



BRANCHING OUT

NOVA SCOTIA
Education

**NEWS FROM
PUBLIC SCHOOLS BRANCH**

February 2010

<http://EDnet.ns.ca>

African Heritage Month – An Opportunity to Listen and to Learn

February is African Heritage Month during which the culture of continental Africa, as it has moved to North America in general and Nova Scotia in particular, is celebrated. The month is an opportunity to learn and focus on the history and contributions of individuals as well as to reflect on the influence that such a rich culture has had on Canadian culture. For members of the African Nova Scotia communities, it is an opportunity to celebrate as family and community a culture which has survived through the centuries, despite oppression and repression. Indeed, the struggles against and success in overcoming such oppression have become part of the history and fabric of hope woven into the community.

When I was a classics student, I pursued studies in ancient Greek which centred on the so-called “oral tradition.” An oral tradition rich in stories filled with heroes and ordinary people preserves the history and culture of a people. In the 1990s, scholars began to document the extensive oral tradition of North American African culture. This is a tradition made up of folk legends, history, songs, poetry, gospel songs, proverbs, and a distinctive form of preaching—highly rhetorical and calling for a response from the congregation. The oral tradition continues and flourishes in African Nova Scotia communities.

Typically, group gatherings in an oral tradition begin with determining how people are related to one another and then recalling significant ancestors. The gathering continues with storytelling, recounting of shared experiences, singing, and dancing—all culminating in a renewed sense of unity and community.

Most recently scholars have begun to look at cultures with strong oral traditions from the perspective of teaching literacy. In our own province, results of this research will have implications for how we teach literacy to African Nova Scotian students and to Mi'kmaw students. I hope, in the near future, to have a chance to look, with others, more closely at these research findings.

At this time I encourage all to listen, to learn, and to celebrate. I want especially to thank all who have given their time and energy to produce and participate in special events which will make African Heritage Month 2010 a great success.

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

African Heritage Month Celebrations

February 2010 marks the 26th year Nova Scotians have celebrated African Heritage Month in this province. Black History Month was founded in 1926 by Harvard educated Black historian, Carter G. Woodson. It started as a “week” in February to celebrate the history, contributions, and culture of African-Americans.

Woodson chose the second week in February for the newly formed Negro History Week to coincide with the birth dates of Black activist Frederick Douglas (Feb. 14, 1817) and President Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12, 1809).

In the 1970s, several Black organizations and community leaders banded together to promote the concept of Black History Month. In 1976, as part of the American bi-centennial celebration, the week was expanded to a month, becoming National Black History Month.

In Nova Scotia, the celebration of Black History Month was initiated in the early 1980s through the efforts of the Black History Month Association. It is now in its second decade and is known as African Heritage Month.

For more information and a calendar of events, please visit <http://www.gov.ns.ca/ANSA>

BRANCHING OUT is published 3 times yearly in October, February, and May.

Back issues are available at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>

If you wish to add your name to the distribution list, please send an email to lrt@ednet.ns.ca.

Schools Plus

Schools Plus is a model of comprehensive integrated service delivery which is a component of the *Our Kids Are Worth It: Strategy for Children and Youth* and is led by the Department of Education. Schools Plus supports Commissioner Nunn's recommendation of the need for improved co-ordination and collaboration in the delivery of programs and services for children, youth, and families.

Schools Plus promotes the multi-departmental co-location and/or partnership of services within a school such as Community Services, Justice, Mental Health, Addiction Services, Health, and other community organizations.

This approach is designed to

- develop an array of programs and services offered at school sites
- provide timely identification of and response to children and youth in need of additional support and services
- co-ordinate community and agency activities and resources
- reduce or eliminate gaps and duplication of service among professionals and programs
- enhance the use of school facilities and services beyond the school day
- improve student engagement and school success

Currently there are four school boards with Schools Plus sites in Nova Scotia: Chignecto-Central Regional School Board, Halifax Regional School Board, South Shore Regional School Board, and Strait Regional School Board. Each board has a Schools Plus facilitator who is the liaison and link between the school and the community.

Schools Plus Advisory Committees have been established at each of the four school boards with representation from government departments (Health, Education, Community Services, Justice, Health Promotion and Protection), the Child and Youth Strategy, non government and community organizations. The purpose of the committee is to identify opportunities to enhance and expand the array of services and programs for children, youth, and their families.

For more information on Schools Plus you can contact Tara Moore, Schools Plus Coordinator, by phone at 424-7308 or by email at mooretl@gov.ns.ca. You can also view a brochure on the Department of Education website at http://www.ednet.ns.ca/pdfdocs/studentsvcs/Schools_Plus_Brochure.pdf



ArtReach

The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia/Department of Education **ArtReach** program offers inspiring original print exhibitions and printmaking workshops around Nova Scotia. In early November, the team traveled to Bridgewater Elementary and, during the remainder of this school year, will offer services to schools in the Yarmouth, Port Hawkesbury, Tatamagouche, and Truro areas. These experiences bring students together to provoke discussion around art images and new art making. Several special projects are planned for in-gallery workshops with local schools.

As well, talented artists/writers are in the process of preparing new art resources for all grade levels, linking curriculum and Gallery works. These will appear online during the course of the school year. Our popular art workshops for teachers, led by local artists and offering delightful new ideas that can be adapted to all age groups, include *Art Using Textiles*, *Super Sculpture*, *Textured Collages*, *The Art of Bookmaking*, and *Environmental Art in the Park*.

This program promotes enriched artistic expression and experiences to those educators across the province who may not be able to take their students to Art Galleries.

For more information about ArtReach, please visit http://www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca/en/AGNS_Halifax/learn/schools/artreach/default.aspx



Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

High School Mathematics Website

The Nova Scotia Department of Education is excited to announce the launch of a High School Mathematics website. Special pages have been created for each mathematics course: Mathematics 10 (including Mathematics 10 Plus), Mathematics Foundations 10 (including Mathematics Foundations 10 Plus), Mathematics Essentials 10, Mathematics 11 and Advanced Mathematics 11, Mathematics Foundations 11, Mathematics Essentials 11, Mathematics 12 and Advanced Mathematics 12, Pre-Calculus Mathematics 12, Calculus 12, Mathematics Foundations 12, and Math for the Workplace 12. This web-site has been designed to support teachers of these courses and will offer materials to assist in the teaching. The site includes information, resources, and links for teachers, students, parents, and tutors. The site can be found at http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/PD/HS_Math_Website/High_School_Math.html

Check it out!!!

February is African Heritage Month

Social Studies News

A provincial implementation workshop for Atlantic Canada Social Studies 6: *World Cultures* will be held on April 29–30, 2010. Keynote for the event will be delivered by distinguished professor and researcher, Dr. Valda Leighteizer.

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

Model Legislature 2010

The eighth annual Nova Scotia Model Legislature is slated for May 28–30, 2010. In advance of the event, high schools will be receiving an information package that includes material on a new series of Model Legislature teacher workshops.



CEED

On November 20, 2009, the

Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CEED) launched the *Entrepreneurs in Action* Video Series. The series shows the unique journey of entrepreneurs in Nova Scotia and outlines how business owners develop ideas, utilize service providers, establish networks, and manage growth.

In Spring 2010, CEED will launch extended versions of these videos with a facilitator's guide. While the series is created to align with the newly revised Entrepreneurship 12 teaching resource, the content is applicable to high school and post-secondary career development and business-related courses. The series can be viewed at www.ceed.ca/videos

Renewable Energy in Nova Scotia—School Resources

Grade 9 students at selected schools in the province will have a chance to explore renewable energy and the role it will play in Nova Scotia's future as part of a province-wide pilot project called *The Energy around Us*.

The Departments of Energy and Education will provide a series of resources to help students develop a deeper understanding of sustainable development issues, including the interconnections between energy and climate change. Students will be encouraged to take part in hands-on activities and projects that stimulate learning around the social, economic, and environmental effects of renewable energy, with a strong focus on wind. There will also be a call to action—asking students what they can do to make a difference in their communities when it comes to renewable energy. As a conclusion to this initiative, student/class projects will be showcased at a year-end celebration in June.

Mentors Meet for Annual Professional Learning Opportunity

Literacy and Math Mentors from around the province will convene at Park Place Ramada in Dartmouth beginning at 1:00 p.m. on April 7th until end of day on April 9th to continue to enhance their professional understandings as they work with teachers to increase student achievement. Literacy Mentors will focus on Word Study with featured speaker Ruth McQuirter Scott, well known for her work in this field. While the presentation will span an audience of teachers primary–12, the spotlight will be on grades 4–6. Resources newly developed by Ms. Scott for Nelson Canada will be distributed to all mentors at this time. Math Mentors will continue to work with Dr. Marian Small. There will be ample opportunity for participants to network with subject-specific colleagues as well as intra-networking across Literacy and Mathematics.

New Career Development Courses for High Schools

Career Development 10 is a new elective course available to high schools beginning with the 2009–2010 school year. Career Development 10 is designed to help students to understand and manage themselves, to manage their personal lives and resources (including financial resources), and to develop the ability to organize and shape their careers. Students in Career Development 10 develop their abilities to communicate, think, and deal with their feelings. They explore realistic personal goals, assess their own abilities, and realize how these actions affect their learning and decision-making processes. They develop awareness of their role in the community and the value to their personal growth of giving service to the community.

Career Development 11 is a new elective course which will be available to high schools beginning with the 2010–2011 school year. Career Development 11 is a half-credit course. It is recommended that when Career Development 11 is offered, it be paired with Workplace Health and Safety 11, which is also a half credit. Career Development 11 is designed to help students continue to develop and refine a career and life plan which was begun in Career Development 10. Students refine their understanding of, and readiness for, the world of work and extend their skills in personal financial management.

For more information, email Peter Smith, Youth Pathways and Transitions Co-ordinator
smithps@gov.ns.ca

Coach Education



Who in your school is monitoring coaches? Do your coaches demonstrate the 'Education through Sport' philosophy of the Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation (NSSAF) in practices and games?

Are your coaches familiar with current policies and procedures at the school and provincial level which impact upon the school sport program?

The NSSAF has conducted a number of workshops throughout the province to prepare school level leaders to deal with these topics and more.

'Keeping the School in School Sport' is a hands-on program designed to enable schools to provide volunteer coaches with the necessary background and skills to carry out their program in a way which supports the educational role of sport.

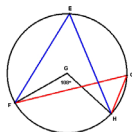
School leaders conduct workshops for coaches and address school sport issues of mutual concern.

For further information or to seek help in delivering the workshop contact the NSSAF office or Coach Education Coordinator, Ron O'Flaherty, through the NSSAF website at <http://nssaf.ednet.ns.ca>

Inservicing for Grade 9 Geometry Outcomes

During the 2009–2010 school year, grade 9 mathematics teachers have the opportunity to participate in four days of inservicing for the new grade 9 geometry outcomes. They have already attended one two-day session featuring work on geometric reasoning with transformations and similar triangles. The second two-day session, to be held in February or March 2010, will focus on geometric reasoning with circles and polyhedra. To support the implementation of these outcomes, teachers are being provided with Geo-Strips, Polydrons, and class sets of the Bulls Eye Compass.

Teachers are also being introduced to electronic versions of diagrams from the text that have been created for their use. The diagrams are provided in several formats: *The Geometer's Sketchpad* and *Microsoft Word* for the 2-D materials, and *Google Sketchup* and image files for the 3-D diagrams. These diagrams are available for teacher use at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/PD/math.shtml>



The Provincial Breakfast Program—Nurture and Nourish Young Minds and Bodies

School-based breakfast programs have operated in Nova Scotia for more than twenty years. Annually since 2005, the provincial government has invested \$750,000 to support school breakfast programs, initially as part of *Learning for Life II, Brighter Futures Together*. Currently, thanks in part to the provincial government's investment, 325 schools provide healthy breakfasts that help nurture and nourish young minds and bodies.

Provincial Breakfast Program Standards were released in 2008. The standards support the health of Nova Scotia students by ensuring the quality of breakfast programs within Nova Scotia public schools and in community settings that have established partnerships with schools. To view the standards: http://www.ednet.ns.ca/healthy_eating/pdf/ns-breakfastprogram-standards-e.pdf

March is Nutrition Month™ and provides an opportunity to focus on Provincial Breakfast Program Standard Number One—Menu for Learning. To enhance learning and health, breakfast programs must be effective in meeting the nutritional needs of students, following the directives in *Food and Nutrition Policy for Nova Scotia Public Schools* (2006). Breakfast programs provide an opportunity for positive role modeling and informal nutrition education. They also put into practice students' nutrition knowledge gained through curriculum and related health-promoting initiatives.

The 2010 Nutrition Month™ theme is "Celebrate food, from field to table" and breakfast is a smart place to start. To learn more about Nutrition Month™ resources, activities and events go to

http://www.dietitians.ca/public/content/eat_well_live_well/english/nutritionmonth/index.asp



February is Heart & Stroke Month

(English version is to the right)

Le nouveau programme d'études de français intégré 7 est maintenant disponible!

Les Services aux programmes de français langue seconde sont fiers de vous annoncer le lancement du nouveau programme d'études de français intégré 7. Le premier de son genre, ce nouveau document vise à intégrer pleinement les programmes de français arts langagiers et de sciences humaines de la septième année, tout en ciblant les stratégies de littératie de français intensif.

Les suggestions d'apprentissage et d'enseignement et celles d'appréciation de rendement et d'évaluation, touchent à la fois aux résultats d'apprentissage dans les deux matières. Ces suggestions permettent aux élèves à s'engager aux matières tout en atteignant les résultats d'apprentissage ciblés.

Le programme d'études propose aux enseignants une variété d'activités différenciées. Ces activités cherchent à ajouter aux compétences langagières des élèves et à augmenter la compréhension de ces derniers en ce qui a trait de l'autonomisation économique, nationale, sociale, culturelle, et politique du Canada.

Ce printemps, le Ministère offrira aux coordinateurs et aux conseillers des programmes FLS des conseils scolaires des sessions de formation au sujet de l'implantation du nouveau programme d'études. Les Services aux programmes de français langue seconde tiennent à remercier tous ceux et celles qui ont participé à l'élaboration de ce programme d'études, surtout les enseignants et enseignantes qui y ont contribué de nombreuses idées.

À l'avenir, nous planifions l'élaboration d'un programme d'études en français intégré 8. Restez à l'écoute...

New Integrated French 7 Curriculum Guide now available!

French Second Language Program Services is pleased to announce the publication of a new curriculum guide for Integrated French 7. By fully integrating French language arts with the social studies curriculum at the grade 7 level and applying the literacy strategies of Intensive French, the guide is the first of its kind in FSL programs in our province.

The guide's suggested activities for learning and teaching, as well as those for assessment and evaluation, simultaneously address curriculum outcomes in both subject areas. By providing a wide variety of activities, students are offered a number of ways in which to be engaged in the subject content while achieving both French language arts and social studies outcomes. The activities also permit teachers to differentiate instruction while building upon students' French communication skills and their understanding of Canada's journey toward economic, social, cultural, political, and national autonomy.

Information and training sessions for FSL school board coordinators and consultants concerning implementation of the new curriculum guide will be held this spring.

FSL Program Services wish to thank all those who contributed to the development of this curriculum guide, particularly those teachers who generously shared their ideas and insights. Future plans include the publication of an Integrated French curriculum guide at the grade 8 level. Stay tuned!

IEI-E Focus for 2010–11

For over a decade, the Information Economy Initiative (IEI) and the Information Economy Initiative—Extended (IEI—E) have helped provide classrooms and learning spaces in Nova Scotia public schools with computers, peripherals, software, technical support, and professional development. The original IEI program (1998–2001) put over 6200 computers into classrooms in secondary schools all over the province, with joint funding from Industry Canada and Nova Scotia. Since the end of that initiative, Nova Scotia has continued to provide funding for a smaller extension of the program, with three-year cycles, aimed at grades 4–6 from 2001–2004, grades 7–9 from 2004–2007, and grades 10–12 for the last three years. Next year, the focus for the IEI-E will return to grades 4–6. For more information, please contact your board Technology Coordinator.

New Video Production: Primary–3 Writing Workshop

In this new DVD professional development series, five Nova Scotian teachers discuss their Language Arts practice, with Writing Workshop as their pedagogical focus. Angela Gladwin (Grade 2, Hebbville Elementary), Shawn Lynds (Grade 1, Valley Elementary), Beth Ann Norwood (Grade 3, Bridgewater Elementary), Lynn Kontak (Grade 1, St. Stephen Elementary), and Kim Tatlock (Grade Primary, Port Williams Elementary) welcome viewers into their classrooms for live sessions and discuss in interviews what they do, how they do it—and why.

The series is planned and produced by DOE staff in collaboration with Language Arts teacher emerita, Barbara Rushton. It may be ordered online from the Media Library of Learning Resources & Technology Services in the Department at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca> or by calling the Library at 424-2440.

The series segments consist of the following titles:

Writing Workshop Basics
Modelled Writing
Shared and Interactive Writing
Guided Writing
Mini-Lessons
Independent Writing
Reflection
Assessment and Instruction

Please note: Aside from the first segment, there is no particular order of use. DVD resources such as this may be accessed in any sequence that fits the needs of a specific school or PD context.

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 (like 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.

Online Periodical Database



For the past nine years, the Nova Scotia Department of Education has maintained a province-wide contract with EBSCO Publishing which has provided public schools, teachers, and students with online access to a wide variety of periodicals, including many general-interest publications as well as an extensive collection of professional educational resources. Our latest contract with EBSCO expired on November 30, 2009.

The Nova Scotia Department of Education is pleased to announce that we have a new contract with EBSCO for the next two years, with an option to extend it for a third year. Our contract continues our access to the collection of databases we have had in the past, and it also includes a new service, *Canadian Points of View Reference Centre*. This database is available to all public schools in Nova Scotia.

This service is a full-text database designed to provide students with a series of essays that present multiple sides of a current issue. The database provides information on more than 100 key topics of interest to Canadian researchers, each with an overview (objective background/description), point (argument), counterpoint (opposing argument), and Critical Thinking Guide. Topics include environment, health, human rights, crime, race, technology, and substance abuse, among others. The database also offers user guides to assist in student activities such as debates, developing arguments, and writing position papers. If this is not available at your school site, please inform your school board technology coordinator.

The EBSCO periodical database can be accessed at <http://search.ebscohost.com>

No user ID or password is necessary if this is accessed from a public school in Nova Scotia. Login information for access from home is available through school principals and/or your board technology coordinator.

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.

February is Junior Achievement Month

Student Services Division: Reading Recovery

Reading Recovery is a short-term early literacy intervention that helps the lowest achieving children in grade 1 develop effective processing strategies for reading and writing in order to reach average levels of classroom performance.

The program is offered in addition to regular classroom literacy instruction. Lessons are individually designed and delivered daily by a highly trained teacher for a period of 12–20 weeks. The program is different for each child. The program begins with the child's strengths and instruction then moves to what each child needs to learn next. The focus is on understanding messages in reading and constructing messages in writing, so emphasis is placed on children reading many books and writing their own stories. The children learn to attend to detail without losing the focus on meaning.

Reading Recovery was first offered in Nova Scotia in 1989 in the Halifax District School Board. In 1995, the Nova Scotia Department of Education provided funding to begin provincial implementation of Reading Recovery. Reading Recovery is now offered in all eight Nova Scotia school boards to more than 23% of grade 1 students. In total, 1800 students in English or French classrooms have benefited from Reading Recovery since 1995. Reading Recovery is also available in French Immersion, but not in all boards with early French Immersion due to a shortage of staff. Consequently, training additional staff to provide Reading Recovery in French Immersion has been set as a priority for the 2010–2011 school year.

We are now monitoring the ongoing progress of students after Reading Recovery with provincial Grade 3 Early Language Literacy Assessment (ELLA) data and through pilot projects in a number of school boards. We are pleased with the students' continued growth and development in literacy.

For more information, contact Janet Bright at brightjm@gov.ns.ca

Education for Sustainable Development

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) aims to help people to develop the attitudes, skills, and knowledge to make informed decisions for the benefit of themselves and others, now and in the future, and to act upon these decisions. ESD directives include the connection of relationships among the environment, economy, and social systems for all subject areas in public schools. Curriculum relating to ESD permeates the public school program. The Nova Scotia Department of Education is working with partners under the auspices of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) to develop an Education for Sustainable Development Framework for Collaboration and Action.

Department-approved ESD tools and materials are listed in Authorized Learning Resources and are available in English and French. ESD outcomes are addressed in various curricula at all grade levels. Plans for a NS ESD website are in development. The department will provide summer institutes and other workshops during 2010–2011 to various groups, embedding ESD in this continuing process. Partnerships with government agencies and NGOs are being developed to provide resources and materials to support learning and teaching.



Hackmatack

The Hackmatack season got off to gala start in September when Education Minister Marilyn More brought two sets of books to Hawthorn School in Dartmouth. She spent time reading and interacting with many eager young Hackmatackers.

Again this year, elementary schools in Nova Scotia have received two sets of the Hackmatack-nominated books from the Department of Education. Word from teachers and school librarians is that this lovely gift makes running the Hackmatack reading clubs possible. In fact, 176 Hackmatack groups have registered in Nova Scotia this year, up from 151 last year. The books are also a welcome addition to school libraries.

Groups all over Atlantic Canada are busily reading and preparing to vote for their favourite books. Author tours will be happening the week of May 10th to 13th. Be sure to watch for authors Jessica Scott Kerrin, Shauntay Grant, Philip Roy, Ingrid Lee, Jill MacLean, Janet Wilson, Louise-Michelle Sauriol, and Phillipe Mollé. This year's ceremony will be happening on May 14 in Saint John, New Brunswick, in conjunction with the Atlantic Provinces Library Association conference.

For more information and suggested lessons, please visit <http://www.hackmatack.ca>



Education Minister Marilyn More visits Hawthorn School in Dartmouth for a Hackmatack celebration.

Youth Health Outcomes and Behaviours in Relation to Developmental Assets

This report examined the association between a given developmental asset (parental nurturance, parental monitoring, school engagement, volunteerism, peer connectedness) and adolescent health outcomes and behaviours (self-worth, self-rated health, anxiety, contact with peers who commit crimes, alcohol use, tobacco use, marijuana use). The more developmental assets a youth had, the more likely he/she was to report positive health outcomes and less likely to report risky behaviours. Similarly, youth who reported a high level of a given development asset were more likely to report positive health outcomes and less likely to report risky behaviours. This report adds to previous research demonstrating the positive link between developmental assets and adolescent health outcomes and behaviours. To view the full report, visit http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/products/cphi_youth_health_outcomes_aib_e.pdf

Nova Scotia to host 2009-2010 National School Health Conference



Nova Scotia will host the sixth annual National School Health Conference—*Schools for All: Putting the Pieces Together to Alleviate Disadvantage*—to be held in Halifax on April 22 and 23, 2010. Dwayne A. Provo, Nova Scotia's School Health Co-ordinator, and Delphine Melchert, President of the Saskatchewan Community School Association, will co-chair the conference which will focus on the role that schools can play in alleviating the impact of poverty and other disadvantages.

The conference is a joint venture of the Canadian Association for School Health and the Canadian Association for Community Education. A national planning team has worked to create a unique program, one that addresses disadvantage for the first time through a comprehensive approach, uniting the efforts of those working to promote healthy schools, community schools, and safe schools as well as others. Registration opens in February. For more information, visit <http://nshealthpromotingschools.com>



physedsource.com

A free online website was launched on May 1, 2009 at the National Physical and Health Education conference in Banff, Alberta. To date, over 7000 visitors have viewed <http://www.physedsource.com>, reviewing the hundreds of websites in the database as well as reading the various research articles that are posted.

Physedsource.com is an online directory that aims to provide useful web links and other helpful resources for professionals in the fields of physical and health education. The site is designed to provide links to highly informative physical education, physical activity and health resources from all over the world. Research articles on a variety of physical and health education topics are also accessible through this site. Whether you are looking for online resources that are provincial, national, or international in nature, or you are seeking the latest in research from the field of physical education, physedsource.com is a good place to start.

Special Awareness Calendar

Every issue of *Branching Out* provides footers with a few of the special awareness events happening during the month of publication. Many other worthy groups are represented each month, but cannot be showcased due to lack of space.

The programs included in *Branching Out* come from a list of awareness programs in Canada. If you are interested in learning more about the many events happening each month, please visit <http://www.charityvillage.com/cv/charityvillage/event3.asp>

ViewFinders: International Film Festival for Youth

ViewFinders: International Film Festival for Youth will take place April 20–24, 2010 in Halifax, NS. ViewFinders is a five-day celebration of film, video, and media intended for youth ages 3–18. The festival includes a comprehensive school program complete with a guide for educators. Evening screenings are also available for families and young adults. ViewFinders features films from around the world, covering topics such as diversity, peace, the environment, and personal development. For more information about ViewFinders, visit <http://www.atlanticfilm.com/view>

Upcoming PD Opportunities

Exploring Humanitarian Law—Conference for Teachers

This conference will enable teachers of junior and senior high school to give their students the skills to understand how conflict intersects with the rights and protections of people—at home and abroad. The Canadian Red Cross Exploring Humanitarian Law educational resource is a flexible toolkit that gives teachers easy-to-use materials to unravel complex global issues. These resources consist of 30 hours of activities that can be incorporated into lessons. Topics include primary source materials such as news accounts, photos, videos and case studies that bring real events and people to life in the classroom.

The materials provided in Exploring Humanitarian Law will provide teachers with a toolkit designed to fit into a wide variety of courses, including global studies, history & law. Visit <http://www.redcross.ca/article.asp?id=27425&tid=062> for more details.

The conference will be held on April 14th-16th, 2010 (9:00am-4:00pm) at the Canadian Red Cross Office, 133 Troop Ave., Dartmouth, NS. Lunch will be provided. The registration fee is covered by the Canadian Red Cross. The registration deadline is March 10, 2010. For more information or to register, please contact Catherine Baillie Abidi, (902) 424-1419 or by email at catherine.baillieabidi@redcross.ca

Play in the Primary Classroom

Through the winter and spring 25 teachers, in each of six school boards, have been invited to join DoE Curriculum Consultants Marilyn Webster, Ardith Haley, Natalie Flinn, and Early Learning Coordinator Nancy Taylor in an investigation of the role of play in addressing Primary outcomes. Through the lenses of visual art and science, teachers explore an engaging and stimulating environment (paint, clay, water, and blocks) within the framework of the Primary curriculum outcomes. Creativity, fun, movement experiences, reflection, and talk are hallmarks of the day. Participating teachers return to their classrooms with a bag of resources including books and journals on the topics of anti-bias education, science, and developmentally appropriate practice, as well as a large block of clay, and clay tools. Look for play-based professional development offerings in this year's Summer Institutes program.



2010 Nova Scotia Learning Disabilities Conference May 13 and 14, 2010

Hosted by the Learning Disabilities Association of Nova Scotia, this conference provides the latest research and dialogue on Learning Disabilities, including specific workshops on the Neuropsychology of Mathematics and Writing (Diagnosis and Intervention); Relationship between LD and Mental Health; LD and Issues with Law, Policy and Practice, Non-verbal LD, and much more!

This conference will be of interest to education professionals (Administrators, Classroom Teachers, Resource/Learning Centre Teachers, LD Specialists, Educational and Clinical Psychologists and Speech Language Pathologists) who work in the field of Learning Disabilities, related professionals, and parents.

The conference will take place at the World Trade and Convention Centre in downtown Halifax. Delegates can expect to learn effective teaching strategies and hear from leaders in the field of Learning Disabilities, while networking with colleagues and friends.

For full conference information and to register visit <http://www.nslldconference.ca> or contact Matt Currie at 423-2850 or matt@ldans.ca



Tech Tune-Up 2010

The CB-VRSB Technology Department is pleased to announce this year's technicians' conference, Tech Tune-Up 2010, to be held at the Inverary Resort in Baddeck, Cape Breton on March 15 and 16.

Please visit <http://techtuneup.ednet.ns.ca> to keep informed about updates, the schedule, exhibitors, and sponsors.

Tech Tune-Up is a conference and workshop intended for the IT technicians of Nova Scotia school boards.

Session topics will include Toshiba laptops, 3Com switches, Netsweeper, and Citrix server. A "Geek Speak" roundtable session will also be held each day. Dinner and a social hour will take place Monday evening.

For questions or registration information, email cbv_helpdesk@staff.ednet.ns.ca or mariong@staff.ednet.ns.ca

February 21-27: Freedom to Read Week

Learning Resources and Technology Services

Visit our website at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca> to find many useful resources for teachers and students. Resources available through links on the site include

Media Library (video): Choose curriculum-related classroom and professional development videos with online catalogues arranged by subject. A searchable database and order forms are available online.

Photographs: The ImagesProject (<http://imagesproject.ednet.ns.ca>) contains copyright-cleared images that have been contributed for use in Nova Scotia school activities. These images are accessible within EDnet without a password. From home, use your IMP webmail username and password to access the collection.

Correspondence Studies: Correspondence Studies offers courses that follow the Nova Scotia Public School Program curriculum. The course work is marked by certified teachers who understand the special needs and circumstances of students who study at home. To learn more, please visit <http://csp.ednet.ns.ca/>

Public Schools Branch Newsletter: Check out editions of the Public Schools Branch newsletter, *Branching Out*, at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>

Curriculum-related websites: A large collection of curriculum-related websites can be found here: <http://ednet.ns.ca> Follow the links under Educators >Classroom and Curriculum Resources >Curriculum Related Websites.

Teacher Resources: Find information about integrating Information Technology into your classroom, including QuickStart tutorials for software, websites related to integration of technology, and curriculum resources, especially for mathematics and science.

ICT Integration document: *The Integration of Information and Communication Technology within the Curriculum* is available for download at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca> under Publications.

Searchable software evaluation database: Visit <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/softeval.shtml> for information about recommended software for use in schools in Nova Scotia.

Sample lessons: Lessons written by teachers that integrate Information and Communication Technology can be found at http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/PD/ict_projects/

Media Library News

NFB titles now available on DVD from Learning Resources and Technology Services

Learning Resources and Technology Services ships multimedia curriculum resources to schools anywhere in the province. Dubbing programs become a part of your school's collection; we charge only for the price of the blank media used. To order pre-made titles from our lists online, visit http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/media_library/express/Video_Express.shtml

These programs, formerly available in VHS format only, are now available in DVD. If you prefer to have VHS format, please state that when ordering. Unless otherwise specified, DVD format will be sent. More information about each of these titles can be found through our online catalogue; see the web address at the end of this article.

Apples and Oranges (17 min.) Health 4–6; Bullying; Stereotypes

Glasses (23 min.) Social Studies P–2; Self-esteem; Bullying

In Other Words (27 min.) Healthy Living 9; Sociology 12; Bullying; Stereotypes

One of Them (26 min.) Healthy Living 9; Sociology 12; Bullying; Stereotypes

Talespinners. Series 1 (2-disc set) (56 min.) Social Studies P–2; Multiculturalism

El Contrato (51 min.) Social Studies 7; Law 12; Sociology 12; Human Rights

DNA and Dollars (48 min.) Biology 11–12; Sociology 12; Global Geography 12; Bioethics

If the Weather Permits (28 min.) Sociology 12; Global Geography 12; Canadian History 12; Inuit Culture

Law and Disorder (16 min.) Law 12; Sociology 12

O Canada (3 min.) Canadian Geography; National Identity

Suzuki Speaks (45 min.) Sociology 12; Economics 12; Global Geography 12; Environmentalism

For more information, you can contact the Education Media Library by phone at 424-2440, by fax at 428-5828, or by mail at Brunswick Place, 2nd floor, 2021 Brunswick Street, Halifax, NS B3K 2V5. Email us at mediacir@ednet.ns.ca Visit our website at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>



February 22: National Thinking Day

Family Studies Curriculum Update

Textile Arts and Design 7

The recently implemented Textile Arts and Design 7 curriculum focuses on textile care and selection as well as developing basic sewing skills applicable to a variety of textile uses. Teacher resources to support the Textile Arts and Design 7 curriculum were delivered to schools in January. The resources, all of which are listed in the Authorized Learning Resources, have a wealth of information on classroom projects and skill development.

Family Studies 10

Schools have started to implement the Family Studies course offerings at the grade 10 level:

- Food for Healthy Living 10
- Food Technology 10*
- Food Preparation and Service 10*
- International Foods 10
- Textile Production 10*

Courses designated by * are eligible technology half-credits for graduation requirements.

To support implementation, schools that are offering the courses in 2009–2010 have received a collection of student and teacher resources.

Other Family Studies Curricula Projects

Food and Nutrition 8 will be implemented in spring 2010. Schools will receive resources to support this implementation.

Child Studies 9 Pilot Workshop will be held on March 25 and 26, 2010. The nine schools participating in the pilot will receive supporting resources.

Curriculum work groups have started work on Textile Technology 12 and Housing and Design 12.

English Program Services and Learning Resources and Technology Services are collaborating on the revision of Canadian Families 12. The new curriculum will reflect the need for dynamic learning strategies and will include the use of interactive web based resources.

New Resource for Child Studies Classrooms

Play and Learn: 1001 Fun Activities for Your Baby and Child (Stock Code #2000048) has been newly listed on the Authorized Learning Resources. *Play and Learn* is a collection of activity ideas designed to enhance development in key areas such as language, problem solving, imagination, coordination, and motor skills. The activity ideas are well suited for Child Studies students to use when working with young children. Materials suggested are affordable. The activities are organized by age groupings from infant to preschool-aged children. The book highlights the developmental milestones for each age group.

Premier's Power of Positive Change Awards

Nominations are open for the second annual Power of Positive Change Awards. The program recognizes young people who make a positive difference in their schools and communities. To be eligible, students must demonstrate leadership by organizing a school or community activity or by showing exemplary conduct in promoting positive attitudes and behaviour.

Up to 10 awards will be presented to students enrolled in grades primary to 12. The prizes are a two-thousand-dollar bursary for post-secondary studies, apprenticeship training, or other educational opportunities.

The deadline for nominations is March 31st. Criteria for the Premier's Power of Positive Change Awards and nomination forms are available at

<http://www.powerofpositivechange.ca>

The City: A Financial Management Teaching Resource



Free Web Conference

Tuesday February 23, 2010:
5:00pm-7:00pm (AST)

Curriculum Services Canada is hosting FREE web conferences on *The City Financial Life Skills Classroom Resource*. *The City* is a curriculum-correlated teaching resource developed by the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada in partnership with the British Columbia Securities Commission for teaching Canadian high school students financial skills that they can carry with them throughout their lives.

Teachers are invited to join a web conference and learn from a teacher-facilitator how to use this resource in their own classroom today! With participation in the web conference, teachers will receive a FREE Financial Life Skills Teacher Resource binder valued at \$50.

The City is a Financial Management curriculum resource approved for use in Career Development 10 and Career Development 11, Math Foundations 11, Math Essentials 10, and Math Essentials 11.

The resource includes

- Step-by-step lesson plans and interactive activities with curriculum connections
- Overhead masters and speaking notes
- Student handouts with answer keys

For further details about upcoming web conferences please go to http://www.curriculum.org/csc/conf_city_adp

To view *The City* resource online, go to <http://www.themoneybelt.gc.ca>



Arts Education Update

Implementation of grade 7 arts education curriculum is continuing in term two. The second of two implementation workshops (to support the new curriculum for Band Instruments 7, Music 7, and Visual Arts 7) is happening in boards across the province. Teachers are reporting tremendous student success and involvement with the innovative, engaging, and challenging new curriculum. Similar courses are being piloted at the grade 8 level during this academic year. We hope to pilot at the grade 9 level in 2010-2011.

Plans for the 2010 Summer Institutes are beginning to take shape. Teachers will have professional learning opportunities in dance, drama, visual arts, and music. At this point, we are able to confirm that the Teaching Guitar Workshop will return to Halifax this summer. Participants will learn how to teach classroom guitar regardless of level of experience. Last year, the course filled quickly, resulting in a long waiting list. To avoid disappointment, please apply as soon as possible. For further details visit <http://www.guitaredunet.org> or contact Mr. Denney directly.

Bob Denney

TGW Clinician & Canadian Representative

Head of Fine Arts & Technology

John McCrae Secondary School

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Technology Education

Technology Education teachers offering Communications

Technology 11 and/or Communications Technology 12 in their schools have received updated curriculum for these two courses along with two days of professional development and several resources. Schools offering one or both of these courses received a number of digital SLR cameras, tripods, lighting kits, solid modeling software, and textbooks. Schools will soon receive five additional resources to support these courses. The updated curriculum contains a mandatory module in digital photography and involves a great deal of hands-on learning within the academic credit course.

Schools offering Construction Technology 10 will be receiving six copies of the textbook *Carpentry and Building Construction* to help support course delivery while the curriculum is under review.

A new online resource is available for Technology Education teachers: Teched.ca has been developed by a Nova Scotia technology educator and is a dynamic resource for blogging, file sharing, and gaining access to documents and other support for technology educators. Visit the site at <http://teched.ca>



Public Schools Branch consists of the following Divisions:

African Canadian Services	902-424-3151	acsd@ednet.ns.ca	http://acs.ednet.ns.ca
Diversity, Equity, and Special Projects	902-722-1405	smithcla@gov.ns.ca	
Education Quality Services	902-424-0040	crandase@gov.ns.ca	
English Program Services	902-424-8945	eps@ednet.ns.ca	http://eps.ednet.ns.ca
Evaluation Services	902-424-7746	testeval@ednet.ns.ca	http://plans.ednet.ns.ca
French Second Language Program Services	902-424-6646	fls@ednet.ns.ca	
Learning Resources and Technology Services	902-424-2462	lrt@ednet.ns.ca	http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca
Mi'kmaq Liaison Office	902-424-3428	Palmatcj@gov.ns.ca	http://mikmaq.ednet.ns.ca
Student Services	902-424-7454	studentsvcs@ednet.ns.ca	
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	lowead@gov.ns.ca	

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

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