement may restrict teacher exchanges of Canadian teachers. This agreement does neither.

From the perspective of Canadian teacher organizations, we need to be aware of the terms of the protocol to assist teachers who accept positions in any Commonwealth country and to assist any teachers recruited to teach in Canada. The agreement provides a basis for expected treatment for any foreign teacher in Canada. We should also be prepared to discuss the protocol with our respective Ministers of Education encouraging them to lobby the Canadian government to sign the protocol when it is officially presented at the 16th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in 2006.

Even though the protocol has not been signed by Canadian officials, Canadian Teachers' Federation President, Terry Price, urges member organizations to share the content and intent of this protocol with their members in the event that they consider employment in any Commonwealth country.

Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers Urges for Innovative Teaching Programs to Increase Student Retention

The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) is calling for the revitalization of Core French programs through changes that focus on high school interest topics and oral communication skills. This statement is in response to the release of the Canadian Parents for French 2004 Annual State of French Second Language Report.

More than 85% of French second language students are enrolled in Core French while only 16.5% of high school students complete their French graduation requirements.

“Student retention and success in French as a second language will only improve with the development



of alternative and innovative teaching practices and programs,” states Susan Forward, CASLT Spokesperson. “Newfoundland has taken the initiative in piloting programs such as intensive and extended French. This program increases the proficiency expectations that exist in most courses, alternating student-centered high school courses with practical units that focus on French for work

or travel.”

In addition, the Canadian Parents for French report raises the issue of the need to improve working conditions for French teachers. Developments should include a teacher competence profile that outlines minimum training requirements, language proficiency and competency.

“We appreciate the acknowledgement of the work of Canadian French educators in the development of alternate Core French models,” affirms Forward.

CASLT remains dedicated to working with our partners to better provide a cohesive voice on second language issues across Canada.



Park Street Elementary School Block Walkers Program



Park Street Elementary School, District 18, kicked off International Walk to School Week with their Block Walkers Program (a program that will continue to make walking to school a safe and enjoyable daily event).

History and Purpose of the Block Walkers Initiative

In January of 2004, a group of like-minded community organizations met to discuss some of the challenges associated with walking to school for the children at Park Street School. Parent surveys conducted prior to this meeting suggested that safety en route to school was the primary reason that approximately 60% of the student population was driven to school on a daily basis, causing excess traffic congestion and vehicle emissions around the school.

From these initial discussions, it was clear that some type of initiative was required to ensure that the parents could feel safe, allowing their children to walk to school. After conducting a scan of the community, the group established a partnership with the Block Parent Program of Canada, whose nation

reputation for the promotion of safe neighbourhoods was a natural fit.

Working with the Block Parent Program of Canada, the group identified the potential to have the Block Parents serving outside of their traditional roles in their homes, to accompany children to school along designated routes. These volunteers, known as *Block Walkers*, would go through the same selection and screening process and be expected to perform all of the same functions as a traditional Block Parent. Benefits include:

Safety: Reduced traffic congestion around the school; safer, calmer streets and neighbourhoods; increased number of watchful neighbours and Block Parents

Health: Increased physical activity; reduced stress - great time to socialize with your friends; improved performance at school and work

Community and Environment Benefits: Improved air quality; reduced traffic noise, reduced automobile emissions

Block Walkers are identified by the red vest they wear. It has the *Block Parent* logo on the front, and *Block Walker* written on the back.

Block Walkers are expected to accompany the children to school along a designated route. The children are encouraged to comply with traffic laws and school rules. The *Walker* is to report incidents of misconduct or disrespect to the school administration.

Congratulations to the school and community of the Park Street area. They have truly come together to make their community a more healthy, safe and active community to live and raise their children in.

*Diane Hoyt
Physical Education Mentor
District 18 Schools*

2004-2005 NBTA PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS REGISTRATION FORM

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

DATE OF SEMINAR _____

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION _____

- _____ January 8 - Fredericton, NBTF Building
- _____ January 22- Chatham, Dr. Losier Middle School
- _____ February 5 - Sussex, Sussex High School

- December 17
- January 14
- January 28

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

Mailing Address: _____ Dist. _____

_____ Name of Spouse (if attending) _____

No. of pension years you will have accumulated to June 2005 _____ Certificate Level: _____

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

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

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

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

YES NO

Signature: _____

SEMINAR GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

PROGRAM _____

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



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

Mixing It Up

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

Every morning I pour myself a bowl of raisin bran for breakfast. Even when I am on the road in exotic locations like Rexton and St. Stephen (actually two of my favourite towns!), I pack my little bag of the not-exciting but-good-for-me cereal and take some comfort in the daily routine. (Stick with me here...I am getting to a relevant point!)

The other day I decided, on a whim, to have breakfast at a local restaurant in the town where I was working. I just couldn't face another bowl of raisin bran. The warm waffle topped with fresh fruit was divine; I enjoyed every bite. The break in my regular routine was just what I needed and I was pumped to begin my busy day.

We may often overlook, both in teaching and our lives in general, the value of 'mixing it up', breaking the pattern of our usual routines. It is true, the brain loves routine and indeed seeks to find patterns and regularities in the world around us. But just as importantly, the brain loves novelty. When something is different or out of the ordinary, the brain takes notice....which is what we often hope will happen with our students.

Harry Wong, noted educator and speaker on Classroom Management advocates spending considerable time working with kids to establish routines and procedures. This is clearly important to good classroom management; our students need to understand 'how we do things around here'. But the sameness of routines can be a deterrent to their interest and motivation. Repetitive approaches to instruction, making every class seem the same, is the kiss of death for our students, most of

whom have grown up with the one-click-instant-channel change, and high speed internet (unless they live in Mactaquac!)

We need to recognize the importance of creating novelty in our instructional routines that will catch our students' attention. Things as simple as holding a class outdoors, standing in another location in the room as you instruct, having students make up their own questions for an upcoming test, even using a whisper voice on occasion will capture the brain's attention because of the novelty factor.



I know the adage 'don't change just for the sake of change' is often touted as truth, but I am suggesting that sometimes you do need to change, just for the sake of it. Not necessarily the big important things, but creating a climate where students are energized and eager to learn requires enough of the novelty factor to satisfy the brain's need for it.

The other factor, of course, is that our students possess such a wide range of preferences, and always approaching instruction the same way cannot possibly appeal to them all. Research says we tend to teach

the way we like to learn, but we need to remember that so many of the students in our classes have learning styles and intelligences that are very different from our own.

The recent **Learning Today-Teaching Tomorrow Conference** is a great example of how one style, one model cannot meet the preferences of everyone. While some of our teachers found the huge venue and big crowds exciting and stimulating, others expressed the feeling of being overwhelmed. While some found Rex Murphy inspirational, others were bored by his message. While some loved the keynote speaker model, others expressed a preference for the smaller workshop style of conference.

It is a lesson I learned a long time ago, but still need to remind myself of. There is no one way to do things (to teach, to plan a staff meeting, to organize a conference, to deliver a keynote) that will meet everyone's needs. That is why, I believe, we must have variety in our approach. If every Council day were a combined event, we would not only not please everyone, even those who originally liked the model would become bored with it. If every lesson we teach feels the same to our students, their brains will stop paying attention. By offering a variety, we have a better chance of reaching and meeting the needs of our audience.

Whether we are talking about teaching, professional development or breakfast, mixing it up is important.

Working on Writing

The October 2004 issue of *Educational Leadership* is a theme issue devoted to improving writing. The entire issue is valuable and I recommend it to both classroom teachers and literacy mentors. I have selected two articles that I particularly enjoyed. Is **There A**

Hemingway in the House offers great suggestions for creative warm-up activities that will encourage young writers. **When Kids Make Books** invites students to make something with writing...the creation of their own books is an effective stimulus to write.

More on Math

As a former Math teacher, I enjoyed several articles relating to this subject. **Helping Students Struggling With Math** (Principal November/December 2004) offers some specific suggestions on the topic. Still with the writing theme, **Writing in Math** (Educational Leadership October 2004) outlines the value of incorporating writing into math class as a means of improving both the math concepts and writing ability. In **What's Basic in Mathematics** (Principal November/December 04) the authors challenge the idea of rote learning of math facts and encourage making

sense of the concepts. The specific suggestions are for Primary and Elementary grades.

Laptops Anyone?

Given the current pilot laptop project in New Brunswick, teachers might enjoy reading the opinion from a teacher in Maine who is involved with the initiative there. **Laptops Engage Students, Open Doors to Learning** (Middle Ground, October 2004) is a first-hand and positive account of the Maine Learning Technology Initiative.

Music Instruction: More than Just Music

In **The Band Played On**, teacher author Peter Gallant shares his experience of twenty years of being a music teacher and band instructor. He knows that his students have learned a great deal more than how to play an instrument. Teachers of all fine arts will be able to relate to this article.

Mix It Up at Lunch Day

Speaking of mixing it up, **Middle Ground** October 2004 shared a reference for a website that helps promote tolerance, celebrate diversity and discourage cliques. During **Mix It Up at Lunch Day**, students vow to eat lunch with someone they don't usually eat with, or maybe don't even know. For ideas, visit www.tolerance.org/teens/about.jsp

Happy Holiday!

A well-deserved vacation is on the horizon. I hope that you and your families will enjoy peace, laughter and a healthy measure of rest! Leave the school work at school!


Closing Quote

"Learning is no longer preparation for the job, it is the job."

Dave Meier

NSDC Results, November 2004

"Salad Day"



The staff at Canterbury High enjoying "Salad Day" on October 29th. They were dressed up for Halloween, too!

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Summer Institutes 2005

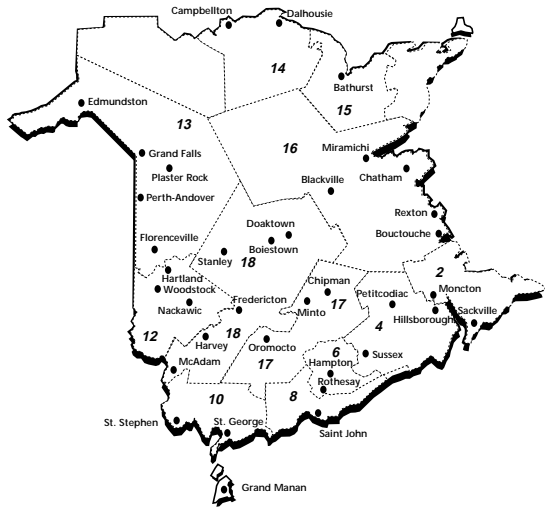
- Inclusive Education (July 7-21)
- Learning and Technology (July 28-August 11)



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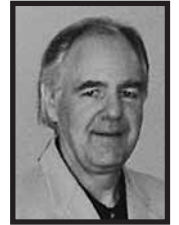
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District 3
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District 3
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District 2
Branch 17



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District 6
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Daniel Johnson
District 2
Branch 16



Simone Desjardins
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District 8
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Robert Godin
District 9
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Charles Roussel
District 9
Branch 6



Gille Arseneau
District 9
Branch 7



Nadine Holmes
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Jonathan Logan
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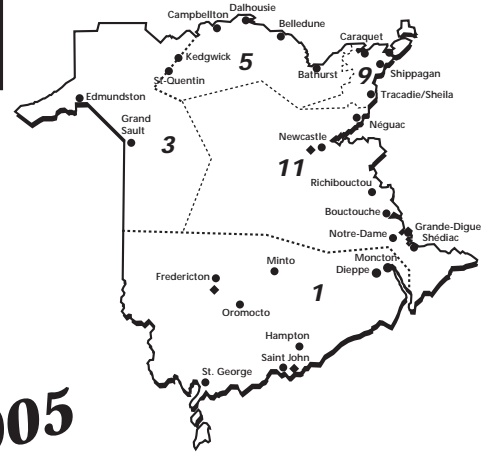
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District 2
Branch 15



Jefferson Robidoux
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Monique Caissie
District 6
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District 8
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Brian Greig
District 8
Branch 20



Jacques Verge
District 11
Branch 12



Michel Hébert
District 11
Branch 53



Fernand Gaudet
District 11
Branch 39



Pat Thorne
District 14
Branch 28



Bill Hogan
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
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Teaching Opportunities in China

Looking for a new challenge? Interested in living and working in China?



Since 1997, **Atlantic Education International Inc. (AEI Inc.)**, on behalf of the N.B. Department of Education, has been working with the Concord Colleges of Sino-Canada on various education initiatives.

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We are looking for flexible, adventurous and vibrant teachers who are mid-career, recently retired or recent Bachelor of Education graduates. English, Mathematics and Science specialists, experienced second language teachers, and experienced administrators are also required.

Teachers, in good standing, holding a valid Canadian Provincial teaching license or those whose credentials have been recognized by a Canadian provincial Department of Education would be eligible to apply.

For more information please contact:

Alan Norman
Phone: 506-372-3255

Fax: 506-856-3224

Email: china.programs@gnb.ca

Shared Reading & Leveling Books for French Immersion Teachers

When: Friday, January 21, 2005

Where: NBTF Building, Fredericton, N.B.

Facilitator: Leo James Levesque

Target Audience: Elementary Council members of French Immersion

Maximum Number of Participants: 30

This full-day session will offer guidance and information on shared reading and leveling books according to reading abilities for French Immersion teachers.

The Elementary Council covers all on-site costs. Lunch will be provided on-site. It is the responsibility of each participant to arrange for leave, travel and accommodations.

****This is an NBTA-sponsored institute, therefore priority will be given to NBTA members, non-members attendance dependent on space availability.****

Registration must be received by January 7, 2005.

Please forward to: Kelly Patt, Sussex Corner Elementary School
12 Dutch Valley Rd., Sussex Corner, N.B., E4E 2Y1
Fax: 506-432-2069



Shared Reading & Leveling Books for French Immersion
Friday, January 21, 2005 9:00 am - 3:30 pm
NBTF Building, Fredericton, N.B.

Name: _____ Teaching Assignment: _____

School: _____ District: _____

Home Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone #: Home: _____ School: _____ E-mail: _____

Elementary Council Member: yes ___ no ___

Participants will receive confirmation that registration has been received.

Elementary Council News



A Special Remembrance



Children from Vincent Massey Elementary School in St. Andrews, N.B. parade into their gym for the Remembrance Day Ceremony, waving frantically at the uniformed members of the Royal Canadian Legion who sit at the front facing them. The expressions on the faces of the children show how excited they are to see the Legion members who have become such good friends of the school. These men and women visit the school on a regular basis to read to the primary children. They have become adopted and loved surrogate grandparents who always have time to listen to a child's story or answer a steady barrage of questions.

"What are all those pretty ribbons on Grandad Jim's jacket?" asks a kindergarten student sitting nearby. "He got them for doing brave deeds," answers her teacher. The little girl thinks for a moment and

replies simply, "I love him".

Our Legion Readers program was initiated and is still organized by "Grandad Jim". Jim Stewart approached the school nine years ago with a plan for weekly visits by Legion members to read to young children. Since that time, the Legion members have been loyal supporters of Vincent Massey Elementary. The children look forward to the weekly story from their Legion reader, but they also crave the attention and love the readers provide. These members of our community have the patience to answer questions about life and death and all things in between. They listen attentively to stories of dead cats and Halloween costumes, and they answer the tough questions. "Did you cry when your friends got hurt in the war?"

Most of the children sitting on the floor don't really understand much about Remembrance Day, despite being able to speak the words

they keep hearing repeated. But they know without question that it means a lot to the men and women sitting before them. They listen as one Legion member speaks. His voice cracks with emotion. Our students know that he speaks from the heart, and they will remember the moment.

Members of the St. Andrews Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion gave of themselves during their war experiences, and they continue to give to our community by devoting themselves to the children. They give the kind of love that only people experienced in the joys and sorrows of life can give. As a result, the children in St. Andrews will always stand thoughtfully on Remembrance Day. They have very good friends to remember.

*by Nancy Rayner
Literacy Support Teacher
Vincent Massey Elementary School*

Greetings!



Wasn't that a wonderful council day? Great speakers, great displays, great prizes, and really great seeing old friends again. The Elementary Council would like to express its appreciation and recognize the hard work of the committee members involved, NBTA staff, sponsors, and merchants of Moncton for making this council day a great success. The response at our Elementary Council booth was super. We received many surveys (thank you) and gave out lots of t-shirts, bags, portfolios, and mouse pads. We hope you are enjoying your thank-you gift. If you didn't get a chance to stop by our table, you can still send your survey to any Elementary Council Executive member. Our school addresses are in the handbook. We

also have extra handbooks if you know of any new members who haven't received one, just drop me a line or give me a buzz...

...which reminds me, things are just buzzing around St. Stephen Elementary School. The teachers are excitedly buzzing about the great time they had at Combined Council in Moncton on November 12. The reports have been fantastic! The students are buzzing about our 3 Bees...Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Prepared. Our new school discipline program was introduced last year and has been a huge success. All students were given a tour of the school including the cafeteria, playground, hallways, classrooms, washrooms and the buses to learn how the 3 Bees applied to each of

these areas. We have seen a big improvement in student cooperation and safety. The administration is buzzing about our new teaming approach. Each grade level meets once a week for half an hour for team building. During this time teachers discuss curriculum, professional development, have common planning time, and work on special projects such as multi-level instruction. An administrator, resource teacher, and literacy support teacher also attend these meetings. Our new team approach has certainly brought our staff together. What more can I say? St. Stephen Elementary School is a "BEE"utiful place to be!

*Nathalie Graham
St. Stephen Elementary School*

President's Message

By Rona Howald

I don't think I can say enough about the value of this past Council Day — the internationally recognized speakers, Nancy Roach and her team, the terrific job they did, and especially our members who chose to participate in such a worthwhile day. Personally, the speakers always come second. I look forward to seeing folks I don't see any other time — whether it is at the social or between sessions.

This Council Day was no different. The person who made the biggest impression on me, when I learned in what he was involved, was John Thurber. I met John four years ago when we both started on Council. A man of many talents, true, but now he has started his own

charitable foundation in support of childhood literacy. He is marketing his own music CD with proceeds going to that worthy cause.

Our executive met around Council Day and set the dates for upcoming institutes/workshops. They shall be advertised in this newsletter, so stay tuned. We have tried to meet the requests we have been given. Dates to think about: Jan. 21, 2005 - *Primary Immersion, Literacy* and Feb. 4 & 5, 2005 - *Remember When*, physical education institute.

We were pleased with the number of people who took part in our *Man on the Street* poll. We value member feedback, and our question *Would the Elementary Council better serve its members by dividing into Primary and*

Elementary? results in much discussion when we meet. We especially liked when people shared the rationale of their vote.

Thank you to all who took time to complete the survey for the Curriculum Committee. Their first (of two) meeting happened on Dec. 6. They will use that information to prepare the report they present to Darlene Whitehouse-Sheehan in February. Past experience has shown us that the Department of Education is most receptive to our feedback and do take our concerns seriously.

The Christmas break is fast approaching and after parent-teacher, Christmas concerts and personal seasonal commitments, I wish you Happy Holidays and a well-deserved break!?

Welcome, Sandra!

As promised, we feature this month a new member to our council, Sandra Pentland. This is Sandra's first year serving on the Elementary Council. Sandra is Principal of Janeville Elementary School in Bathurst. She has 32 years of teaching experience in New

Brunswick schools. Sandra is a native of Bathurst and lives there with her "better" half, Ed. They have two adult children, Jeff and Meaghan (who is following in her mother's footsteps as an elementary teacher). Way to go, Meaghan! Sandra's spare time activities include

reading, visiting with friends, and outdoor activities. It's great to have her as part of our team.



"Greatest Gift"

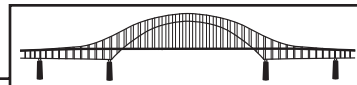
Port Elgin Regional is very excited about our upcoming Christmas Concert, "The Greatest Gift Of All". Students and teachers have been busy practising, rehearsing, building sets and props for our mini operetta which will be presented Dec. 15. The "greatest gift" of course, is the feeling of charity and giving during the holiday season. We here at PERS are striving to instill this sense of charity and community in our students. Three classes (Janis Demers' Grade 4, Patricia Legere's Grade 3 and Natalie Richardson's Grade 2) spent their art classes making home-made ornaments for our community Christmas tree. We



also had food donation boxes in each classroom. On Dec. 2 our entire school population formed a "Human Link" from our school to our local food bank (which is just down the street). We passed each food item from one child to the next until it arrived at the food bank in time for Christmas boxes to be prepared.

We hope everyone has a wonderful rest of the month. Enjoy the happiness of your students as they anticipate the coming of Christmas. Take time for yourself and listen to some calming and inspiring music of the season. Our very own John Thurber, Principal of Sunbury West Elementary, has a new Christmas CD that will not only inspire you but will benefit our children as well. John is donating proceeds from the sale of his CD for children's literacy. *Happy holidays, everyone. Take care.*

Debbi Sloan
Natalie Richardson
Port Elgin Regional School



Middle Level Language Arts Teachers

Be sure to mark off your calendars for the Language Arts Conference to be held in Fredericton on Thursday evening, April 28 and Friday, April 29. Stay tuned for more information to come after Christmas.



Thank You!

The Middle Level Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who visited our booth at the Combined Council Conference and for the feedback on the prize ballots. The results will be available in the next *NBTA News*.

Prize winners:

First: Quilt – Susan Vienneau

Second: Bag of Stationery – Evelyn Kitchen

Third: Todd Whitaker's Book "What Great Teachers Do Differently" – Rheal Fournier



Middle School News

As part of their Wellness program at the Campbellton Middle School, staff took part in a photo rally one Friday after school in October.

Teams of four were given lists of clues to find around the city. They



had to have their picture taken with the clue. The time limit was set at one hour, until cameras had to be dropped off at a one-hour developing location. Examples of some of the clues were: everyone on the team holding a pumpkin at a farmer's stand, doing a head stand at the local college, wearing sunglasses at a local drug store, finding a salmon to keep company with or sitting in the play area of a fast food restaurant! Staff gathered for refreshments while photos were being developed and many laughs were shared by all. The fun was both in taking the pictures and looking at them later. The



only glitch was finding a winner, for really all who attended were real winners!

*Tanya Whitney
Brown's Flat and Morna
Heights Schools, District 8*

The Middle School Council would like to welcome a new member,

Cindy Crowhurst
Bath Middle School
District 14



Parents

Parents — an integral part of the school community: truth or myth? Well, at Queen E. School we love to boast and brag about our impressive and highly-involved Home and School. This phenomena is fairly rare in most school communities; however, the staff and parents of Queen E. have developed the philosophy of working together as a team. This is based on much mutual respect and appreciation. The vision, of course, is that the students at Queen E. will be the true benefactors of this great partnership.

The dedication these parents show on a daily basis is evident in every aspect of our school community from materials and resources to their enormous donation of time in the school. Every morning we have parents who set up and patrol our Kiss and Drop program, along with safe-arrival. Once a week they prepare and

deliver the fluoride and a nutritional snack. These parents also organize and host a variety of family events and fundraisers throughout the year, such as the Family BBQ in the fall, Family Fun Day in June, and the Scholastic Book Fair twice a year.



This is just the proverbial “tip of the iceberg”, as these parents have also raised thousands of dollars over the years for all new play equipment, new uniforms for all sports teams, a new freezer, washer, dryer and many, many other donations. One major contribution

was the button maker for the Technology Room. The students have begun a small entrepreneurial endeavor of designing and selling buttons. It began as an in-house affair, but has since been expanded to include other school communities and the private sector. The funds will, of course, be returned to the school in the form of purchases for the Tech Lab, as everyone is aware of the huge price tag of new tech equipment. Anyone interested can give the school a call at (506) 856-3447 (a little plug never hurts).

To conclude, we at Queen E. would just like to express a huge *thanks* to all the parents who so selflessly give their time to make our school “the place to be”. As the expression goes, “Together we stand ... divided we fall”, and we are standing tall and proud here at Queen E. Parents as partners all the way.

High School Council News



• *High School Council* •

President's Message



Randy Hunter

Congratulations to everyone involved in the planning and implementation of *Learning Today - Teaching Tomorrow* Combined Council Day. You did a fabulous job.

Your High School Executive met on November 14, 2004. This was the first meeting of the new school year.

Our Executive Meeting dates are set for: February 19, 2005, April 16, 2005 and the AGM on May 14, 2005. If you would like an item included on the agenda, please do not hesitate to contact any member.

Because there is not a scheduled Council Day until May 5, 2006, we have as a goal to offer institutes to High School teachers. Our emphasis

at the present time is in the specialty areas. More details will follow. Please contact our Curriculum/PD Chair, Lynn Steeves at steevlyj@nbed.nb.ca. Your input would be very much appreciated.

In regard to the High School Booth at Council Day, please be advised that we did not have a meeting prior to November 12 (in order to cut down on expenses); therefore, what was organized was via e-mail. I apologize if you feel that you were not well represented; it was certainly not our intention.

I have been asked a great number of times as to why we have to pay \$30 registration fee for Council Day. Please take an opportunity to check with your local Director to receive a budget for the day. When you see this document, it will be quite self-explanatory. As an example, an institute of the calibre that we just

experienced would be at least a \$300 - \$400 registration fee.

We are constantly grasping for information to insert in the High School Council section of *NBTA News*. If you have anything that you would like to have printed, please send it along to our Communications Chair, Nancy Vessie, at nancy.vessie@nbed.nb.ca. She would love to hear from you. The deadline date for next entry is December 10. The other dates are printed in your *NBTA News*; please check these deadlines.

If you have any concerns that you would like to discuss with me directly, please do not hesitate to contact me at randy.hunter@nbed.nb.ca

Thank you for all the great work you do each day and remember, *keep well*.

Deadlines for submission of news to *NBTA News*



- December 10
- February 4
- March 11
- April 8
- May 13 (Newsflash - 4p)
- May 30



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A Great PD Day

District 2 Wellness Representatives had a terrific Professional Development day at Moncton's Rotary Lodge on October 25. Well over thirty reps were on hand to enjoy a day of mind, body, and spirit wellness activities.

The day began with group introductions and singing performances. There were lots of chuckles during this time. Next we had a yoga instructor do a wonderful relaxing lesson that calmed the body and the mind. Later, teachers broke into groups to share wellness ideas from their schools. The list was extensive which proves wellness is thriving in our workplaces.

A delicious "duty free" lunch was enjoyed by all, followed by a great walk in Centennial Park on a clear bright day. Our afternoon concluded with a truly inspirational speech about reaching your dreams by Joe Grondin, a toastmaster and a teacher at Bernice MacNaughton High.

All teachers would like to thank Niel Cameron, Colleen Kelly, June MacNairn, and Colleen Boudreau for making this day so much of a learning experience.

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“REMEMBER WHEN” CONFERENCE
ON HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION
FEBRUARY 3 & 4, 2005

Keynote: “Lucien” Marshall Button

Thursday, February 3 – Fredericton High School

6pm	Registration
7pm	Welcome / Opening Remarks
7:15pm - 8:30pm	“Lucien” Marshall Button
8:30pm	NBPES Business Meeting
8:40pm - 10pm	Carrousel & Social

Friday, February 4 – Marshall d’Avray Hall – University of New Brunswick

8am	Registration (cont.)
8:30am – 9:10am	Opening session – Dr. Dennis Furlong



Some sessions of note:

- **Marian Rose** – “Step Lively” Dance Program
- **Speed Stacks Inc.** (Cup Stacking with Speed Stack)
- **Marc Beaulé** - Tchoukball (a fast-growing sport)
- **Ted Temertzoglou** - Exercise Science and Healthy Active Living
- **Dr. Gabriela Tymowski** - “The problem of childhood obesity in Canada”

“Remember When” Conference 2005 – Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email _____

School: _____

District #: _____

Please check off the following:

student PE teacher Classroom teacher Recreation
 Health Professional Other (please indicate: _____)

Thursday only (\$15) Friday Only (\$40) Full Registration (\$50)

University Student : Thursday (\$10) Friday (\$5)

Friday Lunch Option (\$7) Enjoy a relaxing lunch with colleagues and be entertained by District 18 students performing dance presentations.



Please send form along with a cheque to:

“Remember When” Conference

c/o Shannon Ward

35 Maple Leaf Drive, Lincoln, N.B. E3B 7J1

*** Please make cheque payable to “Remember When” Conference *
(receipts will be issued at registration)**



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

Marvelous Experiences of a Teacher Exchange to New Brunswick

Sue and Tony Naughton and their three children are in New Brunswick on a teacher exchange for the calender year 2004. They have taken the time to share their experiences and impressions to date in NBTA News.

In so far as teachers and school operations are concerned there are also some differences:

1) Governance/Funding: New Zealand schools are separate entities each governed by an elected 5 member parent Board of Trustees (elected every 3 years). The Principal and an elected staff member are also Board Members (Education District Boards were abolished 14 years ago).

The central government funds schools for all their requirements according to a formula based on the number of children. Schools are also funded according to their Decile Rating which is based on the census of the schools socioeconomic group. Teacher salaries are, however, funded by Central Government.

2) Staff Planning: New Zealand schools operate on a syndicate basis for joint planning within schools, i.e., years 4, 5 & 6 would form one syndicate, years 1, 2, and 3 another syndicate. We have weekly brief administration staff meetings and 2 weekly syndicate meetings, as well as full staff meetings.

We don't generally have non-contact time and we teach all subjects.

NBTA equals NZEI

The New Zealand Educational

Institute is our Teachers Union covering all Primary and Early Childhood teachers. (Our high school colleagues have their own union) and as far as we can determine, operates on a very similar basis in all areas.

New Zealand teachers are paid an annual salary. The salary scale has 12 steps and includes management unit allowances on top for Deputy Principals, Senior Teachers, etc. Our union negotiates working conditions with central government for an agreed contract period (recently I understand our contract was settled for 3 years and included a \$500 lump sum payment, 2.5% this year and 3% each of the next 2 years). Maximum salary would be around \$58000 pa, before the latest increase.

Our working conditions appear similar but New Zealand teachers appear to work longer hours - 7:30am to 5pm being normal. Instruction time is 9am-3pm with 15 minutes morning recess and 1 hour for lunch. Teachers at my New

Brunswick School put in a lot of extra time at lunch time for indoor sports, drama, etc. These areas are covered within the curriculum in New Zealand.

You have wonderful job security and protection with the education boards and great



retirement advice and guidance from the NBTA, together with a great pension scheme. In New Zealand if your school has to shed a teacher due to falling roles, you can find yourself with 6 months notice of having no job and if you happened to be under 50, no pension either! You also have an awesome retirement dinner. We have found that overall retiring teachers are valued by their colleagues more here than in New Zealand.

Professional Development

It appears similar in both countries in that various providers offer courses after school or in the holidays; one difference we found was the closing of schools for the NBTA Council Days.

General

Cost of Living: It is very similar in each country; some things are cheaper here (like gas) but other things are more expensive (like insurance).

Weather: It is vastly different. You have lovely extremes here (-47C to +30C here for us this year). In New Zealand it is temperate all year (we might go from +3C to +40C). Hence New Zealanders are very outdoor people.



Measuring System/Taxes:
We noted a lot of prices quoted in lbs!! New Zealand charges 12 % GST on everything and the price shown for everything included the tax. In New Brunswick the HST is on top of the price shown. It caused us some confusion initially.

Public Issues: We have found it interesting to see the same issues. New Zealand introduced laws last year that dealt with smoking in public places/workplaces; dangerous dogs. Both countries are deliberating decriminalizing marijuana and the debate rages over the definition of marriage.



It is interesting there is some debate here now over proportional representation in government; New Zealand has operated under that system for the past 9 years. Health reforms are also topical in both countries.

Some expressions we will not forget: *You're welcome; Oh, my land; When you're done; Good job; You think?*

Foods we have tried: *Tim Hortons (Yum!); Moose (Yum!); Salmon (Yum!); Fiddleheads (??); Kraft Dinner (??)*

We have all enjoyed a year we will never forget. We have seen some wonderful sights, met some amazing people and got to know a part of Canada that we had only heard of before. We leave with fond memories of New Brunswick and Canada and plan to come back sometime to visit and explore some more.

—Tony & Sue Naughton and Family

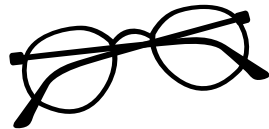
Eighty Percent of Learning Involves Vision

In cooperation with the New Brunswick Association of Optometrists, this is the second of three articles in NBTA News which provides information to teachers on vision problems with a child. The first article appeared in Vol. XLVII, No. 3, November 9, 2004. The Teacher's Guide to Children's Vision Pamphlet was also sent to all teachers with the November 9 issue.

Clear, comfortable vision plays an important role in learning well and performing optimally at school. Eighty percent of learning is dependent on vision.

Did You Know?

- 20/20 vision does not equal good vision
- 25% of grade school children have vision problems that stop them from being as successful as they could be – poor vision can lower grades of even your best students if left unchecked
- it is estimated that 60% of students identified as having learning difficulties have undetected vision problems
- of those 60%, the majority would have passed a conventional school vision screening test



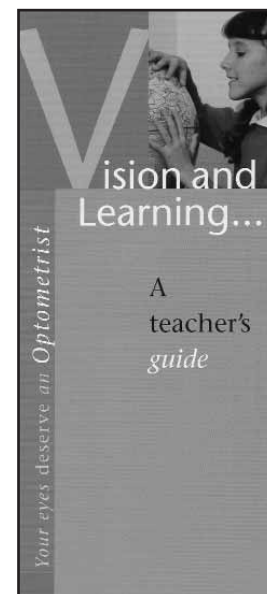
Confused about the difference between 20/20 vision and good vision?

Join the club. For many of us, 20/20 vision means perfect sight. But that is not always the case. A vision screening test of 20/20 simply means that a child can see at 20 feet what he or she should be able to see at that distance. It does not relate to any of the other vision skills that are crucial to learning such as near vision, binocular co-ordination, eye movement skills, focusing skills or eye/hand co-ordination.

All too often, visual defects go undetected until a child is identified with a learning or behavioral problem.

Children who are suspected of having vision problems need to receive a comprehensive evaluation

by an optometrist, to ensure they are seeing clearly and comfortably, and learning to their full potential.



The “Physletter”

The following is a “Physletter” that Garth Wade, Physical Education Mentor, District 18, produced for the Physical Education teachers for November.

I was doing some supplemental reading and came across tips on developing a system to become more organized. Due to the fact that our lives get complicated, many unexpected things come up, you get overloaded, forget little things, and feel the stress of attempting to get everything done. The organization expert in the article stated that it is important to have a system that works for you. I waited until November to send this out because I know that after two full months of school, many may be struggling to keep things in order — Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Interviews. They say that today is always a good time to start.

1. Make a Time Map: To cut down on stress, keep a detailed schedule to figure out when to fit everything in (even unexpected stuff) – (1) Mark the times you wake up and go to sleep. (2) Fill in your commitments – classes, travel time, extra curricular. Use blank spaces to block off time for school work, time with friends, family, and of course, you. Once everything is in place, you will not get weighed down wondering what to tackle next – you have already planned it out.

Ensure that you place personal and family physical activity into your daily schedule. It could be as simple as a 10 minute walk, stretching while watching your favourite program, parking a distance from the mall or market entrance, joining the health club that you have been meaning to do, or joining in with a group participating in a fun physical activity.

2. Use the W.A.D.E. Organization System: If someone asks you to do something, you might just say, “Sure”, because you are not thinking big picture – or about how much you have on your plate. Use the following formula to

figure out what you can realistically do so you do not take on too much.

Write a to-do list, including every job, project, phone call and social plan you have for the upcoming week.

Assign every item a period of time. Estimate how long it will take. Break big projects into parts, giving each a time frame.

Decide when you will do each task and plot it on the time map in your planner. If you are still overloaded, use the four ‘D’s (#3).

Execute your plan. Slotting time for your task is just a start. Once the designated hour arrives, be sure to work on that to-do.

It does work; forcing yourself to *wade* helps you keep realistic goals and save time by designing a date and specific amount of time for each task, so you will know when to focus on it and when to move on.

3. Overloaded? *Use the 4D’s Rescue Plan* – Whenever you are feeling pinched for time because you just have too much to do or you get a last minute assignment, take control of your schedule. Prioritize (or trim down) your tasks by using the four D’s.

(1) Delete: Force yourself to decide which task(s) are not that important.

(2) Delay: If it is important, ask: Can it wait? If so, reschedule it.

(3) Delegate: Can someone else get the task done? If so, ask if they will help you out with it.

(4) Diminish: Cannot do #1, 2, 3? Figure out a way to complete the task in less time.

4. Create a Personal To Do List – It is too easy to forget things if you use stray pieces of paper to jot down your to-do’s. You need to mark your checklist, commitments, and places you have to be in one

place. Along with your Time Map (#1) keep a daily/weekly log of the important things that you need to get done.

5. Get To It! – Take some time each day/night to finalize your schedule and goals for the next day. Keep in mind that life constantly throws curveballs, and your perfect plan may fall apart because someone may be late or a friend cancels. If that occurs, do not just chuck your system, use it to re-map your week.

Remember that life is a journey, not a destination! Approach each day with plan but be flexible to handle the many things that **will** pop up. Have a great month!

(The above tips were taken from Julie Morgenstern, organization expert and author.)

Counselling Services

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Yvonne Vaughan

MA M.ED CCC

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***“Insanity is doing the same thing
over and over expecting
a different result.”***

***Prioritize what is on your schedule
but schedule your priorities.***

Myth: It is possible to do more with less.

Fact: We will do some tasks differently and stop doing others completely.

The concept of doing more with less means we need to find innovative, creative ways to get our work done.

Never accept the phrase “This is the way we’ve always done it.” New challenges demand new ways of solving problems.

Try this:

Set up focus groups to discuss alternative ways of getting a task done. Include a variety of staff members from other departments who can offer an objective view. Review all the common practices, look for better ways of doing them, and find things you can stop doing.



The Pareto Principle

The 80/20 rule suggests that in a list of ten items, doing two of them will yield most (80 percent) of the value. Find these two, label them A, get them done. Leave most of the other eight undone, because the value you’ll get from them will be significantly less than that of the two highest-value items.

These examples, drawn from everyday life, should enable you to feel more comfortable about concentrating on high-value tasks, even at the cost of ignoring many lower-value tasks:

- 80 percent of sick leave is taken by 20 percent of employees
- 80 percent of file usage is in 20 percent of files
- 80 percent of dinners repeat 20 percent of recipes
- 80 percent of dirt is on 20 percent of floor areas that is highly used
- 80 percent of the washing is done on the 20 percent of the wardrobe that is well-used items
- 80 percent of TV time is spent on 20 percent of programs most popular with the family
- 80% of reading time is spent on 20 percent of the pages in the newspaper (front page, sport page, editorials, columnists, feature page)
- 80 percent of telephone calls come from 20 percent of all callers

It is important to remind yourself again and again not to get bogged down on low-value activities but to focus on the 20 percent where the high value is.

Efficient Use of Time

- Identify those items that use up the largest chunks of time and place a value on them.
- Allot the time that each item needs to be completed.

Remember 80-10-10

- 80 percent of things that you worry about never happen.
- 10 percent of them happen but are not as bad as you imagined.
- 10 percent will happen but you couldn’t do anything to prevent them or make them better.

Worry does not help. Don’t worry!

—Unknown author

Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Announcements

Safety Start Program

Safety Start is a **free** two-day course in emergency first aid with CPR and Occupational Health and Safety. Trained professionals will come into your school and deliver the program that covers several outcomes for the Health curriculum grades 9-12, YAP and co-op programs.

Upon completion of the course, students receive a Health and Safety Passport that they can add to their resume of skills. The government of New Brunswick will give hiring preference to those who complete the Safety Start Program.

Find out more about Safety Start or book a course by calling the Safety Start Coordinator, Erica Good, at NB Safety Council Inc. 1-877-762-7233 ext. 6.

Anti-Bullying Resource

The Canadian Teachers' Federation is endorsing a unique new anti-bullying resource, *The MISadventures of Bully-Boy and Gossip-Girl*, created by university students Brett Popplewell and Lee Wilson. This interactive comic book for students in grades 4 to 8 depicts common acts of bullying among boys and girls and suggests ways students can stop bullying from happening in their schools and playgrounds. A separate four-page teacher's guide and lesson plan provides important information on bullying and prevention strategies. Colourful posters complete the package.

The materials, in both English and French, can be ordered individually or as sets. Prices and more details can be found on the interactive website at www.bullyboy.ca

Call for Proposals

The 12th Biennial Canadian Social Welfare Policy Conference will be held June 16-18, 2005 at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton. The theme for the conference will be *Forging Social Futures: Canadian and International Perspectives*.

Proposals are invited that address theoretical and practical issues pertaining to social policies at the local, regional, provincial, national, and international levels.

For more information, visit the website at:
<http://www.ccsd.ca/cswp/2005/>

Amateur Movie Contest

National Screen Institute - Canada (NSI) is calling on amateur filmmakers to enter their five-minute movie in the National Exposure Amateur Movie Contest, 2005. Filmmakers have a shot at picking up cash and prizes and a chance to screen their film to a packed theatre audience during the NSI FilmExchange Canadian Film Festival on 5 March 2005.

The closing date for entries is January 14, 2005. For full details, including rules, an application form and access to the NSI 30 Second Film School visit www.nsi-canada.ca, Tel. (204) 956-7800.

**Salary Deferred
Leave Plan 2004-2005
Application forms will
be available from District
Offices in early January
2005.**

**Application Deadline
is February 28, 2005.
(FOR THIS YEAR ONLY)**

**Mathieu Da Costa
Challenge deadline
extended to
December 23, 2004.**



Sunbury West School Literacy Program Gets Boost!

The "Kids who read ... succeed ... exceed!" is a literacy program initiated by NBTA member, John Thurber, Principal at Sunbury West School in Fredericton Junction.

John has been an active advocate for children's literacy. This visionary program has been embraced by the schools in which he has served as principal. The Home & School committees, the community, and even corporations have entered into this mutually enriching partnership. Additional reading resources have resulted in a better quality and quantity of children and adolescent level books for learning and pleasure.

John has arranged and performed a collection of Christmas melodies on CD which could be used for your school community's fundraising. A portion of the profit from this CD will be invested in young people in New Brunswick through the "Kids who read... succeed... exceed!" fundraiser. For further information, contact John at 73 Lansdown Avenue, Oromocto, N.B. E2V 4J7 (506) 446-5000
pianostu@nb.sympatico.ca



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Happy Holidays

*At this Holiday Season,
our thoughts turn
gratefully to those who
have made our progress
possible.*

*Warm Season's Greetings
and much happiness
in the new year.*



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