



BRANCHING OUT

NOVA SCOTIA
Education

**NEWS FROM
PUBLIC SCHOOLS BRANCH**

February 2012

<http://EDnet.ns.ca>

A message from the Minister

As a former teacher, as Minister of Education, and as a parent and grandparent, I care deeply about the quality of education our young people receive. And Nova Scotia has real strengths to celebrate. The province has wonderful, hard-working teachers.

Our class sizes are smaller, and we are investing more money per student than ever before.

The province also faces serious challenges. About 30,000 fewer students are in our classrooms than 10 years ago. This trend will continue.

Assessments show students are losing ground in fundamental skills such as math, reading, and writing.

In the past, more and more money was spent on fewer and fewer students. Yet student results did not improve.



Kids and Learning First is about doing things differently and improving results by focusing on students' needs:

- Students will get more help earlier, particularly in reading and math. They will also get more attention in critical years—in primary and in grade 9.
- Teachers deserve more support. We will work with them to ensure they have the background, experience, and resources they need, based on new provincial standards. More services for kids and families will also be available in schools.
- Time for learning is a priority. How can time be used to get the best results for students? Do students have enough time now to learn all they need to know?
- Our young people will be better prepared to create and compete for good jobs in Nova Scotia, so they can stay here and build a life for their families. New skilled trades courses, opportunities for students to earn credits outside of school, and a review of high school courses are on the way.

Kids and Learning First is a multi-year plan, and we have a lot to do. I look forward to working with families, teachers, students, school boards, and community members to put this plan into action.

Learn more at www.novascotia.ca/kidsandlearning

Ramona Jennex, Education Minister.

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Arts Education Update

In arts curricula, outcomes are grouped in three strands according to the types of understandings and processes common to all arts disciplines. To demonstrate learning in the first strand (Creating, Making, and Presenting), music students often engage in presentations. These performances demonstrate students' creative and technical development and their ability to create music that expresses and communicates ideas and feelings. This might take place in the classroom, a community setting, or in a formal concert hall. Members of the community are encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities to enjoy the beautiful music our students are creating.

To support activities that allow students to meet the community links requirements for Advanced Music 11, Advanced Visual Arts 11, Advanced Music 12, and Advanced Visual Arts 12, teachers/students may apply for a Community Partnership Grant. Applications must be submitted not later than February 28.

On Monday, May 7, more than 700,000 Canadian students will join together in song to participate in Music Monday. This nation-wide, simultaneous concert organized by the Coalition for Music Education in Canada, will celebrate the importance of music in our lives—and especially in our schools. We are very pleased to announce that the 2012 National Music Monday Showcase will take place in Sydney at the Big Fiddle (Marine Terminal). Hundreds of students will parade down the Esplanade waving flags that will carry messages about what music means to them. Upon their arrival at the Big Fiddle, students will hand their flags to spectators so everyone has a remembrance of the event and will

be encouraged by the power of music in peoples' lives. The National Showcase concert will feature a student presentation as well as a performance by the Barra MacNeils – this year's champions for music education in Canada. CBC, a partner in the event, will provide national coverage throughout the day, offering a huge boost for music education in the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board, Nova Scotia, and across the country. For information on how to become involved with Music Monday, visit the Coalition's website <http://musicmakesus.ca/musicmonday>



Students from Brookland Elementary, Sydney Nova Scotia presenting a holiday concert



Sydney Academy Choir, following their presentation at NS Holocaust Education Week in November

Planning for Edufest 2012 (August 13-17) has begun. Professional learning opportunities will be available in dance, drama, music, and visual arts. Details for each workshop will be available in the May issue.

Music Education

The Acadia University School of Education, in partnership with Acadia's School of Music and Open Acadia, offers the **Master of Education in Curriculum Studies with Concentration in Music Education**. The program provides teachers with opportunities to learn and share experiences with colleagues in courses that offer both theoretical grounding and practical application, through a combination of summer institute and online and blended courses.

This program for educators aims to

- Refine teaching abilities with expanded knowledge of both the theories behind music instruction and the application of those theories to the classroom
- Further professional development and open up career opportunities
- Allow for learning sometimes from the comfort of home and at other times on Acadia's historic campus
- Provide individual attention from professors from an educator's perspective

Application information and forms are available from Brenda Harris, Acadia University, please email:

bharris@acadiau.ca

Application Deadline: April 20, 2012

Arts Opportunity for High School Students

On May 23-25, a Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development will be held at Mount St. Vincent University. When considering gifted and talented students, it is essential to highlight the value and importance of the arts in this context. The young artist voice must be heard and represented in a way that is relevant and authentic to her/his own learning and development. To effectively accomplish this, we are inviting talented high school students to apply for a unique opportunity involving young Nova Scotian artists collaborating across the arts.

This event will bring together eight high school students representing five disciplines—dance, drama, music, spoken word, and/or visual arts—who can commit to a week-long series of amazing activities and events from May 18–25. For five days (May 18–22), selected students will convene at the Ross Creek Centre for the Arts in Canning for an artistic retreat. The young artists will mentor with a team of professional artists who will help students strengthen their personal artist's skills and guide them in collaborating with their peers in other art forms. Immediately following the retreat at Ross Creek, the students will be guests of honour at the Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development at Mount Saint Vincent University. There, they will share the work they have developed at the retreat, and in so doing, help teachers who work with talented young artists in Nova Scotia's schools.

The program is open to those high school students in Nova Scotia (ages 14–18) who are dedicated to an artistic passion. Selection will be based on artistry excellence, interest and ability to collaborate, and diversity (i.e. discipline, geography, gender, racial or cultural background). All expenses will be covered. Application deadline is Friday, March 9. An on-line application is available at the Ross Creek Centre for the Arts website: www.artscentre.ca For further information, contact Arts Education Consultant Ardith Haley at 1-902-424-8894 or haleyaj@gov.ns.ca or Chris O'Neil at 1-902-582-3842 or chris@artscentre.ca



Debut Atlantic... bringing extraordinary classical music home

The **Debut Goes to School!** program serves to educate, engage and inspire children to be musical and creative in their daily lives by bringing touring Classical musicians to their classrooms. This program is presented by **Debut Atlantic** with the support of the **Nova Scotia Department of Education** and is offered at absolutely



Cellist, Geneviève Guimond and pianist Philip Chiu performed for students at Crichton Park Elementary in Dartmouth, NS. This concert focused on the different sounds and effects that can be produced by a cello, as well as the importance of practice and determination when it comes to pursuing a passion.

no cost to the presenting schools.

To date this school year, Debut Atlantic has brought three of its five touring artists to schools around the province, reaching over 2,000 students across Nova

Scotia! The schools have presented a clarinet/piano duo, a guitar quartet and a cello/piano duo. These musicians offered educational concerts and discussion sessions that ran about an hour. Artists performed musical selections for the students, and spent time discussing their instruments, their education and their lives as musicians.

In March Simone Osborne, soprano, Tyler Duncan, baritone and Erika Switzer, piano will be visiting schools in the Cape Breton and Halifax Region.

We are excited about our touring line-up for 2012–13 and its amazing opportunities for students of all ages. In September 2012 we are touring a percussion quartet, in October a baritone singer, in November a violinist, in February 2013, a pianist and we wrap up our season in March with our alumni artists, the Tokai String Quartet. If you are interested in having some of these world-class musicians visit your school, please visit www.debutatlantic.ca and click on Education Programs to fill out the application form!

If you have any questions, please contact Rémi Lefebvre via email at remi@debutatlantic.ca or give him a shout at 1-902-429-6812.

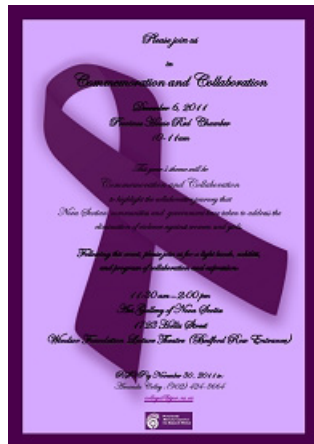


Arts Express

For the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women, young women artists from the Youth on the Radar

program had been offered the opportunity to perform and showcase their work during the Commemoration and Collaboration event at Province House and the AGNS on December 6th.

It was a very emotional and empowering experience for all participants and was followed up by an invitation to students to create more art centring on the theme of domestic violence and abuse.



The Captain Spry Community Centre is the site for the new Spryfield Skatepark Community Mosaic. The 47-foot-long outdoor mosaic artwork was created by over 300 students and community members and is the first of its kind in Nova Scotia. The mural is made of a variety of stones, hand-died glass tesserae pieces, NSCAD designed frost-proof clay, and some hand-picked metals. Youth from JL Ilsley HS, Herring Cove JH, and Elizabeth Sutherland JH participated in making clay tiles and glass mosaic portions of the piece. Workshops were also held in the Spryfield Library and Captain Spry Community Centre for residents of all ages. This unique project was facilitated by HRM's Community Art Program's Kate MacLennan, and made possible by generous funding from HRM Cultural Affairs and HRM Recreation, and with the help of labour and

organizational support of Arts Express. The official unveiling will take place the beginning of May 2012 during National Youth Arts Week.

After a very busy fall, ArtsExpress is gearing up for a number of new and exciting collaborative art projects for the winter and spring term. In collaboration with Ardith Haley and Jennifer Burke from the Department of Education, ArtsExpress is currently developing and piloting several visual art units which link visual arts to other areas of the curriculum, mainly social studies and language arts. The participating schools in these projects are J.L.Ilsley High, Sambro Elementary, Harrietsfield Elementary and Elizabeth Sutherland School.

In collaboration with ArtReach and ArtsExpress, students of the J.L.Ilsley family of schools will also get



a chance to work with the artist Will Robinson on a unique large scale art installation. The project will make important connection between physics, visual arts, science, social studies and Skilled Trades and will draw on many as-of-yet undiscovered skills and talents....

Will Robinson has an impressive résumé as an interdisciplinary artist and has been the recipient of numerous scholarships and grants. He is very much looking forward to his first collaborative journey of art making with students of all ages in the public schools.



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.



Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia offers a variety of education programs for learners of all ages, including school tours, teacher resources, and family events.

Join us for an inspiring **March Break 2012** starting with the dynamic Pop Goes the Easel series presented in collaboration with Symphony Nova Scotia and Long and McQuade on Sunday, March 11, 1:30pm – 4:00pm. This event will feature a percussion ensemble, followed by an instrument “petting zoo” and a related studio art activity. Sign up for our week-long March Break art classes and learn more about sculpture, mixed media, clay, and rock and roll! These artist-led classes for children and youth ages 4 – teens are a huge hit!

You can also join drop-in activities throughout the week including Sketching in the Gallery, daily gallery tours for all ages and a special visit from Gordon Pictou from the Glooscap Heritage Centre who will share First Nations stories in our new exhibition of children’s art from Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve programs called Kekina’masuti Nemitekemk Nktuey Mijua’jijk - Through Children’s Eyes. Come visit the fun and innovative exhibition Material World too and see artist Gerald Ferguson’s 1,000,000 Pennies! It’s true, there are a million!



Jacques Hurtubise Mabou 1993 Serigraph on Paper

Check out the website for more details at www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca

What’s New with ArtReach?

ArtReach, an educational partnership between the AGNS and the Nova Scotia Department of Education, has established exciting arts connections in Nova Scotia schools since 2005.

Artist Jacques Hurtubise is the focus of an ArtReach exhibition opening March 1, 2012 at the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design in Sydney. The exhibition will feature original prints by Hurtubise, who currently lives in Cape Breton, and artwork by

students from local schools, which will reflect Hurtubise’s interest in maps and the patterns produced by weather predictions and his extensive work producing large scale abstract paintings exploring symmetry and repetition. La galerie le Trécaré in Church Point will also host an ArtReach exhibition of Hurtubise prints this spring. An exhibition of ArtReach prints will be featured at the Fraser Cultural Centre in Tatamagouche. A variety of events are being planned in conjunction with these exhibitions, including hands on workshops for teachers and students exploring printmaking, collage and painting.

At AGNS Halifax, an exhibition of prints by artist Rita Letendre will open this spring. Letendre is a leader in the abstract colorist art movement. A painter and printmaker, Letendre has experimented with a variety of styles, creating a body of work known for its diversity and reflecting Letendre’s passion for the artistic qualities of light and colour.

Lesson plans pertaining to these exhibitions are currently being developed for ArtReach, so teachers can follow up their exhibition tours with hands on activities in the classroom. The lessons will be found at www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca under Learn AGNS.



Rita Letendre Serigraph on paper

An Update on ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia

The ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia program offers a dynamic approach to teaching, learning, doing and thinking. This month, Champlain Elementary School in Granville Ferry is starting their project, We Had Everything But Money. Working with artist Linda Coakley and using newspaper articles, first person accounts and stories from the 1930s, students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will recreate "The Living Newspaper", a popular form of theatre from that time. Exciting projects are also starting at Meadowfields (You Belong book mural), and Annapolis Royal Regional Academy (A Constellation of Myths dramatic storytelling).

The ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia and GénieArts Nouvelle-Écosse partnership is supporting two remarkable projects: Our Stories, Our Land: An Exploration of Our Historic and Cultural Landscape at l'École acadienne de Truro and The Connections Between You and Me at l'École secondaire de Clare.

For Our Stories, Our Land, artist François Gaudet guided the grade 5 students through an exploration of their own cultural identity by using photographs of their faces and painting over them to create a self-portrait. An exhibition of these incredible works of art will be on display at the AGNS from February 24 until April, 2012.



Self portrait by l'École acadienne de Truro student

I enjoyed visiting the Acadian dykes and doing this project. It was a lot of fun and I learned many techniques. My favourite part was when we did the portraits of us. – Grade 5 student

The Connections Between You and Me is an ArtsSmarts performance art/printmaking event that will take place at AGNS Yarmouth this spring. Students from l'École secondaire de Clare are exploring the beginning of Acadian cultural identity and how it relates to them in present day. The students will produce large "identity prints" on canvas by mark making their cultural lineage with their feet through dance, responding to Acadian music.



11th ViewFinders International Film Festival for Youth!

ViewFinders celebrates all things film, by and for young people, ages 3–18. From April 15-21, 2012, the festival presents daytime screenings and workshops for school groups as well as evening and weekend activities for families, and presents the best of national and international films, made by and for youth. Working with our Teachers' Advisory Committee (TAC), we ensure that relevant Nova Scotia SCO's are addressed and pre and post-screening activities are recommended. In addition, there are a variety of hands-on workshops, for school groups and individuals, providing the groundwork for budding filmmakers and allowing young people to express their creativity through this unique and exciting festival -

<http://www.atlanticfilm.com/festivals/viewfinders>



ViewFinders Teachers Launch

March 8th marks the debut of the 11th annual ViewFinders: International Film Festival for Youth Program Guide. Be the first to see and hear programmers' film selections from around the world and close to home, workshops offering students hands-on experience and in-theatre presentations highlighting the talent of our local film community. Many of our screenings and activities sell out at the Launch, so if you have a particular interest in mind, mark your calendars and be first in line to book, before sales open to the public the following week.



Family Studies

Family Studies Services now has its own logo! The logo (shown here) will be used on all curriculum documents and accompany Family Studies Services related news items, updates, or support documents generated by the Department of Education. The colours/shapes represent the many facets of Family Studies: Food and Nutrition, Textiles, Child

Studies, Families, Housing. The symbol captures the energy and focus of the curriculum that is designed to engage learners as they interconnect with families and community to meet their needs in a changing world.

Food Hygiene Training

Any teacher who supervises students preparing food should have their basic Food Hygiene Training Certificate. This certificate needs to be renewed every 5 years. It is offered by Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture as a 6 hour workshop. There is a nominal fee. Please check the website for dates and locations of Food Hygiene Training workshops in your region. There are also Food Safety Information Sheets on this website that you may share with your students.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety>

Advanced Food Safety Training

The Department of Education partnered with the Department of Agriculture, Food Protection and Enforcement Division to offer the Advanced Food Safety Training Workshop on October 6 and 7, 2011. As a result we now have 21 teachers recently certified as Trainers by the NS Department of Agriculture.

These teachers, representing all seven English school boards in Nova Scotia, are now certified to teach, test and provide their students with the Nova Scotia Food Hygiene Training Certificate.

Once again the Nova Scotia Department of Education, English Program Services and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Food Protection and Enforcement Division, have partnered to deliver this professional development opportunity on August 15 and 16, 2012 during the Department of Education EduFest 2012 at the NSCC Waterfront Campus. Further details will be available on the EduFest 2012 website.

The Real Care Baby II has “Gone Green”!

This fall schools transformed 127 Real Care Babies to a model that no longer uses batteries and that is programmable. The warranty on the rechargeable module is 2 years. Any concerns with the babies should be addressed directly to the company, Studica. Before contacting the company it is imperative that teachers conduct the Diagnostic Check. Contact information: 1-800-561-7520 ext225, or email Email: Derekm@studica.com or Christinaf@studica.com Thank you for supporting this “green” initiative.



Child Studies 9 teachers from the Strait Regional School Board participated in the Implementation Workshop, in September/October, during which they earned how to use The Real Care Baby II in their classrooms.

Wristbands for the RealCare Baby II - Check out the following sites for pricing (including shipping) on 1/2 inch vinyl wristbands:

<http://admittec.ca/en/vinyl.html>

<http://www.canadianwristbands.com>

The new listing on the NS School Book Bureau site is “Real Care Baby II Plus” which means any babies ordered through the School Book Bureau will be rechargeable and programmable from now on.

Family Studies – Implementation Support

All curriculum is in draft format at this time. Please contact Sheila Munro munrosm@gov.ns.ca if you require curriculum support.

The Department of Education supported the implementation of the following curriculum with professional development and resources for schools that have registered students in the programs for the 2011-12 year:

Child Studies 9	Textile Technology 12
Housing & Design 12	Canadian Families 12
Food Studies & Hospitality 12	



The Kids' Run Club now in its eighth year

The Doctors Nova Scotia Kids' Run Club, previously known as Youth Running for Fun, is now underway in its eighth year. This free school-based running program is designed to educate Nova Scotia's children and youth about the importance of leading a physically active and healthy life while giving them an opportunity to be active through running. Its goal is to instill the importance of regular physical activity in children so they form habits that become part of their everyday lives as adults.

Students in elementary, junior high, and high schools across the province can participate. Last year's participation reached an all-time high with more than 15,500 students at 215 schools across the province.

Previous experience with running isn't a prerequisite as the Kids' Run Club can be adapted in terms of the amount of walking and running done by participants. Group size can range from just a few to more than 100.

Participants are encouraged to celebrate all their hard work by taking part in a youth run such as the Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Run at the Cape Breton Fiddlers Run in Sydney or the Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon in Halifax. School groups run together one to three times a week and participants build their endurance in order to complete a final fun run of 2.1, 4.2 or 5 kilometres.

Doctors Nova Scotia provides all participants with a runner's handbook when they join and a finisher's prize at the conclusion of the program. All schools receive a coach's handbook to help coaches facilitate the program.

For more information about the Kids' Run Club, visit www.doctorsNS.com

For more information or to register your school, contact:

Kerry Copeland

Program coordinator

Doctors Nova Scotia

(902) 468-8935 ext. 278

kerry.copeland@doctorsNS.com

Environmental Health

Find information and resources on environmental health issues, and the environmental impacts on students' health and performance on the Canadians for A Safe Learning Environment website <http://casle.ca>

Active & Safe Routes to School

Interest in walking and cycling to school continues to rise across the province. Active & Safe Routes to School, a program of the Ecology Action



Centre, continues to support this growth. Partnering together with schools, the program enables more children and youth to walk or wheel to school and other places they go.

The School Travel Planning project has, over the last two years, worked with 13 schools in HRM, Chester, Bridgewater, Granville Ferry and CBRM in developing active transportation plans for their communities. The schools are at various stages of implementing their plans, which include installing bike racks, developing trail connections, creating walking school buses, holding special events and more.

Making Tracks is our walking, cycling, skateboarding and in-line skating safety skills program. It has held several train-the-trainer sessions for teachers, recreation staff and youth. Last fall, 150 students were trained in skateboarding safety.

Special events are popular with schools. International Walk to School Month, held every October, saw 108 schools and over 20,000 students across the province in 2011.

Winter Walk Day is any day in February. Schools and youth groups may register at

www.taketheroofoffwinter.ca and receive a kit along with free toques to give away. The event is a partnership of Active & Safe Routes to School, Heart & Stroke Walkabout, and Take the Roof Off Winter, which promotes healthy outdoor winter activity.

Active & Safe Routes to School was successful in building support to reduce speeds in school zones to help make streets safe for students. On May 24, 2011 the NS Government announced plans to reduce speeds in school zones from 50 km/h to 30 km/h. The legislation will go into effect in fall 2012.

Active & Safe Routes to School is coordinated in Nova Scotia by the Ecology Action Centre in partnership with the NS Department of Health and Wellness. Learn more at www.saferoutesns.ca

February is Heart & Stroke Month

Heart and Stroke Foundation - OneStep



**HEART & STROKE
FOUNDATION
OF CANADA**

The Heart and Stroke Foundation's OneStep program, offers free resources to help Grade 7 girls

across the province to be physically active. OneStep is an extracurricular resource featuring pedometers and accompanying activities that make it fun to be active. This resource is the result of research and pilot testing in sixteen schools last winter. The purpose of OneStep is to help youth become more aware of how active they are and to build more activity in their daily lives in a supportive environment. The resource can be used by any leader in the school or a designate from the community.



The project received funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Department of Health and Wellness and can provide schools with enough pedometers for half their grade seven students.

"We are excited to offer schools across the province this new resource. Children and youth are a priority for the Heart and Stroke Foundation across Canada. We hope schools will find OneStep a useful and fun tool to support youth, particularly girls, to be more physically active" said Menna MacIsaac, CEO of Heart and Stroke Foundation, Nova Scotia. The resource is also available in French thanks to funding from Departments of Acadian Affairs and Health and Wellness.

All schools boards including CSAP have been contacted and asked to promote it to their junior high and middle schools. However, interested schools can also call Adrienne Hadley at the Heart and Stroke Foundation at 1-800-423-4432 ext. 3346 and ask to be sent a form to receive the OneStep resource.



Safe Choice Youth Training Programs

Safe Choice Safety

is a provincial provider of **St. John Ambulance** youth training programs. Their accredited programs ensure that students in Nova Scotia receive the highest quality of training and instructional expertise to help participants' live safe and healthy lifestyles.

Safe Choice Safety programs will significantly reduce the risk of serious injury by teaching participants how to react safely and with confidence during an emergency. This is accomplished in a fun learning environment through lecture, practical exercises, and work book activities. Upon completion of each program participants receive a workbook and earn a nationally accredited St. John Ambulance or Canadian Safety Council certificate.

Safe Choice programs are delivered by primary care providers and include What Every Babysitter Should Know, Home Alone, Youth First Aid, Pet First Aid, and CPR.

For more information on hosting a program at your school or in your community please email safety@safechoice.ca



teenmentalhealth.org

Teen Mental Health

The Sun Life Chair in Adolescent Mental Health team, an endowed academic chair in partnership with Sun Life Financial, Dalhousie University and the IWK Health Centre, is happy to announce the second annual Academy in School Mental Health this summer on July 9-11, 2012 at Dalhousie University.

The academy will provide educators, administrators, and school health staff with

- a practical understanding of the most prevalent adolescent mental health disorders;
- opportunity to discuss strategies for learning and social success;
- in-classroom applications of effective tools and techniques;
- an understanding of how to talk to youth and parents about mental health;
- opportunity to engage in discussion with leading mental health professionals, teachers, youth with lived mental health experiences and a network of colleagues from coast-to-coast that will become a strong resource for you.

For more information please visit us at www.teenmentalhealth.org



Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation

The Hugh A. Noble award presented to Peter Spicer, Advocate, in the Northumberland Region in 2011

Hugh A. Noble is recognized as the father of modern physical education in Atlantic Canada and was responsible for establishing the first athletic committee of the Nova Scotia Headmasters Association and guided its operation for 25 years. This organization later became the Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation (NSSAF).

Peter taught and coached at Advocate District High School for over three decades! At one time or another, he coached all teams at the school, and set a standard of excellence that continues today. During Peter's 14 years of service to the NSSAF, he served as Junior High Coordinator, District Coordinator, Assistant Regional Director and Regional Director. Coaching since the age of 17, he is respected across the province, and still advises coaches at Advocate. He continues to volunteer with the NSSAF. The award was presented to Peter on June 29th at the school's graduation ceremony.



Darrell Dempster Executive Director of the NSSAF presents the Hugh A. Noble Award to Peter Spicer



Gary Walker, Past Chairperson-NSSAF Board of Governors presents the Dorothy G Walker award to Nancy Tokaryk's husband- Fred

The Dorothy G. Walker award presented posthumously to Nancy Tokaryk, Halifax, in the Capital Region in 2011

Dorothy G. Walker was one of the first supervisors of physical education in our province and was instrumental in the growth of female participation in athletics, coaching and refereeing. In 2002, the NSSAF established this award to be presented annually to recognize the outstanding contribution women have made to school sport.

Nancy was a physical education teacher at the junior high and elementary level for 32 years prior to her retirement. She coached school basketball and field hockey as well as university and community sports. Nancy was a provincial field hockey player who also represented Canada. She is member of the Nova Scotia Hall of Fame. Nancy was loved by all her students and was a great role model for all. She touched many people and was respected by her peers, teammates and all staff that she worked with. Tragically, Nancy passed away in a car accident while visiting her daughter for the birth of her granddaughter in 2008. There is a scholarship established in Nancy's name and it is presented annually to a student athlete who will continue to play field hockey at the university level. The Dorothy G. Walker Award was presented posthumously at the school on September 9th.



A Harbour of Hope: Health and Physical Literacy Conference

The National Conference will be taking place May 10-12, 2012 and will provide an opportunity to network with colleagues and increase skills to foster healthy active living for children and youth in the school community. Attendees

will include educators, public health, administrators, recreation leaders, physical education specialists and generalists who want more information regarding physical education.

The 2012 National Conference will offer a great professional learning opportunity for teachers of Physical Education Primary-12, Healthy Living 7-9, and Health Education Primary-6; the principals who support them; and others in the school community who have a leadership role in healthy, active living.

Highlights of the National Conference will include the keynote, R.Tait McKenzie Scholar Address, awards banquet & ceremony, exhibitor marketplace, per-conference sessions, and various social events.

Workshops topics include

Active Living

After-school programs

Gymnastics

Skill Development

Athletics

Dance

Health Education

Sports Experience

To register and for all details relating to the conference, please visit www.phecanada.ca/events/conference2012 or email conference@phecanada.ca

March Break Health Promotion Camp

The Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness in partnership with the Department of Education and provincial school boards are sponsoring a March Break Health Promotion Camp from March 13–16.

The camp will bring together 40 O₂ students from across Nova Scotia for a four-day experience exploring a range of health issues through activities and experiences in a safe and supportive environment. The camp is being held at Brigadoon—a new facility near Kentville created for kids living with chronic illnesses and their families (www.brigadoonvillage.org). A group of 15 youth and adults will serve as the hosting/facilitating team. All hours of participation can be used by co-operative education students who are interested in exploring a career in the health care profession.



The camp's goal is to promote awareness about a range of youth health issues and explore ways for young people to become involved in health promotion work. Upon camp completion the partners hope to keep participants engaged in programs and policies where youth engagement could enhance outcomes. The camp's intent is to build a community of youth across the province who are aware of youth health issues and wish to contribute to youth health improvement.

The camp is open to O₂ students in all grades. School O₂ lead teachers will work with school staff to recruit youth to fill the 40 spaces. Program participants would be those students who are interested in a career in the health profession and for youth who have an interest in youth health or a particular youth health issue. The program is looking for open-minded and adventurous young people who are eager to work with other youth, and adults, in a supportive environment. Gender equity and allowances for youth who identify themselves as being transgender are priorities.

The Department of Health and Wellness will cover all expenses for youth who attend the camp, including transportation costs. Brigadoon has a supply of gear for any participants who don't have access.

A formal invite and information/registration package will be available the first week of February for distribution to School Board Community-Based Learning Consultants and O₂ lead teachers.

If you have any questions please contact your School Board's Community-Based Learning Consultant.

Kids Have Stress Too

Developed by The Psychology Foundation of Canada, KHST!

®, The Kids Have Stress Too (KHST) program is designed to influence young children's social and emotional development. This program teaches educators, parents and other caregivers to help children enhance their physical, mental, emotional and behavioural coping skills, thinking styles and key abilities during the important window of opportunity throughout the preschool and elementary school years.

The Kids Have Stress Too (KHST) program helps parents, caregivers and teachers learn:

- The impact of stress on young children how to recognize and respond to stress in children;
- The key role relationships with parents and caregivers play in helping children learn to manage stress;
- Age-appropriate stress-management techniques that help teach children to relax and become more resilient;
- Effective ways to promote positive emotional development and self regulation in young children.

For more information please visit us at www.kidshavestresstoo.org or email us at info@psychologyfoundation.org.



MyHealth
Magazine



MyHealth Magazine

An on-line health and wellness program for young people and educators, the program is delivered through a series of interactive, online resources, located at www.myhealthmagazine.net

The MyHealth Magazine program helps students, teachers, and parents learn to

- improve the health and wellness of young people by providing them access to innovative and engaging health literacy resources on health, mental health and development
- facilitate help seeking among young people who are dealing with or who are at risk for mental health difficulties
- provide educators with resources to assist in recognizing and supporting students with mental health difficulties
- enhance and extend learning beyond the classroom through interactive eLearning Modules
- help educators and administrators better understand and monitor the physical and mental health needs of students in their own schools through a series of anonymous online surveys (e.g., School Climate)

Teaching in Action

Teaching in Action Grades 10–12: A Teaching Resource documents have been distributed to English language arts high school teachers across the province. This newly developed resource will assist high school English teachers in putting into action best practice in the English language arts classroom and within integrated subjects. The resource highlights program design in terms of organizing for reading and writing instruction; making speaking, listening, reading and writing connections; looking at the role of technology; and planning for aligning instruction across the grades.



NOVA SCOTIA

Teaching in Action Grades 10–12: A Teaching Resource is not a replacement for the English language arts curriculum guide, but rather a complement to it, providing additional support from a practical perspective to help teachers engage students in high school English classes.

Teaching in Action Grades 10–12: A

Teaching Resource comprises 11 main sections. The first section addresses the English language arts curriculum. Second is a section that looks at Program Design and Components—in other words, how the program can be structured in order to support learners' achievement of various outcomes. The third section provides some background about assessment and evaluation as well as many practical assessment strategies that teachers can use in their classrooms. The next four sections provide details for identifying characteristics of and organizing for speaking and listening, reading and viewing, and writing and other ways of representing. The eighth section, *In Action: An Integrated Approach*, highlights eight different approaches to instruction and provides concrete examples of how they work in classrooms. Each approach is brought to life through an inquiry unit that is relevant and appropriate to adolescent learners. The ninth section includes samples of valuable forms and templates that can be used directly with students. The tenth section of the resource is the Glossary. Finally, Web Resources and the Bibliography include a range of useful resources. Vignettes, quotes from current research, and references found in "Check It Out" boxes bring to life practices in literacy currently considered exemplary.

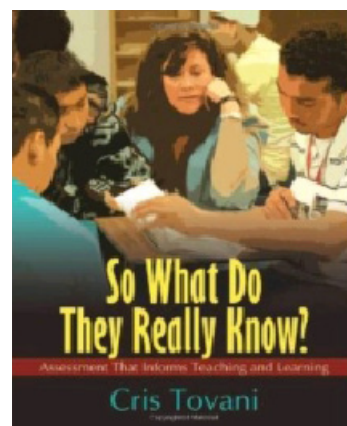
Questions ? Please contact Barry Wilson, English Language Arts Consultant, at 1-902-424-0843 or by email wilsonbj@gov.ns.ca

Literacy Summer Institute



Three literacy institutes will be held this summer. The first will be held at the Old Orchard Inn on July 5th and July 6th, 2012 for teachers of grades primary to 3. This summer institute will feature Lori Rog, teacher, author, and education consultant. Lori's workshop will centre on balancing play-based learning and explicit instruction.

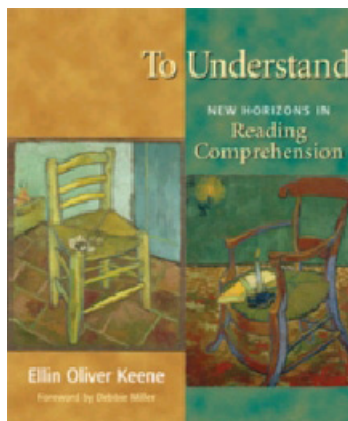
The second and third summer institutes will occur concurrently on July 19th and July 20th, 2012 (location to be announced). Cris Tovani, author of *I Read It, But I Don't Get It: Comprehension Strategies for Adolescent Readers*, (2000), *Do I Really Have to Teach Reading?* (2004), and most recently, *So What Do They Really Know? Assessment That Informs Teaching and Learning*, (2011) will return to Nova Scotia and conduct a



workshop focusing on her newest work, *So What Do They Really Know? Assessment That Informs Teaching and Learning*. This workshop will be of interest to teachers of junior high/middle school and high school.



Ellin Oliver Keene will be the featured speaker of the third summer institute which will be of interest to teachers of grades P-6. Ellin Keene has been a classroom teacher, staff developer, and adjunct professor of reading and writing. She is the author of several books, including



Comprehension Going Forward (2011), *To Understand: New Horizons in Reading Comprehension* (2008) and *Mosaic of Thought, Second Edition* (2007).

Registration is planned to open in early May! Hope to see you there!



Young Writers in Action

Young Writers in Action Grades 2 and 3 Picture Book Collection

English Program

Services is pleased to provide grade 2 and grade 3 classrooms with Read-Aloud Picture Book Collections. The Grades 2 and 3 Picture Book Collections will be sent to schools in May of 2012. These collections are intended to support teachers and students and to promote the practice of intentional, focused read-aloud experiences.

“Read-aloud is a vibrant, deliberate part of good teaching, an essential, effective strategy for introducing sophisticated ideas to young learners throughout the school day by immersing them in rich language and literate behaviors. (Laminack, Lester, 2006)

Using Read-Alouds as mentor texts promotes student awareness of text features and an understanding of these features in fiction and non-fiction and helping students to discover the secrets of writing--developing strong writers who are able to apply their knowledge of the craft of writing to communicate their ideas.

The grade 2 collection may contain the following titles: Finklehopper Frog, And to Name a Few, Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend, When the Wind Stops, When Wishes Come True, Song for the Mira, Perfect Snow, I is for Inuksuk, Clever Rachel, Puffling, Freddie's Day at the Races, Alphabeasts, Shapes and Patterns, Colors, and Fred and Pete at the Beach.

The grade 3 collection may contain the following titles: Boy in Motion: Rick Hansen's Story, Goal! Lord of the Forest, What Does Peace Feel Like?, The Little Toy Shop, The Littlest Sled Dog, The Man Who Walked Between the Towers, Skunks for Breakfast, The Listeners, Proud as a Peacock, Looking Closely Through the Forest, Abbie's Birds, Fox Walked Alone, It's Time to Sleep My Love, and Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg and The Three Cups of Tea.

The collections are intended for grades 2 and 3 classrooms, teachers are encouraged to share resources among their colleagues. Additional copies of these titles

are available for purchase online at the Nova Scotia School Book Bureau <https://edapps.ednet.ns.ca/nssbb>

For further information, please contact Susan Martin-O'Brien, Literacy Co-ordinator by phone 1-902-424-5430 or by email at martinsu@gov.ns.ca or Barry J. Wilson, English Language Arts Consultant by phone 1-902-424-0843 or by email at wilsonbj@gov.ns.ca

Rich, Literacy PD Tradition Continues in New Video Resource

The Young Writers in Action 2-3 workshop planned for May 3-4 at the Old Orchard Inn will see the launch of another in a group of video series designed to assist teachers in the implementation of reading & writing workshops in their classrooms. The Department's Media Library (<http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>) already offers the award-winning *Teaching & Learning: A Primary Focus, Reading Workshop; Writing Workshop 4-9; and Writing Workshop P-3* both as DVD sets and as online video; now, *Reading Workshop Primary-3* completes the workshop approach to the curriculum of literacy at all levels, P-9 -and features skilled practice from all Boards in the province.

Like its companion piece, *Reading Workshop Primary-3* breaks the pedagogy under discussion into familiar chunks, including Mini-lessons; Shared Reading; Read Aloud/ Think Aloud; Independent Reading; Small Group Instruction; Reflection; and Assessment. There are eight segments in total, each featuring a team of exemplary teacher practitioners from coast to coast in Nova Scotia, with extensive sequences of live video recorded during actual reading workshops at all four grade levels. This video content and its distribution are contrived to facilitate alternate delivery of professional development at the school or individual level.

If you don't make it to Young Writers in Action 2-3, please check out these new titles online after May 4, at the URL above.

February 26-March 3: Freedom to Read Week

Play•Talk•Learn

The first distribution of the Play•Talk•Learn resource will be given to grade primary students and their families in four Nova Scotia boards beginning in

February. Under the umbrella of Early Learning, this resource is one component of Succeeding in Reading: An Early Literacy Support Framework. The Play•Talk•Learn resource will be distributed province-wide to primary students in all school boards as part of 2012–2013 primary orientation activities.

A child's first teachers are his or her family. Further to the learning that happens at home, the items provided in the Play•Talk•Learn resource were chosen for their potential to engage children and their families in play-based learning activities. When families interact with children, some of the most powerful learning can occur. The distribution of the Play•Talk•Learn resource provides an opportunity for teachers to talk with families about learning and how play, creativity, and exploration contribute to the development of children's thinking, language and literacy skills.

This resource reinforces the message that talk is a key factor in literacy development. As children participate in conversations, they develop a familiarity with words and language structures. They learn how words work to communicate meaning and how talking can lead to discovery and enhanced understanding. Children bring this familiarity to the experience of learning to read and write.

The Play•Talk•Learn resource includes

- three books, one of which is a wordless picture book thereby encouraging children to use the illustrations to tell the story and predict what might happen next



- an egg shaker rhythm instrument and a music CD created by local artist Maria Alley that helps children hear rhythm and rhyme, important aspects of word study
- a plastic magnifying glass and a container of rainbow bubbles with blowing wand
- 12 coloured animal counters for sorting and imaginative play
- a set of colourful magnetic numbers and letters, upper and lower case
- a pack of crayons and a pack of Toy Clay
- a pad of coloured paper, a pencil, and a pair of scissors

The French language version of the resources, entitled Jouer•Parler•Apprendre, will also be available upon request for students enrolled in the French Immersion primary program.

Also, beginning in grade primary, the health education curriculum introduces students to the benefits

of healthy eating and healthy living. The Play•Talk•Learn resource supports this by doubling as an insulated lunch bag—great for packing nutritious snacks and lunches. This is a reminder that healthy foods help children maintain the energy they need to participate in the many fun learning activities that fill their day.

This first distribution will be for elementary schools in Annapolis Valley, Cape Breton Victoria, South Shore, and Strait Regional School Boards.



Active Young Readers Assessment Resource Grades P–3

The Active Young Readers Assessment Resource Grades P-3 will be arriving in schools in the spring of 2012. This resource includes 28 fiction books or fiction passages and 28 non-fiction books or non-fiction passages, representative of the Emergent, Early and Transitional stages of reading development. The resource will also include a Teacher's Guide, a Teacher Support Booklet and a CD-ROM of the books and passages in PDF. The PDF files are provided for use with assistive technology.



Hackmatack

Looking ahead to voting and touring and the BIG awards gala

It's a busy time for everyone involved in Hackmatack reading clubs. Registrations are STILL rolling in, books

are being read, and opinions are being debated. To make sure you don't miss out on any of the action, you'll want to make certain these important dates are marked on the calendar:

April 1 - Last day for votes to be received by fax (424-0613) or email (smileyng@gov.ns.ca)

April 27- Awards ceremony in Moncton at The Capitol Theatre from 10 am to noon

Authors will be touring around the four Atlantic Provinces in the week before the awards (April 23-26). If you're interested in booking a visit for your Hackmatack group, here are the writers who will be in Nova Scotia:

Hugh Brewster- Antigonish area

Robert Rayner - Western Counties

Kate Inglis - Cumberland

Marilyn Lohnes - Eastern Counties

Anna Kerz - Cape Breton

Kathy Stinson, Keltie Thomas and Kate Inglis - South Shore and HRM

Sophie Berubé – Western Counties (French)

Dartmouth-based author James Leck is touring in New Brunswick, but is available for visits both before and after the tour week.

Some of the tours to schools and libraries are organized by regional library staff, while other dates may be booked by contacting the Hackmatack office. The authors' fees are split between the school (\$100) and Hackmatack's author tour fund (\$100).

For more information on author tours or to book seats for the Hackmatack Awards Ceremony, contact: Kate Watson, Hackmatack Coordinator, smileyng@gov.ns.ca

Nova Scotia Public Library

Audiobooks and eBooks

All public libraries across the province offer downloadable Audiobooks and eBooks.

Choose from thousands of titles in both English and French. These can be "read" on personal computers, portable audio devices (MP3 players, etc.), eBook readers, and a variety of handheld devices, or may be burned to CD.

Audiobooks and eBooks are perfect for individuals with print disabilities or those who have limited access to print materials. They're also excellent for introducing new ways to experience reading, such as listening and reading along to a story, or combining books with movies. Many of the audio titles can be simultaneously accessed by an unlimited number of borrowers, this creates opportunities for a collective reading experience.

Both fiction and non-fiction titles are available, and suited for all ages: children, teens, and adults.

Borrowing is simple: all it takes is a valid library card, Internet access, a computer that meets system requirements, and the free software that is needed to

access the digital books. Check out books anytime from the public library website in your region, returns are automatic—no late fees, ever!

Contact your local library for details, or visit:



Nova Scotia Provincial Library
<http://www.library.ns.ca>

in HRM:

<http://digitalmedia.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca>

the rest of Nova Scotia:

<http://digitalmedia.library.ns.ca>

February is I Love to Read Month

French

Core French Students

Depuis cinq ans, la commission scolaire Tri-County Regional School Board participe à l'initiative des classes expérimentales officielles en français de base.

Ce sont des classes où les enseignant(e)s mettent en pratique des stratégies en littérature afin de faciliter et améliorer la communication orale, la lecture et l'écriture.



The project was launched in September 2007 in collaboration with the French second language division at the Department of Education. Teachers involved in the project received intensive training via the Quoi de neuf en FLS? Beaucoup! workshops offered during the summer months, and were further supported with ongoing contact, discussions and monitoring throughout the school year.

Dans la photo sont les élèves de Madame Leah Weare en cinquième année à l'école Cape Sable Island Elementary School. Madame Weare fait partie du groupe des classes expérimentales depuis septembre 2010. Selon Madame Weare, les élèves sont très engagés dans la classe de français de base. Tel qu'indiqué dans la photo, les élèves aiment parler le français.

Last year, for the first time in many years, several of her students participated in the Concours d'art oratoire, a public speaking contest sponsored by Canadian Parents for French.

Félicitation à Madame Weare et ses élèves!

Quoi de neuf en français langue seconde? Beaucoup! (niveau 1): Institut d'été 2012

Curious about all the buzz surrounding this 'new approach' of teaching Core French? Looking to find out more? On vous invite à assister à l'institut d'été Quoi de neuf en français langue seconde? Beaucoup! (niveau 1) qui aura lieu les 16 et 17 août 2012 à Halifax!

L'institut présente les éléments clé de l'approche de littérature qui a porté tant de succès aux élèves en français de base depuis quelques années. You'll not only learn

Core French "Student Quotable Quotes!"

In the past four years, the French second language division from the Department of Education in close collaboration with the 7 seven Anglophone school boards has given the Core French program a much needed boost. This boost has come by way of providing strong support to teachers through summer institutes, providing new resources, visiting class rooms, organizing on-site and on line meetings, assessing students' oral competence and increasing opportunities for students to partake in French cultural activities. Our efforts have been concentrated on a new approach to French second language instruction with a strong focus on literacy strategies.

Our combined efforts with the openness of teachers, support from the school administration and the willingness of the students to participate have all contributed to some very positive results, and these can best be expressed by the students themselves. We share with you some of their comments:

I'm happy how well I know French now. We learned it in a breeze! I could easily join immersion and know most of what they're saying!!! (gr. 5)

I liked how we first heard the sentence, then read it, and finally wrote the sentence. It was easier to learn that way. (gr. 5)

I really liked being able to feel great about speaking French. I love that I can explain myself in French and explain to others too. I really enjoy being able to read, write and talk in French. (gr. 6)

The best part about learning French is speaking a new language and I got really good at it. (Gr. 7)

We should have more French periods. We only have 40 min. a day. I love French! It gives my brain a break from textbook stuff. (gr. 8)

I liked that we got to talk about actual experiences and got to incorporate those into our writing. (gr. 9)

I hope you keep doing what you are doing to teach French this way. (gr. 9)

If such positive results are to continue throughout the schools, we will need to keep our focus and continue providing teachers with this much needed support.

G. Félix, Director, French second language services

about how and why this approach works, but will be given an opportunity to practice the teaching strategies in the comfort and security of small groups. De plus, on vous offrira des activités conformes à l'approche à utiliser dans votre salle de classe dès la rentrée en septembre.

Stay tuned this spring for further information on how to register for this summer institute. L'inscription se limite à 20 participants – Premier venu, premier servi! Don't miss out!

African Canadian Services

<http://acs.ednet.ns.ca>



February is African Heritage Month

African Heritage Month is celebrated in February of each year in honor of the many contributions of people of African descent have made to our society. The origin of the event dates back to 1926, when historian Carter G. Woodson first proposed a “Negro History Week” for the second week of February. Dr. Woodson, known as the “Father of Black History”, chose the second week of February because it commemorates the birthdays of two men who greatly affected the African American community: Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and Frederick Douglass (February 14). Today, it is celebrated around the world with a wide swathe of official and unofficial events, many of them centered around schools. African Canadian Services Division would like to wish all of you a happy African Heritage month and encourage you to commemorate this celebration in your classroom and schools.

Student Services Consultant

To date African Canadian Services Division has delivered over fifty parenting workshops in the African Nova Scotian communities. These workshops have been both well attended and well received in the African Nova Scotian Communities. ASCD has been involved in the “Building Bridges” workshops involving Guidance Counselors and Student Support Workers. These workshops are designed to provide a clear understanding of each other’s roles and responsibilities, collaboration, and most importantly relationship building.

ACSD is looking to provide this summer an Africentric Summer Immersion Institute for Student Support Workers. The theme is “Reclaiming Personal Power and Political Agency.” This institute will be delivered through an educational institution with a twofold aim of providing a credit that can be used towards a teaching degree and a health component which can be useful in the challenging work they do in the schools and in their communities.

Primary–6 Curriculum Consultant

We’ve purchased books of poetry, celebrating the various shades of color we as Black people are. We have some very engaging chapter book series with young Black girls and boys, going through life’s challenges that not just a Black child but all children can identify with. Some of the new titles going into the classroom by April 1, 2012 are *Amy Hodgepodge* – chapter series, about a young girl who has 4 differently nationalities in her family, that she shares in her stories. Another chapter series is *The Clubhouse Mysteries*, stories of four young boys all of African descent and one coming from Jamaica. These stories are so relatable and engaging and teach many valuable Black History Lessons as we see the boys solve the many mysteries they get themselves involved with. Then there are titles that speak to perseverance and never giving up on you dreams. We see this in *Allie’s Basketball Dream* – about a little girl told that girls don’t and can’t play basketball, or in *Long Shot, Never Too Small to Dream Big*, about a young boy told he will never be a basketball player because he’s too small. These titles are just to name a few. But all new titles are meant to engage, teach and be enjoyed by all.

7–12 Curriculum Consultant

As part of the African Canadian Services Division’s mandate to promote “an understanding of African Canadians and their history, heritage, culture, traditions, and contributions to society, recognizing their origin as Africans,” the division will be distributing to junior high and high school classrooms and libraries a number of resources written by African Canadians, including Austin Clarke’s *More*; Wanda Robson’s *Sister to Courage: Stories from the World of Viola Desmond*, *Canada’s Rosa Parks*; Craig Marshall Smith’s *The Journey Continues: An Atlantic Canadian Black Experience*; and Gloria Ann Wesley’s *Chasing Freedom*.

As well, as part of the division’s responsibilities under *Expanding from Equity Supports to Leadership and Results: the Minister of Education’s Response to Reality Check*, the division will be supplying teachers and administrators with professional resources that supports their development in the areas of cultural competence and anti-racism, including George Dei’s *Reconstructing Dropout: A Critical Ethnography of the Dynamics of Black Students’ Disengagement from School*; Wheeler and Swords’ *Code-Switching: Teaching Standard English in Urban Classrooms*; and CampbellJones, CambellJones, and Lindsay’s *The Cultural Proficiency Journey: Moving Beyond Ethical Barriers Toward Profound School Change*.

February is African Heritage Month



iNSchool

iNSchool's Approach to Managing the Program Planning Process

Teachers and staff of some schools will start managing elements of the program planning process – IPPs, adaptations and other student services information – online as early as February 2012, using a new program called TIENET (Technology for Improving Education Network.)

TIENET is the iNSchool solution for student services information that is better managed outside of PowerSchool/PowerTeacher – namely IPPs, adaptations and other student services information.

When and what can we expect to see?

The introduction of TIENET will vary by board and will begin sometime after February 1st, 2012. You can expect to learn about your school board's roll-out plans soon.

What will and will not change?

The program planning process – as defined by The Special Education Policy (2008) – will not change. What will change is that you'll soon enter, access and manage all of this information on TIENET.

For the past number of months, members of your school board have been working closely with the TIENET team to customize their software to match our existing 8-step provincial program planning process. So the existing process – the information you capture and the steps you follow – will not change. And you'll sign on through PowerSchool/PowerTeacher. It will be more efficient, easier to manage, and it will all be under one virtual roof.

If you'd like to learn more about iNSchool or take a look at an overview video of TIENET, go to inschool.ednet.ns.ca. You'll find the TIENET video and other resources for teachers under the TEACHERS & SCHOOL STAFF section. Please note, this video is currently in English only.

iNSchool is a province-wide program aimed at leveraging technology to better support student achievement.



Student Services

<http://studentservices.ednet.ns.ca>

In October 2010 the APSEA Directors approved an action plan for an Atlantic Provinces Autism Project: Autism in Education an Atlantic Partnership

Sheila Bulmer is the Autism Project coordinator and APSEA oversees the project through an Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Committee consisting of the four Directors of Student Services and a representative consultant for each of the provinces.

The focus areas for the project are research and best practice regarding issues in ASD, developing professional development and training to enhance services and an understanding of current best practice and to develop a centralized web based resource which would reflect current best educational practice, offer training modules and provide resources for families and service providers.

As part of the commitment to research and evidence-based practice, the Autism Project will be producing information papers on requested topics that are based upon a review and summary of the current research and literature. The purpose of these papers is to promote informed decision making about issues and practices that affect the education and well being of children with ASD. The first Information Paper, Service Dogs and Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder has been completed and approved. That paper has been sent out to the Student Services coordinators in each school board and will be on line when the website goes live in February.

Currently The ASD Advisory Committee is making plans for Dr. Hanna Rue, Director of Evidence Based Practice at The National Autism Center to present a one-day conference for school based professionals in each of the Atlantic Provinces. Dr Rue is overseeing the revision of the National Standards Project, the most comprehensive analysis to date regarding behavioural and educational interventions for children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Dr. Rue will be speaking on Evidence-Based Practice in the Field of Autism in Halifax on April 4th.

Please contact Susan Jozsa, Autism Consultant, Student Services Division at jozsasm@gov.ns.ca for a copy of the Information Paper or for further information about Dr. Rue's presentation.



SchoolsPlus

The following is a report on SchoolsPlus, recently launched in the Tri-County Regional School Board. The report was written by Taima Urquhart, a student attending Digby Regional High School. SchoolsPlus serves Digby Regional High School and its feeder schools.

SchoolsPlus, Digby Regional High School, has certainly developed since August 2011. With the dedication of our SchoolsPlus Student Advisory Committee; a comfortable and inviting facility has been created within DRHS. Room 211 is now being utilized to provide space for community and various service providers to host events, meetings, workshops as well as provide a safe haven for students to come together.

As the town of Digby and surrounding areas are rich in diversity, the vision of SchoolsPlus is to allow the individuals who walked through our doors to see themselves mirrored back in honor of who they are. Therefore, the SchoolsPlus Student Advisory Committee hosted a “Show Me Your Culture” Campaign as well as a “Collaborative Theme” contest within DRHS and three partnering elementary schools, respectively. The contests were designed to incorporate artistic expressions of how students view their culture while demonstrating the ability to collaborate for the greater good. Art forms have since been displayed within the SchoolsPlus facility in recognition of our student’s varied talents. Another artifact well worth mentioning is our wall mural modeled after a special tree, which two very dedicated students designed and brought to life.



A program recently introduced within the SchoolsPlus facility is hosted by the Digby County Family Resource Centre. Open groups are held one day a week, during junior and senior lunch to answer student questions about family, parenting and health related issues. We also have representation from Addiction Services, RCMP, Juniper House and the Tri-County Women’s Centre, all of which are providing valuable services to our student population.

SchoolsPlus and other TCRSB staff are currently collaborating with organizations in attempts to bring much needed resources to our unique and diverse schools. For example the Rural Newcomer Navigator, Annapolis Digby Economic Development Agency, will host a multicultural event at Digby Regional High School in May 2012. The proposed event will include speakers and entertainers from various cultural backgrounds, coupled with the opportunity to sample numerous international food items. A daytime event will be held for the students of Digby County with an evening or weekend program to follow for the general public.

CLASS II Update

CLASS is a province-wide research project that looks at the relationships among health, nutrition, physical activity, mental health and school performance of children in Nova Scotia. Last year, over 5500 Grade 5 students and their parents/guardians took part across 272 schools in Nova Scotia. In 2012, the CLASS II team will be conducting case studies with schools across the province to learn more about the experiences of schools. The research team would like to thank all school staff, students, and their parents/guardians for supporting this research.

Principals in all schools have received their individual and confidential school report. Each school report has a variety of helpful resources in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, mental wellbeing, and building community/school relationships. Where possible, school results are compared to the provincial averages in 2003 and 2011. We encourage schools to share this information with the entire school community, especially those individuals who are involved with supporting health promotion activities. Other resources to assist schools in creating safe and healthy school environments will be available on the CLASS II website (www.nsclass.ca).

In partnership with the Nova Scotia’s Teachers Association for Physical and Health Educators (TAPHE) and Physical and Health Education Canada (PHE Canada), the CLASS II team is hosting an event on Thursday, May 10 to release preliminary findings of our research and discuss implications for policy and practice. Registration is free and a limited number of travel grants are available for Nova Scotia delegates. Please contact the CLASS II Project Coordinator, Jessie-Lee Langille, to register (Jessie-Lee.Langille@dal.ca or 1-902-494-8439).

CLASS II



Children's Lifestyle And School-performance Study



www.nselc.ca

Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development

May 23-25, 2012 / Mount St. Vincent University Campus, Halifax

Think this gifted education conference is not for you? Think again! All classroom teachers can develop their students' gifts and talents once they know what to look for and what to do next.

Differentiation, enrichment and creativity are some of the most tried and true educational practices to engage all learners. Join internationally renowned speakers Joseph Renzulli, Sally Reis, Rachel McAnallan and Rebecca D. Eckert in Halifax this May to find out more.

The Nova Scotia Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development is a great opportunity to

- **Learn** practical differentiation techniques that will benefit ALL students
- **Find** out how to recognize and nurture students' gifts and talents
- **Discover** how focussing on students' strengths and interests can allow you to build more meaningful and challenging learning environments
- **Choose** topics that you would like to learn more about (with over 14 sessions being offered, everyone can find something directly related to their teaching) rediscover your joy and passion for teaching!

Don't miss this local, once in a lifetime chance to be inspired by some of the greatest minds in education today!

Delegates to the Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development are encouraged to stay in the Mount St. Vincent University condo-like residences to maximize their learning, networking, and socializing opportunities.

Daily rates for these apartment style units (4 bedrooms and a common area) are \$36.50 per room or \$145.98 for the entire unit. Single dorm rooms are also available for \$40.89 per day. This include parking, taxes and a full breakfast. For reservations go to: reservations@MSVU.ca

Registration fee is \$399.00 (plus HST) / Full Time University Student Rate \$125 (includes HST)

Registration information and overview of the Summit is available on the NSELc website at www.nselc.ca



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

December 2011 saw the conclusion of another outstanding year of growth for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We enrolled 731 new participants, awarded 242 Awards, and now have over 3000 active participants engaged in the Duke Programme across the province! We have had several new schools register and welcomed new teachers as Duke leaders. Over 50% of all participants in the programme now come from school groups. We are sure we will continue this trend and thank our participating schools and leaders for their dedication to the Award Programme and the youth in their schools.

Our newest school to come on board is Luoyang Number One Senior School, located in the city of Luoyang in Henan province, China. Roughly 5000 students attend this school, but only 49 are enrolled in the Nova Scotia High School program. This is only the second year for the NS program at the school. There are one grade 11 class and two grade 10 classes. Scott Miller, a registered Duke Leader who taught at Bridgewater High School last year, is teaching in the Nova Scotia program this year, and introduced the Duke programme to his students. Two students have enrolled in the Bronze Award level, Tony and Vera.

They both started the program December 1st. They have been running on the weekends for their physical activities. For volunteer work Tony has visited an orphanage, and done some street cleaning on the weekends. Vera has been going to a park to clean up for her volunteer work. For their skills they are both taking advanced conversational English lessons, with their expedition work starting in March. Both hope to achieve their Bronze in early June, before the end of the school term.

Scott says, "I think this is an excellent programme for these students. Much of their school lives is regimented, and they don't often get the opportunity to do independent work. It is great to see both Tony and Vera so enthusiastic to take on this new challenge. The school has been very supportive and is eager to see their Duke of Edinburgh Award program expanded in the next few years."



Pictured is Vera, a Bronze Duke participant from Luoyang Number One Senior School in China. "Hello! I am Vera and this is some information about my Duke of Edinburgh Award activities. Near my home I have a park. Every weekend I will go to there do some voluntary activities. I will clean the street, water the plants, or do some gardening and sometimes I like run around in the park for my physical activity."

THE
**LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY**
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Leadership Academy

The Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Academy is off to a successful start. Thirty-three

principals from across the province have successfully completed the first of six courses that make up the Instructional Leadership Program. Each course of the Instructional Leadership program blends theory and practice, and includes weekly practicum opportunities within the context of the participants' schools to apply lessons learned. Upon completion of the Instructional Leadership program, successful participants will be awarded a Diploma in Instructional Leadership from the Department of Education, which may be used as a credential to apply for a raise in teaching license.



Angela Currie, principal of Middle River Consolidated School, Theresa MacNeil, principal of Rankin School of the Narrows, and Linda Williams, principal of East Pictou Middle School, discuss an article on brain-compatible instruction.

Online applications for Cohort II, scheduled to begin in September 2012, are now being accepted through to March 19, 2012. All interested principals and vice-principals are invited to apply. For more information on the Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Academy program, visit the NSILA webpage at www.nsila.ca, or contact Sue LeBel, Program Coordinator, at 1-902-354-8134 or by email at slebel@nslc.ca



Clinton Harvey, principal of Wallace Consolidated Elementary School, and David Hazelton, principal of Bible Hill Junior High School, discuss effective instructional strategies that enhance concept development.

Social Studies

The provincial implementation workshop for Atlantic Canada Social Studies 3: Provincial Identity

will be held on March 29 and 30, 2012. The sessions will be opened by a demonstration of a traditional Gaelic milling frolic, an African Culture session with Dr. Henry Bishop, and a presentation by Tim Bernard and Gerald Gloade of the Mi'kmaewey Debert Cultural Centre.



Royal Canadian Legion



The Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command of the Royal Canadian Legion sponsors a Youth Leadership Camp that is held annually in June at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro, Nova Scotia for grades 10 and 11 students.

The Leadership Camp focuses on leadership training skills developed through a wide variety of activities. The application deadline for the camp is the end of February. Information on the camp and other programs and related resources can be found at

www.ns.legion.ca/youth.html

Diamond Jubilee

The celebration of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's reign as Queen of Canada began on February 6 with the Queen's Canadian Flag raised at the provincial legislature.



In an effort to engage and recognize young Nova Scotians, 60 scholarships, one for each year of Her Majesty's reign, will be awarded to Grade 12 students who have demonstrated leadership and made significant contributions to their communities and the province. Information on the scholarship can be found at www.ednet.ns.ca

A Diamond Jubilee moodle has been designed with resources to support learning about the Diamond Jubilee and The Queen as a role model for active citizenship. The moodle is available on the Nova Scotia Virtual School site at www.nsvs.ednet.ns.ca

Once logged in to the Nova Scotia Virtual School, select Professional Learning to locate Diamond Jubilee. There will be no enrollment key. Open on February 6, 2012.

Teaching in China – a Teacher's perspective

A number of Chinese students in China are following a Nova Scotia high school curriculum, taught in English, enabling them to receive a Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma. Most of these students will pursue their post-secondary studies abroad, a growing number of them in Nova Scotian universities.

The English School attached to Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in Guangzhou, southern China, has four Nova Scotian teachers on staff. Two of these teachers are Diane Brennick, recently retired Language Arts Consultant from the Cape Breton Victoria Regional School and Briana MacLellan, a recent BEd graduate from Acadia University. They bring different perspectives and skill sets drawn from their experiences and formation to their respective positions.

Teaching students in Guangzhou is similar to teaching students in NS with a few notable exceptions: On one hand the student's behaviours and approach to their studies is no different than their peer group in Nova Scotia, while on the other hand, they are very keen to spend time with their teachers and interested in getting to know them on a more personal level.



Diane Brennick talking to students while waiting for buses to take them all on a school field trip

Both students and teachers live on campus in a residential setting (the school has 5500 students from Primary to 12 with 104 in the Sino-Canada program). The teachers are provided with two-bedroom apartments and meals in the staff cafeteria, which is included in their teaching contract.

The city of Guangzhou with its 17 million inhabitants might seem daunting at first because of size and language but as with any adventure one quickly becomes accustomed to both. It is China's third largest city and can provide many opportunities for both veteran and novice teachers. Both Diane and Briana have used Guangzhou's ideal location for travel to other exciting locations in South East Asia such as Hong Kong, Macau and Singapore to name a few. Through their involvement in "InterNations", an expatriate organization operating in 250 communities around the world, they have been able to socialize and make new friends.

Diane and Briana plan on returning to Guangzhou next year and while they are at opposite ends of the career spectrum they have both found the experience to be enriching and rewarding in many ways. Teaching abroad offers something for everyone and they encourage others to give it a try!



Briana MacLellan speaking on behalf of the new teachers at the official opening of the school year



Canada Day Poster Challenge

<http://www.pch.gc.ca/eng/1292268977681>

Each year, students aged 5 to 18 are invited to take part in the Canada Day Poster Challenge by designing a poster that illustrates their pride in Canada and in being Canadian. This year's theme is 1812: The Fight for Canada.

The deadline for submitting posters, along with an entry form, is March 9, 2012.

Check out the Canadian Heritage website for more information.

Feb. 15: National Flag of Canada Day



Roots of Empathy

Roots of Empathy can teach the world about what empathy means and teaching kids about how other people feel when being left out and bullied. It also teaches that no one is the same size, shape or color and not everybody likes the same thing. I really like this program. I hope you still do the program when I have a kid! – Grade 5 Student, Guysborough

Since 2003, hundreds of babies have been the youngest teachers in Nova Scotia's classrooms, playing a key role in bringing the power of empathy to the province's children wherever the Roots of Empathy green blanket is unfurled.

A model of social innovation, Roots of Empathy is an international, experiential-based classroom program with over a decade of evidence-based research illustrating its success in increasing prosocial behaviours and decreasing aggressive behavior, including bullying.

At the heart of the program are an infant and parent who visit the classroom over the course of a year. Through guided observations of this loving relationship, children learn to appreciate the perspective of the baby and label the baby's feelings, helping them to understand their own feelings and those of others. This social and emotional learning (SEL) lays the foundation for safe and caring classrooms where children are the "agents of change" and become more likely to challenge cruelty and injustice.

In Nova Scotia the program has reached over 10,000 English, French and Aboriginal children in both urban and rural communities; 2011–12 will see over 1,400 children participate in 59 classrooms across five regions.

The success and impact of Roots of Empathy is due in large part to the commitment and collaboration of diverse individuals and organizations. Partnership between the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, the Network for Children and Youth in Eastern Nova Scotia, Community Services, the Department of Community Services Child Welfare Agency, Public Health, Cape Breton Family Resource Coalition Society (Family Place), Strait Regional School Board and Cape Breton/Victoria Regional School Board is an excellent model of the promise and achievement of this kind of alliance.



Along with the Department of Education, these groups came together 8 years ago to fund and pilot Roots of Empathy in Nova Scotia. Under the leadership of Eastern Nova Scotia coordinator Jim Mustard and Public Health Service CBDHA licensed practical nurse Margaret Bennett, the program has supported a number of curricular outcomes in health and literacy, while assisting varied agencies to work in a universally accessible and developmentally appropriate manner. As Mustard explains:

"In my eight years of experience doing the program with students from grade Primary to grade 7 in Inverness, I have seen the culture of Roots of Empathy expand through the community. Roots of Empathy babies—and all babies by extension—are recognized as citizens of unique importance, developmentally gifted to explore the world and always at their full potential when surrounded by nurturing and supportive relationships. As well, students in the program have found a more meaningful intrinsic sense of inclusion in classrooms by using new tools for their social and emotional learning and by building a new community expressing their shared responsibility in supporting one another's lives."

Hazel Clarke and Frances Cole, Atlantic Managers : hclarke@rootsofempathy.org; fcoble@rootsofempathy.org; 1-709-722-4805

Nova Scotia Key Point People:

Eastern, Jim Mustard jim_mustard@hotmail.com

Truro, Margaret Davidson davidsonm@ccrsb.ca

Annapolis Valley, Denise Naugler ocfamilymatters@ns.sympatico.ca

Yarmouth, Michelle Doucette, Michelle.Doucette@nsc.ca

HRM, Terry Bartlett-Visser terrybv@eastlink.ca

New Glasgow, Sonya Sarty mamasarty@hotmail.com



LRTS Webinars

Join us for a free after school webinar for Nova Scotia Educators

Talk & Walk: An Overview of Teaching in Action 10-12– This webinar addresses the “new” learning focuses of the Sr. High English Language Arts Teaching in Action 10-12 document. We will look at the document front matter

(pages 1 to 208) that teachers find most meaningful, and how teacher are implementing the resource. Join Barry Wilson, English Language Arts Consultant, Steven VanZoost, Teacher & TIA Principal Writer and Nancy MacDonald, Curriculum & Technology Integration Consultant. Thursday, February, 23, 2012 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Elementary Math – Common Errors in Patterning as Determined by the EEMLA and EMLA Results Grades P-6 – This panel of educators will address common errors in patterning as determined by the EEMLA and the EMLA. This webinar will be providing ongoing support for a coherent mathematics program. Instructional ideas will be discussed to help teachers deliver their mathematics program Primary–6 for patterning, including the use of technology to enhance their mathematics program for this concept. Join Sharon McCready, Mathematics Strategy Consultant, Sherene Sharpe, Mathematics Evaluation Coordinator and Eric Therrien, ICT Consultant on Thursday, March 22, 2012 from 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.

Using the Planning for Balanced Assessment & Instruction in ELA 10-12 Desk Blotter– Grades 10-12 ELA teachers will have the opportunity to discuss “best practice” in the high school classroom using the Planning for Balanced Assessment & Instruction in ELA 10 –12 Desk Blotter resource as the focus of conversation. Informal “Talk” will centre around the Classroom as a Workshop, Gradual Release of Responsibility, Approaches to Assessment, and Approaches to Instruction. Barry Wilson, English Language Arts Consultant will lead this session. Thursday, April 26, 2012 3:30-4:30 p.m.

All you will need to participate is a computer with an internet connection!

Please register at least three days in advance of the webinar date.

You will receive an email with a link to the webinar. Numbers are limited for each session so sign up in advance to avoid disappointment.

To register go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/lrtwebinar>



LRTS Welcomes Eric Therrien

Learning Resources and Technology Services is pleased to announce that Eric Therrien will be working with us beginning February 1, 2012. Eric will be our new Information Communication Technology Consultant with responsibilities for math and

science Primary–12.

Eric has 19 years of teaching experience in sciences and mathematics curricula both in English and French. Most recently he was the Science Department Head at Auburn High School where he also taught AP Chemistry 12, Advanced Chemistry 11, and Chemistry 12. He has experience teaching internationally at the Canadian International School of Egypt.

He has an MEd. in curriculum (learning & technology) and has published articles in *AVISO* magazine about classroom technology benefits. In 2005 he received an education research award from the NSTU. More recently, he has been awarded the HRSB 2011 Superintendent's Award for Excellence, Leadership Award.

Eric is married to Josette who teaches at École Beaubassin and they have two teenagers, Alex and Amelie. Eric loves travelling, running and photography and integrating technology to support teaching and learning.

We are thrilled to welcome Eric to our team and know that he will provide exemplary service to learning in Nova Scotia.



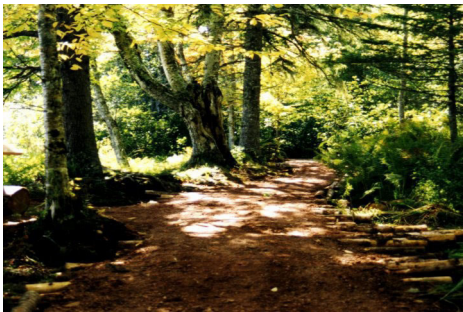
Share.EDnet/Ensemble.EDnet

Share.EDnet/Ensemble.EDnet is located at <http://share.ednet.ns.ca> <http://ensemble.ednet.ns.ca> and currently hosts 64 technology integrated curriculum resources, and the beginning of a Creative Commons photo collection developed by Nova Scotia educators. Each school board has a collection area that it may manage. Teachers may be invited by the board to contribute to the board collection or may choose to independently contribute to the Teachers Helping Teachers collection. You are encouraged to check out the growing number of Creative Commons licensed resources developed by fellow Nova Scotia teachers and to contribute your own.

Social Studies 3,4,6 Implementation Moodles

– Hundreds of Digital Activities and Resources

The Social Studies 3 Implementation Moodle will launch on March 29–30, 2012 complete with many digital resources and activities, a complement to its sister Moodles Social Studies 4 and 6. Teachers of grades 4 and 6 are encouraged to join relevant Social Studies implementation Moodles which host hundreds of digital activities and materials to support the classroom and the opportunity to collaborate and share with fellow implementing teachers throughout the province. Login at the Nova Scotia Virtual School <http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca> Select Professional Learning>Provincial Communities of Practice>Social Studies> and then the relevant Social Studies Implementation Moodle. There is no enrollment key for Social Studies 4 or Social Studies 6. Social Studies 3 will accept enrollment upon implementation at the end of March 2012.



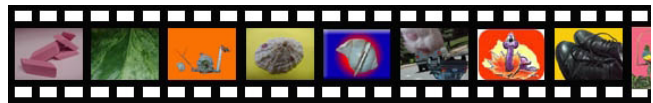
Privacy Commissioner - New Online Resource

The Privacy Commissioner has a new free online resource. It is designed to help grade 7 and 8 students with internet privacy and includes video, a presentation and a tip sheet (for parents). This may be of interest to you as some of the information specifically addresses selected outcomes from the Integration of ICT document (see SEHI strand).

http://www.priv.gc.ca/media/nr-c/2012/nr-c_120124_e.cfm#contenttop

Nova Scotia Virtual School

Online courses in the Nova Scotia Virtual School have started this week. Last day to add or drop courses for this semester is February 14, 2012. For more information about what is available, please visit our website: <http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca> or contact your board online coordinator, or your guidance counselor.



ImagesProject

<http://imagesproject.ednet.ns.ca>

The ImagesProject is looking for student and teacher contributed images of Nova Scotia people, places, and active citizenship. Your original images of the sights and scenes of Nova Scotia support grade 3 and other students to learn more about their geography, culture and heritage, and governance. Please consider contributing a few of your best shots for use by fellow teachers and students. We ask that you grant a Creative Commons license CC-BY-NC which permits others to use, remix and to publish your photos in their work with attribution. You may upload your images to the ImagesProject collection we have started at Share.Ednet. Your login is your staff.ednet.ns.ca user name and password, or create an account with an alternate board provided email address.

Below is a recently contributed image from Peter S. – an aerial view of farm fields in France.

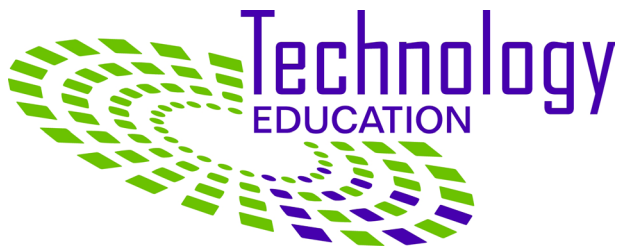


Education Media Library

Video Resources to support African Heritage Month

www.lrt.ednet.ns.ca

The Education Media Library has a number of video resources for teachers and schools that support African Heritage Month. Click on the link off the LRTS homepage for dubbing and loan videos that are available. We ship multimedia curriculum resources to schools anywhere in the province. Loan titles can be borrowed for up to seven days, dubbing titles are sold to you for only the cost of the disc/videocassette (~\$1.62) and become a part of your school's collection.



Technology Education - EduFest!

Save The Dates! Edufest for the whole family: August 13-17, 2012

Technology Education teachers will have plenty of learning opportunities at EduFest this summer at the NSCC Dartmouth Waterfront campus from August 13–17 as well as August 22–23 in Yarmouth.

Karla Hames will be back by popular demand from Carsand-Mosher and will provide two days of hands-on learning with the Canon Rebel cameras made available to all schools offering Communications Technology 11 and Communications Technology 12 (first come, first served). Please be sure to bring your camera and tripod to this summer institute.

Exploring Technology and Communications Technology teachers will have opportunities to explore the solid modelling software “SolidWorks” for beginner to advanced levels in a two-day session at the NSCC Waterfront. In addition, Don Beck will be providing a two-day hands-on practice session on screen process printing using the Lancer equipment provided to new-school technology education programs. This session is designed for all levels of learning and teaching needs.

Later in August, cabinet-maker and technology educator, Todd Wallace, will be providing a two-day training session on production technology and manufacturing practices for grades 9 through 12 teachers at Yarmouth Junior High School. This workshop will address jigs and fixtures as well as related safety practices for beginner to advanced levels.

Families will have an opportunity to enjoy EduFest together this summer at the NSCC Waterfront with the new “EduFest Kids” program. This all-day program is designed for children ages 5–11 and will provide hands-on minds-on learning opportunities in science, technology, and the arts.

For more details on these and other summer institutes, visit www.ednet.ns.ca

Technology Education 9

All English boards will be invited to send a Grade 9 technology education teacher to a provincial curriculum launch in May, 2012. This two-day workshop will involve plenty of resources, hands-on learning opportunities, and a chance to collaborate with other teachers in the field. Schools are not required to have a production lab to be involved in this workshop.

Junior High Technology Education = Learning Standing Up!

The release of Technology Education 9 means that technology educators and schools offering some form of technology education can finally deliver a program that fits within a specific and concise framework, creating continuity and equity across the province. Technology Education 7, 8, and 9 will all involve outcomes under the module titles: Communications Technology, Energy Engineering, Innovations and Inventions, and Production Technology. Three out of four of these modules involve students using tools and equipment typically found in a production technology lab. However, Communications Technology (although typically involving design work using a computer) can still engage students in activities that involve moving around, or learning standing up. Communications Technology is not to be confused with technology integration, for which outcomes are to be addressed as part of all subject areas.

Technology Education curriculum is poised to be a foundation for project based learning for all junior high students. The outcomes are designed to allow students to solve technological problems using the TIDE approach (Technology Innovation Design Engineering) while integrating applicable concepts from other subject areas.

Dust Collection Systems Update

The Department of Education is working closely with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to complete the engineering work involved in bringing all dust collection systems within technology production labs up to current fire codes. A project manager has been hired and has visited two thirds of the schools in the province. Many schools are currently under construction for retrofits. Many others are awaiting dust collection units to arrive through the tender process. The project manager is working in conjunction with individual board operation staff to establish a work plan. This project has become a massive fix which will ultimately contribute to a safer and better technology education program province wide. Thank you for your patience in this long and difficult project.

Mathematics Contests

Every year in Canada students from grades 3 to 12 have the opportunity to participate in mathematics contests. The main focus of mathematics contests is to stimulate interest in mathematics. These contests are an excellent way to provide students with a challenging and engaging mathematical experience that can be both competitive and educational. The format and structure vary from multiple-choice answers to essay questions to a team competition that emphasizes mathematical writing skills and effective group work.

A collection of problems and solutions from previous years can usually be ordered from the sponsor of the contest. Teachers may also find some problems and solutions in databases posted on contest web sites. Using these materials to help students prepare for the contests is an exciting way to support the curriculum and help students to develop problem-solving strategies. Some teachers may prefer to use these contests to supplement classroom work, while others use them with their math clubs. Setting up some problem-solving displays is an effective way to engage students and parents during math fairs, open houses, or curriculum nights.

Some contests are scored internally while others provide opportunity for interschool competitions in which students can compare their results with those of other students in the province or other parts of Canada.

Below are some useful web sites and a list of contests with registration deadlines still open this school year. Also visit the Canadian Mathematical Society website <http://cms.math.ca/Competitions> for more contests.



Annual Mathematics Contests

Math-On Olympiad will resume competitions in the spring of 2013

www.math-on.ednet.ns.ca

Gauss, Pascal, Cayley, Fermat, Fryer, Galois, Hypatia, Euclid, Canadian Senior and Intermediate Mathematics Contests

www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca

Thales, Byron-Germain, Fibonacci, Pythagoras, Euler, Lagrange, Newton

www.cms.math.ca/Competitions

Sun Life Financial Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge, Canadian Mathematical Olympiad,

Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences (APICS) Mathematics Competition

www.themathleague.com

Grade Level	Contest Name	Registration Deadline	Contest Date
4	Math League	February 28, 2012	April 15, 2012
5	Math League	February 28, 2012	April 15, 2012
7	Gauss	April 19, 2012	May 16, 2012
8	Gauss	April 19, 2012	May 16, 2012
9	Pascal	February 7, 2012	February 23, 2012
9	Fryer	March 9, 2012	April 12, 2012
10	Cayley	February 7, 2012	February 23, 2012
10	Galois	March 9, 2012	April 12, 2012
11	Fermat	February 7, 2012	February 23, 2012
11	Hypatia	March 9, 2012	April 12, 2012
12	Euclid	March 9, 2012	April 11, 2012

NS Math Circles

If you would like to excite your students about mathematics, then NS Math Circles may be what you're looking for!



NS Math Circles is a high school outreach program that is based out of Dalhousie University and is dedicated to enriching the experiences of NS high school students

in all areas of mathematics. We do this through interactive, engaging and meaningful presentations.

NS Math Circles started out as a monthly event held at Dalhousie University for local high school students. Students could come with a teacher, parent, or fellow students to enjoy a pizza supper and night of mathematics. The presentations involved a lot of interaction and student participation. While these local events still continue, thanks to generous funding from the Imperial Oil Foundation, we have taken our program on the road! We now travel across the province to give our interactive presentations in the classroom, free of charge! We offer presentations in both French and English.

Thus far we have visited over 40 different high schools in the province and would love to visit your classroom. This year we will also be holding the 3rd Annual Math Fun Days at Dalhousie University on May 16-18, where students can come to the Dalhousie campus and enjoy a day of hands-on mathematical activities.

If you are interested in having NS Math Circles present at your school or if you would like information on the local monthly events held at Dalhousie University, please contact Danielle Cox, Program Director, 1-902-494-7036 (mathcircles@dal.ca) or visit our website www.nsmathcircles.com

Tomatosphere

An award-winning science education project, now has over 13 000 classes enrolled. Join this “real science” initiative by signing up on the Tomatosphere website: www.tomatosphere.org Teachers who enroll before the end of this week will get their seeds before the end of February for germination anytime until the end of January, 2013; there is an additional mailing in the middle of March. Tomatosphere is curriculum-driven (grades 3, 6, 7 and 9 connections for science and space) and is FREE; teachers do need to purchase the peat pots for germination (cost of between \$2 and \$15 dollars depending upon source and number required). Tomatosphere currently has 600 000 tomato seeds on the International Space Station; they will be returning to Earth in early 2013 for distribution to schools in 2014.

Nova Scotia Science 10

Science 10 is a hands-on, minds-on course for all students. It is student-centred and inquiry-based, focusing on STSE and skills. Science is about doing and thinking, and there are multiple opportunities in Science 10 for students to be engaged in their learning. Each unit in Science 10 is worth 25 per cent of the course and each unit is compulsory.

Nova Scotia Science 10:

The student text addresses outcomes in four units—Earth and Space Science: Weather Dynamics, Physical Science: Chemical Reactions, Physical Science: Motion, and Life Science: Sustainability of Ecosystems. Text features include unit preparation, unit opener, hands-on science, minds-on science, science in action, and tools for success. Specific references and pictures highlight Nova Scotia. Critical thinking, STSE, inquiry, problem solving, and decision making are the focus of the learning that is possible with Science 10, and this text reflects these. Texts are being distributed to schools now.

Nova Scotia Science 10, Teacher Resource: The teacher's resource offers planning information, assessment tools and techniques, curriculum correlations, teaching strategies, answers to questions in the student text, science background information, notes and support for all activities and investigations, and a focus on project-based learning. The teacher resource will be sent to schools in March 2012.

ConnectSchool allows students and teachers to use various resources in a comprehensive online package. It will be available May 15, 2012.

Science 10, Passages: Online Science 10 passages complement the Science 10 curriculum and are embedded with literacy strategies. Teachers may access these passages at <http://science10.ednet.ns.ca>

Science 10 Collection comprises 65 books for classroom instruction and student learning and enjoyment. Each resource has been selected to address curriculum outcomes in Science 10. The straightforward text of the non-fiction titles delivers clear and fascinating information that invites readers to learn about Earth—its fiercest disasters, the impact of global warming, its weather and climate, its energy sources, and much more. Some books include explanatory diagrams, charts, and graphs that support understanding of science concepts. The rich, naturalistic, full-colour photographs of the picture books combine with informative text engages students to experience all the wonders of the living, breathing world of science around us.



Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week

February 27–March 2, 2012

This year marks the 1st Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week and the 5th Agriculture Literacy Week in Nova Scotia.



www.gov.ns.ca/agri/agaware

Agriculture Literacy Week is simply a time when school children are encouraged to celebrate agriculture in our province by reading books about farming. Last year over 80 volunteer readers from the agricultural community read to grade 2 and 3 classrooms across the province, shared their experiences in agriculture and donated the book to the class.

If you are interested learning more about Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week please contact

Rick Hoeg (Agricultural Education Liaison - NS Department of Agriculture)

Phone: 1-902-893-7495

E-mail: hoegr1@gov.ns.ca

School Garden Grants

A School Garden funding project will provide a limited number of developmental support grants for school garden projects across Nova Scotia. For a second year, a total of \$20,000 will be distributed proportionally across school board regions. This one-time grant of \$500 per school is being offered from the Department of Agriculture to help defray the cost of developing a garden. All grade levels of public schools can apply. Eligible expenses included materials and services for garden construction, tools for maintenance, materials to enhance learning objectives and soil testing fees. For further information visit

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/agaware/schoolgarden.shtml>

Agricultural Class Project Funding

Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness will provide funding in support of class projects within high schools who wish to explore agriculture in Nova Scotia. In both the fall and winter semesters, up to \$500 will be available for a limited number of suitable agricultural projects.

Funds may be used for any agriculturally related project which will help enhance class learning outcomes. Projects could include conducting a class trip, the purchase of class resources or equipment to complete a project, hosting a local food event, etc. For further information visit

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/agaware/agclass-project.shtml>

Experience Agriculture 2012

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College are pleased to offer Experience Agriculture 2012 for teachers of Science 10 and Agriculture/Agri-food 11 in Nova Scotia.

Join us on the College campus for a broad look at the dynamic agricultural industry in Nova Scotia. Teachers will learn some of the science behind food production, career opportunities available to those considering agriculture as a profession, as well as the future of our food system.

See first-hand how programs, research, and education are helping our industry work towards a future that is socially responsible, environmentally ethical and economically sustainable for generations to come.

Thursday, March 1 (beginning at 6:30 pm) to Friday, March 2, 2012

A detailed schedule will be available upon registration.

For directions, visit <http://nsac.ca/directions> or contact Continuing Education by at 1-902-893-6666 or cde@nsac.ca

Tuition Fee - \$30.00 + \$4.50 HST = \$34.50

Pre-registration is required.

The brochure and registration form can also be found on the Ag Awareness site at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/agaware/index.shtml> or through NSAC Continuing Education <http://nsac.ca/cde/courses/De/ag11>

Please complete and fill in the information on the registration form on, and return to Continuing Education no later than noon, Monday 20 February, 2012. Seating is limited so register early!

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

Discovery Centre

Located in downtown Halifax, the Discovery Centre is Nova Scotia's only hands-on science centre. Here, we make science interesting, interactive and fun!

Discovery Centre

Nova Scotia's Hands-On Science Centre

The Discovery Centre features dynamic travelling exhibits, a state-of-the-art digital planetarium, award-winning workshops and much more. Join us here or invite us there—with our unique brand of science education we'll bring learning to a whole new level for your students. Our programs cover a variety of subject matters, are all curriculum-connected and are taught by our talented and trained educational staff.

Our fantastic new program—inSCIght—is the best educational companion for teachers. This on-line, membership-based program, offered free of charge to all teachers in Nova Scotia, has incredible benefits and resources designed to make your job easier! Benefits include: free admission, half-price family membership, family sneak peek nights, monthly newsletter, Discovery Shop discount, on-line tools and resources and much more. Sign up under the Teacher Zone on our website www.thediscoverycentre.ca

Reel Science Film Competition

For years, Discovery Centre has brought the world of film to grade 5 students in Nova Scotia through its Grade 5 Science Film Competition. This year, film plays an even bigger starring role! We're expanding our film program with assistance from presenting sponsor, Saint Mary's University, and supporter ViewFinders Film Festival.

Introducing the Reel Science Film Competition! This year, our film competition is open to all grade 4-6 classes. Films must still explore science curriculum topics, but now submissions are shorter – between three and five minutes. There are great prizes to be won, along with an opportunity to be featured at this year's ViewFinders Film Festival!



New Exhibits Have Just Landed

Check out our upcoming exhibits and our internal and external programs available now for booking:

GROSSOLOGY—January – May 2012

Boogers, body odour, and other "impolite" bodily functions are the topics of our newest travelling exhibit – Grossology: The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body.

LET'S GO! ANIMALS IN MOTION—January – May 2012

Visitors can explore this new participatory exhibition teeming with life to enhance their knowledge of animal biodiversity and admire a number of naturalized animals. With four designated zones – Water, Ground, Between Ground and Sky and Air

BLAST OFF TO OUTER SPACE—this digital planetarium is the only one of its kind in Nova Scotia

LUNAR BOTS—an engaging way for students to learn about computer programming, space, and robotics

SCIENCE ON THE ROAD—bringing interactive and engaging learning experiences directly to primary to grade six students in the classroom.



For a complete guide to this year's programs, please visit us online at www.thediscoverycentre.ca

**Dalhousie
University's
Faculty of
Science
Discovery Days**



FREE Science &

Math events for Nova Scotia schools

Over 2000 students and teachers from across the province joined us last May and June for fun, hands-on, and educational science and math activities.

Morning or afternoon sessions available:

May 1–3 Discover CHEMISTRY Days–For grades 7–9

May 2–3 Discover PSYCHOLOGY and
NEUROSCIENCE Days – For grades 10–12

May 8–9 Discover EARTH SCIENCE Days – For
grades 7–12

May 14–18 Discover PHYSICS and ATMOSPHERIC
SCIENCE Days – For grades 6–12

May 16–18 Discover MATH Days – For grades 10–12

June 12–13 Discover BIOLOGY Days – For grades
9–12

“Our students thoroughly enjoyed the visit and talked about certain activities they did for days later. We had parents comment on how their child came home excited to share what happened that day.”

— Joy Noseworthy, Uniacke District School

“Thank you so much for organizing this day! It was a highlight of the year!”

— Sarah Conde, Lockview High School

Visit our website <http://science.dal.ca/p12>

For more information and registration, contact Theresa Myra, School Outreach-Faculty of Science, at 1-902-494-6448 or theresa.myra@dal.ca

SUPERNOVA

at Dalhousie University

SuperNOVA

SuperNOVA workshops are interactive and high energy hands on activities, which cover Nova Scotia science curriculum outcomes! The workshops run from May 9th, 2012– June 20th, 2012. All workshops address Nova Scotia curriculum outcomes!



For more info or to request a workshop, complete the registration form: <http://supernova.dal.ca/workshops> or email supernova@dal.ca

Grade Primary - Exploring With Our Senses

Grade 1 - Daily and Seasonal Changes

Grade 2 - Liquids and Solids

Grade 3 - Materials and Structures

Grade 4 - Light!

Grade 5 - Forces and Simple Machines

Grade 6 - Electricity

Grade 7 - Math

Grade 8 - Chemistry

Grade 9 Physics

(All workshops delivered by undergraduate university students)

Science Friday at Saint Mary's University

Friday, May 4, 2012

Saint Mary's University Faculty of Science will be hosting its second annual Science Friday on May 4, 2012. Science Friday is a free event open to grade 8 students and classes are registered on a first come, first serve basis. Participants will have a chance to take part in interactive sessions led by faculty members in our Science departments. These sessions will expose students to the wide-range of science programs available to study as well as highlight some of the unique and innovative research happening in our Faculty of Science. Students will also have the opportunity to view our province's top 40 junior/senior high school science fair projects before Team Nova Scotia heads to the national competition.

The sessions facilitated by the Saint Mary's Faculty of Science will include presentations in Biology, Chemistry, Computing Science, Engineering, Environmental Science, Forensic Sciences, Geology, Geography, Physics and Psychology.

For more information, contact Courtenay Kyle, Science Advising & Outreach Coordinator, at 1-902-496-8165 or outreach.science@smu.ca



Atlantic Science Links Association

The Atlantic Science Links Association runs a variety of programs to support grade primary to twelve science curriculums in Nova Scotia. These include Scientists and Innovators in the Schools, Ask-A-Scientist, and the Climate Change Action Pack. Our programs are completely free and run all year long!



Scientists and Innovators in the Schools (SITS) provides teachers, students, community program leaders and the general public with access to volunteers from various fields of science and technology, who are willing to give classroom presentations, lead field trips, judge at science fairs, or attend career days. Our volunteers can provide assistance at all grade levels from elementary to high school, on a wide range of topics. In 2010–2011 SITS volunteers reached more than 4000 Nova Scotia students and teachers!

Ask-A-Scientist is a section of our web site where teachers and students can ask those tough questions about science! Questions submitted through the site are answered by our volunteer experts.

The Climate Change Action Pack (CCAP) is a collection of lesson plans for grades 4–6 teachers on the underlying concepts of climate change, specifically in Nova Scotia, and is based on the Atlantic Science Curriculum. We have both English and French versions of CCAP in CDs to be distributed to science teachers in Nova Scotia.

For more information about our programs, or to request a visit by a scientist, please contact us by email at sits@dal.ca or by phone at 1-902-494-2831 (toll free 1-800-565-7487). Our website is also a great source of information, and has links to other resources and activities.

Please visit us at <http://atlanticsciencelinks.dal.ca>



Creating an Entrepreneurial Future

CEED

The Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CEED) has been promoting entrepreneurship in our region for more than twenty years, as well assisting thousands of Nova Scotians in making their entrepreneurial dreams a reality. As our economy is powered by small to medium sized enterprises (SME), the long-term economic health of the province depends upon the entrepreneurs of today and tomorrow.

Our Education Portfolio facilitates experiential entrepreneurship workshops for hundreds of Nova Scotia students, and provides professional development opportunities for educators on the value of including entrepreneurship in their curriculum.

CEED will be offering a two-day workshop at Edufest 2012, August 13 to 17 at the NSCC waterfront campus. The workshop will provide teachers with the opportunity to learn about “Out of the Box Early” in which students go through the process of creating a product and “Inventions Conventions,” where students brainstorm on an every-day problem and then create a product or service to solve the problem.

For further information, please contact Tim Vassallo, CEED’s Entrepreneurship Education Advisor, at tvassallo@ceed.ca or 1-902-421-2333 (ext. 118).

Pathways

Nova Scotia Community College’s (NSCC) CollegePrep partners with regional, district and First Nations school boards to actively link high school and college programs to ensure student success and successful entry into the labour market.

Pathways, a joint venture between CollegePrep and Student Pathways, is especially helpful to students in grades 9 to 12. It helps students explore what they like to do, discover what careers are available that match their interests and learn what post-secondary education will help them secure a job in that field.

While some students may not yet know how to articulate what they like to do, it can be just as important to determine what they do not like doing. It’s all about finding the right fit.

Through Pathways, the College helps develop clear admission and selection criteria for programs. This clarity helps with planning and sets the foundation for success at the College.

To arrange for a career and post-secondary exploration workshop at your school, contact pathways@nscc.ca



Career Development Focus in Public Schools

Nova Scotia's recently released *Workforce Strategy* included a commitment to support career development in Nova Scotia's high schools. (See <http://careers.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/WorkforceStrategy.pdf>, pp. 12–13.)

Now, more than ever, education has an important role in preparing young people for all aspects of their lives, especially the workplace.

To help young Nova Scotians learn about education, training, and career options that are available in the province, the government will update and improve career development supports in high schools.”

...Establish career planning and job research areas in all high schools to provide career planning environments and up-to-date labour market information.

...Expand career-oriented courses in public schools.

The Department is pleased to introduce the following *Workforce Strategy* career development projects.

Career Kiosks

Each high school will receive a portable Career Kiosk, consisting of a large screen television, computer, DVD player, wireless keyboard and mouse, on a wheeled cart. Signage will be mounted on the cart to make it easily identifiable as resource dedicated to career research and planning. Each school will identify the most appropriate locations for the Career Kiosk. The Career Kiosk will also serve as a resource for all teachers when students are working towards career-related curriculum outcomes.

FuturesNS.ca

A website will be developed to serve as the portal for education, labour market, and career-related information from a range of sources, including the careers.novascotia.ca website, career cruising, annotated EBSCO resources, featured careers and career videos, and the new FutureSeeker adventure experience. FuturesNS.ca will be a vibrant, visual, engaging starting point for career exploration and planning. The website will be refreshed frequently.

FutureSeeker

FutureSeeker is a career adventure application for hand held devices. It will feature an engaging animated character who will embark on a career discovery journey, following instructions from the user who will be asked to make a series of decisions related to interests, abilities, and personal career-related preferences. Each decision will lead to another decision point. The adventure will end when the student arrives at the FuturesNS.ca website with a direction for future research and planning.

Career Infusion

Teachers will be supported by a bank of career infusion strategies, lesson, projects, and units of study which will use career activities to achieve the outcomes in a variety of courses.

Support for Career-Related Courses

A Moodle will be created to support teachers and students in Career Development 10, Career Development 11, and Life/Work Transitions 10. The Moodle will also be useful for teachers of other career-related courses.

The teacher-generated resources will be will reflect current information and activities in a Canadian and Nova Scotian context, and will replace obsolete and out-of-print resources.

For further information, contact:

Ann Blackwood, Executive Director, English Program Services

(902) 424-5745 or blackwaa@gov.ns.ca

Peter Smith, Youth Pathways and Transitions Coordinator, English Program Services

(902) 424-7123 or smithps@gov.ns.ca



Building Futures

This past fall Co-operative Education and Options & Opportunities students from across the province attended in-school

presentations on behalf of The Construction Association of NS (CANS) and the Building Futures for Youth program. The program, Developed in partnership with CANS, NS Department of Education – English Program Services, NS Department of Labour and Advanced Education – Apprenticeship Division, and the Nova Scotia Community College, is designed to allow grade 10 and 11 students the opportunity to safely explore careers in the construction trades.

December 16th marked the student application deadline for the 2012 program year. 177 Total applications were received from grade 10 and 11 students from 45 different high schools. Through the program students are able to gain experience in a trade, earn co-operative education credits, register as construction trades pre-apprentices, make connections with industry, become eligible for NSCC scholarships and most importantly, gather information to make informed choices about their future.

Throughout January and February students in all regions attend Interview Preparation Workshops leading



into their selection interview, a program requirement. Successful applicants will attend two weeks (80 hours) of workplace orientation, safety, and hands on tools training at a local NSCC campus. All in preparation for a seven-week paid summer work placement with a host employer in the construction industry.

For more information please contact Alain Lefebvre, Coordinator – Building Futures for Youth at alefebvre@cans.ns.ca or check out our website at www.buildingfutures.ca

Skilled Trades

September, 2011 marked the pilot of Transportation Trades 11

at Annapolis West Education Centre and Hants East Regional High School. This exciting new course gives students an opportunity to look at the Transportation Trades as a possible career option.



Transportation Trades 11 student Lucas Longmire disassembles an engine at Annapolis West Education Centre

Park View Education Centre in Bridgewater began to offer Skilled Trades in September. Skilled Trades teacher and certified Carpenter Neil Brown led the first group of students through Skilled Trades 10 and Construction Trades 11. At the end of Skilled Trades 10, one student said, "The (Skilled Trades) Centre is great if you like going out and building stuff and being your own person."

Skilled Trades now has presence in another school. Extensive renovations were recently completed to establish the new Skilled Trades Centre at Eastern Shore District High School. Starting in February, students will begin Skilled Trades 10 and next year will see the introduction of Construction Trades 11 and Transportation Trades 11. Skilled Trades teacher Mike Hartlen, who is a certified Automotive Service Technician, is excited about his new assignment. He says, "These courses are necessary for students to be able to achieve a well rounded education."

The *Kids and Learning First* plan for education calls for expansion of Skilled Trades schools and courses. Work will start immediately to develop the next sector course, Manufacturing Trades 11. Manufacturing Trades 11 will continue to focus on the skills students developed in pre-requisite Skilled Trades 10 and will define them in a manufacturing environment. Trades that will be examined include Boatbuilder, Ironworker (Generalist), Marine Fitter, Sheet Metal Worker, and Welder. Development of the Manufacturing Trades 11 curriculum, fitting up of the Skilled Trades Centres, and training for the teachers anticipates the pilot of this course for September 2013 at five schools.

Youth Apprenticeship: The Other Post-Secondary Option

Do you know students who are interested in becoming certified tradespeople or currently working part or full-time in a skilled trade? If so, youth apprenticeship is the post-secondary option for them. Youth as young as 16 years of age can now begin training for a career in the trades, even while working toward their high school diploma. Registered youth apprentices “earn while they learn”, receive apprenticeship credit and gain a head start in a competitive and demanding career.

Through practical experience with a certified journeyman, youth apprentices gain valuable work experience, acquire trade related skills and work toward their Certificate of Qualification in a trade, the only way to become a certified journeyman with a Red Seal endorsement. To register, individuals must be between the ages of 16 and 20, and working in a designated trade with a certified journeyman. Students who explore the skilled trades through co-operative education or Skilled Trades Education courses are also eligible to receive up to 500 hours credit toward an apprenticeship training program.

Visit the WORKIT website at www.workitns.ca and view the new Apprenticeship Test Drive videos. Learn what it's like to be an apprentice and discover the rewarding aspects of a career in the skilled trades.

For more information about youth apprenticeship and some of the many exploratory opportunities available for youth today, contact the Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator with the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education at 1-902-424-5685.



Skills Canada

In March and April, students and apprentices will compete in skilled trades and technologies at the 15th Annual Nova Scotia Skills Competition, brought to you by Skills Canada – Nova Scotia and its partners. This event invites youth from across Nova Scotia to participate in over 50 competition areas, including cooking, welding, website development, automotive service, hairstyling, computer animation, carpentry and many more.

Encouraging youth to participate in the Competition presents them with an opportunity to improve their skills, enhance their portfolios, and gain recognition from some of industry's best in an area that not only interests them, but could provide a career path in the future.

Bronze, silver and gold medals will be awarded to the top competitors in each competition area, and most gold medalists will advance to the Skills Canada National Competition as a member of Team Nova Scotia; Nationals will be held in Edmonton in May, and training for that event usually starts immediately following the provincial competition. This year, the National Competition is also a qualifying event for WorldSkills 2013 in Leipzig, Germany.

For more information or to reserve a spot, email: presentation@skillscanada.com or (902)491-4635. More information can be found at <http://skillsns.ednet.ns.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 & 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	http://studentservices.ednet.ns.ca
Regional Education Services	902-424-5799	(Halifax - SSRSB, HRSB) 902-424-6097 (Halifax - CSAP)	
	902-563-2080	(Sydney - CBVRSB)	
	902-742-3427	(Yarmouth - TCRSB, AVR SB)	
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