



# BRANCHING OUT

**NOVA SCOTIA**  
Education

**NEWS FROM  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS BRANCH**

May 2010

<http://EDnet.ns.ca>

## Jim Burton Retires after 41 Years' Service



Jim and Theresa Burton,  
April 27, 2010.

Director of Regional Education Services Jim Burton has retired after 41 years of distinguished service to public education in Nova Scotia. This includes 19 years with the Department of Education and 22 years with school boards in Cape Breton.

Jim has always personified the highest standards as a professional educator—always concerned for the well being and success of students, always operating with the highest ethical standards, and always respected by educators and community partners across Nova Scotia.

We were pleased to be able to meet with Jim and his wife, Theresa, at a reception held April 27, 2010 at the Department of Education. Peter Lawson, who had been Director of Inspection Services when Jim first came to the Department, described Jim's early career as a principal. Not surprisingly, the stories illustrated Jim's concern for individual students. In his remarks Jim indicated that he had served under 11 ministers and seven deputy ministers.

In her letter of appreciation, Minister More said, "You have represented the province and the department well in Cape Breton, and all of our regional offices, for many years. Your leadership in the regional offices has earned you the unofficial title: 'the eyes and ears of the minister.' By working with school boards and our partners, you have helped the province meet the needs of many students and educators. We are grateful for everything you accomplished for students and school boards in Nova Scotia."

On May 3, 2010 a resolution was unanimously passed in the legislature which stated "...all members of this House congratulate Jim Burton for his long and dedicated service to public education in Nova Scotia, and extend him best wishes for the next phase of his life."

For my own part, I wish to express my admiration for and gratitude to Jim for the years I had the privilege of working with him.

We wish Jim well in his retirement.

*Dr. Alan Lowe, Senior Executive Director, Public Schools Branch*

## May is Gaelic Awareness Month

The study of the Gaelic language, history, and culture provides students with opportunities to interact with the Gaelic community and to deepen their knowledge of a shared heritage. It promotes positive attitudes toward cultural diversity and commonality and fosters students' appreciation of Nova Scotia's diverse heritage.

The Gaelic Language and Culture Workshop was held May 6–7, 2010, in Iona, Nova Scotia. Teachers from across Nova Scotia participated in a range of workshops and enjoyed a Student Ceilidh at Rankin School of the Narrows.

English Program Services will continue to offer special program grants for school boards wishing to provide students with opportunities to learn the Gaelic language. June 25, 2010, is the deadline for applications for projects beginning in the fall.



## Scotland-Canada History Brought to Life

The Scottish Government has announced that a new online resource exploring the rich historic and cultural links between Scotland and Canada has been published.

The Scots and Canada website, launched by Education Secretary Michael Russell in Toronto, provides a wealth of information to students and teachers on both sides of the Atlantic. With almost five million Canadians claiming Scots ancestry, the site is also a treasure trove for amateur historians.

The Scotland and Canada website is available in both English and Gaelic and is part of Scotland's History, an online resource developed by Learning and Teaching Scotland. The website Scotland's History <<http://www.scotlandshistory.org>> is freely accessible and includes more than 200 topics and links to over 1,000 other online sources with a wide range of interactive supporting materials. This resource grew out of the Scottish Government's History in the Curriculum Group which looked at ways of improving the learning and teaching of history in the context of Curriculum for Excellence.

Please visit the Scots and Canada website at <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/scotsandcanada/index.asp>

## Hackmatack 2009–2010

The children have spoken, and the winners of the 2009/2010 Hackmatack Award are

English Fiction: *Dog Lost* by Ingrid Lee

English Non-fiction: *Gotcha!: 18 Amazing Ways to Freak Out Your Friends* by David Acer

Roman Français: *Le cimetière de Boisvert* par Tina Landry

Documentaire Français: *Délirons avec Léon—Spécial Olympiques* par Annie Groovie



The Department of Education supplied funding to tour eight of the Hackmatack authors in Nova Scotia in the week preceding the ceremony on May 14, 2010. Readers from Cape Breton to Yarmouth had the opportunity to listen to and chat with some of their favourite authors.

Next year, elementary schools in Nova Scotia will again be receiving two sets of the Hackmatack short-listed books from the Department of Education, so join the fun and get a Hackmatack group started in your school. Visit our website at <http://www.hackmatack.ca> to check out the list of next year's books and find out how to register your Hackmatack group.

## Nova Scotia Virtual School

The Nova Scotia Virtual School (NSVS) exists to make available in English and French increased course options and/or course components online to meet the needs of learners in the public schools in Nova Scotia, especially those students in small high schools, and to provide a medium to support online professional learning for teachers.

NSVS is a common provincial online learning platform that can be used for synchronous events such as online meetings, or asynchronous course components through Moodle.

For more information about NSVS, please visit our website at <http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca> or contact your board online contact.

# May is Gaelic Awareness Month

## EBSCO—New Features

The EBSCO Periodical Database interface has been enhanced with two new features in the past few weeks.

The first new feature is an enhanced viewer for full-text PDF articles. This viewer allows the reader to review not only the article found through a search, but also other articles from that issue of the periodical and other issues as well. A simple navigation menu provided on the left side of the viewing pane allows the user to move through articles within the issue being viewed, to choose another issue (organized by year), and also to view any illustrations included in the article being viewed. This enhanced viewer will allow readers to move from article to article within a particular publication with much greater ease than previously experienced.

Another exciting new enhancement is the inclusion of a text-to-speech option for use with any HTML-format full-text articles. When the article is selected, a toolbar appears with user options for the accent to be used in the reading (English, American, or Australian) and the reading speed. The user can adjust the options, highlight some or all of the text in the article, and then click the “Listen” button to hear the text of the article read out loud. This feature must be turned on for each individual school. If you wish to check to see that your school has the feature enabled, carry out a simple search, and select any article marked “HTML Full Text”. When the article opens, the following toolbar should be visible just above the text of the article.



All schools in Nova Scotia should have this feature enabled at this time. If the toolbar is not present, please contact Nancy Chisholm by email at [chishon1@gov.ns.ca](mailto:chishon1@gov.ns.ca) to have the text-to-speech feature of EBSCO enabled in your school.

The EBSCO Periodical Database can be accessed at <http://search.ebscohost.com>



## Program of Learning Assessment for Nova Scotia (PLANS)

To support school improvement and student success, the Department of Education initiated the Program of Learning Assessment for Nova Scotia (PLANS) in 1997. This comprehensive assessment program provides reliable and accurate data to assist in informed education decision making at all levels: student, school, school board, and province. PLANS is responsible for the administration of international, national, and provincial assessments and examinations.

### International and National Assessments

Nova Scotia participates in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP), and the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS). PISA was administered in the spring of 2009. The results will be released in December 2010. In the spring of 2010, students in a sample of grade 8 classes participated in PCAP, an assessment of mathematics, reading, and science. In 2011, grade 4 students in Nova Scotia will participate, along with over 40 countries, in the administration of PIRLS.

### The 2010-2011 Assessment Schedule

In early spring of each school year, the Department of Education publishes the assessment schedule for the following school year. The schedule for 2010–2011 has been created to accommodate adjustments to the school year calendar resulting from the 2011 Canada Games.



Each year over 1 000 teachers participate with the department in developing, field testing, administering, and marking provincial assessments.

### Reminder: Toll Free Access to Department 1-888-825-7770

The Department of Education has a toll free number! Toll Free Access complements other forms of communication including e-mail, the Departmental website at <http://ednet.ns.ca> and the individual contact information on the last page of this newsletter.



## 2010–2011 Assessment Schedule/Horaire des évaluations

Date	Subject	Level
Sept. 21-24, 2010	Appréciation de rendement en littérature à l'élémentaire (ARL)	6 <sup>e</sup> année
Sept. 27-30, 2010	Early Language Literacy Assessment (ELLA)	Grade 3
Oct. 5-8, 2010	Elementary Literary Assessment (ELA)	Grade 6
janv 10-13, 2011	Appréciation de rendement en littérature au secondaire (ARLS)	9 <sup>e</sup> année
Jan. 25, 2011	NSE Mathematics	Senior High
Jan. 25, 2011	NSE Advanced Mathematics	Senior High
janv 25, 2011	ENÉ Mathématiques	2 <sup>e</sup> cycle: secondaire
janv 25, 2011	ENÉ Mathématiques avancées	2 <sup>e</sup> cycle: secondaire
Jan. 26, 2011	NSE English	Senior High
Jan. 26, 2011	NSE English/Communications	Senior High
Feb 1-4, 2011	Junior High Literacy Assessment (JHLA)	Grade 9
Apr/May, 2011	Progress in International Reading Literacy Studies (PIRLS)	Grade 4
Avr/Mai, 2011	Programme international de recherche en lecture scolaire (PIRLS)	4 <sup>e</sup> année
mai 24-26, 2011	Évaluation des apprentissages en mathématiques: 2 <sup>e</sup> cycle—élémentaire (ÉAM2 <sup>e</sup> CÉ)	6 <sup>e</sup> année
May 24-26, 2011	Elementary Mathematical Literacy Assessment (EMLA)	Grade 6
mai 31-juin 2, 2011	Évaluation des apprentissages en mathématiques: 1 <sup>er</sup> cycle—élémentaire (ÉAM1 <sup>er</sup> CÉ)	3 <sup>e</sup> année
May 31-June 2, 2011	Early Elementary Mathematical Literacy Assessment (EEMLA)	Grade 3
June 16, 2011	NSE Mathematics	Senior High
June 16, 2011	NSE Advanced Mathematics	Senior High
juin 16, 2011	ENÉ Mathématiques	2 <sup>e</sup> cycle: secondaire
juin 16, 2011	ENÉ Mathématiques avancées	2 <sup>e</sup> cycle: secondaire
June 20, 2011	NSE English	Senior High
June 20, 2011	NSE English/Communications	Senior High

### Accounting 11, Academic

Accounting 11, Academic is a new Public School Programs course which is available for implementation in the 2010–2011 school year. Accounting 11, Academic replaces Accounting 11, Open, which may be offered in 2010–2011, but will be discontinued thereafter.

Accounting 11, Academic introduces students to the use of accounting in business. The course consists of five modules: Beginning the Accounting Cycle, Completing the Accounting Cycle, Cash Control and Banking, Subsidiary Ledgers, and Careers in Accounting. Students

examine the application of accounting procedures in business and business ownership, such as recording transactions, preparing financial statements, and analyzing the process of cash management. They also examine business risks, including those related to credit sales and the collection of debts.

Accounting 11, Academic provides students with opportunities to investigate the range of careers and employment opportunities that exist in the expanding role of business in all sectors of the economy.

## May is Asian Heritage Month

## Summer Learning Opportunities

### Summer Learning Opportunities Booklet

The *Summer Learning Opportunities for Teachers* booklet has been published and should be available in your school. This booklet gives teachers information about Summer Institutes and PD opportunities available through various institutions and organizations. This year, sessions are included from Acadia University, Nova Scotia Department of Education, Nova Scotia Teachers Union, Mount Saint Vincent University, and St. Francis Xavier University. Check out the booklet with the bright green cover for many interesting sessions. For online information and/or registration, visit our website at <http://www.ednet.ns.ca> and choose “Register for Summer Institutes” under the heading “I Want To:” on the right side of the page.

### Technology Education

Technology Education teachers will have plenty of learning opportunities at EduFest at the NSCC Dartmouth Waterfront campus from August 9–13. Sue Newhook from Kings College will be providing a full day session on Broadcasting on August 9. The professionals from Canon will provide two days of hands-on learning on August 9 and 10 with the Canon Rebel cameras made available to schools offering Communications Technology 11 and Communications Technology 12. Communications Technology teachers can register now, and registration will open for teachers of other subjects after July 31.

Exploring Technology 10 teachers will have an opportunity to explore the areas of Green Technology and VEX robotics for beginner to advanced levels on August 10 and 11.

In addition, Francis Hawley will be providing a two-day hands-on practice session on basic safety and operating procedures for production technology machines and equipment as it relates to technology education. This session is designed for beginners, but will cater to all levels of learning and teaching needs. It will be held on August 12 and 13.

Later in August, Progressive Education Systems will be providing two two-day training sessions on SolidWorks, the solid modeling CAD software being installed in all high schools. The first two-day session will be held at Halifax West High School August 23–24. The second two-day session will be held at Strait Area Education and Recreation Centre in Port Hawkesbury on August 25–26. Both SolidWorks training sessions will be for beginner and intermediate levels.

For more details on these and other summer institutes, visit our website at <http://www.ednet.ns.ca>

### Media Literacy – Online Course for Educators

Understanding Media Literacy: Inside Plato’s Cave, is a 13 unit, three-credit online course for those wishing to know more about the nexus between children and media literacy. The course is especially designed for those who teach at the grades 7–12 levels, and for students of media and communication. This course is offered by Athabasca University in two separate disciplines as EDUC 115 and CMNS 315. Students may enrol in only one of these courses.

Registration for the summer session will be open June 1–10, 2010. For details, go to <http://salsa.athabasca.ca/cmns/mediaLiteracy.php>

### IT’s Summertime Again!

This is a summer institute for public school teachers who are interested in exploring ways of integrating technology into curriculum to address all learners’ needs. We provide the time and all the support you need so that you can focus on producing technologically integrated learning experiences to use in your classroom, and have fun while you work. Participants can bring a topic and materials that they are interested in developing or adapt one of our projects to their context.

This is a residential session, offered by Learning Resources and Technology Services; facilitators representing various school boards will be present. It will be held in Truro, at the Nova Scotia Community College campus, from August 4–6, 2010. Registration and check-in (if applicable) will be held onsite on August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1 p.m. through the early evening.

There is no fee for this institute, and the Department of Education will provide participants with accommodations and meals at the NSCC campus residence at no charge. Travel costs may be covered through application to your local professional development grant. These may require pre-approval, so check with your local union for requirements.

Participation in this workshop is by application only. Contact your School Board Technology Integration Coordinator if you wish to attend this Summer Institute. The deadline for applications is June 11, 2010.



## More Learning Opportunities and Workshops

### Summer Fun!

Six Things I Know for Sure: Now What Do I Do with What I Know? (Essentials for Success with Primary Writers)—Ann Marie Corgill-Ingram

In this workshop with the author of *Of Primary Importance: What's Essential for Teaching Young Writers*, Ann Marie will share what she has come to believe are the key essentials for success with young writers and how those essentials play out in the primary classrooms. Participants will examine and reflect on student work samples, video footage, and practical planning and publishing ideas; as well, great picture books for teaching focus lessons will be shared. This fun, inspiring, and interactive workshop is designed for grades primary–2.

This wonderful professional learning opportunity will be held at the Old Orchard in the Annapolis Valley on July 21–22, 2010. The cost is \$85.00. Please register at <http://www.ednet.ns.ca> or phone (902) 424-5839.



### Physical Education 11 Provincial Workshop: June 10–11, 2010

The Department of Education will be holding a Physical Education 11 Provincial Workshop on June 10–11, 2010 at the Nova Scotia Community College, Akerley Campus, Dartmouth. The workshop is designed for teachers of Physical Education 11, Fitness Leadership 11, Yoga 11, and/or Physically Active Living 11. School boards have been invited to send one Physical Education teacher from each high school.

Participants will receive professional resources, curriculum guides, and other material to support the implementation of the new curriculum. This invitational workshop will provide opportunity for school boards to build networks of physical education teachers to support their professional learning in relation to the physical education graduation requirement.



### Correspondence Studies

Various correspondence courses from grades 7 to 12 are available for students.

For more information, visit our website at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca> > Correspondence Studies or call (902) 424-4054

### More Summer Fun!

Concurrent sessions will be held at the Old Orchard Inn on July 29–30, 2010 for Primary–6 and 7–12 teachers. Kathy Collins, author of *Growing Readers: Units of Study in the Primary Classroom* and *Teach Children to Read with Power, Intention, and Joy* will work with Primary–6 teachers for these two days, and Rick Wormeli, author of *Differentiation* and *Fair Isn't Always Equal: Differentiated Assessment and Grading* will work with teachers of grades 7–12.

Kathy's session, entitled "Teach Children to Read with Power, Intention, and Joy," will share ideas for creating reading workshops characterized by high expectations and joyful intention. She will provide examples of whole class and small group instruction, and reading conferences that integrate research on best practice. She will suggest ways to launch and nurture reading partnerships so they provide support for all readers to think and talk more deeply about their books.

Rick's session, entitled "Fair Isn't Always Equal: Differentiated Assessment and Grading," will focus on the fact that differentiated instruction is a nice idea, but what happens when it comes to grading students at the secondary level? Being sensitive to students' differences while holding them accountable for the same outcomes can be a challenge! We will take a candid look at what marks really mean, and how to handle students' obstacles, homework, late work, feedback, etc. Don't miss this interactive workshop, looking closely at differentiating instruction and assessment. This workshop is intended for teachers of grades 7–12.

The cost to register for one of these workshops is \$85.00. Please register at <http://www.ednet.ns.ca> or by phone at (902) 424-5839.

### Summer Institutes for Science

Several summer institutes are being offered for teachers of science as well as other subject areas this year. The sessions provide learning opportunities for teachers of various grades and include

Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Geology	July 14
Play + Science = Transformation	August 13
UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development	August 16–17
Combined Classes Workshop	August 18–19
Safety: Science is about Doing and Thinking	August 20

For further information, please check the *Summer Learning Opportunities for Teachers* booklet or our website below. Registration can be done online at <http://www.ednet.ns.ca> or by phone at (902) 424-5839. If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Webster at [websteml@gov.ns.ca](mailto:websteml@gov.ns.ca)

## Primary Invitational Professional Learning—Connecting Playing, Doing, and Learning



English Program Services, in partnership with school boards, has provided primary teachers with the opportunity to

participate in a one-day active, play-based professional learning session, “Connecting Playing, Doing, and Learning,” designed to exemplify a developmentally appropriate play-based approach to learning.

Throughout the day play, reflection, and information sessions confirmed the central role of play in a developmentally appropriate primary classroom as participants engaged in visual arts, science, and movement experiences through which primary outcomes can be effectively addressed. Teachers explored the influence of developmental progress on educational experience, the factors that support a positive student/teacher relationship, and the role the environment plays in building confidence and competence among our youngest learners.

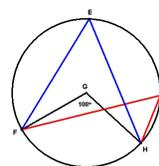
In addition to a selection of learning resources related to the day’s events and designed to promote play-based learning, each participating teacher received a copy of *Young Learners Experiences in Art*, the Department of Education and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia’s recent joint publication. This visually rich text serves as a framework for exploring children’s development as observed through their art. Each participating elementary school received a copy of *Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children from Birth through Age 8* (2009, 3d ed.), Carol Copple and Sue Bredekamp, eds. This resource presents the internationally recognized position statement on developmentally appropriate practices and is an important reference text.

A repeat of this workshop is being offered as a Summer Institute entitled “Play’s Place in the Primary Classroom.” This will be held on August 10, 2010 at the NSCC campus in Dartmouth. Interested teachers may visit <http://www.ednet.ns.ca> for further information or to register.



Primary teachers were actively engaged in hands-on activities in Yarmouth on May 11, 2010.

## Mathematics Resources on the LRTS Website



Teachers are reminded that many useful mathematics resources can be found on the Learning Resources and Technology Services website, including the geometry resources for junior high school.

To review these resources, please visit <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/PD/math.shtml>

## 2010 Student Scholarship Essay Contest

The Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation's (NSGF) 2010 Student Scholarship Essay Contest challenges



graduating high school students in Nova Scotia to think critically about Internet problem gambling as an issue relevant to Canadian youth.

For the 2010 essay contest, applicants are asked to submit a 1200-word essay on the following topic:

*28% of adolescents in Nova Scotia gamble on the Internet with fake money or points, according to the Department of Health Promotion and Protection's 2008 Nova Scotia Adolescent Gambling Exploratory Research.*

*With this figure in mind, explore the potential risks of Internet gambling for youth, and discuss how their relationship to computers and technology may increase their risk of developing problems with Internet gambling.*

The deadline for the contest is May 28, 2010. Three academic scholarships will be awarded, based on the quality of essay submissions—first place \$ 2000.00; second place \$ 1000.00; and third place \$ 500.00.

For more information, please visit <http://www.nsgamingfoundation.org>

## The ImagesProject Wants YOU!

The ImagesProject seeks your original photos of China and the Middle East for curriculum use by students and teachers implementing Social Studies 6.

Just think! Your original photos could be providing support for fellow teachers' curricular planning and student success! If you are willing to donate your original digital photos, with a brief description of each image, for shared curriculum use, please check the details at <http://imagesproject.ednet.ns.ca>

### Prizes!

Based upon contributions received via mail or upload by June 30, 2010, the Department of Education will award each contributor of 25 or more accepted images a 4GB USB memory stick. (limit: one/contributor).

### Grand Prize Drawing August 9, 2010!

Each photograph with accompanying information received via mail or upload by June 30, 2010 is eligible for the Grand Prize of one digital camera (point and shoot style) from the provincial standing offer.

## Writers in Action 12, May 2010



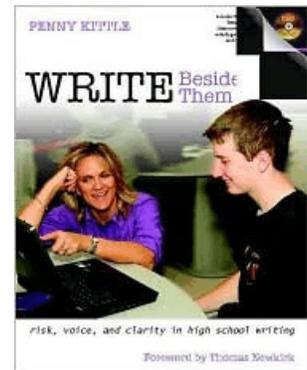
Lead teachers, administrators, and guidance counselors from high schools across Nova Scotia will convene at Oak Island Resort on May 19<sup>th</sup>, May 20<sup>th</sup>, and May 21<sup>st</sup> to implement *Writers in Action* 12. During a three-day workshop participants will examine the criteria of good writing to further familiarize themselves with the processes involved in writing, to look at the traits of writing, and to examine the writing expectations of Nova Scotia universities in order to align their



teaching of writing with university expectations. Participants will have opportunities to write and share their writing.

Penny Kittle, literacy coach and high school teacher from Conway, New Hampshire, will be making a return visit to Nova Scotia to work with the leadership teams as the featured speaker on May

20<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>. Penny teaches writing at Conway's Kennett High School. She is the author of four books with Heinemann—*Write Beside Them, Risk, Voice, and Clarity in High School Writing* (2008); *Inside Writing* (2005) coauthored with Donald H. Graves; *The Greatest Catch* (2005); and *Public Teaching* (2003). Penny is the recipient of the National Council of Teachers of English James M. Britton Award for 2010 for her book *Write Beside Them: Risk, Voice, and Clarity in High School Writing*.



## Correspondence Studies

Applications have just been posted for the positions of markers for Mathematics 10, Mathematics 12, or Mathematics 12 Pre-Calculus courses in the Nova Scotia Correspondence Study Program.

Please visit <http://csp.ednet.ns.ca> and look under "Markers and Contracts".

If you require further information, use the online contact form available on the website.

# May is Asthma Awareness Month

## Co-operative Education Growth



Co-operative education helps students plan their education and get hands-on experience in potential careers while they are

still in school. Students complete 25 hours of in-class preparation before their 100-hour placement with a qualified employer.

Students come away with real work experience, new skills, and better knowledge of workplace preparation, career planning, and health and safety practices. Co-op placements are available in many types of work settings, reflecting the wide range of student interests and abilities. Placement time can be completed during regular school hours, evening, weekends, holidays, or summer.

Since 2006, high schools across the province have seen a 700% increase in co-operative education credits completed. This expansion is evidence that there is a strong appetite for programs like co-op and is proof that this type of learning works. It is expected that this growth will continue as students, teachers, parents, and employers all identify the benefits of opportunities for students to explore the workplace.

The individual success stories of students in co-op are plentiful. Student comments range from describing a co-op experience as life changing to another student who said that he will be working part time with his co-op employer while he attends college.

For more information about co-operative education, visit the Department's co-op website at <http://www.ednet.ns.ca/coop>

## Discovery Quest

Acadia University and Irving Oil are pleased to present the 7th Annual Discovery Quest, a summer institute for grade 11 students from the Maritime Provinces and New England. Discovery Quest is an experience-based program designed to support students in their desire to learn and contribute to a deeper understanding of themselves and the environment.

### Discovery Quest was established to

- engage grade 11 students who exhibit exceptional promise in determining appropriate educational and, ultimately, career paths for themselves. It is hoped that this program will provide promising students with the encouragement to pursue post secondary education in a field that will lead to their significant contribution to this region, and
- expose participants to some of the tools that will assist them in career planning: entrepreneurial thinking, interest assessments, environmental consideration and technology.

### Students must be nominated by their school.

For more information about the 2010 program, contact Kimberly Webb at the Office of Student Recruitment at 585-1155, or email [kwebb@acadiau.ca](mailto:kwebb@acadiau.ca)

More details can be found at the website at <http://www.openacadia.ca/index.php/en/discovery-quest-home>

## Tuition Support Program

The Tuition Support Program (TSP) provides funding for eligible students while they attend one of three provincial Designated Special Education Private Schools (DSEPS)—Bridgeway Academy (Dartmouth and Truro), Churchill Academy (Dartmouth), and Landmark East School (Wolfville). The TSP supports students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and/or Learning Disabilities. In addition, to be eligible for funding students must also have been identified through the program planning process as requiring an Individualized Program Plan.

Families are able to make application to the Tuition Support Program, if they are interested in pursuing this option outside of the public school system. The intent of the TSP is to provide students with short-term, intensive programming and services that will help to prepare them for a successful transition back to the public school system, post-secondary placement, or employment opportunity.

Regulations which govern the TSP can be found on the TSP website. Staff in the Department of Education's Student Services Division administer the program and work with the TSP families, DSEPS, and school boards to ensure that the program runs effectively and efficiently.

The Tuition Support Program has been in existence since the 2004–2005 school year. There are currently 160 students in the program from grades 4–12. A recent review of the TSP resulted in the development of recommendations that will serve to clearly define the intent of the program and guide its ongoing administration.

For more information on the Tuition Support Program, the 2009 Review, and Ministerial Response, please visit the TSP website at: <http://tuitionsupport.ednet.ns.ca/>

## Building Futures for Youth

Education Minister Marilyn More made special mention of Building Futures for Youth in her Estimates speech in the House. Here's what she said:

"As part of co-op expansion efforts, the province has developed and strengthened partnerships with the Nova Scotia Community College and industry.

"One example is the Building Futures for Youth (BFY) program. It allows grade 10 and grade 11 co-op students to explore careers in the construction industry. The program can provide up to three co-operative education credits, banked apprenticeship hours, and eligibility for one of three CANS BFY/Nova Scotia Community College(NSCC) scholarships.

"Co-op is a valuable learning experience for all students, and I am very pleased to see that the program continues to grow each academic year. Co-op is a great way for students to make connections with employers and explore opportunities that could turn in to a future career here at home."

Currently, 45 schools across the province are involved in the Building Futures for Youth program. The program has also received an award from the Nova Scotia Construction Safety Association (NSCSA) for promoting careers in construction with a focus on safety.



Students participating in the Building Futures for Youth program from Halifax Regional School Board attend their first week of safety training at NSCC.



## Instructional Leadership Academy for Nova Scotia Principals

Over the past year an advisory committee has been hard at work designing an Instructional Leadership Academy for Nova Scotia Principals. After research, debates, and consultation with experts and concerned groups, the final report was recently submitted to the Deputy Minister of Education. Approval was granted to proceed with the development and the delivery of the program with overwhelming support from educational leaders in the province.

Thirty-two recommendations will guide the creation and implementation of the Instructional Leadership Academy. During the "Principals In Focus" sessions in November 2009, principals across the province had an opportunity to give feedback to the advisory committee, much of which was included in the recommendations and will be integrated into the content, structure, and delivery of the program.

Practising principals will be invited to help develop and co-teach each of the courses offered through the Instructional Leadership Academy. University faculty members and others with expertise in instructional leadership and instructional improvement will also be invited to collaborate in writing and teaching Academy courses.

The core of the program will include six thirty-six hour courses, similar to graduate level courses offered at a university. There will be a balance of current theory, leadership, and practice in each course, and participants will be expected to implement what they are learning in their schools and classrooms. There will be a focus on knowledge building and skill development in each of the six courses.

The Instructional Leadership Academy will be delivered through the N. S. Educational Leadership Consortium (NSELC), and an Advisory Council will be established to oversee the development and delivery of the program. The program will begin with two cohorts of principals, each with 25 participants. We anticipate the circulation of applications to all public school principals in October 2010, and the first Academy course is expected to begin in January 2011.

We are excited about the potential of our Instructional Leadership Academy and we encourage all principals to give serious consideration to enrolling in the made-in-Nova-Scotia program over the next five years.

Ann Blackwood and Shannon Delbridge  
Co-Chairs

Members of the Instructional Leadership Program Advisory Committee (ILPAC)



## Parents as Career Coaches for Junior High Schools



Parents are the single greatest influence on their child's education and career decisions. Because this is true, the Department of Labour and Workforce Development is offering Parents as Career Coaches (PACC), a two-session program, at no cost to parents/guardians of all high school students across Nova Scotia.

PACC works to equip parents to better assist their sons and daughters in making informed and successful education and career choices. PACC teaches career development as a lifelong process, which involves taking the time to understand what today's young people need to find their place in a world of work that is constantly changing.

In 2008–2009, PACC was hosted in two interested Nova Scotia junior high schools. Due to an increasing level of interest from other junior high schools and parents of junior high students, the Department is in the process of re-developing PACC program content to reflect a junior high school perspective. Over the next couple of months, current program content will be modified, and a PACC Facilitator Guide and Parent/Student Workbook will be created; pilot programs will take place in Fall 2010.

If your junior high school is interested in learning more about this initiative, please call Joanne at 424-4264 or e-mail [pacc@gov.ns.ca](mailto:pacc@gov.ns.ca)

More information on this valuable program is available at <http://www.parentsascareercoaches.ca>

## Scientists and Innovators in the Schools

The Atlantic Science Links Association provides the leadership for the long-running and successful program for Scientists and Innovators in the Schools (SITS). This program exposes students to “real” scientists and innovators, helps to nurture students' enthusiasm for science, inspires them to explore the world around them, and encourages them to make more informed career choices.

Teachers have been making use of the resources provided by SITS since 1989. What began as a small group of scientists fielding requests for presentations from the public and schools has grown into an organization that reaches hundreds of schools and thousands of students every year.



## The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2010

is enjoying another year of growth and excitement. We currently have 2159 youth actively participating in the program across Nova Scotia.

Of these youth, 1266 (59%) are

members of school groups. We have 43 schools actively participating and 50 teachers serving as active leaders! We have seen this steady increase over the past four years and have every indication that trend is continuing. Thanks, teachers, for taking such an active role in help our youth challenge themselves to be the best that they can be!!

The Duke program is growing in many other ways as well. We are offering eight different expeditions this



year to help participants who may be struggling with the organization of trips. (Pictured left: Two participants who were on a Duke canoe trip in August 2009.)

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Duke Youth Forum is planned for August 24–29, 2010. Following up on the positive feedback from previous years, we have formed a youth-led planning committee and have taken this from a weekend event to a six-day camp! There are openings for 60 youth to attend. For more details and registration packages, please check out our website at <http://www.dukeofed.org/ns>

Take the **challenge**  
Live the **achievement**

Relève le défi  
À toi de jouer

## May 22–28: National Water Safety Week

## Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia



Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia's programs are available free-of-

charge to schools and students. The purpose of the four programs offered in the province is to help students learn about financial literacy, workforce readiness, and entrepreneurship. The four programs offered are

Grade 6: Our Business World

Grade 9: The Economics for Success

High school (in school): JA Titan

High school (extra-curricular): Company Program

JA programs are great ways for students to learn from community volunteers and mentors.

Just recently, JA held its annual Awards and Recognition Gala which celebrates students who participated in Junior Achievement's Company Program, an 18-week high school program where students set up, run, and wind down a business. The company functions as any corporation would—with shareholders, an executive team made up of various vice presidential roles, and employee directors. Each company is assisted by a team of advisors, made up of individuals in the local business community. Twenty companies ran throughout Nova Scotia in the 2009–2010 school year—from Oxford and Stellarton, Halifax, Truro, Middleton, Chester Basin, Antigonish, Sydney, Baddeck, and New Waterford. Many winners were recipients of scholarships totaling more than \$15 000, donated by the business and the academic community. In addition, eight Achievers will attend **NEXT** Generation Leaders Forum, which is Junior Achievement's international student conference. The high school students who attend **NEXT** are many of the highest potential youth in the world, and the next leaders of industry and society. **NEXT** will be hosted by Queen's School of Business in Kingston, ON from August 7–12, 2010.

Students experience an entrepreneurial adventure over the school year, where they learn not just about business, but about themselves. Many see their self-confidence, presentation skills, and team work abilities increase as a result of their work they have put into the JA program.

For more information about Junior Achievement in Nova Scotia, please visit <http://www.janovascotia.org/>



## Arts Education Update

Following the successful introduction of our new grade 7 arts education courses in 2009–2010, *Band Instruments 8*, *Music 8*, and *Visual Arts 8* will be introduced across the province next year.

To support arts educators serving grade 8 students and implementation of the new curriculum, professional learning workshops will be offered to each board. Schools implementing these courses will receive text/video resources and a visual arts welcome kit. Additional guitar and world drumming kits will be provided on an as needed basis. Similar courses will be piloted at the grade 9 level in 2010–2011 as well.

Congratulations to Maitland District School (CCRSB) on its selection as the school to receive the arts workshop offered with the *Create! Get Inspired by the Arts in our Schools* DVD release. A team of arts education specialists will spend an “arts-filled” day with staff and students.

Students in 93 Nova Scotian schools joined with more than 700,000 students from over 2,000 schools in every province and territory across Canada to participate in Music Monday on May 3. This nationwide, simultaneous concert, organized by the Coalition for Music Education in Canada, celebrates the importance of music in our lives—and especially in our schools. Music fosters imagination, creativity, discipline, independence, and the ability to work with others. Engagement in music and the arts helps prepare students for a world where people are expected to be creative and innovative. For information on how to become involved with Music Monday, visit the Coalition's website at <http://coalitionformusiced.ca>

Six professional learning opportunities are available in arts education this summer: *Art From Within*, *Drumming the Future*, *Teaching Guitar*, *James Hill Ukulele*, *Tool Kit for Creating Choreography*, and *Wind Conducting Symposium*.

Teachers are encouraged to consult the Summer Learning Opportunities for Teachers 2010 booklet or visit the website at <http://www.ednet.ns.ca> for details.

### National Online Survey on Music in Our Schools

The Canadian Association of Principals is urging all administrators to invest 15 minutes towards a web survey sponsored by the Coalition for Music Education in Canada on the status of music education across the country. The survey will be released in the Fall of 2010 and will inform the public, policy makers, and media about the state of music in our schools. The survey will remain open until May 31, 2010. An iPod docking station with speakers valued at \$399.99 will be awarded to a participating school. Please submit only one survey per school. You can find the English survey at <http://www.musicinschools.ca> and the French survey at <http://www.musique-ecole.ca>

## Writers in the Schools

**W** **F** **N** **S**

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia (WFNS) has been hosting the Writers in the Schools (WITS) program

for 25+ years. Some of the benefits provided through this program include the following:

- Enthusiastic teacher feedback indicates that WITS promotes reading and writing in a dynamic and exciting way, with visible results among the student populations;
- WITS introduces Nova Scotia audiences to Nova Scotia writers and stories, encouraging young writers to understand that their own stories have value.

Seventy-six writers were booked to visit 132 schools last year in Nova Scotia for 201 full days and 184 half days (full day = four or five 60-minute sessions/30-45 students each; half day = two or three 60-minute sessions). Nova Scotia writers will have worked with approximately 55,000 students from Primary to 12 during 2009-10.

In addition to government funding for WITS' operational needs, corporate sponsorships have allowed WFNS to buy and distribute WITS authors' books to classrooms and school libraries; in 2009-10 nearly 500 books were distributed to over 100 schools.



Steve Vernon energises and excites students at Digby High School.



## Perform!

Through Perform!, students and teachers have the opportunity to work with professional actors, playwrights, dancers, directors, and singers to explore creativity and make learning active. This year Perform! has reached over 20,000 students. We put 33 performers in over 90 schools to help bring subjects to life. As well we have brought 70 performances to school audiences in every region in Nova Scotia and we are now currently teaching our No More Bullies workshop entitled "STANDING BY" to grades 3-6 students in 12 schools. If you would like to apply for next year visit the Perform! website at <http://www.performns.ca>



Education through the Arts

## ArtReach Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

*ArtReach*, a partnership program with the Department of Education and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, combines traveling exhibitions of original prints by Canadian artists with tours and workshops for teachers and students across the province. More information can be found at

[http://www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca/en/AGNS\\_Halifax/learn/schools/artreach/default.aspx](http://www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca/en/AGNS_Halifax/learn/schools/artreach/default.aspx)

Our most recent exhibition is housed at the J Franklin Wright Gallery at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre and has already been utilized by teachers in the area to combine practical printmaking experiences with research on such artists as Joe Fafard, Ken Danby, Joyce Weiland, and Jacques Hurtubise, who now resides in the Margaree Valley.

The *ArtReach* program offers a vital and necessary educational service by providing access to art works and techniques for students who live in rural areas of Nova Scotia.



A senior student assists children from younger grades at Oyster Pond Academy

## Debut Atlantic and Artists in Schools



2009-10 marked the first year that Debut Atlantic partnered with the Nova Scotia Department of Education's Artists in Schools program. Between September 2009 and May 2010, Debut offered the following programs:

- Avan Yu, piano—school concert
- Joe Trio—school concerts
- Sharon Wei, viola & Angela Park, piano—master classes and workshops
- Wendy Nielsen, soprano and Peter Tiefenbach, piano—workshop; partnered performance with Soundtrax

Debut Atlantic provided seven school concerts and four workshops to students of all ages in communities through the Annapolis Valley, Halifax and Dartmouth, Guysborough, and Glace Bay. In all, more than 1,850 students availed themselves of the opportunity to participate in Debut Atlantic's school programs. There is no charge for Debut's outreach sessions.

Debut Atlantic is thrilled by the success of its first year as a partner of the Artists in Schools program, and looks forward to a long and beneficial partnership! For more information about Debut Atlantic, please visit the website at <http://www.debutatlantic.ca/>

## Social Studies News

### Atlantic Canada Social Studies 6: World Cultures

was introduced at a two-day workshop, April 29–30, 2010. Each of the seven English boards was represented by a lead team. A total of 54 teachers, administrators, and technology mentors participated in this very successful workshop.

The workshop opened with an African Drumming session by Dr. Henry Bishop and a key-note address on Cultural Proficiency by Dr. Valda Leighteizer. The lead teams participated in a series of hands-on workshops which included sessions on Education for Sustainable Development, Geography Skills and Technology, an Introduction to the Social Studies 6 Moodle, Using Primary Artifacts in the Classroom, and African Mud Art.

The workshop concluded with a session introducing the Social Studies 6 Classroom Library Collection. Grade 6 classrooms will be receiving the following resources: *Global Citizenship Series*, *My People*, *One Hen: One Small Loan Made a Difference*, *One Well: The Story of Water on Earth*, *Ryan and Jimmy and the Well in Africa that Brought them Together*, *Social Studies Essential Skill Series*, and *Three Cups of Tea—Youth Edition*, to support implementation of Social Studies 6: World Cultures.



African Mud Art activities were enthusiastically received at the implementation workshop for Social Studies 6: World Cultures.

### Sociology 12

On May 10, 2010, a one-day provincial workshop was held for the new Sociology 12 curriculum.

Teachers from each of the seven English boards participated in a series of sessions that explored various hands-on learning activities. These activities included innovative research strategies, the integration of visual arts, and a session on the new Sociology 12 Moodle, which will be a source of many resources for the teachers of this course.

Please contact the Social Studies Consultant, Jennifer Burke, by email at [burkejel@gov.ns.ca](mailto:burkejel@gov.ns.ca) for the enrolment key to the Sociology 12 Moodle.

### Model Legislature 2010

The eighth annual N.S. Model Legislature will be held May 28–30, 2010. High school students from across the province will tour Government House, meet with politicians, debate topical issues, and attend workshops.

**Model  
Legislature  
2010**

### Renewable Energy

On March 24, 2010, teachers from across Nova Scotia met in Halifax to start preparation for the pilot project, The Energy Around Us. The project will provide the opportunity for students at selected schools in the province to explore renewable energy and the role it will play in Nova Scotia's future.

Teachers received a variety of resources, including a windmill kit, to help students develop a deeper understanding of sustainable issues, including the interconnections between energy and climate change. In classrooms across the province, students will be participating in a range of learning activities that will focus on the social, economic, and environmental effects of renewable energy, with a strong focus on wind. A celebration of students' projects will take place in Truro on June 7, 2010.

### CEED Update

On Monday, May 17, 2010, the Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development Inc. (CEED) will launch a newly revised curriculum package for the Entrepreneurship 12 course entitled "Entrepreneurship in Action". The resource includes a video series highlighting the successes of local entrepreneurs with an accompanying guide to support educators. Please see the inset of the brochure below.

**Entrepreneurship In Action**  
A teacher's curriculum resource package to infuse entrepreneurship into your classroom

- 300+ page curriculum resource complete with activities & lessons
- Video series featuring five successful local entrepreneurs
- Facilitator's guides for the resource and video
- Developed to align with Entrepreneurship 12 curriculum outcomes
- Cross curricular

Please contact:  
**Meghan Cadue**  
Entrepreneurship Education Advisor  
902.421.2333 x107  
[mcadue@ceed.ca](mailto:mcadue@ceed.ca)

**>> your future here**  
[www.ceed.ca](http://www.ceed.ca)

Entrepreneurship In Action was made possible by the continued support of Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Nova Scotia Departments of Community Services, and Economic and Rural Development.

**May 18: International Museums Day**

## Young Writers in Action

“Given young children’s natural gift for poetry, we believe that poetry should be woven throughout the whole school year in the primary grades.”—Georgia Heard and Lester Laminack

In October, 2010 the Department of Education will introduce the first phase of a three-year project committed to writing in the early years—Young Writers in Action.

Young Writers in Action Primary–1 will be introduced at a workshop from October 6–8. Teams from across the province will be invited to participate. The Young Writers in Action Primary–1 Lead Team will host workshops on Wednesday, October 6. Georgia Heard, a founding member of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, will conduct a two-day writing workshop on October 7 and 8. Georgia Heard is the author of numerous professional books on teaching writing including her most recent *A Place for Wonder: Reading and Writing Nonfiction in the Primary Grades* (Stenhouse, 2009) and *Awakening the Heart: Exploring Poetry in Elementary and Middle School* (Heinemann, 1998) which was cited by Instructor Magazine as “One of the Ten Best Books Every Teacher Should Read.” She is co-author, with Lester Laminack, of *Climb Inside a Poem: Reading and Writing Poetry Across the Year*, in which the authors tap into children’s natural inclination to be poets and demonstrate how reading and writing poetry can support and extend young children’s language and literacy development. *A Place for Wonder: Reading and Writing Nonfiction in the Primary Grades* and *Climb Inside a Poem: Reading and Writing Poetry Across the Year* will

be provided to primary and grade one teachers as part of a Department of Education provincial distribution.



### Dubbing Titles in the Education Media Library Online Catalogue

Loan and dubbing materials are available from the Media Library. Visit our online catalogue at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca> > Search online catalogue. You may order online, by email at [lrt@ednet.ns.ca](mailto:lrt@ednet.ns.ca), or by phone at 902) 424-2440.

Dubbing titles now available: (specify format)

**V2795 - The Great Food Revolution** (4 dvd); available in vhs or dvd—Food and Nutrition 10; Physically Active Living 11

**V2796 - Geologic Journey** (5 dvd); available in vhs or dvd—Canadian Geography 11

**V2797 - Caution: Teenager under Construction** (1 dvd); available in vhs or dvd—Health Education 6; Healthy Living 7; Healthy Living 8

## Park View Education Centre’s Knowledge Festival



On April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Park View Education Centre hosted a conference in conjunction with their annual Knowledge Festival, now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year. The theme of the conference was *Why IB?* and it was designed to provide students, parents, and teachers with an answer to that

question. Approximately 200 students from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island attended the conference, taking part in workshops, a plenary discussion, a talent show, and presentations by every university in Atlantic Canada. The conference highlight was a moving presentation by Riny Ngot, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan. Riny is now a student attending Saint Francis Xavier University where, with a height of 7 feet 2 inches, he plays varsity basketball.

The conference was organized by Park View IB students Julia Powers and Adam Mertens. Adam recently learned that he has been awarded a full scholarship to attend the United World College in Singapore, the first Nova Scotia student ever to earn this award. Park View was the first public school to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in Nova Scotia. The program has been available to students in the school since 1993.

## Around the Province With the IB Extended Essay Workshops

Dr. William Barker, President of the University of King’s College, recently completed four Extended Essay workshops for grade 11 IB students at Northumberland Regional High School, Park View Education Centre, Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School, and the University of King’s College. The day-long workshops, sponsored by the Department of Education and attended by over 250 students and teachers, focused on the mechanics of writing the 4000-word research essay required of every IB student.

This is the third year Dr. Barker has conducted these workshops. Last year his efforts produced excellent results from our IB students, well above the results achieved by IB students world wide. Dr. Barker was assisted in the workshops by Allan Dick, Extended Essay Supervisor at King’s Edgemoor School, and Heather Michaels, IB Co-ordinator at CP Allen High School.



## Update on Reality Check

Education Consultant Enid Lee has concluded her review of twelve key programs and supports implemented through the BLAC Report. The review was presented to the Minister on December 10, 2009. Dr. Lee's review makes sixty-four recommendations, directed at several partners: school boards, the Department of Education—particularly the African Canadian Services Division, the Council on African Canadian Education (CACE), and the Black Educators Association (BEA).

The Minister of Education (Hon. Minister Marilyn More) was joined by the Minister for African Nova Scotian Affairs (Hon. Minister Percy Paris) in attending community consultation focus groups to hear directly from parents about their perspective on the recommendations. These focus groups occurred in March in Sydney and Dartmouth. There have also been ongoing consultations with the Council on African Canadian Education and the Black Educators Association to develop implementation plans. All school boards were also invited to make submissions.

The Minister's official response to the Lee report will be made public late in June 2010.

## Web-based Student Information System Set for the Fall of 2010

With the ultimate goal of improving student achievement, Nova Scotia's public education system is introducing an innovative, web-based system that will enable educators to make timely, evidence-based decisions while creating a platform for everyone—students, parents, teachers, and administrators—to become more involved in educating our youth.

Teams of people from our province's eight school boards and the Department of Education have been getting ready for the launch of this new student information system in September 2010. Seventy-nine schools from across the province will be among the first to start using this new system in the fall. The remaining schools will follow over the next school year.

Once the system is in place, parents will be more engaged in the academic process, educators will be better able to identify trends and to develop programs that work and discontinue those that don't, and students will have a higher degree of confidence in a system that operates with them in mind. Stay tuned!

For more information contact your board project manager for the Student Information System Project. If you are within the Department of Education, contact your director.

## African Canadian Services Division welcomes new Student Services Consultant

The African Canadian Services Division is pleased to welcome Steve Carrington to the Department as our Student Services Consultant. Steve is well known to the African Nova Scotian and education communities of Nova Scotia as a result of his work provincially with the Black Educators Association, Black Learners Advisory Committee, HRSB, CCRSB, and AVRSB. Prior to joining the Department, Steve was a Guidance Counsellor with the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board and past Executive Director for the Black Educators Association of Nova Scotia (BEA).

Steve can be reached at 424-2515 or [carrinstr@gov.ns.ca](mailto:carrinstr@gov.ns.ca)

## English 12: African Heritage

English 12: African Heritage (E12:AH) teachers will be convening on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Citadel Halifax for a provincial in-service. This will be an informative and experiential professional development session for E12:AH teachers. The lead team, along with Sylvia Hamilton (film maker) and El Jones (spoken word artist), will focus on interactive approaches to teaching. We are also inviting teachers to participate in the monthly "Speak!" Word Iz Bond spoken word performance. This exciting event will take place at The Company House located on Gottingen Street on the evening prior to the in-service.

## Technology Education News



Grade 9 technology education curriculum is currently being revised by a team of teachers from across the province. A draft version

is expected to be in pilot in the second half of the 2010–2011 school year.

Annapolis Valley Technology Education teachers hosted a very successful Toolbox Challenge on May 7th. Twelve teams, representing nine junior and senior high schools, with over fifty students and staff participated in the event.

The challenge, "Bull's Eye," involved designing a machine that would propel itself along a wire and drop a 'relief package' with pin-point accuracy on a target. The winning team, from Horton High School, was coached by Don Beck. Options and Opportunities (O2) students from Avonview High School received honorable mention for demonstrating exceptional work ethics and problem solving skills. The "teamwork" prize, sponsored by Rideout Tool and Machine, went to Middleton Regional High School. Congratulations to all involved!

## Skilled Trades

Almost 350 students from around the province had an opportunity to experience the skilled trades as a possible career option during the 2009–2010 school year. This year students from École Beau-Port à Arichat joined those from Annapolis West Education Centre, Breton Education Centre, Hants East Rural High School, J.L. Ilesley High School, Sackville High School, and Shelburne Regional High School.



The journey starts with Skilled Trades 10. In this course, students begin to build skills and attitudes necessary for a successful career in the skilled trades. In a project-based learning environment, students work primarily with hand tools to appreciate how important the right tool is and why “sharp and in good shape” means so much. At the end of the course, students complete a capstone project designed to demonstrate skills acquired during the course.

Construction Trades 11 builds on the pre-requisite Skilled Trades 10 by focusing on seven different construction trades. The entire course is the construction of a four-unit building. Working in groups of four, each student has an opportunity to try her or his hands at Electrical, Plumbing, Carpentry, Lather (Interior Systems Mechanic), Floor Covering Installer, Painter and Decorator, and Tiler. Using the actual tools of each trade, students get a ‘feel’ for the work of a construction tradesperson.

Literacy is highlighted throughout the Skilled Trades suite of courses. Students work with printed matter, drawings, and use oral communication. Trade jargon is rich, and students use it to focus on building a greater working vocabulary.

The popularity of Skilled Trades is growing. Skilled Trades is going to become even more popular when Transportation Trades 11 drives into the Public School Program.

Value for the Skilled Trades goes even further than the actual acquiring of skills, knowledge, and attitudes. Students who take the Skilled Trades courses from certified journeyman teachers accrue hours towards their eventual apprenticeship. This is evidence that the Department of Labour and Workforce Development, as well as industry, see great value in the learning that our students are experiencing.

Students in Construction Trades 11 at Shelburne Regional High School construct the foundational ‘knee wall’.



Some of the group at Tech TuneUp, March 15–16, 2010

## Tech TuneUp 2010

What happens when nearly 100 school technicians get together to discuss and learn more about providing schools with their technology requirements? Lots of “tech talk” if you look at the biennial Tech TuneUp held this March Break, expertly hosted by Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board.

Tech TuneUp was introduced by the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board as a way to improve access to additional technical training for the staff who keep our technology humming along and who provide solid advice and assistance to staff daily. The first Tech TuneUp was held in 2004, with an emphasis on the hardware and software issues of the day.

Tech TuneUp 2006 was held in AVRSB and the 2008 sessions were at South Shore Regional School Board. Round-table sharing of various approaches to and solutions for complex technical systems integration became an important component. Discussions provided province-wide feedback on possible future directions and options.

So while others were off on March Break, these highly engaged learners were demonstrating the principles of lifelong learning. Active sessions focussed on topics such as repairing laptops, setting up servers, configuring switches, deploying printers, and a possible move to virtual environments. Many issues were still being debated amid the camaraderie well into the late evening hours.

Vendors supported this event with their presence and product. Support was provided from Learning Resources and Technology Services at the Department of Education. Everyone appreciated the time and effort that CB-VRSB staff willingly took on to ensure that a true Cape Breton welcome was felt by all participants. Their efforts mean that now Board techs have better skills and understanding for the maintenance and support for 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning in Nova Scotia schools. From all the Board techs who attended and the staff of LRTS, we would like to say a huge thank-you to all of our Cape Breton hosts, their leaders Robert, Marion, and especially Marcel, whom we wish a speedy return to his passion—supporting schools. We will see you all in 2012 in CCRSB!

## Update on French Immersion curriculum documents (P-6)

The following curriculum documents can be found online at the link below:

[http://www.ednet.ns.ca/index.php?t=sub\\_pages&cat=74](http://www.ednet.ns.ca/index.php?t=sub_pages&cat=74)

- Programme d'études de Français M à 3*
- Programme d'études de Français 4 à 6*
- Programme d'études de Mathématiques M à 3*
- Programme d'études de Mathématiques 4 à 6*
- Programme d'études de Sciences Humaines M à 2*
- Programme d'études des Arts Visuels M à 6*

The following curriculum documents are completed and sent to schools but **not yet** online:

- Programme d'études de Sciences 3*

The following curriculum documents are **currently** being translated and formatted:

- Programme d'études de Sciences Humaines 6* (anticipated delivery date : Winter 2011)
- Programme d'études de Sciences 4* (anticipated delivery date: Autumn 2010 )

Timeline for other French Immersion curriculum documents (translations, adaptations, corrections and implementation):

- Programme d'études de Sciences 5* (anticipated timeline: 2010–2011)
- Programme d'études de Sciences 6* (anticipated timeline: 2010–2011)
- Programme d'études de Sciences M* (anticipated timeline: 2011–2012)
- Programme d'études de Sciences 1* (anticipated timeline: 2011–2012)
- Programme d'études de Sciences 2* (anticipated timeline: 2012–2013)

Awaiting completion of English version of curriculum documents

- Programme d'études de Sciences Humaines 4* (to follow the Social Studies 4 implementation schedule)
- Programme d'études de Sciences Humaines 3* (to follow the Social Studies 3 implementation schedule)
- Programme d'études de Sciences Humaines 5* (to follow the Social Studies 5 implementation schedule)
- Programme d'études de Santé M à 6* (to follow the Health Education Primary–6 implementation schedule)

### Public Schools Branch consists of the following Divisions:

African Canadian Services	902-424-3151	<a href="mailto:acsd@ednet.ns.ca">acsd@ednet.ns.ca</a>	<a href="http://acs.ednet.ns.ca">http://acs.ednet.ns.ca</a>
Diversity, Equity, and Special Projects	902-722-1405	<a href="mailto:smithcla@gov.ns.ca">smithcla@gov.ns.ca</a>	
Education Quality Services	902-424-0040	<a href="mailto:crandase@gov.ns.ca">crandase@gov.ns.ca</a>	
English Program Services	902-424-8945	<a href="mailto:eps@ednet.ns.ca">eps@ednet.ns.ca</a>	<a href="http://eps.ednet.ns.ca">http://eps.ednet.ns.ca</a>
Evaluation Services	902-424-7746	<a href="mailto:testeval@ednet.ns.ca">testeval@ednet.ns.ca</a>	<a href="http://plans.ednet.ns.ca">http://plans.ednet.ns.ca</a>
French Second Language Program Services	902-424-6646	<a href="mailto:fls@ednet.ns.ca">fls@ednet.ns.ca</a>	
Learning Resources and Technology Services	902-424-2462	<a href="mailto:lrt@ednet.ns.ca">lrt@ednet.ns.ca</a>	<a href="http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca">http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca</a>
Mikmaq Liaison Office	902-424-3428	<a href="mailto:Palmatcj@gov.ns.ca">Palmatcj@gov.ns.ca</a>	<a href="http://mikmaq.ednet.ns.ca">http://mikmaq.ednet.ns.ca</a>
Student Services	902-424-7454	<a href="mailto:studentsvcs@ednet.ns.ca">studentsvcs@ednet.ns.ca</a>	
Regional Education Services	902-424-5799	(Halifax - SSRSB, HRSB) 902-424-6097 (Halifax - CSAP)	
	902-563-2080	(Sydney - CBVRSB)	
	902-893-5890	(Truro - CCRSB, SRSB)	
	902-742-3427	(Yarmouth - TCRSB, AVRSB)	
Senior Executive Director	902-424-5829	<a href="mailto:lowead@gov.ns.ca">lowead@gov.ns.ca</a>	

Nova Scotia Department of Education website: <http://www.ednet.ns.ca>

Toll Free Access to Department 1-888-825-7770