



BRANCHING OUT

NOVA SCOTIA
Education

**NEWS FROM
PUBLIC SCHOOLS BRANCH**

February 2013

<http://EDnet.ns.ca>

Message from the Senior Executive Director

I am so pleased to have this opportunity to connect with you ... the educational leaders at the department, board, school, and classroom level. We have a very important job to do and Branching Out provides us with an opportunity to share our successes, share the opportunities for learning and engagement, and highlight some of the great work underway all across our beautiful province.

And Nova Scotia is a province 'on the move' to improve student learning and engagement. Our new mathematics curriculum that will be coming on-stream over the next three years is one example of how we are creating more manageable and effective curriculum to support every student so he/she can experience success.

We have also begun a process to examine our Essential Graduation Learnings to renew and update what we expect students to know and be able to do when they complete high school. This work will provide the underpinnings for a broad review of the high school program as well as redefining the grade 9 program.

Our Deputy Minister, Carole Olsen, is committed to ensuring we have a strong Public School Program to support and enhance learning opportunities for every student in a 21st century environment. Collaboration, learning, and innovation will be the hallmark of our success.

We are building a strong focus on authentic engagement, starting with Carole's collaborative sessions involving the superintendents and directors who are involved in delivering programs and services to support student learning. We have had two excellent sessions already focusing on what the system needs to do to ensure Nova Scotia has a place in the top performing jurisdictions in the world. Strategic advances in how we use technology to support student learning in schools will be a key thrust of this work together. We are also engaged in a review of how we get print and digital resources to the classroom, including a focus on improvements to the school book bureau. This review will involve consultation with boards and schools to have a good understanding of how it is working now and receive their recommendations for positive change. This is another example of where we are working to create opportunities for the system leaders to come together as professionals, to develop shared understandings, and to work collaboratively on topics important to us all.

We have much to be proud of in Nova Scotia. Our success in the grade 4 reading results from the international PIRLS assessment demonstrates that we are moving in the right direction. The new Continuous School Improvement (CSI) Framework focuses on using student-level data and professional understandings to focus our strategic work in collaborative teams and continually improve classroom teaching. Innovative approaches to professional learning through school-based teams will continue to be supported as research tells us they can be highly effective. The CSI approach with the three pillars of planning using evidence of student learning, learning community practices, and quality teaching in every classroom will lead to better results for every student... we know what to do, we just have to get better and more strategic about how to do it in a way that supports our teachers and our students. That is the way forward for even greater results! We can do this... together.

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

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

In This Issue...

Message from the Sr Exec Director	1	Mental Health	23
EduFest 2013	2	Hackmatack	24
New Copyright Law	3	Nova Scotia Provincial Library	24
PIIDPA	4	School Library News & Resources	25
Mi'kmaq Liaison Office	4	Learning Resources & Technology Services	26
Roots of Empathy – Nova Scotia	5	Nova Scotia Virtual School	26
Mathematics	6	IT Integration Summer Institute 2013	26
Social Studies Updates	7	Education Media Library	26
CEED	8	EduPortal	27
Historical Thinking Project 2013	8	P-3 Mobile Technology Centres	27
New Careers Resource - JobsPeopleDo.ca	8	EBSCO	27
African History Month	9	Free WEBINARS for NS Educators	28/29
African Canadian Services	9	Technology Education	30
French Second Language	10	NSSAF - Training for School Coaches	31
Building Futures for Youth	11	Active Start and FUNdamentals	32
Workers' Compensation Board	11	Health Education	32
Arts Education Update	12	Physical Education	32
Stellar Music Monday	13	Duke of Edinburgh's Award	33
Winning Composer Visits NS	14	NS Advisory Council Status of Women	33
ViewFinders: Film Festival for Youth	14	Junior Achievement	34
Building Fluency through Reader's Theater	15	International Baccalaureate	34
AGNS	16	Evaluation Services	35
ArtReach	16	TIENET - Winter Update	36
ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia	17	Student Services	36
Debut Atlantic	17	MSVU M. Ed.	37
ArtsExpress News	18	Learning Strategies 10, 11, 12	37
Science	19	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)	38
Atlantic Science Links Association	19	PEERS Social Skills Training	38
Agricultural Awareness	20	NS International Programs	39/40
Family Studies	22	Copyright Matters!	40
		Student Contests	41

EduFest 2013

Information about this year's Summer Institutes will be coming out soon! Be sure to watch for the "EduFest" heading which will include all learning opportunities organized throughout the summer by the department.

There will be an exciting line-up of teacher professional development opportunities organized by the various divisions of the Public Schools Branch have already started to organize innovative and informative sessions designed to support teachers and learning. Sessions in the following disciplines are tentatively booked: English Language Arts, Family Studies, Science, Math, Health Education, Technology Education, ICT Integration, Arts Education, Student Services and so much more!

EduFest Week Aug 19–23 Our EduFest week at the NSCC Waterfront Campus will be taking place August 19–23. It will be a great opportunity to connect with educators from various disciplines and areas of the province. "EduFest Kids," a creative and engaging program just for kids, will also be scheduled for EduFest week at the Waterfront campus.

Information will be posted on the department's website (www.ednet.ns.ca) and posted in May's Branching Out.



New Copyright Law: New Opportunities for Teaching

Recent changes to Canada's copyright law have provided many new benefits for teachers and the learning process in the classroom. The Copyright Modernization Act and a Supreme Court of Canada landmark decision interpreting what fair dealing means in an education setting have set new rules for copyright and education.

Copyright law has become clearer and easier for teachers and students to follow in two significant ways.

The Use of Internet Materials

The new copyright law provides a clear legal framework that supports the use of the Internet in classrooms. Now, teachers and students can legally conduct routine classroom activities such as downloading, saving, and sharing publicly available Internet text or images, incorporating Internet materials into assignments, and exchanging works electronically with one another.

This new Internet provision applies only to material that has been posted on-line with the authorization of the copyright owner. For instance, the provision does not apply to pirated textbooks or films. Also, teachers and students must respect any digital lock (such as encryption or password-protection) that restricts access or use of the Internet content.

The Use of Short Excerpts

The Supreme Court decision interpreted fair dealing as "permitting teachers to copy and communicate short excerpts from a copyright-protected work for each student in a class." So teachers can make copies of short excerpts from a book or magazine, for example, for distribution to their students without having to ask for copyright permission or pay copyright royalties.

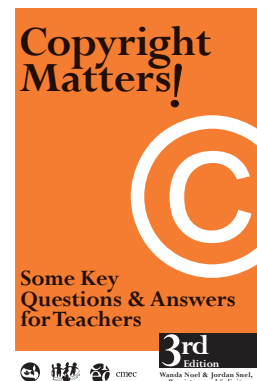
As a result, many educational uses of copyright-protected works no longer require payment of copyright royalties. However, teachers' use of copies of short excerpts is meant to be a supplement to—not a substitute for—the purchase of copyright-protected work. The ruling does not allow the copying of a whole copyright-protected work, only a "short excerpt." It does not mean teachers can copy whole textbooks.

But Know Your Limits with the New Copyright Law

Teachers routinely encourage copyright awareness and respect for copyright. Given the many changes to the copyright law, teachers should learn more about the new benefits and limits for classroom learning.

Very good resource materials are being made available by the Nova Scotia Department of Education, the Canadian Teachers' Federation, and Canadian School Board Association.

- [Fair Dealing Guidelines](#) help educators deal fairly with copyright-protected works. They provide a detailed definition of "short excerpts" (e.g. What does it mean to be able to copy 10% of a work?)
- [Copyright Matters!](#) is an authoritative guide to copyright law and education, providing teachers with user-friendly information on copyright in the classroom.



These materials are available from www.cmec.ca, and paper copies have been made available through schools. See also page 41 for more information.

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.

PIIDPA and School Boards

The [Personal Information International Disclosure Protection Act](#) provides protection to the personal information held by Nova Scotia “public bodies” (which include school boards) when personal information is being collected, used, or disclosed by those organizations. This law builds upon the privacy protection in the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#). It also provides privacy protection where a service provider acts on behalf of them. It does not relate to personal information held by individuals, businesses, and private sector organizations unless they are doing work on behalf of a public body.

Under PIIDPA, public bodies must ensure that any personal information held by them (or any service provider acting on their behalf) remains in Canada, is accessed and is disclosed only in Canada. PIIDPA makes it illegal for them to disclose information outside of Canada, or store personal information at (or allow it to be accessed from) locations outside Canada, unless certain circumstances exist:

- if the head of the public body (superintendent) determines that it “meets the necessary requirements” of the organization’s operations
- if the individual the information is about has consented
- if there is a law enforcement agreement or treaty in effect, to collect a debt, if there are dangerous situations where the health or safety of individuals need to be protected, or for research purposes as outlined in the Act

This law also requires that each time a laptop or device is transported across the Canadian border, permission in writing from the superintendent must be obtained beforehand.

Questions? Contact:

- [school boards’ access and privacy contacts](#)
- [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Office](#)

Mi’kmaq Liaison Office

Kwe’ / Bonjour / Hello

It comes with mixed feelings on the departure of Candy Palmater Director of Mi’kmaq Liaison Office. November 30, 2012 saw the last day for Candy as Director. The department will certainly miss her presence. She will now concentrate on her entertainment career. The department is wishing Candy success in her endeavors.

Dr. Alan Lowe was appointed Acting Director for the Division. All inquiries regarding the activities of the Mi’kmaq Liaison Office should be directed to Dr. Lowe until further notice. Mike Isaac still continues the role and responsibility of student services consultant and Melinda MacIsaac continues the role and responsibility of coordinator.

Since the last article there has been an increased interest and more requests for professional development for teachers on the uniqueness of Mi’kma’ki and Mi’kmaw knowledge and world view under the umbrella of Cultural Proficiency. The feedback from these workshops has been very positive and encouraging, so encouraging that we are planning a teacher in-service to be held in the fall. Stay tuned for further details. Mike looks forward to continuing to provide professional development to all those who request it. He can be contacted via email: isaacmj@gov.ns.ca or by calling the Mi’kmaq Liaison Office 424-3428 and speaking with Melinda.

In collaboration with the African Nova Scotia Division, Mike provides a Mi’kmaw voice as the team provides opportunities for professional development on Cultural Proficiency for principals across the province.

In embracing humility we stop thinking about ourselves and begin to think of others.

Wela’lin / Merci / Thank You



**March 21st is International Day for
Elimination of Racism**

Roots of Empathy – Nova Scotia

Over the past decade, thousands of students across Nova Scotia have gathered around the Roots of Empathy green blanket to welcome the province's youngest teachers into the classroom. These 'tiny teachers' are between two and four months old, and are the catalysts that aid students in the development of emotional literacy and empathy—considered one of the 21st century's most crucial skills.

At the heart of the Roots of Empathy program are a community infant and parent who visit the students over the course of a year. With support from a trained instructor, the children learn to appreciate the perspectives of the baby and label the baby's feelings. This experiential learning provides a platform for students to identify and develop an understanding of their own feelings, and the feelings of others—empathy.

Through shared feelings and discussion, students discover how they are alike and acquire an appreciation for the uniqueness of individuals. Students also witness the social, physical, and emotional milestones in the baby's development and the importance of nurturance.

More than 12,000 students have participated in the Roots of Empathy program since it was first piloted in Nova Scotia in 2003. This year, 'tiny teachers' will reach 1,550 students throughout the province. In 2005, Roots of Empathy introduced a dedicated French curriculum to the province's French and French immersion classrooms. Today, a trained French language mentor is also available to support new French programs.

A model of social innovation, Roots of Empathy is an international, experientially-based classroom program with over a decade of evidence-based research indicating an increase in prosocial behaviours and a decrease in aggressive behaviour, including bullying. Key research findings show that Roots of Empathy students perceive a more caring classroom environment by the end of the program.



Primary/One Immersion class at Felix Marchand Education Centre, Louisdale with Baby Ethan.

One grade 3 teacher in Dartmouth notes the changes in students since participating in the program: "I have watched as my students became more aware of communication cues, emotions, and have developed the strategies to work within those cues to resolve/avoid conflict with their peers. I have watched as the two previous classes that have had the program have carried what they have learned on with them. Roots of Empathy has impacted on their lives by allowing them to use emotions to communicate with others and to bring what they have learned home to share with their families."

The Roots of Empathy programs are supported by more than 20 agencies in Nova Scotia. This support provides the opportunity for increased training for instructors, enabling the program to reach more children throughout the province.

"Roots of Empathy can teach the world to take care of peoples' feelings and thoughts. It really teaches people how to be more kind and how to stand up for others." – Grade 7 Student, Terre Noire



Roots of Empathy
Racines de l'empathie

Get Connected Using the EduPortal!

<https://edapps.ednet.ns.ca/eduportal>

The EduPortal is your gateway to access the wide variety of different digital resources and services offered by the Department of Education specifically for educators. See page 28 for more information.



Mathematics

New PD Video Series for Math 7-9

Teaching Mathematics 7-9: Themes & Practice is a new teacher professional development video series created, in-house, for teachers of mathematics in grades 7 to 9. This series comprises ten short segments, each on a different theme:

<i>Grouping to Support Learning</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
<i>Activating Prior Knowledge</i>	<i>What to Try Next</i>
<i>Class Time Management</i>	<i>Planning & Preparation</i>
<i>Communicating with Parents</i>	<i>Manipulatives</i>
<i>Literacy, Language & Math</i>	<i>Teaching in Contexts</i>

Sound interesting? Read on...

A contributing team of ten mathematics teachers from Digby to Sydney present in these segments best classroom practices. Each segment features both interview material and live unrehearsed sequences from actual classes. Together the ten segments form a comprehensive professional learning resource and can be used in a flexible way.

Flexible, how?....

The series can inform staff meetings wherever teaching mathematics is a topic of special interest or used in conjunction with other site-based professional learning activities. Mentors and administrators may conveniently use just as much—or as little—of the content as they wish when working with staff. Video segments are accessible online as well as on DVD. Individual staff may watch any segment at their convenience, from anywhere with a high-speed Internet connection. Discussion questions for each segment have been developed and can be found in the Multimedia section of the Mathematics Learning Common 7–9 Moodle.



The Nova Scotia Virtual School

Now accepting enrolments for 2013 NSVS grades 10–12 PSP online courses. For more information, visit us online at <http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca> or call 424-0814.

So, here's how you get at it...

The series can be ordered on DVD from the LRTS Education Media Library - <http://medialibrary.ednet.ns.ca> OR viewed or downloaded online from the LRTS Digital Video Library - <http://dvl.ednet.ns.ca/teaching-mathematics-7-9-themes-practice>

Teaching Mathematics 7–9: Themes & Practice joins the award-winning resource, *Mental Math*, as a practical, focused support for Nova Scotian mathematics teachers.



NS Math Circles

www.nsmathcircles.com

Want NS Math Circles to visit your classroom?

NS Math Circles travels to high schools in NS to give their interactive presentations in classrooms...free of charge!

Some extra resources:

Check out our Problem of the Month and Mathematician of the Month!

Check out the Dalhousie University Department of Mathematics & Statistics Friday's Challenge Math Problem!

Looking for activities regarding Women in Science and Engineering? Check out the WISE Atlantic website for upcoming events!

Join in the fun today!

Contact us for ideas on how we can best serve your needs. We would love to coordinate with you and give a FREE presentation to your school.

Contact: Danielle Cox (Program Director) at mathcircles@dal.ca



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

Juno Beach Professional Development Program for Educators

The Juno Beach Centre Association offers Canadian Educators the opportunity to participate in a professional development program to gain first-hand knowledge of Canada's participation in the First and Second World Wars. The application deadline is February 22, 2013. Application information is available at www.junobeach.org/Centre/english/education/teacher_trip.htm

Flag Day

February 15 is National Flag of Canada day. To help celebrate this special day, visit the Canadian Heritage website at www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/flagday



Heritage Fairs

2013 marks the 20th anniversary of Heritage Fairs in Canada and the 15th Anniversary for the program in Nova Scotia. The fair will be held on Friday 31st May at Fisherman's Cove, Eastern Passage.

Canada's History is running a competition to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Arctic Expedition. The top 15 entries will be showcased at the Glooscap Heritage Centre in Truro on Saturday 27th April, 2013. Two to three videos will be chosen to represent Nova Scotia at the national level. For more information on all of the Heritage Fairs events, please see the new website at www.nsheritagefairs.com

social studies

Social
Studies
Updates

Atlantic Canada

Social Studies 5: Investigating Past Societies

The provincial implementation workshop for Atlantic Canada Social Studies 5: Investigating Past Societies will be held on March 25 and 26, 2013. The sessions will be opened by a presentation by Gerald Gloade of the Mi'kmaewey Debert Cultural Centre.

Law Day

Law Day 2013 theme is "Rule of Law Spring: Engaging the Next Generation."

In line with the theme this year, the focus for Law Day 2013 is to engage high schools and youth across Nova Scotia to run mock trials on Law Day. Lawyers from the community will be connecting with these young adults to offer mentorship and guidance while they prepare for the mock trials. It is an excellent opportunity for students to gain a greater understanding of the profession and its ties to the community. This year, the Nova Scotia Law Day activities will be condensed from a week to a single day: Wednesday April 17 2013.

For more information on Law Day 2013 please contact Ms. Ann Smith at asmith@burchells.ca

History of Canadian North and First Nations - Video Contest

Canada's History Society is currently looking for 40 students to act as reporters to research and discuss topics relating to Northern and Aboriginal themes. Priority should be given to Aboriginal students, although it is not a requirement. Compliance with the theme of the North remains important.

Students are invited to create a 3–4 minute video on a topic relating to Aboriginals, the North, and the Arctic. The goal is to create a news piece that encourages an understanding of what makes their topic historically significant in relation to the Northern Theme.

The deadline for entries in Nova Scotia is Friday 5th April. The top 15 videos will be chosen and winners notified by Friday 12th April. Video will be showcased at Glooscap Heritage Centre, Truro on Saturday 27th April and the winning videos chosen to represent Nova Scotia at the National level announced.

Contact NS Heritage Fairs for more information: nsheritagefairs@gmail.com

Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development

Entrepreneurs Helping Entrepreneurs

The Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CEED) is celebrating more than 20 years of introducing Nova Scotians to entrepreneurship as a way of life and empowering them with the skills and resources they need to take responsibility for their journey.

Recently, CEED was selected as a TD Financial Literacy Fund award-winner to deliver the Canadian Centre for Financial Literacy program in Nova Scotia. Beginning in February, we will partner with approximately 30 non-profit organizations to help hundreds of disadvantaged Nova Scotians build essential entrepreneurial skills and become more self-reliant.

The 2013 session of CEED's Second Chance Program began in January, helping youth who have been in conflict with the law develop their entrepreneurial and life skills. Many of our graduates become employed, pursue a high school or post-secondary education, or participate in other training programs. In 2012, the program was awarded the National Youth Employment Innovation Grand Prize.

Through Second Chance, CEED has partnered with the Halifax Regional Police and other community organizations to support the Uptown Drug Market Intervention pilot project.

We are also proud to announce the opening of a CEED office in Antigonish to build access to entrepreneurial opportunities in Nova Scotia's rural communities.

CEED will begin offering entrepreneurship education opportunities to schools this year, and will facilitate a "Taking Science to Market" workshop at regional science fairs during March and April, and at the Team Nova Scotia Showcase in Halifax in May.



Historical Thinking Project 2013 SUMMER INSTITUTE

July 8–13 / Canadian Immigration Museum at Pier 21, Halifax, NS

pdce.educ.ubc.ca/http2013

This exciting institute will take you on an exploration of historical thinking, while examining the themes of immigration and aboriginality. As well, the broader substantive theme of cultural exchange across borders will be considered.

Lectures will be given by Dr. Peter Seixas and distinguished guests. Field trips will enhance the work conducted during the in-class portion of the institute.

The six historical thinking concepts, which have been integrated into a number of curriculum documents and classroom resources across the country, will provide the methodological core of the program. "The HTP approach" opens up the interpretive nature of history.

Limit of 30 participants... Register now to reserve your seat.



New Careers Resource - JobsPeopleDo.ca

The Department of Education has licensed a new Canadian jobs, careers, and education online resource called JobsPeopleDo, for grades 7–12.

This resource includes a database of over 500 job profiles and videos, information on Canadian colleges and universities, career quizzes, summer job information, résumé builder, and articles about career and life.

Each junior and senior high school across the province will have IP authentication access to the website. Each school will also have its own generic login username and password, allowing teachers, students, and parents to access the site from home.

Lesson plans are also available to teachers to use in their classrooms. A login is required to access the lesson plan section of the site; the same username/password applies to all teachers.

Username - Teacher

Password - lessons1234

Contact the Education Media Library to get your school's username and password – lrt@ednet.ns.ca

African History Month

A look back.....

The history of African Nova Scotians reaches back to the early founding years of the province. Many of today's communities can trace their origins to centuries ago, when Nova Scotia held the promise of a better life for immigrants of African descent.

Explorer Mathieu Da Costa is credited with being the first to arrive as part of an expedition that founded Port Royal in 1605. In the 1700s, small populations of French and English Black settlers were part of colonial towns such as Louisbourg and early Halifax.

The first large group of immigrants were the Black Loyalists who came as refugees after the American Revolution between 1782 and 1785. About 3,500 people settled throughout Nova Scotia in communities such as Annapolis Royal, Clements, Granville, Birchtown, Brindleytown, Preston, Little Tracadie, Chedabucto and Halifax. A group of 600 exiled Jamaican Maroons followed in 1796, settling in Preston Township. They helped build Government House, worked on new fortifications at the Halifax Citadel and served in the militia.

The War of 1812 between the United States and Britain resulted in another era of significant migration. Roughly 2000 Black Refugees seeking freedom arrived in Nova Scotia between 1813 and 1816. Many settled in Halifax and Dartmouth, including two large groups in Hammonds Plains and Preston. Others went to smaller communities around the province such as Cobequid Road, Five Mile Plains, Beechville, Porter's Lake, Fletcher's Lake, Prospect Road, Beavertown, Avonport, Pine Woods, Pictou, and Mill Village.

The early 1900s saw the last historic group of black settlers arrive in Nova Scotia as hundreds of Caribbean immigrants, known as the "later arrivals," came to Cape Breton to work in the steel mills and coal mines.

With a history that spans more than 400 years, African Nova Scotians have a rich legacy in the province. Strong communities established long ago continue to this day. The achievements and triumphs of ancestors endure as a great source of pride and inspiration for African Nova Scotians.

Learn more about African Nova Scotians on ANSA's new website <http://ansa.novascotia.ca>



African Canadian Services

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

Cultural Proficiency In-service for Principals

To date through the invitation of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board, the Tri-County Regional School Board, Halifax Regional School Board, and the Cape Breton Victoria Regional School Board, approximately 300 principals, program personnel, and board staff have participated in the cultural proficiency in-service.

Cultural proficiency is an inside-out approach allowing for people to be reflective of their own personnel values, think about what values our students bring to our schools, discuss the institution's values, and embed in their policies, procedures, and practices those values most conducive to a positive school environment.

The participants were introduced to the principles, elements, and continuum of cultural proficiency and were given the opportunity to examine what it looks like in their individual schools. Through the lens of cultural proficiency the question around who is being served and who is being underserved in our schools is openly talked about. The data inform this discussion but the challenge is to ask why gaps do exist in schools and what we are obligated in our own places and spaces to do about it.

Overall the sessions met the outcomes of the day, and people walked away with an action plan of what they can do to actively engage in assessing the climate of their schools and working toward embedding the working policies, procedures, and practices of cultural proficiency in their school settings.

Open Options: African Nova Scotians in the Sciences

This series of six segments is designed to encourage junior high students, especially African Canadians, to take core science courses in high school.

Click [here](#) to view the video from the DVL website

February is African Heritage Month

French Second Language News

<https://fsl.ednet.ns.ca>

New Consultants

The Department of Education is pleased to have finally filled the three vacant French Second Language consultant positions. We are pleased to present:

Susan MacDonald: Susan's main area of responsibility is P-6 French immersion with a focus on literacy, especially with the "Réussite en lecture" (Succeeding in Reading) initiative.

Steven Gaudet: Steven's primary areas of responsibility are 4-12 Core French and online courses. A focus on literacy strategies and future revisions to the Core French curriculum documents will be two major areas of work needing his attention.

Antoine Jarjoura: He is our new P-12 math and science consultant. His main areas of focus will be P-3 and grade 10 math along with Science 10.

Their many years of experience as teacher, administrator, program coordinator or facilitator bring to the department a wealth of knowledge and a level of expertise that is well recognised and respected throughout the educational community both near and far. Such additions will enable the French second language division to substantially improve its support to students and to teachers. They, along with the rest of the FSL team, namely Jean-Claude Bergeron, 7-12 French immersion and Integrated French consultant; Éline Melanson, 4-12 Core French and Intensive French consultant; and Gerald Felix, Director of French Second Language Program Services, are very pleased and excited about being able to offer greater support to students and teachers, to be more engaged with other divisions within the department, and to have a closer contact with our external partners.

DEL F EXAMS

The Grade 12 DEL F exams, reserved for public schools' French second language program students, will be held during the week of April 22nd 2013. All examiners are invited for a two-day refresher session on March 27 and 28. For more information, please contact Jean-Claude Bergeron at bergerjc@gov.ns.ca or call (902) 424-4499.

The Nova Scotia/Québec Student Exchange Program

You want to learn more? Your school or students are interested? Did you know, for example, that your students can earn a high school credit for participating in this program?

Yes, Nova Scotia is involved in a exchange program pairing students from this province and Québec. The program is subsidized by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and it lasts six months. Québec students live with an English-speaking Nova Scotia family and attend school in the host community for three months, between September and December. Nova Scotia students then do the same in Québec from February to April. Arrangements are made prior to departure in order to ensure that the students involved will be able to meet curriculum outcomes as required for course credits. Participants must be grade 10 to 12 French second-language students and be between 15 and 17 years of age for the duration of the program. The program has existed for over 30 years and is closely and continuously monitored to ensure the security and compatibility of twinned students.

A Webinar on this Student Exchange Program will be presented on February 21 at 3:20pm. The host presenter will be Jean-Claude Bergeron, the coordinator of the program. To register for the webinar, please follow this link: <http://goo.gl/Ch9jS>

All registration forms for students interested in participating in the program for the 2013/2014 school year have to be submitted to the department by March 31, 2013. For more information, please contact Jean-Claude Bergeron at bergerjc@gov.ns.ca or call (902) 424-4499.

Expérience Culturelle 12 Credit

All registration forms for the Experience Culturelle 12 credit have to be submitted to the department by February 28, 2013. This credit is open to students applying for the Nova Scotia/Québec Student Exchange Program as well as the Explore program. Students are required to apply for the credit prior to their participation in either one of these programs; the credit will not be awarded if the registration form has not been approved before their participation. For more information, please contact Jean-Claude Bergeron at bergerjc@gov.ns.ca or call (902) 424-449.





Building Futures for Youth

This past fall a record number of Nova Scotia High School students applied for the Construction

Association of Nova Scotia's (CANS) 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 20th marked the student application deadline for the 2013 program year. 189 Total applications were received from grades 10 & 11 students from 50 different high schools throughout all 8 school boards, including the CSAP. 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 are taking part in selection interviews, a program requirement. Successful applicants will attend 2 weeks (80 hours) of workplace orientation, safety, and hands-on tools training at a local NSCC campus, all in preparation for a 5-7 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 @ alefebvre@cans.ns.ca or check out our website at www.buildingfutures.ca



WORK SAFE. FOR LIFE.

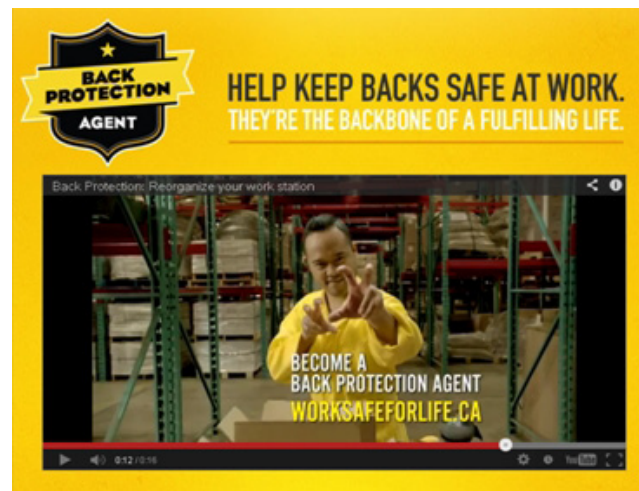
WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA

Workers' Compensation Board

Helping your students stay safe at work!

The WCB invites you and your students to become Back Protection Agents! Each year more than 500 young workers suffer back injuries at work—some of them may be your students! When you're talking about workplace health and safety, consider checking out our back protection agents at <http://worksafe4life.ca/home/backprotection>. Have the "nose between your toes" and "purring tiger" conversation with your students. It's fun, and their backs will thank you for it!

All of the WCB's teaching resources, including the Back Protection Agent videos, continue to be part of the "Healthy Living 9: Workplace Safety" and "Workplace Health and Safety 10-12" resource Moodles.



"It's Your Job" - Video Contests

"It's Your Job" is a national contest open to all high school students and young adults in Canada. Create an original two-minute video that shows the importance of workplace rights and responsibilities. It can focus on areas like occupational health and safety, fair wages, employment standards, or human rights in the workplace—whatever inspires you and your creativity! You could win \$1000.00 for yourself, and another \$1000.00 for your school! The winner will qualify for the national high school competition for up to double the cash prize! Entries will be accepted from Feb. 1st to April 5th, 2013. For more information go to www.gov.ns.ca/lae/employmentrights/itsyourjob.asp the Labour & Advanced Education page of the NS Government website, and click on "It's Your Job!"

Arts Education Update

ArtsLink

In November and January, the Department of Education partnered with boards to deliver professional learning workshops to grade 4 classroom teachers. The focus of the workshops was to introduce teachers to the new Arts Links document which will be distributed in the spring. ArtsLinks supports learning through the arts across all curriculum areas and offers arts activities (in dance, drama, music, and visual arts) for 60 resources designated at the grades primary to 6 level. Teachers enjoyed an amazing day of art-making: creating silk screen prints and non-permanent collages, working with Plasticine, felting wool, and much more. A set of 12 books and a start-up kit of quality art supplies will accompany the document when it is sent to elementary schools. The two photos below were taken during the teacher workshops.



Community Partnership Grant

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 to English Program Services.



Master of Education in Curriculum Studies with a Focus in 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. Currently, there are 38 masters students enrolled in this program. We hope to start a new cohort in September 2013.

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 offer 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

For application information and forms email openacadia@acadiau.ca

EduFest 2013

Planning for Edufest 2013 has begun and it promised to be spectacular summer of professional learning opportunities. Workshops will be offered in dance, drama, music, and visual arts. Details for each workshop will be available in the May issue. See below for pictures taken at EduFest 2012.



Stellar Music Monday – Fill the Skies with Music

This year's Music Monday will be stellar, reaching new heights. The official Music Monday song, commissioned by the Coalition and CBC Music has been written by astronaut Col. Chris Hadfield—the first Canadian Commander of the International Space Station—and singer/songwriter Ed Robertson of the Barenaked Ladies. The song's title is I.S.S. (Is Somebody Singing). Hadfield launched into space in December for his mission on the International Space Station (ISS). He performed the song from space while Robertson, the Barenaked Ladies and Canadian National Showchoir Champions, the Wexford Gleeks performed from Earth. The song premiered February 8 through a video of their performance produced by CBC Music.

Music Monday is an annual signature event of the Coalition for Music Education. Each year, Music Monday unites hundreds of thousands of young people through their schools and communities from coast to coast to coast through a simultaneous musical event on the first Monday of May. Singing and playing the official Music Monday song brings attention to the importance of music as part of a well-rounded education. It demonstrates the power of music and gives a national voice to young music makers. The Coalition mounts a comprehensive public and media campaign around Music Monday at local and national levels.

One reason Col. Hadfield Monday resonates from a people to become the best out to young people across and through his social media back through pictures and communicate the incredible space—what it's like to on the International Space Station. Ed and I think that the from performing this song people across Canada for the Space Station to Earth



Photo credit: NASA. Picture taken by Chris Hadfield.

became involved in Music passion for motivating young they can be. He is reaching Canada, in their classrooms posts. He reflects our world through song. "I want to experience of being in launch on a rocket and live Station," says Hadfield. "But real satisfaction will come with thousands of young Music Monday, connecting through music."

The Music-Science Connection

"I am an astronaut but also I am a musician," says Hadfield. Musician and scientist working together inspire us. Drawing from the model of collaboration, the Coalition has developed a Learning and Teaching Module for Elementary Classrooms that contains musical connections to demonstrate scientific concepts—all related to space and the Space Station. This module was developed by two qualified educators and based on Canadian Space Agency lessons. The module will be available for free download through the Coalition website. It is hoped that teachers will use the module to facilitate integration of science and music curricula for students.

On May 6th, Commander Hadfield will speak live from the International Space Station to celebrate young music makers, joining Canadians from across our beautiful nation uniting their voices to celebrate the importance of music in our schools, communities, and even space! Millions across Canada will hear his message. It's a great opportunity to strengthen our voice and to celebrate the joy of music in our lives.

Register your school, musical group, other variations of that theme on the Music Monday website www.musicmonday.ca. This will keep you in touch with program incentives, new developments and information about Music Monday. Spread the word! Count Yourself In. Together we're stronger—So, sing your song!

For more information, go to www.musicmakesus.ca, call (416) 298-2871 or email info@musicmakesus.ca

Pulitzer Prize Winning Composer

Pulitzer Prize winning composer Michael Colgrass was in Nova Scotia as Artist-in-Residence for the *Shattering the Silence New Music Festival* held at Acadia University from January 30–February 2. During his visit, Mr. Colgrass welcomed the opportunity to meet with junior high music students in Annapolis Valley and Halifax, all of whom are composers themselves. Learning opportunities in the new junior high music curriculum teach the art of composing using graphic notation, an approach developed by Mr. Colgrass. Students were spellbound as the octogenarian talked to them about composing music, worked with them on their own compositions, dazzled them with his vocalizations, and shared amazing stories from his life. Imagine their thrill, to meet this world-renowned composer and musician. This was surely a moment in time that will be treasured forever.



Photo Credit: Kelly Connors, HRSB



Create: Get Inspired by Arts in Our Schools

As part of Education Week 2009's celebration of Bringing Arts to Life, the Department of Education produced this video to celebrate the recent past of arts education in our province, its vibrant present, and its promising future.

Click [here](#) to view the video from the DVL website.

12th ViewFinders: Atlantic Film Festival for Youth

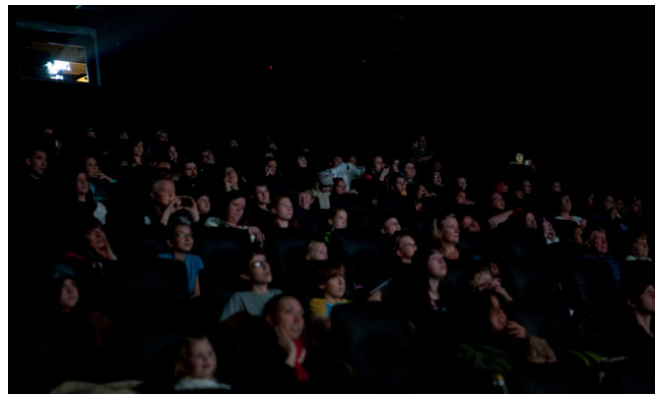
April 14–20th, 2013

Named after the optical window of a camera, ViewFinders: Atlantic Film Festival for Youth



is a week-long film festival for young people and their families. The festival offers daytime screenings and workshops for school groups as well as evening and weekend activities that showcase youth-made films.

ViewFinders celebrates the best in regional, national and international films for youth, tackling issues from multiculturalism and community to sustainability and creativity. Throughout its activities, the festival opens doors for anyone looking to watch great films, meet and learn from industry professionals, and experience the

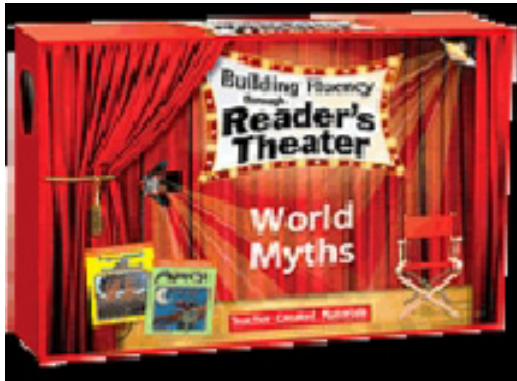


wonderful world of moviemaking through hands-on media workshops.

But really, ViewFinders: Atlantic Film Festival for Youth is more than that. Beyond the main event, held each spring, the ViewFinders team is hard at work to bring a whole series of year-round activities and programs to young people across the Atlantic Provinces, including: filmmaking competitions for youth, school tours (Festival in a Van), film productions and mentorship programs.

On March 4th, we will be launching our program online. This year marks the debut of our brand new Online Reservation System for teachers. Many of our screenings and activities sell out quickly, so if you have a particular interest in mind, mark your calendars and log onto our website: atlanticfilm.com/vf

Building Fluency through Reader's Theater: World Myths



Building Fluency through Reader's Theater: World Myths is a new resource for grades 5 to 8—a classroom resource to engage students enthusiastically in repeated readings in order to build reading fluency. Building Fluency through Reader's Theater: World Myths features world culture themes. These scripts feature roles written at multiple reading levels and are effective in enhancing content-area literacy and fluency skills through fun practice and performance. Each multi-level script, which includes an original song and poem, is based on children's literature and focused on a specific content area—language arts, social studies, science, or math.



EAL support activities, found in every lesson, provide the necessary support and scaffolding that teachers need to provide effective instruction to EAL students in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Each unit contains six copies of eight different scripts, Nova Scotia lesson plans that focus on developing critical literacy and thinking skills, and a professionally recorded CD of original songs and poems, plus the script that allows students to hear the rhythm and expression that define fluency. Transparencies with song lyrics and poem text are also included in the resource.

The teacher's guide, re-written specifically for Nova Scotia teachers, provides learning experiences, a summary section that describes the script, and information to prepare students for the performance, and a "Setting the Stage" section that encourages de-constructing messages through a critical literacy lens prior to introducing the script. Each title offers opportunities to explore personal responses, as well as critical responses to both the related script, as well as real world issues beyond the script. Each learning experience provided has been structured to adhere to a Reader's Workshop format, with the inclusion of the gradual release of responsibility model.



Research the following sites to discover other important features about fluency.

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/mar04/vol61/num06/Creating-Fluent-Readers.aspx>

http://www.ltl.appstate.edu/reading_resources/RASINSKI_04.pdf

Did You Know?... Through the EduPortal you can access the Online Video Library! In addition to Learn360 videos, you have access to hundreds of CBC documentaries and other local productions available in the Custom Videos section.

Simply access the Online Video Library from the EduPortal (<https://edapps.ednet.ns.ca/eduportal>), and type in "CBC" to view what titles are available. Or do an advanced search and choose "Custom Videos" listed under "Media Format".

Check out these CBC titles!:

Teacher's Challenge: Seven Days in a Struggling School

It's a Teens World: Wired for Sex, Lies and Power Trips

Blood On the Coal

Tipping Point: The Age of the Oil Sands

News In Review

Beetalker: The Secret World of Bees

Also in Custom Videos you will find some titles to support your discussions about African Canadian studies.





ART GALLERY OF NOVA SCOTIA

Gold: A Nova Scotia Treasure is currently on view at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

Find out how gold came to be here and how it influenced our artistic traditions and our popular culture. This exhibition mines the wealth of information about gold in Nova Scotia—from the geological formation of gold to its historical and cultural impacts on this province.

Book a class visit now to

- View exquisite watercolour paintings of gold districts in Nova Scotia by Frederick B. Nichols
- Learn how the collision of continents 500 million years ago led to the creation of gold
- Find out about our gold rushes in Nova Scotia
- Get some tips on panning for gold
- Look closely at some fine jewelry made of Nova Scotia gold
- Get to know some Nova Scotians who have won gold

A school tour of this exhibition can be combined with highlights of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia's permanent collection.

Gold: A Nova Scotia Treasure will be on view until March 31, 2013.

To book your class visit, please contact

Laura Carmichael

424-6314

carmiclm@gov.ns.ca

Identity self-portraits produced by students at École Rose-des-Vents

For more information on all of our education programs at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, please visit our website at www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca or call 424-5280

Join us for March Break at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia!

There is so much to do! Sign up for a week-long art class for children ages 5-12 in clay, animation, mosaics, or mixed media, spend an afternoon drawing in the Gallery, join in on a Gallery tour, play around with the Eye-Spy gallery guide, and more!

For more information on March Break classes and activities, please visit: www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca

Pre-registration is required for all art classes:

- In person at the Gallery's Information Desk
- Phone 902 424 5280 during Gallery hours (Visa or Mastercard)
- Email infodesk@gov.ns.ca



AGNS and ArtReach

This spring, ArtReach will be offering workshops in several regions of the province. In Tatamagouche, artist Megan McCullough will be leading a series of printmaking workshops for teachers and students using collagraphs created from recycled, found, and natural objects. An exhibition of AGNS prints will be in display at the Tatamagouche Centre in conjunction with the workshops.

At the AGNS Western Branch in Yarmouth, an exhibition of prints by Jacques Hurtubise is on display until April. A series of Hurtubise-inspired painting and printmaking workshops will also be offered for teachers, students, and the community.

In Greenwood, an exhibition of student paintings from École Rose-des-Vents' ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia project will be accompanied by ArtReach workshops for local schools exploring the concept of identity through self-portraits. The exhibition will be hosted by CFB Greenwood's Military Family Resource Centre, giving the military personnel and their families an opportunity to enjoy the students' artworks as well.

AGNS & ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia

This fall, at École Rose-des-Vents in Greenwood, students in grades 5 and 6 worked with artist François Gaudet. This is the second in a series of identity projects supported by ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia and GénieArts Nouvelle-Écosse that gives students the opportunity to explore Acadian culture and heritage. The students used photographs and gel medium to transfer their images to painted canvases.



Artist François Gaudet with a student at École Rose-des-Vents

This spring, ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia projects continue to start up across the province. In the Annapolis Valley, students at Coldbrook & District School are working with artists Megan Hepburn and Ken Schwartz on a self-portrait project exploring identity, self-expression and community. The Ross Creek Centre for the Arts will be hosting an exhibition of the student's artwork when the project is completed.

In Digby, artist Linda Coakley will be guiding students through Tales (From Away) And Tellers (Of The Day), a project that explores various cultures and folk tales from around the globe through Language Arts, Social Studies, Art, and Music.

Flight is the theme of the ArtsSmarts project at Frank H MacDonald in Thorburn. Students in grade 6 will study Alexander Graham Bell and Leonardo Da Vinci's flight explorations and design and build their own small scale flying machines as part of their Visual Arts, Science and Language Arts curriculum.



Debut Atlantic

The Debut Goes to School! program serves to educate, engage, and inspire through performance and discussion. Debut

Atlantic encourages students to be musical and creative in their daily lives by bringing exceptional classical musicians to the classroom. This program is presented by Debut Atlantic with the support of the Nova Scotia Department of Education. There is absolutely no cost to the presenting schools.

In September, TorQ Percussion Quartet visited a number of schools in Nova Scotia. These dynamic musicians demonstrated and explained a variety of percussion instruments before performing a selection of works featuring a number of Canadian composers including members of the Quartet.



Debut Atlantic... bringing extraordinary classical music home.



TorQ Percussion Quartet performs at Dalhousie University. Schools in attendance included Auburn Drive High, Citadel High, and Sackville High

Violinist Boson Mo paired up with pianist Philip Chiu in October to visit schools and discuss the joys of performing classical music, and collaborating with fellow musicians. The artists answered a number of questions at each school and performed a variety of works by classical composers such as Bartok, Szymanowski and Ysaÿe.

Debut Atlantic's last two tours in the 2012/13 Season feature Todd Yaniv on piano, as well as the Tokai String Quartet. Both of these tours are booked solid and the artists are looking forward to meeting students and performing for them!

Applications for the 2013/14 Concert Season will be available in May. Visit www.debutatlantic.ca for more information or contact Rémi Lefebvre - Administrative Officer via email (remi@debutatlantic.ca) or telephone (902.429.6812)

ArtsExpress News

WOOL

What does Peace feel like? In this elementary school it feels as soft and gentle as felted sheep wool.... Inspired by the department's ArtsLinks workshops series, offered to grade 4 teachers across the province, Harrietfield Elementary School partnered with ArtsExpress to explore the theme of peace through a school-wide wool felting project. The hands-on learning experience involved all students and staff, as well as volunteers from the community.



Students working with wool from the Gaspereau Valley.



Principal Natalie Hagerty and staff felting with students.

GLASS and COPPER

With the help of generous funding from a Lighthouses Grant from the Department of Justice and Options and Opportunities Project Grants, students from J.L. Ilseley High School are learning to work with glass and copper under the guidance of teacher and artist Emile Kuchler. The finished mural, which is a thoughtful expression of change and the flow of time, will be displayed in the foyer of the Nova Scotia Barrister Society in Cogswell Tower in the spring of 2013. This technically challenging piece of art will be the latest installation of the Youth of the Radar mural series.



Glass art studio at J.L. Ilseley High.

GOLD

Funded by ArtReach Nova Scotia, students of Elizabeth Sutherland School and art teacher Sue Vey are having the opportunity to work with jeweller Candice Prior to contribute to the 'GOLD: A Nova Scotia Treasure' exhibit at the AGNS. This bilingual exhibition explores the little known 150-year-old story of Nova Scotia and its relationship to gold, from its geology and mining history. The student work will be shown in the Corridor Gallery of the AGNS on Bedford Row and will be on display until March 31, 2013.



Artist Candice Prior.

Science

Question,
Investigate,
Discover!

Sable Island Video Scholarship 2013

(Given this year in memory of Jack Dunlop, former Board Member)

<http://sableislandfriends.ca>

Sable Island is a 41-kilometre stretch of sand located approximately 290 kilometres southeast of Halifax. It is home to many species of animals and plants, including between 150 and 400 wild horses, which were introduced sometime shortly after 1738. The Island is also home to many birds including rare species, and the largest congregation of breeding Grey Seals and a small resident population of Harbour Seals. There has been a continuous human presence on Sable Island since 1801 when the colonial government in Nova Scotia founded a lifesaving establishment in an effort to reduce the suffering and loss of life and cargo that resulted from the frequent shipwrecks on and near Sable's shores. There are an estimated 350 shipwrecks near Sable Island, the most recent being in 1999.

\$500 Scholarship Details

- Available to all grade 12 students in the Nova Scotia school system
- To be applied to a post-secondary educational opportunity in 2013
- Submission of high-quality video about Sable Island
- All submissions remain the intellectual property of the students

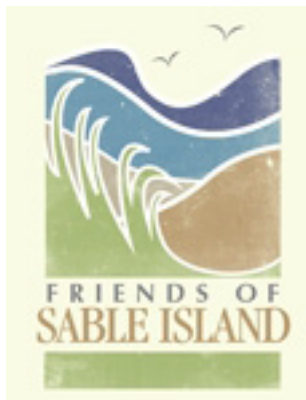
Application Info

Video (5 minutes or less) on Sable Island created by the student to highlight an aspect of the Island for the public interest.

All copyright rules must be followed, permission to use music or other people's images (actors) must be obtained.

Deadline for submissions is April 15, 2013.

Email for more information:
scholarships@sableislandfriends.ca



Atlantic Science Links Association

The Atlantic Science Links Association runs a variety of programs to support grade primary to twelve science curricula 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.

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.

In 2011-2012 SITS volunteers reached more than 5000 Nova Scotia students and teachers!

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 Canada 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 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>



May 22 is Earth Day

Go from one End of the Earth to the Other!

Opening in mid-February, Discovery Centre presents *Ends of the Earth: From Polar Bears to Penguins*—our newest and coolest exhibit ever! Through interactive and artifact-based exhibits and multimedia experiences, visitors explore the fascinating (and cold!) worlds of the Arctic and Antarctic. *Ends of the Earth* explores the unique nature of the Earth's Polar Regions, the current science being undertaken there, and how these regions as indicators of climate change on our planet. The newest exhibit provides the content and context to explore, and hopefully protect, these fragile regions on our planet. Runs February–May 2013

Win a Class Full of Discovery!

Enter to win the Science on the Road Contest

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) and Johnson Inc. are working together with the Discovery Centre to bring a new and unique opportunity to teachers across Nova Scotia. As part of the Science on the Road Contest, any teacher in Nova Scotia is eligible to win one of the Discovery Centre's award-winning External Education programs delivered directly to their classroom – anywhere in the province.

The contest is open to all teachers in Nova Scotia and 55 class visits are up for grabs. All curriculum-connected programs are between 45-60 minutes in length and are available for any grade level. Teachers can enter the contest at www.johnson.ca/sciencecontest before February 22, 2013.

Agricultural Awareness

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

Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week March 3-9, 2013

This year marks the 2nd Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week and the 6th Agriculture Literacy Week in Nova Scotia.

Ag Literacy Week is simply a time when school children are encouraged to celebrate agriculture in our province by reading books about farming. Last year 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, P. Ag.

Agricultural Education Liaison, NS Dept of Agriculture
Phone: (902)893-7495, E-mail: hoegrl@gov.ns.ca

Discovery Centre

Nova Scotia's Hands-On Science Centre

Prizes! Fun! Glory!

Discovery Centre's Reel Science Film Competition

gives grades 4-6 classes in Nova Scotia the chance to be film stars! This annual competition, sponsored by Saint Mary's University, invites grade 4 to grade 6 classes to produce a short film on any science topic from their curriculum. This is a fantastic opportunity for teachers to provide an educational, fun, hands-on project to engages students, builds team-work and encourages creativity, all while paralleling curriculum.

The top three films, as judged by a volunteer committee, will be premiered on the big screen at the Reel Science

Film Competition

Showdown at the Discover Centre on March 27, 2103. A Centre visit and pizza party are included!

First Prize: \$500.00

Second Prize: \$300.00

Third Prize: \$100.00

There's still time to get

your application in! Please contact Michelle Snook at msnook@discoverycentre.ns.ca for more details, rules and the application form.

Video SUBMISSION deadline is March 1, 2013.



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 third 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 novascotia.ca/agri/agaware

Agricultural Awareness Award

The NS Dept of Agriculture is offering an Agricultural Science Award for Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels at each of the 10 Regional Science Fairs in Nova Scotia. Winners will be presented with a certificate and a small cash prize. This award is intended to raise awareness of agriculture in Nova Scotia and encourage students to explore the science and potential career options available in agriculture. For further information visit novascotia.ca/agri/agaware



Nova Scotia
Agricultural
Awareness

Dalhousie University *Faculty of Science* **DISCOVERY DAYS 2013**



Over 3000 students and teachers from across the province joined us last May for fun, hands-on, and educational science & math activities.



"Lots of fun! Students were engaged and it reached a variety of interest. One of the best school trips."

Line Leblanc

Madeline Symonds Middle School



"I just wanted to thank you again for the wonderful opportunity Dalhousie has given my grade 9 students. We all very much appreciated our visit. It is an experience I'm sure many of them will never forget. The sessions were interesting and very well organized."

Courtney James

Ecole ESPE

**FREE Science
& Math events
for Nova Scotia
schools**

**REGISTRATION BEGINS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2013**

Morning and afternoon sessions available:

April 30 – May 1 & May 2, 2013

Discover Chemistry Days

Grades 7-9

May 1-2, 2013

Discover Psychology and

Neuroscience Days

Grades 10-12

May 7-8, 2013

Discover Earth Sciences Days

Grades 7-9 and 10-12

May 14-16, 2013 (morning only)

Discover Math Days

Grades 10-12

May 13-17, 2013

Discover Physics and

Atmospheric Science Days

Grades 6-12

**For more information
and registration, contact:**

Danielle Wood, School Outreach

Faculty of Science

Tel: (902) 494.2373

Email: danielle.wood@dal.ca

Web: science.dal.ca/p12



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

Inspiring Minds

Faculty of Science



Family Studies

Professional Development Activities/ Curriculum Support

In the fall of 2012 Family Studies Services organized two *Real Care Baby* Workshops in collaboration with Christina Ford from Studica Ltd. Nine teachers from HRSB and nearby communities participated in an after school information session on using the *Real Care Baby II Plus* and its software. SSRSB Family Studies teachers had the opportunity to attend a similar workshop at Hebbville Academy on a system-wide professional development day.

Professional development opportunities last fall also included workshops on creating Family Studies related assessment tools that complement the Power Teacher Grade Book reporting system. CCRSB partnered with Family Studies Services to host a professional development day for their 9 teachers who are offering Food Studies /Hospitality 12 this year.

Sheila Munro, Family Studies Services, welcomes the opportunity to work with teachers on professional development related to Family Studies. Sheila may be contacted at munrosm@gov.ns.ca

Video Resources

We have just approved the video *An Ounce of Prevention* from Studica Ltd. for use in Healthy Living 8 and Child Studies 11 classes. The 17-minute video addresses the implications of the decision to drink alcohol during pregnancy. It will be available from the Media Library in the spring of 2013.

Teachers and Support Staff can get access to the Online Video Library from the EduPortal - <https://edapps.ednet.ns.ca/eduportal>

Some titles that have been purchased for the Family Studies curriculum, that will be added in the coming months include the following

Blue Jean Confidential (Doc Zone) - 44:30 minutes, to be used in Textile Production 10 or Textile Technology 12

Hyping Health: Is Health Check Always Right? (Marketplace)-26:30 minutes, to be used in Food for Healthy Living 10

Debt Nation: Personal Finances in Crisis (Marketplace) 50 minutes, to be used in Canadian Families 12

Build Green (The Nature of Things) 45 minutes, to be used in Housing and Design 12



FoodSafe Level I Training in Schools

The Department of Education continues to collaborate with the Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Enforcement, to provide Advanced Food Safety training for teachers. As a result, we have 41 teachers certified to deliver Food Hygiene Certification opportunities to students in Nova Scotia schools, free of charge.

This certification is of value to students planning to work or study in the food industry. Please watch the EduPortal -

<https://edapps.ednet.ns.ca/eduportal> for the EduFest 2013 offerings in late August. It is anticipated that there will be a two-day Advanced Food Safety course offered for educators who wish to support student learning in this domain.

Professional Development Program in Family Studies

Acadia is currently accepting applications for the Professional Development Program in Family Studies. Completion of this program may allow teachers to receive a certification increase. Teachers interested in pursuing this opportunity are advised to contact the Teacher Certification branch of the Department of Education to confirm their eligibility.

While there will be continuous intake into this program, those who would like to begin the program by attending the Summer Sessions in 2013 should submit applications to openacadia@acadiau.ca by **FEBRUARY 15, 2013**. Further information is also available on the Open Acadia Website.

Family Studies Moodle Access

Thanks to Learning Resources Technology staff, we have simplified access to the Family Studies Moodles. If you have not already signed into the Moodles, please contact Sheila Munro for further information. munrosm@gov.ns.ca

Are you using the EduPortal?

<https://edapps.ednet.ns.ca/eduportal>

The EduPortal is your gateway to access the wide variety of different digital resources and services offered by the Department of Education specifically for educators. See page 28 for more information.

Mental Health

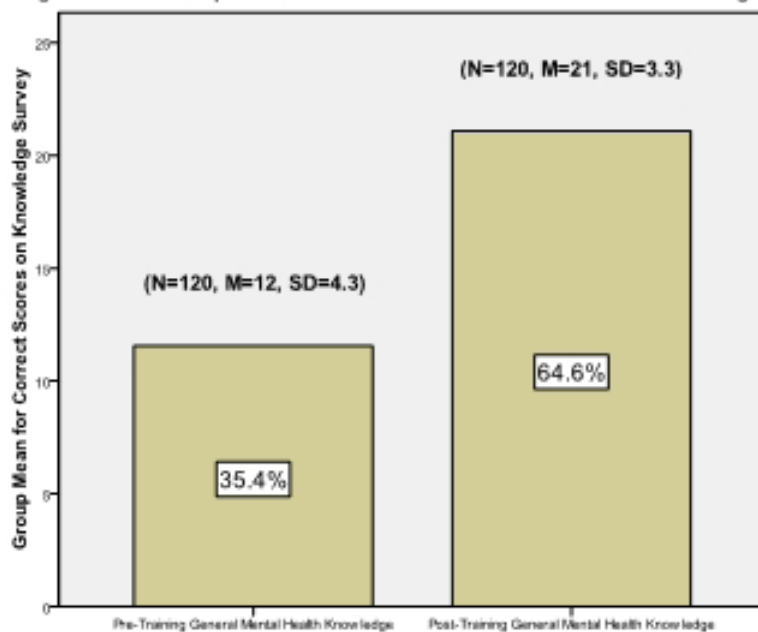
Training “Go-to” Educators in Secondary Schools for Early Identification of Mental Health Problems/Mental Disorders and Ongoing In-School Support of Youth Receiving Treatment for Mental Disorders in Nova Scotia
Stan Kutcher & Yifeng Wei

The “go-to” educator training is one of the feature programs for educators that addresses youth mental health needs developed by Dr. Stan Kutcher and implemented by the Sun Life Financial Chair in Adolescent Mental Health team at the IWK Health Centre and Dalhousie University. In each school, there are “go-to” educators whom students naturally go to for help if they have problems. They can be classroom teachers, guidance counsellors, social workers, school psychologists, and other school support staff. For the purposes of this program, these individuals are identified by school principals in each school and receive the training. The purpose of the training is to help “go-to” educators differentiate mental distress, mental health problems, and mental disorders among students. It further helps educators understand how to link students with appropriate services if they need mental health care.

In collaboration with the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB), the Chair team delivered a one-day training program in April 2012 to educators identified as “go-to” educators. The training program introduced basic concepts and epidemiology in youth mental health, discussed how to identify common mental disorders and how to work with services within and outside the school community to address the needs of youth. More than 100 educators participated in the training and were evaluated on mental health knowledge and attitudes towards mental illness before and immediately after the training session. The results demonstrated significant improvement on both knowledge and attitudes for “go-to” educators.



Figure 1: Mean Group Scores for Educators General Mental Health Knowledge



The success of HRSB “go-to” educator training was recognized by the Department of Education which sought to provide similar opportunities to each school board in Nova Scotia. The School Plus project within Student Services at the Department of Education took the lead to organize the first train-the-trainer “go-to” educator training in November 2012. Tara Moore, provincial coordinator of School Plus, convened regional School Plus coordinators and staff from local health authorities from various regions of the province to participate in the training. The training was similar to the HRSB training, but featured an additional half-day session to review with trainers important resources, key slides within the training materials, and teaching strategies to prepare trainers for their teaching. Further, Student Services is providing financial resources and logistic support to roll this program out province wide.

The “go-to” educator training is within the continuum of the Chair team’s effort to address youth mental health needs in Nova Scotia. It aligns with the Mental Health & High School Curriculum Guide as a further step to facilitate early identification and referral of students in need of mental health care to appropriate services. More information of the “go-to” educator training can be found at the Chair team’s website www.teenmentalhealth.org

Hackmatack: Mark your calendars for author tours and the big ceremony

www.hackmatack.ca

It's a busy time for everyone involved in Hackmatack reading clubs. Registrations continue to roll in, books are being read, and opinions are forming. To make sure you don't miss out on any of the action, you'll want to be 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)

May 10 - Awards ceremony at Pier 21 in Halifax from 10 am to noon

For the first time ever, the Hackmatack ceremony will be live streamed so that groups from far and near can share in the excitement! Start planning your reading club event now.

Authors will be touring around the four Atlantic Provinces in the week before the awards (May 6 to 9). If you're interested in booking a visit for your Hackmatack group, here are the writers who will be in Nova Scotia:

Philip Roy - Antigonish area

Robert Burns - Western Counties

Steve Vernon - Cumberland

Christopher Moore- Eastern Counties

Cary Fagan - Cape Breton

Mike Deas, and Susan Hughes- South Shore and HRM

As well, an as-yet-unnamed author will be available for French readings in HRM.

Local author Philip Roy is booked from May 6 to 9, 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) which is supported by the Nova Scotia Department of Education.

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 Provincial Library

Supports for Teachers

Public libraries across Nova Scotia offer teachers, students, and parents access to a range of resources, information services and programming to support learning and education.

There are nine regional library systems in Nova Scotia. Contact your local public library and talk to your librarian or library staff to find out how they can help you with your class projects, put together a resource list, organize a school visit, tell you about library programs, or how you can get library cards for your students.

For more information about how the public library can support you and your students, contact your local branch: publiclibraries.ns.ca



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

eBooks and Audiobooks

Nova Scotia public libraries provide a wide collection of eBooks and eAudiobooks. It's easy to borrow, all

you need is your library card. Download books to your computer, eBook reader, or mobile device. Check out the wide selection of fiction and non-fiction covering a wide range of topics..... perfect for your classroom or school book club!

Downloadable eBooks and audiobooks can be found: in HRM:

digitalmedia.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca

the rest of Nova Scotia:

digitalmedia.library.ns.ca

Celebrate Freedom to Read Week -- February 24 - March 2, 2013

www.freedomtoread.ca

School Library News and Resources

EduPortal Accounts for School Library Staff

School Library and Education support staff also have access to the EduPortal. The EduPortal is your gateway to access the Online Video Library, EBSCO, creating webspace for your School Library using Drupal, and a number of other digital resources and services offered by the Department of Education.

To create your EduPortal account, simply:

- 1) Visit <https://edapps.ednet.ns.ca/eduportal>
- 2) Click on "Register for a new account"
- 3) Enter your information into the form, enter a password, and 2 security Q & A's
- 4) Click the "Save & Continue" button

View the LRTS webinar to learn more: [Using the EduPortal to Access DOE Websites and Resources from One Location](#)

Creating School Library Websites Using Drupal

Are you interested in creating a website for your School Library? All you need is an EduPortal accounts. View the LRTS webinar and learn how you can get started. Click here: [Creating Classroom Webpages Using DOE Drupal Templates](#)

Canadian Children's Book Week

May 4-11, 2013

www.bookweek.ca

TD Canadian Children's Book Week is the single most important national event celebrating Canadian children's books and the importance of reading. Close to 35,000 children, teens and adults participate in activities held in every province and territory across the country. Hundreds of schools, public libraries, bookstores and community centres host events as part of this major literary festival.

Award-winning author Sylvia McNicoll will be touring Nova Scotia in May 2013.

Did You Know..... Your Students and Parents can access digital resources from home? These are excellent for research and school projects! These include:

EBSCO

Online Video Library (Learn360)

JobsPeopleDo

Contact the Education Media Library (lrt@ednet.ns.ca) to find out your schools username and password.

The New Winter 2013 issue of *School Libraries in Canada* is now posted at: www.clatoolbox.ca/casl/slic

School Library Resources, Links and Associations:

Nova Scotia Library Association - www.nsla.ns.ca

NS Association of Library Technicians - www.nsalt.org

Atlantic Provinces Library Association - www.apla.ca

Canadian Library Association - www.cla.ca

Canadian Association for School Libraries - www.cla.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=CASL2

Ontario School Library Association - www.accessola.com/osl

Canadian National Reading Campaign - nationalreadingcampaign.ca

School Library Information Portal - www.clatoolbox.ca/slip

Community on Emerging Tech for Your School Library - www.edweb.net/emergingtech

Library Publications

Check out these library publications available online:

Feliciter - www.cla.ca/feliciter

School Libraries in Canada - www.clatoolbox.ca/casl/slic

APLA Bulletin - <http://apladev.ca/?q=bulletin>

Library Publications Available from EBSCO

There are a number of full-text professional journals and School Library publications available from EBSCO. , these include:

Computers in Libraries

Children & Libraries: The Journal of the Association for Library Service to Children

School Library Journal

School Library Monthly

School Library Research

Young Adult Library Services

Booklist

Canadian Journal of Information & Library Sciences

These can be accessed from ERIC and Education Research Complete databases from EBSCOhost Web.

February is I Love to Read Month

Learning Resources & Technology Services

Nova Scotia Virtual School

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

The Nova Scotia Virtual School offers :

- Courses for high school students
- Resources for teachers and students P-12
- Online professional learning opportunities

Did you know that through NSVS, high schools students have the opportunity to take courses that they might not otherwise have access to? Courses are taught by certified teachers working in school boards across the province. Students meet with their teachers and fellow students online using both synchronous (video conferencing) and asynchronous (Moodle) platforms. This semester over 430 Nova Scotia students are taking a high school course through online learning. Course offerings for 13/14 will be available for registration beginning in April.

The DOE also offers courses by correspondence studies. Further information on these courses is available at

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



www.lrt.ednet.ns.ca



Education Media Library

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

Visit the Education Media Library at our new website. The Media Library is the place to go for all your multimedia curriculum resource needs! We have a collection of over 5,000 educational videos and DVDs, and

provide you with



access to over 9,000 online videos that support grades P-12 in all subject areas of the Nova Scotia curriculum.

We provide

- online videos for streaming and/or downloading 24/7
- videos for loan or dubbed for your use
- access to online periodicals, journals, magazines, encyclopedias, and other digital resources
- links to current copyright information

The Media Library is part of the Learning Resources & Technology Services (LRTS) division of the Public Schools Branch. LRTS works in partnership with other divisions and schools boards towards integrating technology into the classroom, and distributing digital learning resources for teachers and students. Visit our website, search our catalogue, and contact us for assistance!



IT Integration Summer Institute 2013

August 7–9, 2013

Antigonish – St. Francis Xavier University

Don't miss this year's ICT Integration Summer Institute! Last year was a resounding success, we received great feedback and want to build on this energy and enthusiasm, and facilitate another great program for this summer.

Information Technology can be integrated into any curriculum at all levels. This three-day Summer Institute will provide a mix of learning and working to develop ideas and activities that will fit IT into your classroom next year. Use technology to engage your learners and to help transform teaching and learning opportunities in your classroom. Extend and grow through this hands on summer camp for teachers.

Contact your Board Technology Coordinator for more information.

Did You Know?..... That students and parents have access to these digital resources from home! These excellent digital resources are valuable tools students can use when conducting research and gathering information, great for student projects!

EBSCO - <http://search.epnet.com>

Online Video Library (Learn360) - www.learn360.ca

JobsPeopleDo - <http://jobspeopledo.com>

Contact the Education Media Library (lrt@ednet.ns.ca) if you are unsure of the home use access usernames and passwords for your school.

EduPortal – Access to DoE Resources & Links for Educators in one location

<https://edapps.ednet.ns.ca/eduportal>

The EduPortal is your gateway to access the wide variety of different digital resources and services offered by the Department of Education specifically for educators.

The EduPortal offers you

- easy access to the tools you need
- a single sign-on to access some of these resources like the Online Video Library with over 9,000 educational videos to support teaching and learning

Teacher accounts have been set up, all you need to do is visit the site and complete the registration process to access the EduPortal.

Want to learn more?.... watch this video webinar available on the DVL site:

<http://dvl.ednet.ns.ca/videos/using-edu-portal-access-doe-websites-and-resources-one-location>



EBSCO

<http://search.epnet.com>

So what is EBSCO? It is an online service that provides safer search vehicles and student research supports. It is an online periodical, journal and magazine source for professional materials for teachers. It is a history and science reference centre for students. It is an excellent research tool available to teachers, students and

parents across the province. It has grade leveled reading material and accessibility functions.

EBSCO provides a periodical database that indexes and gives us access to full-text articles in hundreds of magazines, newspapers and images, and accessible via the Internet. It also includes an encyclopedia and a dictionary. It is a valuable research tool that allows students to access information about current events, historical data, animals, etc., and provides numerous resources for school projects.

EBSCO also offers access to a wide variety of professional databases like ERIC and to highly specialized collections of over 450 full text journals, designed for teachers and professional educators. It is available through all computers at school and at home with user names and passwords that can be obtained from your school.

P-3 Mobile Technology Centres

The Mobile Technology Centres that were provided to P-3 schools as part of Kids and Learning First have been rolled out to schools across Nova Scotia. These will assist student in using technology to be productive, problem solve, research, inquire, inform, and communicate. Technology is influencing how we write, interact, listen, read, and share. Technological literacy is considered a basic literacy skill in this modern era. By helping students use technology in ethical, productive, and meaningful ways at an early age we assist them to develop appropriate skills and habits. Information communication technology (ICT) best improves learning when it is accessible, flexible, responsive, participatory, and integrated thoroughly.

Mobile technology centres came with 10 netbooks, software with curriculum connections, cart with wireless access, and a printer. In addition, there is a Moodle site designed to assist educators with integrating technology P-3. Go to <http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca> and choose the site Integrating Technology to Support Literacy P-3. Sign up with your staff ednet account or get assistance through your Board Technology Coordinator.

View the webinar [Using the P-3 Mobile Technology Centres to Support Student Literacy](#) posted on the DVL website, delivered by Literacy leader and expert technology integrator, Stephen Jamieson (SSRSB).

While we have heard many stories about the amazing and creative uses of the Mobile Technology Centres to support learning, we want to share a few pictures from Kevin Zwicker's classroom to show you some of the technology in action. Share your ideas for integrating technology to support learning on the P-3 Moodle or on Share.ednet.ns.ca

Kevin Zwicker's grade 2/3 at St. Catherine's Elementary (HRSB).



Free WEBINARS for NS Educators

February 2013 - May 2013

Register at: <http://goo.gl/Ch9jS>

Nova Scotia/Québec Student Exchange Program– February 21 - Nova Scotia is involved in a reciprocal exchange program pairing students from this province and Québec. Subsidized by the Department of Education, the program is six months, participants must be grade 10 to 12 FSL students, and be between 15 and 17 years of age for the duration of the program. Want to learn more and find out how your school can participate? Jean-Claude Bergeron, DoE FSL Programs Consultant will share information and answer your questions.

NSSCA Professional Online Community: Communication, Advocacy, Professional Development, School Counsellors' Toolkit– March 26 - If you are a School Guidance Counsellor in Nova Scotia, this webinar will introduce you to the NSSCA Moodle; a secure online community designed with your important role in mind. Participants will walk through the login process and learn how to participate in discussion forums, and learn how to upload resources to share with others. The NSSCA Moodle is the only platform that connects School Counsellors across the Province and provides access to online information such as policy documents, websites, and school-tested resources created by colleagues. Moodle is a safe place for us to collaborate and enhance our practice of the Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Program. School Guidance Counsellors and NSSCA Executive members Marc Breugh and Wade Van Snick will facilitate this session.

Scientific Literacy: What does it Look Like?– April 10, 2013 - Scientific Literacy includes inquiry, problem solving, and decision making. What does this look like in Science 7–10 classrooms? How do we engage all students in their learning? How do they explore and explain their findings? Evaluation and elaboration will be included in this discussion. Specific examples, as well as research, will demonstrate the importance of hands-on, minds-on learning and teaching. This session will be led by Marilyn Webster, Science Consultant.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome– April 16 - Overview on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and the classroom. Understanding the spectrum to better respond and plan for the strengths and challenges of students with FASD. Daniel Demers, Special Education Consultant at the Department of Education.

Survol sur l'ensemble des troubles causés par l'alcoolisation fœtale (l'ETCAF) et la salle de classe– 23 avril - Mieux comprendre le spectre pour mieux répondre et planifier pour les forces et besoins des élèves avec l'ETCAF. Daniel Demers, conseiller en éducation spéciale au ministère de l'Éducation.



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

All webinars take place live from 3:30-4:30 p.m. on the dates listed.

Please register at least 3 days in advance of the webinar date.

[Click here to sign up today!](#)

(You will receive an email from Talk.ednet.ns.ca with a link to the webinar.)

Free WEBINARS for NS Educators

February 2013 - May 2013

Register at: <http://goo.gl/Ch9jS>

Sexual Health Education in Schools: Supporting Teachers, Administrators, and Families– April 24 - The first in a series of webinars to support new health education curriculum grades Primary-9, it will highlight best practices in sexual health education, share the research supporting sexual health education in schools, present common language to facilitate the ways in which we competently explain to families the importance of comprehensive sexual health education, and showcase learning and teaching resources distributed to schools that support sexual health education and address learning outcomes. Natalie Flinn, Active Healthy Living Consultant, will be joined by Lisa Tobin, Sexual Health Coordinator, Dept. of Health and Wellness.

Building Positive Classroom Relationships– April 30 - Research shows that a positive relationship with a teacher boosts students' academic performance and social skills and decreases problem behavior. A positive relationship also increases the likelihood that students will seek your help with or report to you their concerns around bullying incidents. How does the new legislation about reporting incidents of severely disruptive behaviour impact the role and responsibilities of teachers in the public school system in Nova Scotia? What can educators do to support and assist students in building healthy rapports with their peers? Join Kathleen Richard, Anti-Bullying/NS Youth Advisory Council Coordinator to explore this further.

Using your Power Teacher Grade Book to track and enhance student achievement– May 1 - In this session Kimberley Jackson, Coordinator PTGB Implementation, will share how to set up and use the information in the grade book to monitor and plan to assist a student's academic growth with a focus on the student view option. She will have some samples and examples from NS classrooms P-12.

Engaging the 21st Century Adolescent Learner– May 6 - "Engagement is associated with positive academic outcomes, including achievement and persistence in school." (Fredericks, Blumenfeld, and Paris, 2004) Engaging adolescents in the 21st century learning environment, including those who have become disengaged with school, is not an easy task. This webinar will focus on the latest research and methodologies designed to actively engage students in learning and valuing succeeding in school. Presented by Jennifer Burke, Social Studies Consultant.

Using Technology to Transform Your Teaching and Engage Your Students– May 29 - Blended learning, Moodle, digital resources, cloud technologies and so much more– what is available to you and how can you effectively use technology in your teaching to engage your students in their learning. This session is presented by Sue Taylor-Foley, Director of Learning Resources and Technology together with Peter Oldreive and Eric Therrien, ICT Consultants with the DoE.

LRTS Webinar Series Archives

Did you miss one of our earlier webinars? LRTS webinar series? You can view earlier webinars, check out the archives on the DVL website:

<http://dvl.ednet.ns.ca/lrts-webinar-series>

Past webinars include:

[Using the Ednet Cloud](#)

[Science 10-CONNECTschool](#)

[Using the Online Video Library](#)

[Using the EduPortal](#)

[Creating Classroom Webpages](#)

[Teaching in Action 10-12](#)



Technology Education

EduFest! 2013

Save The Dates! Edufest for the whole family: August 19–23, 2012.

Technology Education teachers will have plenty of learning opportunities at EduFest this summer at the NSCC Dartmouth Waterfront campus and other sites from August 19–23.

Photography - 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. Be sure to bring your camera.



Digital Video - Matt Corkum will be conducting an outcomes-referenced institute on video production for all levels of Tech Ed.

SolidWorks - 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.



EduFest Kids! - 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 arts.

Stay tuned for more summer institutes!

Technology Education 7 and 8

All English boards with schools offering grades 7 or 8 will be invited to send a grade 7 or grade 8 technology education teacher to a provincial curriculum launch in Spring 2013. This two-day workshop will piggy-back on the success of the launch of Technology Education 9 in May of 2012. The grade 7 and 8 curriculum launch 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.

JrH Technology Education=Learning Standing Up!

The release of the Technology Education concise outcomes framework means that technology educators and schools offering some form of technology education can deliver a program that fits within a specific and concise framework, creating continuity and equity across the province. Technology Education 7, 8, and 9 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 ICT 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 DoE is working in partnership with each school board and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to design, tender and install new dust collectors (permanent or portable) and duct work as required to in order to adhere to both national and provincial codes within the technology production labs. To date, several schools have had their new systems commissioned and are now up and running. Additionally, there are over forty schools now in various stages of design and/or construction. Other sites as part of this major project await design and development. All of these efforts will ultimately contribute to a safer and better technology education program province wide. Thank you for your patience.

“Keeping the School in School Sport” - Required Training for School Coaches

Only coaches who have completed the Keeping the School in School Sport program and are registered on the NSSAF database are eligible to coach in NSSAF Regional or Provincial competitions.

The Issue: The increase in the number of teachers retiring each year combined with the lack of knowledge and experience of incoming teachers in the area of educational sport may leave the school system vulnerable with respect to “Keeping the School in School Sport.”

While community coaches have stepped forward to fill the void, they often enter the educational arena without a clear understanding of the role of sport in school.

To address this issue the Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation Board of Governors approved a mandatory coach education program, ***Keeping the School in School Sport Workshop.***

Conducted at the school level, this three-hour interactive workshop:

- focuses on the educational role of sport
- brings teacher and community coaches together to examine the purpose of sport in schools and to discuss specific roles and responsibilities of coaches in the school athletic program
- provides coaches with strategies and tools to ensure that athletic programs contribute to the overall goals of the school
- addresses effective decision-making and examines case studies which will demonstrate understanding of “Education through Sport.”

Resource materials and support are available online, send an email to nssaf@ednet.ns.ca/coach-education

To date more than 2200 school coaches have completed the requirements and NSSAF member schools in all regions of the province are implementing the required program for their coaches. More than 180 schools have identified a staff member who has volunteered to serve as the Workshop Presenter and who has reviewed the on-line resource material and is setting the date for the presentation.

Recommendations re Levels of Competency for School Coaches

It is highly recommended that coaches complete a minimum of NCCP Level 1 Theory and a Level 1 Technical in their respective sport(s).

Coaches (National Coaching Certification Program)

Sport	Junior High/Middle School	High School
Soccer	Active for Life	Active for Life
Hockey	Development 1 and Speak Out	Development 2 and Speak Out
Wrestling	Part A Intro to Competition	Part A Intro to Competition
Football	Community	Intro to Competition
Volleyball	Level 1 technical	Level 2 technical
Table Tennis	Community	Community and Intro to Comp
Baseball	Rookie Coach Trained	Rookie Coach trained
Rugby	N/A	Level 1 and Safe Rugby
Snowboarding	Comp Intro Trained	Comp Intro Certified
Badminton	Level 1	Level 1 and 2
Basketball	Learn to Train	Train to train
Curling	Club Coach Youth	Club Coach
Golf	N/A	Future Links Leader
Fast Pitch	N/A	Community Sport ongoing
Slo-Pitch	N/A	Community Sport ongoing
Track & Field	Level 1	Level 1
Downhill Skiing	N/A	DL Comp Intro
Cheerleading	NSSAF Approved Clinic	NSSAF Approved Clinic



For more information visit the NSSAF website <http://nssaf.ednet.ns.ca> or contact your local NSSAF District Coordinator or Regional Director.

Active Start and FUNdamentals Part of P-6 Initiative

During the past two years, Special Olympics NS, with support from the Departments of Education and Health and Wellness, has been presenting the program Active Start to Primary/1 PE classes throughout the province. Active Start is a course designed to aid in the development of fundamental movement skills in students with intellectual disabilities. Each school in seven of the eight school boards has had access to equipment, resources and training for Physical Educators and Teacher Assistants.

The second phase of this program is called FUNdamentals and is designed for students up to grade 6. FUNdamentals focuses on the application of the skills acquired in Active Start (e.g., running, hopping, jumping, throwing). These skills are applied to activities leading towards Physical Literacy.

The Halifax Regional School Board was the first to pilot this course last December and the Annapolis Valley Board will be next in February followed by the rest of the boards. Training includes strategies and techniques for working with the different Spectrum disorders in order to enable educators to modify and adapt techniques that will enhance the PE curriculum for all students.

For more information please contact Tom Fahie, Youth Development Coordinator, Special Olympics NS.
tfahie@sportnovascotia.ca

Health Education

Health Education Primary-9 Webinar

Please hold Wednesday, April 24, 2013 in your calendars for the first webinar in many to come that will support administrators and teachers with the new Health Education curriculum Primary-9. The first in this series will focus on Sexual Health Education and will be of interest to teachers and administrators grades Primary-9. It will highlight best practices in sexual health education, share the research supporting sexual health education in schools, and showcase learning and teaching resources distributed to schools that support sexual health education and address learning outcomes. We hope that you will be able to join us live on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 from 3:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Come ready with questions you may have—we look forward to answering them.

Physical Education

Physical Education Leadership 12

Physical Education Leadership 12 PSP has been developed and will be implemented in the 2013–2014 school year. The Department of Education, with the support of colleagues in Physical Activity, Sport, and Recreation Department of Health and Wellness will provide an invitational professional development opportunity to each school board to introduce the course outcomes and to provide NCCP Fundamental Movement Skills High School Leadership Training module training. Participants of the workshop will be provided with the NCCP Fundamental Movement Skills: Improving the Lives of Children Through Physical Literacy resource as well as Leading Through Service, developed by PHE Canada, both of which are key resources that address the specific curriculum outcomes of the course.

New Curriculum Physical Education Primary-9

New curriculum for physical education primary-9 is currently under development. Guided by current and best practice in physical education and responsive to the needs of 21st century learners, this new curriculum aims to foster physical literacy in children and youth through quality physical education. The new curriculum will feature three strands—Active for Life, Skill Themes, Movement Concepts, and Strategies, and Life Skills and fewer outcomes than the current curriculum. This curriculum development process has been supported by a group of outstanding physical educators from around the province, by university faculty, government stakeholders, and other passionate supporters of physical education, all of whom have generously given their time and expertise to guide the development each step along the way. We are looking forward to introducing this exciting new curriculum with school boards, principals, teachers, and families to support the development of physical literacy among children and youth. It is expected that the outcomes framework for Primary-9 will be introduced in the next school year. Stay tuned!



February is Heart & Stroke Month

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

2012 was an exciting year of milestones for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Nova Scotia. We celebrated our 40th Anniversary with several events throughout the year, culminating in a 40th Anniversary Reception on November 30th. Part of these celebrations was the Century of Service Challenge Award, created to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's sixty years as Canada's ruling Monarch and our 40th Anniversary. Through this initiative, people of all ages have been able to receive commemorative medals through service to their communities and by researching the Royal Family.



www.dukeofed.org



The Leadership Experience Adventure Development (LEAD) event will be August 17-23, 2013. This event brings together Award participants from across Canada. LEAD 2013 is being held at B'Nai Brith Camp in Kenora, Ontario. Activities include high ropes, wall climbing, canoeing, and swimming, as well as participating in skill workshops, a volunteer project, and an overnight camping trip. The week ends with a youth forum – an opportunity for youth to share ideas and discuss ways to make a difference. Applications are available at www.dukeofed.org/lead-2013 Deadline is March 31, 2013.

It was a record year of growth, we enrolled 918 new participants, awarded 327 Awards, and now have over 3300 active participants engaged in the Duke Programme across the province! We have had twelve new schools register and welcomed 26 new teachers as Duke leaders. 50% of all participants in the programme still come from school groups. Thank you to our participating schools and leaders.

2013 is the 50th anniversary of the Award in Canada. There will be many more celebrations and events happening to commemorate this occasion.

We are continuing our mission of making this Internationally renowned programme available to all of Nova Scotia's youth. If your school would like to become involved, please contact us and we will be happy to provide information sessions, leader workshops and support. Together we can MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women

<http://women.gov.ns.ca>



**Nova Scotia
Advisory Council on
The Status of Women**

The United Nations declared October 11, 2012 as the world's first International Day of the Girl Child.

International Day of the Girl aims to make a difference in the lives of girls and young women as citizens and as powerful voices of change in their families, their communities and their nations.

International Day of the Girl promotes equal treatment and opportunities for girls around the world, and raises awareness about issues that affect them in areas such as leadership, law, nutrition, health care, education, training, and freedom from violence and abuse.

The Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women partnered with Avalon Sexual Health Centre and Nicole Landry for Girls Run the World: a one day workshop aimed at empowering girls. A [video](#), edited by Nicole Landry, demonstrating what the girls learned and shared is available on our [website](#).

In honour of the inaugural International Day of the Girl the Atlantic Canada Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women launched www.cybersafegirl.ca. The website provides online safety factsheets in English and French for girls, parents and educators.

March 8th is International Women's Day. Check the [community calendar](#) on our [website](#) for events taking place near you. If you have an event you would like added to our calendar, please send the event details to women@gov.ns.ca

Correspondence Studies

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

For more information, visit our website at

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

or call (902) 424-4054

Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement's Dollars with Sense delivers financial literacy lessons to students

First summer job, first savings account, and



Junior Achievement®

first responsibility with money... and there is that movie I want to see with my buddies on Friday, and the new PS3 game I want to buy! How can I save my money to do the things I want? What should I buy now and what is worth saving for? How can I make better choices with the money I have so I can save and plan for bigger goals in the future?

JA is excited to offer Dollars with Sense, a unique program designed to teach Nova Scotia's grade 8 students the skills to set personal goals, plan, and make smart decisions with their money. Through hands-on learning experiences, students gain practical information about personal money management, challenging them to apply these ideas in their own life.

In five hours, students are given the chance to learn financial literacy skills that allow them to manage their spending habits now in order to plan for later. The program's goal is to get students excited about taking control of their money, and encourage them to start thinking about their future.



The lessons focus students' thinking on what are needs, wants, and goals, and how to budget when making those decisions. Students are also

taught about their consumer rights and how to better keep track of their money, including how methods of payment, such as debit and credit cards, work.

"After today, I feel as if I am going to make smarter choices on how I spend my money," said a grade 8 student from Ridgecliff Middle School. "Today got me thinking about my future and how I can set goals to make things happen... like putting money away each month for a new mountain bike."

For more information on Junior Achievement programs, including Dollars with Sense visit www.janovascotia.org or call (902) 454-4564.

International Baccalaureate Keeping Up to Speed

Twenty-four International Baccalaureate (IB) **Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS)** supervisors and thirty-three IB mathematics teachers recently attended four IB workshops to upgrade their knowledge of IB



CAS and math requirements. Both programs have undergone significant changes. The four IB trainers travelled from Vancouver, Toronto, Portland, Oregon, and Naples, Florida to conduct the workshops hosted by the Halifax Regional School Board.

The participants praised the commitment and vast experience of the trainers who average 22 years in IB schools in North America. Susan Cox, the mathematics trainer from Portland, wrote a letter to the Department praising the enthusiasm of our teachers and their demonstrated concern for the success of their IB students.

"My reason for writing is to let you know how impressed I was with your teachers. I had a group of 20 and each of them was engaged throughout the entire two days. We spent a lot of time on the new Math Internal Assessment which is very different from what we have been doing and very different from what most teachers are comfortable with. Your teachers asked good questions and had great discussions with each other; their major concern is how best to serve the students.... Mathematically, you have a very talented group. It was a fully packed two days, and the teachers were fantastic to work with. Discussions were good; they asked a lot of questions; they are mathematically strong; and they are concerned about doing the best for the students."

The Nova Scotia IB schools are enjoying a welcome enrollment surge led by Citadel High and Halifax West each with a record 75 IB Diploma students registered in their grade 11 IB classes. Last fall, Horton High School became our thirteenth IB World School and is off to a strong start with 30 IB Diploma students registered in its grade 11 class, bringing the provincial total of IB Diploma students to 703 this year.

IB - Something Bigger

View this promotional video that features interviews with several International Baccalaureate students and their dedicated teachers.

Click [here](#) to view the video from the DVL site.

Evaluation Services

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

New Student Assessment Reports

At the end of January, teachers of students in grades 3 and 6 received reports indicating how their students performed on the Elementary Week Assessments. The reports have a new look, and new content. Student performance in reading, mathematics and writing is reported at one of four performance levels, and that performance level is shown visually as well as described in brief parent-friendly terms. Why parent-friendly? Because starting this school year there are no parent and guardian reports as distinct from the reports that go to teachers. One report for all users, with the information presented in ways that most readers will be able to readily understand and use.

The new Student Assessment Report is one of a number of changes made this year to PLANS – the Program of Learning Assessment for Nova Scotia. These changes include compressing all assessments in the elementary years into a single week in October, and all junior high assessments into a single week at the beginning of June. These same Student Assessment Reports will be used to convey information about student performance in grade 8 mathematics, reading and writing. Teachers of grade 9 students will receive these reports in early September.

The department made changes to PLANS to better support the learning of our students. In preparing for these changes we heard from and listened to comments and suggestions from teachers, principals, the NSTU, and parents. We believe the revisions we have made to the provincial program will better meet the needs of teachers to have meaningful information about their students, as well as the needs of schools to have data they can easily interpret to support professional learning and continuous school improvement. We are always open to and interested in your comments. Please feel free to write your thoughts at <https://plans.ednet.ns.ca/contact>

2012–2013 Nova Scotia Assessment: Mathematics in Grade 6 Student Assessment Report



Name: Sample Student
School: Nova Scotia Elementary

Provincial ID: 3100000000
School code: 2222

Birthdate: January 31, 2001
School Board: NS

About the Assessment

Grade 6 students wrote this assessment in October, 2012. Students completed a series of questions in each of the mathematics strands (number, patterns and relations, measurement, geometry, and statistics and probability). Questions were designed to assess how fully a student understands mathematics. Nova Scotia teachers worked with the Department of Education to develop this assessment and to set the assessment expectation. The expectation is what students should know and be able to do on their own at the beginning of grade 6.

Mathematics Overall Results

The student demonstrated a mathematics performance of Level 4 on this assessment.

Students at Level 4 can solve new and complex problems. They can apply number operations (+, −, ×, ÷) with ease. They can think carefully about whether an answer makes sense. They find math terms and symbols easy to use and to understand.

There is a range of performance at each level. The dot below shows where the student's result is located in the range.

Mathematics Performance	Not enough evidence too few questions attempted	Level 1 below the expectation	Level 2 approaching the expectation	Level 3 at the expectation	Level 4 above the expectation

Note: the student attempted 148 out of 149 questions.

The table below shows how the student performed on the components of mathematics on this assessment. This information may guide teachers in looking further into the student's achievement on various components of mathematics.

Mathematics Components		may require further attention	at/above the expectation
Strands	Number		✓
	Patterns and Relationships		✓
	Measurement		✓
	Geometry		✓
	Statistics and Probability		✓
Types of questions	Knowledge		✓
	Comprehension		✓
	Analysis		✓

Next steps

Parents, guardians, and teachers should review these results with the student's classroom work and discuss how they can work together to support student learning. For more information about the assessment, please visit the Evaluation Services Division website at <http://plans.ednet.ns.ca>.

Student Services

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

Technology Improving Education Network (TIENET) - Winter Update

Five school boards in Nova Scotia (SRSB, CBVRSB, AVRSB, TCRSB, and SSRSB) are fully implemented and three more (CCRSB, CSAP and HRSB) are rapidly rolling out TIENET with very positive feedback from the users. CCRSB now has 37 schools using TIENET, an additional 37 schools have been trained in January 2013, “the next phase of schools are eager to get started because the feedback from the schools using the system has been very positive, seen as ‘user friendly, convenient, and everything is at your fingertips!’”. SRSB has received positive feedback from Resource Teachers and many specialist teachers (Music, Art, Phys. Ed, etc.). In CBVRSB, all schools identified case managers who manage student documents in TIENET and many reports. They “appreciate the ease of organizing student documents at any time and from anywhere”. TCRSB has been getting overwhelmingly positive feedback since its board-wide launch in September 2012 “As we move forward and school teams become more familiar with the system, there is a definite excitement in the air!” One AVRSB resource teacher sums up the TIENET experience “It makes things so much easier. I am loving how TIENET is organized and having the students I work with all there for me is a great timesaver.” SSRSB has fully implemented TIENET across its school board. Its program planning teams are finding the process “much more streamlined and fluid, with the easy access to programming documents”. It has also “helped school teams to better evaluate/review all programming activities at the school levels through the use of reports built into the system. The collaboration among staff has dramatically improved due to the electronic access”.

All HRSB schools have received the first round of training before the holiday break. The second round of training will occur from mid-February until Spring Break. Schools are currently implementing Meeting Minutes and Referrals using TIENET, and will be implementing the full TIENET platform as of September 2013.

Pour nos amis au CSAP, the TIENET platform has now been translated, as are all the documents used in the student services management system. MAXIMUS is in the process of uploading it to the system. Board employees were trained on January 17 and 18. One pilot school in each of its 3 regions will begin using TIENET in February, and will be joined by the rest of the CSAP schools in September 2013.

The contributions and collaborations of the eight school boards’ TIENET Leads and the iNSchool project manager have been integral to the successful design and implementation of TIENET.



iNSchool is about leveraging technology to better support student achievement.

Educators now have access to real-time information on all of their students, schools and programs. Whether in the classroom or the boardroom, they can see what's happening *right away* so they can act *right away*.

iNSchool also includes a portal that gives students and parents quick and easy access to their current marks, attendance records, assignment due dates, and school announcements. It gives families a window on the classroom like never before.

Get Connected using the EduPortal!

<https://edapps.ednet.ns.ca/eduportal>

The EduPortal is your gateway to access the wide variety of different digital resources and services offered by the Department of Education specifically for educators. See page 28 for more information.

MSVU M. Ed. (Curriculum Studies, EAL Focus) proposed teacher cohort:

In response to an identified need for teachers who have English as an Additional Language (EAL) students to have an opportunity to pursue a graduate degree in EAL studies, the Student Services division has been exploring the possibility of an EAL teacher cohort with Saint Mary's University and Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU). Initially, the Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) program, offered jointly by the two universities, appeared to be the only local graduate level program that offered courses relevant to teaching English as an additional language. Although TESL is a nationally certified program, it is intended primarily for teachers of adult learners rather than for public school teachers. The M.Ed. (TESL) program does not require applicants to have teacher certification such as a B.Ed. for admission, and courses in this program are not designed specifically for public school teachers.

In August, 2013, MSVU proposed that the M.Ed (Curriculum Studies) program, with a focus on teaching English as an Additional Language, would more specifically address the needs of Primary to grade 12 teachers. This program requires a B.Ed., or equivalent, plus at least one year's teaching experience as a pre-requisite for admission. This MSVU M.Ed (Curriculum Studies) program includes courses in the areas of academic knowledge, language skills, and culture, and can be offered as a teacher cohort scheduled to begin in July, 2013, and completed by July 2015. The proposed "blended" instructional format comprises traditional on-site classes on weekends and during summer, and an integrated technology format to provide interactive instructional time online. This blended format will provide more flexibility in terms of time management and reduced travel time for participants.

This proposed cohort is being offered for interested teachers in CBVRSB, SRSB, and CCRSB, which represents the areas identified for the first year cohort. Two information meetings for teachers were held; one in Whycomagh on October 23, 2012 and one in Truro on January 14, 2013. Representatives from MSVU and the Department of Education's Student Services Division provided information for teachers who attended these meetings. Teachers from these boards who are interested in participating in the cohort must submit their application to MSVU by **February 15, 2013**. A minimum enrolment of 20 teachers is needed in order for the proposed cohort to proceed in July, 2013.

Learning Strategies 10, 11, 12 to become PSP Courses

Learning Strategies 10, 11 and 12 have been available for more than a decade as Locally Developed Courses to assist students requiring additional support in order to be successful in their transition to and from high school. As Locally Developed Courses these open, elective, credit courses were usually developed by individual schools and school boards and usually addressed organizational, study, and test-taking strategies to help students achieve curriculum outcomes in their other courses. These courses often varied in content and focus and many were in need of revision and updating.

In 2011-12, it was agreed that Student Services would take the lead in reviewing existing Learning Strategies courses to identify common themes and outcomes, and to determine areas for revision as well as developing new outcomes that are more relevant for students today. School boards were invited to name a teacher representative to participate on a Learning Strategies Advisory Committee to assist DoE staff in the development of new Learning Strategies 10, 11, and 12 courses to be included in the PSP. This committee first met in April 2012 to develop a preliminary outline of course themes and curriculum outcomes based on contributions and recommendations of the committee.

Five main themes were identified to provide a framework for the Learning Strategy Course at each grade level: Self-Awareness, Organizational Skills, Transition Skills, Literacy and Numeracy. Focus is on the gradual release of responsibility to support the student's acquisition of Essential Graduation Learnings. The goal is for each student to gain a better understanding of his/her individual learning styles and preferences to demonstrate and apply appropriate learning strategies in all subject and curriculum areas. It is recommended that the number of students not exceed 15 in order to best meet the highly individualized instructional components.

A Universal Design for Learning (UDL) model will support an inclusive classroom environment for learning. UDL is a curriculum-based approach to increase access and flexibility for learners and decrease barriers to learning. It begins with lesson planning and addresses learner diversity at the point of curriculum design, by building the tools of differentiation into the curriculum itself. Technology is also an integral and natural part of the 21st Century classroom and students will learn how technology can support their learning in an appropriate and effective way.

Course descriptions were provided to school boards in December to meet course selection, scheduling, and PowerSchool timelines. PSP course codes have been assigned and the draft curriculum guidelines developed. Work on curriculum guidelines will continue with completion anticipated by June 2013.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

Diane Malbin (2012), expert and researcher in FASD describes it as an “*umbrella term encompassing the medical diagnosis of full FAS [fetal alcohol syndrome] and the spectrum of effects included in FASD [FASD]; the spectrum includes alcohol-related neurodevelopmental, physical and neurobehavioural characteristics; it is descriptive, not diagnostic.*”

In 2009, a FASD Education Advisory Committee was formed to review the current research on FASD and make recommendations to Student Services.

Recommendation No. 1 from the committee’s report was to create a collection of educational resources to support differentiated instruction and programming for students who present with characteristics similar to those under the umbrella of FASD. After an extensive review of research and resources, the committee created a FASD Education Kit as a PD/consultation resource for teachers. The DoE’s Student Services Division sent 24 Kits to the eight school boards during December and January. (List of resources included in kit available at: <http://studentservices.ednet.ns.ca/sites/default/files/FASD%20Kit.pdf>)

The kit is organized in three colour-coded parts:

Part 1 – Theoretical and General Background on FASD

Part 2 – Resources for Differentiation and to Support Programming

Part 3 – Material for Professional Development Materials

Considering the occurrence rate of FASD being widely accepted in literature as 1:100, numbers comparable to autism, we can presume that over 1000 NS students are living and learning with a range of characteristics found under the umbrella of the FASD (ranging from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome [FAS] to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder [FASD]). It is, therefore, important to familiarize ourselves with the range of strengths and challenges these learners have. FASD is a lifelong and invisible physical disability, and often undiagnosed. The range of conditions affects behaviour, cognition and metacognition, as well as mental and physical effects.

Feel free to consult our online resources and links at www.studentservices.ednet.ns.ca, including the very practical Alberta Education Binder available at <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/resources/fasd.aspx>

Should you require further information, contact your board’s Student Services consultants or facilitators, or Daniel Demers demersdd@gov.ns.ca, Student Services Division, NS Department of Education.

PEERS Social Skills Training January 29-February 2013

Over 60 Educators gathered at the NSTU for four days to take training in PEERS, Program for the Evaluation and Enrichment of Relational Skills, a social skills program for junior high and high school students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities. The intensive workshop, organized by Susan Jozsa, Autism Consultant with Student Services, gave participants the opportunity to learn about this unique evidence based social skills program that provides in depth teaching strategies to help students become skilled in interacting with peers and make long lasting friendships.

Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson, author of the program, is the Director of the UCLA PEERS Clinic, and Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry



From left to right: Joanne Porter, ASD Specialist, AVRSB; Catherine Rahey, ASD Specialist, SSRSB; Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson; Susan Jozsa, Autism Consultant, DOE; Lori Logue, CCRSB

and Biobehavioral Sciences at the UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior. A knowledgeable, articulate and engaging presenter, Dr. Laugeson made that critical link between research and real life experience. Through role plays, video examples and audience participation Dr. Laugeson identified the steps involved in making meaningful, lasting friendships, demonstrated teaching strategies to involve students as active learners in the process and laid out a framework for developing a cohesive social skills program.

Everyone at the training found the four days to be a valuable, positive experience. They are enthusiastically looking forward to planning implementation in their boards.





NS International Programs

Expanding Horizons – A Principal in China

Ron Naud arrived at Shenyang No. 2 High School four years ago with the intent of visiting a new country and learning about its culture, while working as a principal of a Nova Scotia program in a public school in China. What started out as a one-year stint turned into a whole other career.

The Chinese educational system is really quite different from the public school system in Nova Scotia. Chinese learning is mostly rote learning, or memorization, while the Nova Scotia system aims to provide students with opportunities to develop the understanding and skills needed to identify and solve problems. The compulsory subjects that are offered in the Nova Scotia program apply to all aspects of life and provide a broad and solid foundation for future learning. Ron believes that the Nova Scotia educational system is excellent and because the public school program is strong, the international program in Shenyang continues to make many positive steps forward.

When Ron came to China four years ago the program was in its third year of operation and followed a very traditional path; however, since that time many changes have taken place. They have introduced additional courses to provide students with more choices, and the facilities and technology have greatly improved.

The support that Ron receives from his Chinese employers is greatly appreciated, and they work extremely well as a team.

Ron is very pleased with the success they have with their graduates being accepted by Canadian universities and colleges. The teachers and staff take the time to support students in making the right decision on their choice of university or college. To date, the majority of graduates go to Nova Scotia universities.

Ronald L. Naud is the Principal, Shenyang No. 2 High School, (Sino-Canadian Nova Scotia Program) Liaoning Province, China



High School Students in China!

Programs in China

Beijing No. 25 Middle School International Dept.
Changchun Experimental High School
Chengdu Foreign Languages School
English School attached to Guangdong University
Guiyang No. 1 High School
Handan No. 1 High School
Henan Experimental High School
Jilin No. 1 High School
Karamay Senior High School

Luoyang No. 1 High School
Middle School attached to Hebei Normal University
Nanchang No. 2 High School
Shenyang No. 2 High School
Soochow University High School - Canadian Program
Tangshan No. 1 High School
Tongchuan No. 1 Middle School
Tsinghua Experimental School - Shenzhen
Xingtai No. 1 High School



NS International Programs

Two and a half years ago, I was happily settled as literacy coach in three rural Nova Scotia high schools, working hard, making a difference. I had always wanted to travel, but there were responsibilities that kept me close to home. A month later, I applied and received a position in a high school in China, a contract as principal of the Sino-Canada (Nova Scotia) Program in Suzhou.

A flurry of planning and preparing ensued: retire from my school board, find renters for my home, get a medical, a visa, renew my passport, find out about non-resident status, set up a financial power of attorney, put my things in storage, pack for China, weigh it, remove some, weigh it again, remove more—you get the picture. Four very busy months later, I was in Shanghai. The air was scorching during the day, but sultry and soft at night; the architecture amazing, the lights incredible. It really was another world.

Working in my school has been a study in both joy and frustration. Students are very hard-working, but some enter grade 10 with few skills in English, so the first few months can be intense. Parents are supportive, but can have high expectations that need gentle but firm adjustment.

Life in China can be challenging, adjusting to different foods, different concepts of personal and public cleanliness, politeness, air pollution, and getting used to not understanding most of what is said around you. But in return, you will feel yourself stretch in many ways, and becoming a richer person as a result.

Suzhou is a city of 13 million, cosmopolitan and modern, with the old city of ancient buildings, lovely canals and classic gardens located at its centre. The people are warm and welcoming. Within days of arriving I met people who will remain friends for life, and I have been adopted into two Chinese families as an honorary grandmother or “nani”.

Would I do it again? Yes, next year! Should you try it? Yes, if you have an open mind, an open heart and the ability to be flexible!

Lea Pelletier is a Principal of a school in Suzhou, China offering the NS High School diploma program.

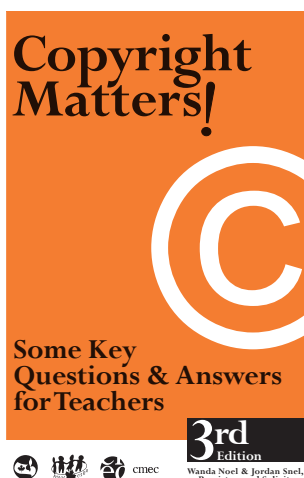


Lea and her students.

Copyright Matters!: Some Key Questions & Answers for Teachers (3rd Edition)

http://cmec.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/291/Copyright_Matters.pdf

Canada's copyright legislation has recently changed and allows special educational exemptions for resources that teachers, library and education support staff will find useful. This booklet published by CMEC (Council of Ministers of Education in Canada) helps answer some questions you may have.



Are you using the EduPortal?

<https://edapps.ednet.ns.ca/eduportal>

The EduPortal is your gateway to access the wide variety of different digital resources and services offered by the Department of Education specifically for educators. See page 28 for more information.

Student Contests

Contests to engage students.

Canada's Coolest School Trip

<http://contest.myparkspass.ca>

Deadline: March 24, 2013

Grade 8 classes could win a trip to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Louisbourg. Create a print, video or audio advertisement for one of two Parks Canada sites on Cape Breton Island, and enter. Classes can vote for their favourite ads between March 4 to 22, 2013.

Canada's Next Green Journalist

www.youngwritersofcanada.ca

Deadline: March 1, 2013

On this year's theme of "litter", youth are asked to submit an article, photo, or a video that will shed light on the problem of litter and solutions that friends and family can follow. Submissions will be accepted in two age categories: 11-14, and 15-18.

Fryer, Galois and Hypatia Mathematics Contests

www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/fgh.html

Registration deadline: March 15, 2013

Organized by the University of Waterloo, the Fryer, Galois and Hypatia Math Contests are an opportunity for students to write a full-solution contest. They are fun way to develop mathematical problem solving skills through a written mathematical activity.

Geography Challenge

www.geochallenge.ca

Deadline for registration: February 28, 2013

Open to Canadian students from grades 4 to 10, and divided into two levels of skill, the Geography Challenge aims to build interest in geography among young Canadians by allowing them to test their knowledge in friendly competition. Fun, educational and easy to administer.

Heritage Fairs

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

2013 marks the 20th anniversary of Heritage Fairs in Canada and the 15th Anniversary for the program in NS. The fair will be held on Friday 31st May at Fishermans Cove, Eastern Passage. The top 15 entries will be showcased at the Glooscap Heritage Centre in Truro on Saturday 27th April, 2013. Two to three videos will be chosen to represent NS at the National level.

History of Canadian North & First Nations - Video Contest

nsheritagefairs@gmail.com

Deadline: April 5, 2013

Canada's History Society is looking for 40 students to act as reporters to research and discuss topics relating to Northern and Aboriginal themes. Students are invited to create a 3-4 minute video on a topic relating to Aboriginals, the North and the Arctic.



Public Schools Branch consists of the following Divisions:

African Canadian Services.	902-424-3151	acsd@ednet.ns.ca	http://acs.ednet.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	https://fsl.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	macissima@gov.ns.ca	http://mikmaq.ednet.ns.ca
Student Services.	902-424-7454	studentsvcs@ednet.ns.ca	http://studentservices.ednet.ns.ca
Senior Executive Director	902-424-5829	delbrisd@gov.ns.ca	

Nova Scotia Department of Education website: <http://www.ednet.ns.ca>
Toll Free Access to Department 1-888-825-7770