



# Branching Out

news from the public schools branch

## HRSB Hosts Tech Tune-Up 2014



Tech Tune-Up 2014 was hosted by the Halifax Regional School Board March 10-11 in Halifax. This biennial conference brings together Information Technology professionals from across the province who support public education in Nova Scotia. Sessions focused on technology in the classroom, with many great presenters and vendors participating. Visit [techtuneup2014.hrsb.ca](http://techtuneup2014.hrsb.ca) for more information.

# A Message from the Senior Executive Director

As you may have heard, on February 19 the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development announced that it is embarking on a comprehensive review of the public education system. It will make the first time in 25 years that a complete review of education has been undertaken.

Former lieutenant governor, the Honourable Myra Freeman, an educator with decades of experience, will lead a panel to identify what Nova Scotians think needs to be done to strengthen the public education system. She is joined by five panelists who will seek public opinion on what is working with public education and what needs improvement.

The other panelists are Tina Dixon, Bear River, Digby Co.; Mike Henderson, Brookfield, Colchester Co.; Kyle Hill, Toronto, formerly of Yarmouth; Gordon MacInnis, Glace Bay; and Donna O’Connell, Pugwash, Cumberland Co.

The review will look at many components, from curriculum to technology to student outcomes, and how to better adapt the education system to ensure success of all students in the changing environment. A partners’ advisory group will also assist the panel contribute to the review and will consist of a diverse group of organizations and educational partners, including those representing teachers, school boards, universities, African Nova Scotians, Mi’kmaq, Acadians, and youth.

It is critical to the success of the panel that we hear from teachers, principals, and school administrators. Your thoughts and perspectives reflect real challenges and opportunities in our classrooms and schools. Your input will help guide the panel in understanding current realities and possibilities for the future.

In the coming weeks the panel will be collecting feedback through submissions and through an online survey. A Minister’s Action Plan on Education will be developed that will reflect the input of Nova Scotians during the consultation period. I encourage everyone to take the time to contribute. Your feedback will help shape the future of education in Nova Scotia.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts on improving the system and creating a brighter future for our students.

Sincerely,

*Nancy*

Nancy Pynch-Worthylake  
Senior Executive Director  
Public Schools Branch  
Department of Education & Early  
Childhood Development



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## Branching Out

Past issues of Branching Out can be found at <http://www.lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>

If you wish to subscribe, please send us an email: [lrt@ednet.ns.ca](mailto:lrt@ednet.ns.ca)

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



18 **ARTS**

8  
**EDUfest**  
Summer Learning for Teachers  
Formation pendant l'été pour les enseignants

**Technology**  
EDUCATION  
35

  
23  
**FAMILY**  
STUDIES

28  
April 8, 2014

The Sixth Annual National  
**Healthy Schools Day**  
in Canada  
Journée des écoles  
saines du Canada

**ViewFinders**  
ATLANTIC FILM FESTIVAL FOR YOUTH  
12

**social**  
studies  
24

**UNPLUG**  
&  
**PLAY**  
30

# CONTENTS

## FROM LIBRARY TO LEARNING COMMONS

6 | FEATURE ARTICLE ON ONE LIBRARY'S  
TRANSITION TOWARDS THE LEARNING  
COMMONS MODEL

## BRAIN WAR

11 | COMPETITION RESULTS

## TEACHERS CONFERENCE

10 | HUMANITARIAN EDUCATION:  
EXPLORING HUMANITARIAN LAW  
APRIL 7-9, 2014

## LEARNING RESOURCES & TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

14 | COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS, NOVA SCOTIA  
VIRTUAL SCHOOL, MEDIA LIBRARY,  
CBC NEWS IN REVIEW

## MATHEMATICS

22 | MATHEMATICS UPDATES, MATH CIRCLES

## MI'KMAQ SERVICES

26 | ATLANTIC NATIVE TEACHERS'  
EDUCATION CONFERENCE, 100 YEARS  
OF LOSS EDU-KIT

## HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

28 | HEALTHY SCHOOLS DAY, MENTAL HEALTH  
ACADEMY, THRIVE!, MAKING TRACKS, UNPLUG  
AND PLAY, NSSAF, ACTIVE KIDS HEALTHY KIDS

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

38 | LITERACY SUMMER INSTITUTES, RESOURCES  
TO SUPPORT TALK, A FOCUS ON PLAY



## What is A Learning Commons?

A School Learning Commons is an inviting, collaborative space where students are actively immersed in their learning, where qualified library specialists and teachers promote inquiry, research, collaboration and the seamless integration of technology, as well as a virtual space where students are independent users and creators of information. It is a hum of activity focusing on content creation and synthesizing of information. Gone are the days of the traditional school library and librarians 'shushing' in the background. The 21st century Learning Commons is the hub and the heart of the school, 'owned' by students and staff alike.

See more at: <http://aslc.ca/blog/what-is-a-learning-commons-anyway#sthash.9RKIKped.dpuf>



Five Bridges Junior High in the process of transitioning from a Library to a Learning Commons. We hope to post an update as they progress over the next school year.

## From Library to Learning Commons

### One Schools' Journey

*Five Bridges Junior High in Hubley, Nova Scotia, is a school of approximately 550 students and 43 staff members. Erica Smith is the Library Technician at the school and President of NSALT (Nova Scotia Association of Library Technicians), who worked with her school community towards planning and implementing the Learning Commons concept for her school.*

Last year I decided to do a review of our school library. I had established clubs and programs for staff and students. I was collaborating with staff to support students in the classroom. The programs and clubs were very successful and I wondered where I could take the library to support students in today's world. I asked myself if I was meeting the needs of the 21st century student.

My research began with talking to other library staff from across the province to see what they were doing within their schools. Then I took my research to the national level and spent time looking at what was taking place in Alberta and Ontario. This is when I was introduced to the library learning commons model.

I met with groups of students and staff and asked for their views of the 21st century school library, and then, based on their feedback, drafted a plan to take to my administration.

After many discussions and approval from the principal, the plan was presented to staff and students. The students showed a keen interest in the physical layout and furniture and I prompted them to take a leadership role in this area, redesigning the library and creating a floor plan for my approval, with the goal to create a flexible learning environment. A budget was approved and the work began, evaluating and weeding the collection, re-arranging shelving units, purchasing flexible easy to use furniture, a fresh paint job, and adding a multimedia centre.

During the renovations life continued with author visits, club meetings and classes. It was cramped, but part

of the library learning commons model is to be flexible and adapt to new circumstances! The entire school community has embraced the new space. It is a vibrant, active learning space where information is not only consumed, but also created.

For our virtual space, the consultations revealed a need for more databases, multimedia tools, e-books and space for student centred content.

The next step of our Learning Commons plan is to complete the multimedia centre (which includes a mounted LCD, green screen, and the addition of netbooks and tablets), training of school staff ("Tech Crew" students will be assisting), and creating an "App Centre" (which will feature "app of the week" for students and staff).

Our journey toward a Learning Commons continues; I look forward to the continued collaboration with the Five Bridges community as we reimagine learning.

### Resources:

Together for learning – Ontario Library Association  
[http://www.accessola.com/data/6/rec\\_docs/677\\_OLATogetherforLearning.pdf](http://www.accessola.com/data/6/rec_docs/677_OLATogetherforLearning.pdf)

What is a library learning commons anyway? – Alberta School Library Council

<http://aslc.ca/blog/what-is-a-learning-commons-anyway>

Learning Commons – British Columbia

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=yYIJRJo-Yc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=yYIJRJo-Yc)

Library to Learning Commons: A Recipe for Success

<http://www.cea-ace.ca/education-canada/article/library-learning-commons>

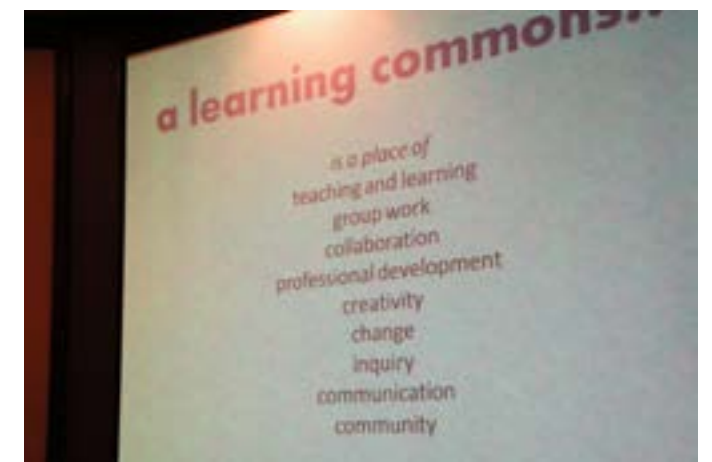


Photo: Valerie Diggs, The Learning Commons as Physical Space, SLJ Summit 09  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/10557450@N04/3975383434/>  
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# EDUfest 2014

## SUMMER LEARNING FOR TEACHERS



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

EDUfest refers to all summer learning opportunities for educators and is organized by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD). While there are events scheduled throughout July and August, our EDUfest week, hosted by the Nova Scotia Community College-Waterfront Campus in Dartmouth, will be held August 11-15, 2014. During that week we have organized workshops on a variety of co curricular topics.

Our new website will be ready for visitors by mid-April. There will be full information about all workshops and registration procedures. This year we are introducing a new feature on our website: EDUfest At A Glance, a calendar of all events scheduled during July and August.

All of our high quality sessions are developed with the Nova Scotia educator in mind. There are more than 50 workshops representing a variety of topics:

Autism	Inquiry Based Learning
Culturally Diverse Classrooms	Mathematics
Dance/Drama/Music/Visual Arts	Physical Education
EDUfest Kids	Reading
Environment/Sustainability/Conservation	Science: Hands On/Minds On
Français – langue seconde	Student Services
Healthy Living/Family Studies	Wood Production Technology
Information Technology	



## EDUfest Kids

### EDUFest Kids is back!

EDUFest Kids is a hands-on, minds-on learning opportunity for children, ages 5-12 years, during the week of August 11-15, 2014 at NSCC Waterfront Campus in Dartmouth. Participants attending sessions at NSCC Waterfront may register their children for these well-organized sessions designed to run concurrently with the summer learning opportunities for teachers.



## IT Summer Camp for Teachers

**August 6-8, 2014**

**St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish**

This is three-day residential summer institute is for public school teachers who are interested in exploring ways of integrating technology in their classrooms.

Sessions will help you to explore topics such as blended learning and integrating digital resources connected to the curriculum. Select from a variety of mini Tech Sessions including video editing, emerging new technologies, podcasting, creating websites, iPad sessions (beginner & advanced), using Moodle (beginner & advanced), productivity tools (word processing, presentation tools, spreadsheets etc.) as well as curriculum-focused sessions, with resources for teachers at all levels.

You will have time to work on topics of interest to you and to participate in discussions about the ins and outs of using technology as a transformative force in your teaching and in student learning. Engage your students; explore the possibilities that technology can have in your teaching.

Apply through your School Board Technology Integration Coordinator. Contact Ray Fernandes for more information: [fernandr@gov.ns.ca](mailto:fernandr@gov.ns.ca) Updates will be posted on the LRTS website: <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>







## Teachers Conference Humanitarian Education: Exploring Humanitarian Law

April 7-9, 2014

Canadian Red Cross, 133 Troop Ave, Dartmouth, NS

Registration is FREE

Open to Junior & Senior High Teachers

For more information or to register contact:

Kalina McCaul, [kalina.mccaul@redcross.ca](mailto:kalina.mccaul@redcross.ca) (902) 424-1833

- Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) is an international education program for young people (13-18) to learn about humanitarian action, international law, and justice.
- EHL addresses outcomes in citizenship, interdependence, communication, and more.
- Participants in the EHL Teachers Conference will gain knowledge about the humanitarian perspective, the limits in war, international justice, and the international responses to the consequences of war.



Human Dignity:  
the EHL curriculum  
helps educators  
to teach the  
importance of  
protecting human  
rights.

## Brain War

Brain War is an ambitious, challenging STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) competition designed to engage high school, post-secondary, and community/corporate teams in a contest of the best minds to test their skills and knowledge. Fourteen Nova Scotia high school teams participated in this event. The contest took place on Saturday, February 22, 2014 at St. Mary's University. Brain War, conceived and developed by the not-for-profit Discovery Centre, saw teams of four compete in a series of stations, each testing a different component or combination of skills such as reasoning, problem solving, logic, spatial manipulation, memory, and cognition.



After much jockeying, strategizing, and gamesmanship, five teams emerged to compete in the finale on February 27, which proved to be an evening full of entertainment and intense brain power. In the finale, Horton High School placed third. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Discovery Centre would like to thank and congratulate all of the Brain Warriors. You were a true indication of the expansive knowledge, creativity, and strategic minds right here in Nova Scotia!

To see the final ranking and photos from the contest, go to <http://brainwar.ca>. Next year Brain War will be held on February 21, 2015.



River Hebert District High School's Team, Raiders.



## Roots of Empathy Changing the world, child by child [www.rootsofempathy.org](http://www.rootsofempathy.org)

Improving the social and emotional well-being of children in Nova Scotia since 2003.

77 grade P-8 classes are participating throughout Nova Scotia in 2013-14. Including this year's participants, approximately 14 000 children in the province have been impacted through program participation. The first Roots of Empathy francophone training for Nova Scotia took place in the fall of 2013.

E-mail [hclarke@rootsofempathy.org](mailto:hclarke@rootsofempathy.org) for information on 2014-15 Atlantic programs.



Grade 2 Class, Brookland Elementary School, Sydney



# *ViewFinders: Atlantic Film Festival for Youth* *runs from April 6th to 12th, 2014*



[atlanticfilm.com/vf](http://atlanticfilm.com/vf)



The 13th annual ViewFinders: Atlantic Film Festival for Youth, a production of the Atlantic Film Festival, is a celebration of all things film, by and for young people, ages 3–18.

Since 2001, ViewFinders has brought over 50,000 young people to the movies. Offering daytime screenings and workshops for school groups and evening screenings showcasing the films of young Atlantic Canadian filmmakers, ViewFinders brings the best of international and local film to educational-based audiences, while also celebrating the original works of young people with a passion for film and video.

“ViewFinders strives to introduce and engage our region’s young people with cinema in a way that is entertaining, educational and productive,” said Jeff Parker, ViewFinders Manager.

This year’s school program begins with its popular daytime screenings, which have become a mainstay class-trip destination for local teachers and their students. Film program highlights include the latest installment of the popular Quebec Les Boys series, *Il était une fois les Boys*; *Amazonia*, a nature film set in the world’s biggest rainforest, which will screen in both French and English; and *Arctic Defenders*, the Winner of Best Atlantic Feature at the 2013 Atlantic Film Festival directed by Halifax-based filmmaker, John Walker.

The screenings will take place at Cineplex Cinemas Dartmouth Crossing from Tuesday, April 8 to Thursday, April 10 and at Cineplex Cinemas Park Lane on Friday, April 11. In order to make ViewFinders as accessible as possible, Cineplex Entertainment subsidizes the costs of bussing participating schools, offering up to \$300 per school.

Working with a Teachers’ Advisory Committee (TAC), ViewFinders ensures that relevant Nova Scotia SCOs are addressed, and pre- and post-screening activities are recommended. These educational resources can be found on our website.

For more information and to book tickets, visit ViewFinders online: [atlanticfilm.com/vf](http://atlanticfilm.com/vf)



# Digital Resources for Teachers



**Learning Resources and Technology Services (LRTS)** develops policy and implements a vision and sustainable standards for the public school curricular use of information and communication technology. Visit our website: <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>

## Computers For Schools - <http://trp.ednet.ns.ca>

**Computers for Schools is celebrating 20 years of helping Nova Scotia students learn by using technology.**

Computers for Schools refurbishes and distributes more than 5,000 computers annually to public schools and another 1,000 to First Nations' schools, private schools, libraries, Literacy Nova Scotia and other non-profit organizations. More than 90,000 refurbished computers have been distributed to date.

"I'd like to congratulate everyone involved with Computers for Schools on reaching the 20-year milestone," said Patricia Arab, MLA for Fairview-Clayton Park, on behalf of Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Karen Casey. "On behalf of Minister Casey, and the thousands of Nova Scotians who have benefited from Computers for Schools, thank you for helping to make computers accessible to all Nova Scotians."

More than half of the computers in Nova Scotia schools come from Computers for Schools.

"For 20 years, the Computers for Schools Program has given students the opportunity to learn, connect and communicate, building skills that are essential for their future education and careers," said Industry Minister James Moore. "Our government is proud to collaborate with donors, partners, and volunteers to continue supporting the refurbishment of surplus computers and allowing them to be reused in schools and other learning organizations across the country."

The program also hires new IT graduates through the Technical Work Experience Program. More than 300 IT graduates have gained first-hand work experience over the 20 years and some now work as technicians in the public school system.

Computers for Schools re-uses or refurbishes donated desktops, laptops, printers, servers and other equipment from provincial and federal government offices, as well as from private-sector companies and recycles all its e-waste through the provincial recycling program. It is funded by the province and Industry Canada, with support from The Nova Scotia School Boards Association, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, and private sector partners.

For more information about Computers for Schools, visit <http://trp.ednet.ns.ca>



## Learning Resources Technology



# Learning Technology Together



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.

**Registration for 2013/14 is now open.**



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

The Media Library is the place to go for all your curriculum video 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 almost all subject areas of the Nova Scotia curriculum. Visit our website, search our catalogue, and contact us for assistance.



CBC News in Review

CBC News in Review is an educational video resource designed to inform and teach students about current events,

the big headlines and feature news stories in Canada and around the world. Teachers and students have access to CBC News in Review through the Online Video Library (Learn360). Find episodes from February 2010 to the present.

**Here are the stories for February 2014:**

1. [Nelson Mandela: An International Symbol](#)
2. [Pope Francis Making Headlines](#)
3. [Addiction and the Food Industry](#)
4. [Winter's Bitter Grip](#)

\*NOTE: To access links, in a separate window simply login to the EduPortal: <https://edapps.ednet.ns.ca/eduportal> - click on "Online Video Library" - and then return to this page and click on the links

Click here to access the News in Review series: <http://www.learn360.com/Search.aspx?Series=8303076&lid=16488891>



# School Libraries



[www.hackmatack.ca](http://www.hackmatack.ca)

Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award

Hackmatack Ceremony:  
Friday May 30, 2014 / 10am to 11am

Grades 4, 5, and 6

There are several children's choice book awards in Canada, but Hackmatack is unique because it's a regional award rather than just a provincial one. That means young readers across Atlantic Canada are sharing in the joy of reading some of the best

Canadian books.

The awards ceremony is travelling road show, and this year it's headed to Charlottetown PEI. But don't worry, Hackmatackers in Nova Scotia and the other three Atlantic Canadian provinces will be able to share in the excitement of the ceremony via livestreaming!

The link will be available on the Hackmatack website, the hour-long ceremony will be available for viewing live on Friday, May 30th at 10am. And don't forget, votes are due on April 1, 2014.

We'd love to have your feedback on the program and the ceremony. Just email [hackmatack@hackmatack.ca](mailto:hackmatack@hackmatack.ca)

Kate Watson, Hackmatack Coordinator

# School Libraries

## YA Hotline

The YA Hotline is a bi-annual newsletter published by the School of Information Management at Dalhousie University. The newsletter contains a large amount of information and resources for both young adults and young adult librarians including book reviews, resource lists, bibliographies, feature articles, interviews and more.

Check out the two newest editions that just came out:

### No 97 (2014): REMIX CULTURE

Remix culture refers to the practice of taking one or more pre-existing artistic works and combining or re-inventing the material into something new. Artistic works could be music, movies, books, or visual art. In today's increasingly digital world, creating remixes and mashups is becoming more and more popular, especially in teen culture.

<http://ojs.library.dal.ca/YAHS/issue/view/Remix>

### No 98 (2014): HALLOWEEN HORROR EDITION

This issue contains a variety of articles related to the ever-popular YA-horror genre, particularly relevant for the Hallowe'en season.

<http://ojs.library.dal.ca/YAHS/issue/view/342>

## National Reading Campaign

<http://nationalreadingcampaign.ca>

The new website, which includes a special "Librarian's Toolkit" and children's book review project, is up and running. Find links to research, resources, and more. Reviews will be accompanied by a Creative Commons License permitting them to be reused elsewhere. If you would like to be on the distribution list for the reviews, email [info@nationalreadingcampaign.ca](mailto:info@nationalreadingcampaign.ca)



## Winter 2014 Issue of School Libraries in Canada

<http://clatoolbox.ca/casl/slicv32n1/321cover.html>

The theme of the Winter 2014 issue of School Libraries in Canada is "From Everyday Challenges to the Peaks of Human Achievement". This issue features articles on the school learning commons, book reviews, upcoming titles, and financial literacy resources for educators from the Canada Revenue Agency.

## EBSCO Tip

### Creating a Journal Alert:

Do you have a staff member or student who is passionate about a topic? Why not set up an email alert to notify them when the latest edition of their favorite journal is added to EBSCO? Just log-in to your 'MyEBSCO' account, and select the 'Publications' button at the top of the screen. Select the appropriate database, and then either scroll through or search for the publication you are interested in. Once you have found one, click on the title. This takes you to the publication details page. From here, click the 'Share' button on the right of the screen, and select e-mail alert, complete the 'Create Alert' form, and hit 'Save Alert.' You can use the 'Advanced Settings' to specify how long to continue with the alerts.

Here is a short tutorial, to get you started:

[http://support.epnet.com/training/flash\\_videos/journal\\_alerts/journal\\_alerts.html](http://support.epnet.com/training/flash_videos/journal_alerts/journal_alerts.html)

### View the recent LRTS webinars posted on the DVL

Online Resources & Research Tools: Using EBSCO Databases Effectively with Your Students

Click here: [Grades P-6](#)

[Grades 7-12](#)





## Ensemble 2014

April 10-13, 2014 / Halifax

<http://orffcanadainc2014.com>

Attention all Music Educators!

You are invited to attend Ensemble 2014, the 23rd National Carl Orff Canada Conference taking place at the Halifax Marriott Hotel from April 10-13, 2014. 400 delegates plus 18 clinicians from New Zealand, Austria, the United States, and Canada are expected to be in Halifax for this event. Forty workshops plus children's

performances and cultural entertainment from some of Halifax's finest musicians will inspire both french and english music educators. There is something for everyone – no matter what your background! The picture (left) features the Halifax Regional School Board Children's Orffestra performing at NSMEA Oct. 2013.



## Art Through the Ages – From Primitive to Present-Day



The grade 1 and 2 students of Mrs. Duncan/Mrs. Fry's class at Windsor Elementary School have been exploring change through the millennia – as seen in these creative art displays.



Planning for Edufest 2014 has begun and there will be an exciting array of professional learning opportunities available. Workshops will be offered in dance, drama, music, and visual arts.

Details for each workshop will be available in the May issue. Picture: Mosaic Mania visual arts workshop offered at EduFest 2013.



## Dates of Note:

- April 10-13, Ensemble 2014: National Carl Orff Canada Conference, Halifax
- April 14-16, Growing a Creative Economy, A Conference for Creativity, Collaboration & Change, Sydney
- April 25, deGarthe Art Scholarship application deadline
- May 1-3, Dramafest, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- May 5, Music Monday
- April 29, International Dance Day
- May 15-18, Podium Conference (national choral conference), Halifax
- August 11-18, EduFest

# Arts in Education



## Growing a Creative Economy

Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design will host the second annual Growing a Creative Economy, A Conference for Creativity, Collaboration & Change, April 14-16, 2014. The conference will focus on growing our economy and strengthening our communities through collaboration and creativity.

Day one will focus on the craft artisans and providing them with creative ways to grow their businesses. Day two will provide delegates with an overview of the broader creative economy in Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada. On day three the focus will turn to the Next Generation and Creative Education. Remix Project Co-Founder Gavin Sheppard will facilitate a panel of youth and present their action plan for youth and the arts. Check [creativeconference.ca](http://creativeconference.ca) for further information.

## International Dance Day

It's back! Signup for the Dare to Dance Challenge—the challenge that dares your school to dance! Hip hop, step dance, form a conga line, or just boogie! Last year over 10,000 students danced in over 50 schools!

Email [programs@dancens.ca](mailto:programs@dancens.ca) for further information and to sign up.

International Dance Day 2013 at Annapolis East Elementary School





## Spring News



**April:** ArtsExpress coordinator Sabine Fels will be presenting on the topic of youth engagement through the arts at the "Growing a Creative Community" Conference in Sydney, Cape Breton, April 14-16. The topic of creative collaboration and change will be explored by Tonya Surman from CSI, Sarah Richardson from HGTV and Gavin Sheppard from the Remix Project.

**May:** ArtsExpress has teamed up with the Weird Beard Puppet Troupe, a group of creative and passionate volunteers originally from Cape Breton, who have come together to produce an annual theatrical experience using life size puppets in black light. Their puppeteers are youth and adults with Down syndrome. This year's Weird Beard production with Team Possibles will be "The Three Little Pigs", which are definitely not so little. ... The performance will be held at J.L. Ilsley's ArtsSpace in May 5-11, 2014.



**June:** The ongoing Bloodlines art project with United Way artist-in-residence Miro Davis is nearing completion this spring. The piece is a collaborative art work created by hundreds of participants from all age groups who expressed their reflections about kinship, family, heritage and personal bloodlines in clay, which was then cast in ruby red glass. The finished piece is a large scale art installation, constructed with wrought iron, copper, glass, wire and lighting.

Bloodlines will be exhibited at the AGNS during Nocturne 2014, but we are already starting to look for a permanent home in a public building. Please contact Sabine Fels at [sfels@hrsb.ca](mailto:sfels@hrsb.ca) for more information or if you have any suggestion for a suitable location. Previous art pieces created by youth with Miro Davis are now installed at the Provincial Court House, the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia and in the board room of the Minister of Education & Early Childhood Development.

"Far from home", created by Emma Cooper, former United Way staff.



**Art Gallery of Nova Scotia**

[www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca](http://www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca)



Graeme Patterson

***The Mountain***

7ft H 20ft W x 10ft L

Wood, fabric, mixed materials,  
video/audio components

Secret Citadel is Graeme Patterson's most recent work. It tells a nostalgic story of two characters who embark on bittersweet adventures. The stages of life from childhood to adulthood are conveyed in animated videos that accompany large sculptures containing highly detailed miniature worlds. Though Patterson focuses on male friendships, viewers can relate to the subtleties and complexities inherent in all close relationships.

### Book Today!

Book your visit to the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia now! We have a new slate of exhibitions that connect to curriculum in the classroom.

Tour Days: Tuesday to Friday

Time: 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

Length: Tours are 1.5 hours

Free of charge thanks to the support of Canaccord Wealth Management.

To Book: Contact Laura Carmichael, Assistant Curator of Education at 424-6314 or [carmiclm@gov.ns.ca](mailto:carmiclm@gov.ns.ca)

Check out our website for more information about school tour options and exhibitions.

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





# Mathematics

### Webinars For Teachers

Four webinars in mathematics have been posted to the mathematics section of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Digital Video Library. These webinars provide professional learning for teachers related to digital resources and important ideas in mathematics. Click on the title below or visit the site at [dvl.ednet.ns.ca](http://dvl.ednet.ns.ca)

- [Mathematics P-3: Partitioning Numbers](#)
- [Mathematics 3: Math Makes Sense 3 eText Walk-Through](#)
- [Mathematics 10: An Overview of the Teacher Technology DVD and Web-based Student ebook](#)
- [Mathematics 10: How to Use ExamView Extra Practice and Test Generator CD](#)

### Mathematics Updates

#### Curriculum Implementation

Nova Scotia has become the eleventh of thirteen Canadian jurisdictions to adopt the Western and Northern Canadian Protocol (WNCP) Common Curriculum Framework for Mathematics as the basis of its mathematics curriculum. In September 2013, the new WCNF mathematics curriculum was implemented in grades Primary-3 and 10. During the 2013-2014 school year, curriculum documents are being prepared for Mathematics 4, Mathematics 5, Mathematics 6, Mathematics 11, Mathematics at Work 11, and Pre-calculus 11. As well, mathematics teachers in grades 4-6 and 11 are engaging in professional learning in support of effective implementation of the curriculum which is scheduled for these grades in September 2014. Implementation of the new curriculum in grades 7-9 and 12 will take place in September 2015.

#### Professional Development Video Series

Nova Scotia recently launched a new teacher professional development video series entitled Teaching Mathematics 7-9: Themes & Practice. This video series comprises ten short (average 12 minutes each) video segments, each on a different theme:

- Activating Prior Knowledge
- Literacy, Language, and Mathematics
- Assessment
- Manipulatives
- Class Time Management
- Preparation and Planning
- Communicating with Parents
- Teaching in Contexts
- Grouping to Support Learning
- What to Try Next

A contributing team of ten mathematics teachers from across the province present effective classroom practices at all three of the focus grade levels. Each segment features both interview material and live, unrehearsed sequences from actual classes. Together, the ten segments form a comprehensive professional development resource that can be used whenever and wherever the need arises. These videos may be found at <http://dvl.ednet.ns.ca/teaching-mathematics-7-9-themes-practice>



For information on Family Studies, whether it is about resources, draft curriculum, or Moodle access, please do not hesitate to contact:

Sheila Munro  
Family Studies Services  
NS Department of Education and  
Early Childhood Development  
[munrosm@gov.ns.ca](mailto:munrosm@gov.ns.ca)

# Family Studies

### March is Nutrition Month!

The theme for 2014 is "Simply Cook and Enjoy!" Celebrate Nutrition Month this year by logging into the NSVS Moodle site <http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca/nsps/login/index.php> and joining our "Simply Cook and Enjoy" Forum. What food activity has engaged your students with eating healthy? Please share your ideas for resources, websites, classroom/lab activities that promote healthy cooking. Be sure to include grade level and school.

### Other Nutrition Links

The Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health has published a Food Literacy Study report. The report is available on line at <http://www.osnpnh.on.ca/resources/index.php>

Visit the Canadian Diabetes website to download their 2014 calendar which is full of information on meal planning, portion sizes and healthy recipes too.  
<http://www.diabetes.ca/publications-newsletters/healthy-living-calendar>



EDUfest 2014 will include several cross-curricular sessions that might be of particular interest to Family Studies teachers:

- Edible Education
- Apply Blended Learning to your Classroom
- Commercial Free Classroom
- Engaging Your Students: Project Based Learning
- FoodMarch is Nutrition Month!-Body Systems: Interactions
- Healthy Art in Selfie Culture
- Mi'kmaq Communities n Nova Scotia
- Teaching Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Review the descriptors for these workshops and many more when the EDUfest new website goes live in mid April:

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



The next Dalhousie event is Wednesday March 26, 5:30-7:30pm. We will explore the connection between computers and mathematics!

Our program is currently looking for additional sources of funding to keep this free outreach initiative running in the coming years.

Contact Information:

Danielle Cox, Program Director  
[mathcircles@dal.ca](mailto:mathcircles@dal.ca)  
[www.nsmathcircles.com](http://www.nsmathcircles.com)





# Social Studies



## Provincial Heritage Fair

**May 29-30, Saint Mary's University, Halifax**

The Nova Scotia Heritage Fairs Society, in partnership with the Departments of Education and Early Childhood Development and Communities, Cultures and Heritage, will be hosting the 2014 Provincial Heritage Fair, May 29 and 30 at St. Mary's University.

This year's fair will include interactive workshops for participants in Archaeology, Geomatics, and archival-based historical investigation. For more information on the fair, please contact Social Studies Consultant, Jennifer Burke, at [burkejel@gov.ns.ca](mailto:burkejel@gov.ns.ca) or by phone at (902) 424-8276.



# Social Studies



Canadian Museum of  
Immigration at Pier 21  
Musée canadien de  
l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada

## Pier 21

<http://www.pier21.ca>

## New Education Programs at Pier 21

Pier 21 is offering two new school programs that are linked to grade 6 curricular outcomes in Music, Social Studies, and Language Arts. (Programs will be available in English and French.)

Sons and Daughters is an exciting, new, inquiry-based program exploring the immigration stories that shape our Canadian identity. Students engage in a series of lively activities involving role-play, improvisation, investigation, and the creation of soundscapes using primary sources (the stories of newcomers in film, audio recordings and photographs) to explore the experiences and emotions of an immigrant child. The program is available from April 15 to October 18, 2014.

Immigration Remixed is a program that brings the past to the present through the arts and technology. Students investigate the stories, objects and images of newcomers to collaboratively build digital music remixes that reflect the immigrant experience. The program is available from May 1 to October 18, 2014.

To book the programs, call 1-902-425-7770 ext. 274.

## Cultural Awareness Relationship Education Workshop Finding solutions for ethnic-based violence & bullying

Teach CARE to your students! Join us at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 for our Cultural Awareness Relationship Education workshop hosted in French.

On March 19, 2014, students from grades 4 to 12 will work together to find solutions to ethnic-based violence and bullying. Learners will take part in activity stations on discrimination in immigration history, cultural competence and anti-bullying. Engaging keynote speaker Sifu Jocelyn Toy will add to the day's events.

For more information, visit <http://www.quai21.ca/apprenez/educateurs/atelier-care-2014>



## Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development

<http://ceed.ca>

## Entrepreneurs Helping Entrepreneurs

Nova Scotia's Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CEED) is now part of a consortium of North American organizations that has won a \$ 1.95 million (USD) grant from the International Federation of Agriculture Development (IFAD). The Creating Opportunities for Rural Youth (CORY) Consortium will support young rural women and men in Africa to become entrepreneurs.

"With one billion people, Africa is emerging as the fastest growing continent and has been talked about as 'the next China.' It is an honour to join forces with Columbia Business School out of New York City, Susterra, Inc in Boston, the Global Youth Innovation Network and many knowledgeable organizations in West and Central Africa to encourage and support young people to start their own businesses and become self-sufficient. Our work in Africa presents an exceptional opportunity to learn and gain valuable new perspective about an emerging market and all the opportunities there are for Nova Scotia businesses to expand into that market," CEED's president and CEO, Heather Spidell.





**Atlantic Native Teachers' Education Conference**  
**May 14-16, 2014**  
**University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown**  
[www.antecc.ca](http://www.antecc.ca)

From May 14-16, 2014, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island will host the Atlantic Native Teachers' Education Conference (ANTEC) at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown.

The conference is open to all teachers throughout the Maritimes. Over two days, participants have an opportunity to attend several sessions in various areas such as Early Childhood Education, Special Needs and Inclusion, Culture in the classroom, Developing Learning Curricula and Materials, along with many other topics. A number of keynote presentations will take place throughout the conference, along with a vendors' fair, entertainment, and banquet. Please visit [www.antecc.ca](http://www.antecc.ca) for more information and registration.

## Mi'kmaq Services

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

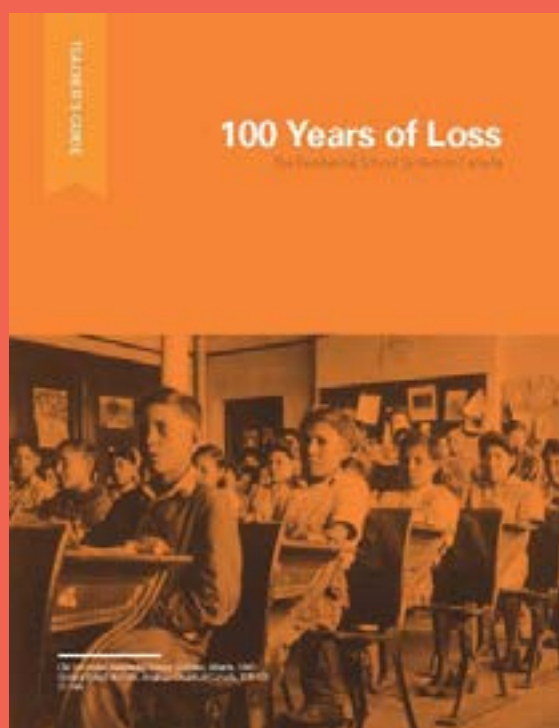
### 100 Years of Loss: The Residential School System in Canada

The 100 Years of Loss Edu-Kit is a comprehensive resource developed by the Legacy of Hope Foundation to support educators in raising awareness and teaching about an incredibly important aspect of Canada's history - the legacy of the Indian Residential School System.

The kits are recommended for use in grade 9 Social Studies, Mi'kmaq Studies 10, and Canadian History 11. This March, the Mi'kmaq Services Division will be distributing these kits to all schools in the province offering these courses.

Additional information and kits can be obtained through the Legacy of Hope Foundation's website: <http://www.legacyofhope.ca>

Kits are also available for loan through the Education Media Library:  
<http://medialibrary.ednet.ns.ca>



## French Second Language Program Services

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

### Bienvenue/Welcome

**Le personnel de la division des Programmes de français langue seconde du Ministère de l'Éducation et du Développement de la petite enfance accueille chaleureusement deux nouveaux membres à leur équipe:**

Dans son rôle de Responsable en immersion à l'élémentaire, Francesca Crowther partage une richesse de connaissances dans le domaine de la littératie fondée sur ses années d'expérience en enseignant les élèves et en appuyant les enseignants en immersion française au niveau élémentaire dans son conseil scolaire régional de la Vallée d'Annapolis.

Dorothy Allen nous rejoint en offrant de la promotion pour le programme d'échange Nouvelle-Écosse/Québec aux niveaux des écoles secondaires. Elle assistera aussi au développement d'autres projets pendant les prochains mois.

**The French Second Language Program Services team of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is happy to wish a warm welcome to our two newest members:**

Francesca Crowther joins us as the Elementary Early Immersion Lead and brings a wealth of classroom and leadership experience and expertise in the area of early literacy development across elementary French Immersion curriculum areas through her work at the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board.

Dorothy Allen has returned to the Department for the next couple of months and will be assisting with data and research projects as well as visiting high schools across the province to promote the Nova Scotia/Québec Exchange Program.

### Nova Scotia/Québec Six Month Student Exchange Program 2014-2015

Registration forms for students interested in participating in the program must be submitted to the DOECS by March 31.

### Expérience Culturelle 12 Credit

Registration forms for the Expérience Culturelle 12 must be submitted at the DOECD by April 15th, 2014. This credit is open to students applying for the Nova Scotia/Québec Student Exchange Program as well as the Explore program. Students must apply for the credit before they participate 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, contact Jean-Claude Bergeron at [bergerjc@gov.ns.ca](mailto:bergerjc@gov.ns.ca) or at 424-4499.



The Sixth Annual National  
Healthy Schools Day in Canada  
Journée des écoles saines du Canada  
is Tuesday April 8, 2014



**HEALTHY SCHOOLS DAY IN CANADA - journée nationale des écoles saines du Canada is Tuesday, April 8, 2014!!**

[www.casle.ca](http://www.casle.ca)

Healthy Schools Day (HSD) is a time to focus on school buildings' indoor environment quality to benefit staff's well-being and students' health and learning ability.

Learn more about how to create healthy indoor air. Learn about choosing less toxic products and materials, or reducing vehicle idling. Try out Health Canada's IAQ Action Kit. Create projects and celebrate successes. Teachers will find lesson plans.



See the project ideas list and register your project at: [www.casle.ca/HealthySchoolsDay](http://www.casle.ca/HealthySchoolsDay)

Healthy School environments don't just "happen"...they need all of us!

Journée des écoles saines du Canada  
La sixième journée nationale annuelle  
aura lieu le mardi, 8 avril 2014



# Health Education

Save the date:  
**Mental Health Academy**



**The fourth annual Mental Health Academy is being held July 10-11, 2014 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.**

The Academy, hosted by Dr. Stan Kutcher and his team at [TeenMentalHealth.org](http://TeenMentalHealth.org), brings together people committed to treatment, research, education and care of youth living with mental illness. This year it will give you the tools needed to provide better supports to youth in your community. The schedule is currently being created and it aims to provide you with a team of expert presenters discussing topics such as Anxiety, Brain Injury, Self-Harm, Medications, ADHD and many more. The Academy is designed to provide the best scientific evidence in youth mental health available alongside proven classroom and lifestyle techniques that is easy to understand and highly interactive.

Visit [TeachMentalHealth.org/Academy](http://TeachMentalHealth.org/Academy) for more information.

# Health Education



*Thrive! A plan for a healthier Nova Scotia* builds on good things happening in our communities to create environments that support healthy eating and physical activity where we learn, play, work and live. Health Promoting Schools, the School Food and Nutrition Policy, and the Community Use of Schools Grant program are just three examples of how schools have been helping.

The plan identifies four areas of focus:

- a healthy start for children and families
- skills and knowledge for lifelong health
- opportunities to eat well and be active
- building healthier communities

Visit [thrive.novascotia.ca](http://thrive.novascotia.ca) to learn more, see our success stories, and link to videos on our YouTube channel



**Making Tracks Safety Skills Training, Ecology Action Centre**

<http://saferoutesns.ca/programs/making-tracks>

Provides Train-the-trainer sessions for teachers from P-12, and youth mentor training for grades 7-12 in the areas of pedestrian safety, cycling, in-line skating and skateboarding

Are you looking for a fun, hands-on way to teach youth active transportation safety and skills? Developed in Nova Scotia in 2008, Making Tracks has trained over 350 adult leaders, including teachers, and youth mentors to deliver Making Tracks training to more than 4500 children and youth. Making Tracks is approved by the Nova Scotia Department of Education & Early Childhood Development and connects with multiple physical education and leadership cross-curricular outcomes. Its flexible modular design can easily fit your needs to get students active! Choose from four programs: Walking Safety, Skateboarding, Cycling, and Inline Skating. To get started please contact Julian West at [mt@ecologyaction.ca](mailto:mt@ecologyaction.ca) or 902-442-0209. [www.saferoutesns.ca](http://www.saferoutesns.ca)





# Physical Education



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



Citadel High School JV Boys Basketball Championships

Over the winter months the NSSAF hosts Championship events in Skiing, Snowboarding, Basketball, Wrestling, Hockey and Curling. In addition many schools host local games and tournaments.

At these events and others across Nova Scotia student-athletes enjoy an experience which provides them with life long memories and new found friends. School sport provides opportunities for personal growth in many ways. School sport contributes significantly to young people and to the quality of life in our schools and communities. The NSSAF thanks all volunteers as well as member schools!



Riverview High School JV Girls Basketball  
Opening Ceremony

## Active Kids Healthy Kids

Active Kids Healthy Kids is a physical activity strategy for children, youth and families in Nova Scotia. AKHK is a comprehensive strategy shared by government, non-government organizations, and residents of Nova Scotia. It was introduced in fall of 2002 and the renewed strategy was released in the fall of 2007.

Visit the website to read more: <http://novascotia.ca/dhw/pasr/akhk-intro.asp>

ParticipACTION has partnered with the Province of Nova Scotia to promote physical activity and improve the health and wellness of children and their families through Thrive!, the Early Years and Better Care Sooner. Visit the Participaction website to learn more: [www.participaction.com](http://www.participaction.com)



# Science

## Chemistry Update

### Specific Curriculum Outcomes

Chemistry 11/Advanced Chemistry 11 and Chemistry 12/Advanced Chemistry 12 specific curriculum outcomes will be ready for schools for September. The units will remain the same. A summer institute on August 19, 2014 will address these outcomes and provide other information.

### Safety

Students and teachers engaged in chemistry units must follow Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), Workplace Hazardous Materials Information Systems (WHMIS), and other safety regulations and guidelines in the laboratory. Given the requirement of spending 40% of instructional time in the laboratory, fume hood, chemical storage/use, and safety information is essential.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, in partnership with multiple partners such as Department of Labour, fire marshalls, and OHS officers, is working to consolidate issues that have been discussed on various occasions in the past and to review future requirements regarding science labs. These include OHS requirements for school board safety committees, fume hoods, fire safety planning, and updating and implementing the Science Safety Guidelines. The department has a working group to address these issues.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development hopes to be scheduling chemistry safety workshops with school boards for October 2014. For further information, contact

Ann Blackwood, Executive Director  
English Program Services  
Phone (902) 424-5745  
Email [blackwaa@gov.ns.ca](mailto:blackwaa@gov.ns.ca)

Marilyn Webster, Science Consultant  
English Program Services  
Phone (902) 424-4272  
Email [websteml@gov.ns.ca](mailto:websteml@gov.ns.ca)



### Nova Scotia Youth Experiences in Science The 13th Annual PROVINCIAL SCIENCE FAIR SHOWCASE

Robotics, Alternative Energy, Novel Inventions, Biological Studies, and much much MORE!  
You are invited to meet Team Nova Scotia! 40 bright students from the South Shore to Cape Breton make up Team Nova Scotia, which will be representing the province at the 2014 Canada-Wide Science Fair— a prestigious event that attracts over 450 of Canada's top students annually.

Please show your support!

Come and meet the minds behind the award-winning grade 7-12 science fair projects from across Nova Scotia

Saturday May 3rd / 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Saint Mary's University - McNally Main Auditorium

For further details please visit [ScienceFairInfo.ns.ca](http://ScienceFairInfo.ns.ca)



## SAVOUR SUMMER at our 2014 Camps!

Summer is closer than you think and this year, the Discovery Centre is offering some of the best summer camps to date! Register your little Einstein to take off in our School of Flight where you will launch rockets and participate in a paper plane design competition. Explore the Fusion of Art as you create the next BIG art project while discovering the beauty of science. You could also become a STEM Super Hero as you explore how it is possible to leap over tall buildings in a single bound.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS FOR MEMBERS ON MARCH 17. General Public registration opens on March 24.

[www.thediscoverycentre.ca/visit/camps](http://www.thediscoverycentre.ca/visit/camps) for full camp details!

Our Summer Camps run from June 30 to August 15. Registration: \$200 for Members; \$190 For Non-Members  
To register, contact Erica Hamm: [ehamm@discoverycentre.ns.ca](mailto:ehamm@discoverycentre.ns.ca) (902) 492-4422 ext 221.



## Friends of Sable Island

Friends of Sable Island is offering a \$1,000 scholarship in 2014 to promote learning and awareness about Canada's 43rd National Park. It is available to all grade 12 students in Nova Scotia, to be applied to post-secondary education in the Fall of 2014. The method of submission is the student's choice, for example: 5 minute video, art work, 500 word essay or poem. Submissions should focus on one topic using our website as a starting point for selection (i.e. cultural history, wildlife, oil & gas activities, fresh water, and tourism).

Please see our website for more details: [sableislandfriends.ca](http://sableislandfriends.ca)

## Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP)

The Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP) is administered every three years to a representative sample of grade 8 English, French immersion, and French first language students. While each administration includes reading, mathematics, and science, the major domain changes with each assessment.

Science was the primary domain assessed in PCAP 2013. For PCAP assessment purposes, the domain of science is divided into three competencies—Science Inquiry, Problem Solving, and Scientific Reasoning—and four subdomains—nature of science, life sciences, physical sciences, and earth sciences.

Three attitudes are also assessed:

- interest in and awareness of science-related issues
- respect and support for evidence-based knowledge
- awareness of sustainable development and stewardship

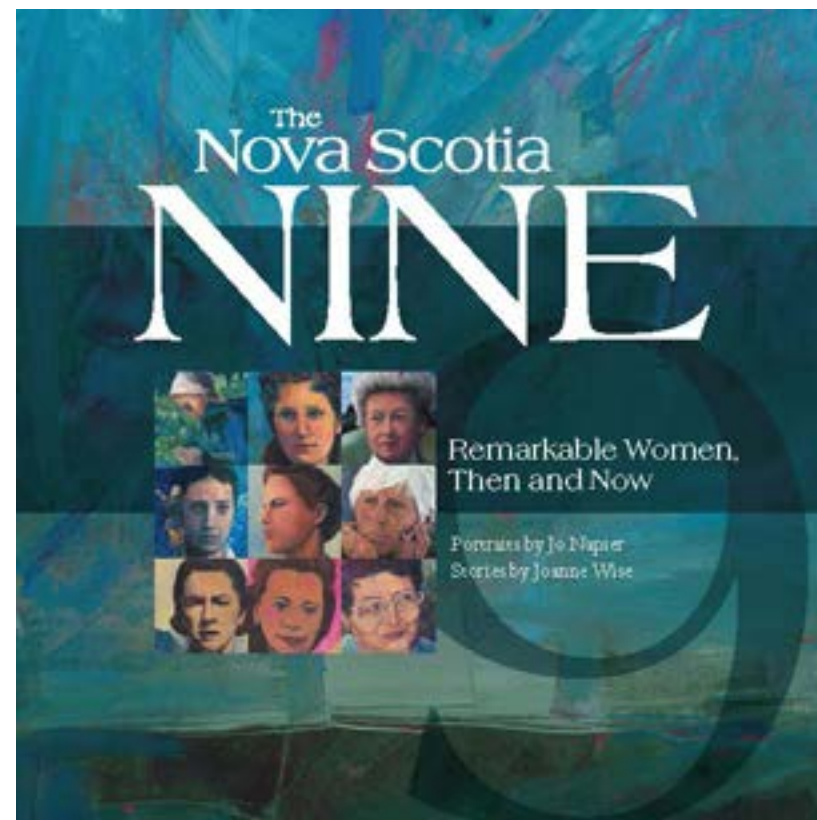
PCAP 2013 results will be published in spring 2014. For more information about PCAP 2013, please visit <http://www.cmec.ca>



In honour of International Women's Day (March 8th) the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women will be launching a new book *The Nova Scotia Nine: Remarkable Women Then and Now*, inspired by the portrait collection by Jo Napier. To read about Jo, her art, and the Nova Scotia Nine, visit <http://jonapier.wordpress.com/the-nova-scotia-nine>. This new publication consists of a short biography on each of the Nova Scotia Nine, concluding with comments from contemporaries inspired by these great women.

Who inspires you? Who would you add? How will you make history?

For a print copy of the publication, email [women@gov.ns.ca](mailto:women@gov.ns.ca); to download the book as a pdf, visit [women.gov.ns.ca/ns9](http://women.gov.ns.ca/ns9) on March 8th!



## Technology Education News

Students at Hants West Middle School are learning design problem solving skills in the production technology module of their Technology Education class. This grade 7 student is using a modern router made by Festool. The unique tool is extremely lightweight, perfectly balanced, and uses a quiet cutting process to ensure success for first time and experienced designers. The tool is attached to its own vacuum system to ensure user health and safety while using the router.



**IDEAPARK**  
A FOREST OF EARLY LEARNING RESOURCES

Developed for K - 3 educators

Register at:

**EXPLOREIDEAPARK.ORG**

## IdeaPark

IdeaPark is a dynamic, new online professional learning place to support early years and kindergarten/primary educators with a suite of planning tools, resources and professional learning opportunities. By supporting educators, IdeaPark will improve learning outcomes for young students, fostering critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills. IdeaPark enables educators to build on children's natural curiosity to explore the world around them while fostering skills and attitudes that underpin their desire to learn.

IdeaPark includes:

- Wings of Discovery® print resources
- Webs of Wonder online resources
- Professional Learning opportunities

Visit [www.exploreideapark.org](http://www.exploreideapark.org) today to discover what IdeaPark has to offer!



## EDUfest 2014

Save the dates! Edufest summer institutes for the whole family: August 11-15, 2014.

Technology Education teachers will have plenty of learning opportunities at EduFest this summer at the NSCC Dartmouth Waterfront campus and in regional locations across the province in the following topics:

- Digital Photography
- Film and Video / Multimedia
- Solidworks
- Production Technology (Intro level) in Truro, Yarmouth, Halifax
- Production Technology (Intermediate level) in Truro, Yarmouth, Halifax
- Junior High Technology Education
- Technology Education Safety Program





# Student Services

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

## Provincial School Code of Conduct and School Code of Conduct Guidelines

The Code of Conduct Revisions Advisory Committee is addressing a deliverable identified in both the Education Act and Speak Up: An Action Plan to Address Bullying and Cyberbullying Behaviour. This document provides the framework for the provision of safe and productive learning environments in our schools. Specifically, the Code of Conduct Revisions Advisory Committee is going to review and revise the Provincial School Code of Conduct and School Code of Conduct Guidelines that is reflective of Legislative and Regulation changes to the Education Act and Minister's Regulations, students, parents, and educators input, and the most current evidence-based practices supporting safe, caring, school communities.

Advisory Committee members will provide valuable input and guidance as work on the revisions progresses. Focus group sessions within each of the province's eight school boards with students, educators, school board administration, and School Advisory Councils will be held between April 21st and May 9th, 2014. The intent of the focus groups, which will be facilitated by the Code of Conduct Revisions Advisory Committee Chair, Anti Bullying Coordinator, Kathleen Richard, EECD, and the Code of Conduct Revisions Advisory Committee school board representative, is to provide an overview of the revisions and receive input.

## Supporting Students with ASD

### Successful Social Skills Programming — Peers connecting with PEERS

One year ago staff from all eight school boards spent four days learning about Program for the Evaluation and Enrichment of Relational Skills (PEERS) with Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson, author of the program. This program helps students with ASD and other developmental disorders at the junior and senior high school level learn the skills they need to navigate the social world and make some lasting, positive connections with their peers. Since the initial training, ASD lead teams have been busy working with schools to develop PEERS course work and demonstrating how PEERS lessons can be incorporated into existing social skills programming. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has continued to support the implementation of PEERS with through grants to boards for training and resources.

PEERS courses have been successfully run in several boards with enthusiastic response from teachers and students alike. Students are learning the "how tos" taking those first steps to get to know their peers, find common interests, and make friends. Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board is one board finding success with PEERS. They put together a PEERS Team to develop a course built on PEERS lessons, incorporating additional material to support social skill development. Two schools were selected as pilot sites. Student Services staff work with teachers at the schools selected to offer the program to students during school hours and also to offer a parent session after school. Louise Smith, ASD Specialist with the Board, who is teaching the program says, "PEERS is a highlight of my week. A great program, hardworking team, fantastic students, committed parents—a winning combination!"

## Lieutenant Governors Respectful Citizenship Award

His Honour Brigadier-General, The Honorable J.J. Grant, CMM, ONS, CD (RET'D), Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, announced the creation of the Lieutenant Governors Respectful Citizenship Award in August 2013 at the Speak Up Conference. The award recognizes students who demonstrate leadership and commitment to creating safe and inclusive spaces, where bullying behaviour is not accepted, and respectful and responsible relationships are promoted. It is the first award created during Lt.-Gov. Grant's tenure.

Students in the eight school boards, the Mi'Kmaq Kina'matnewey Board, and home schooled students who are registered with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development or enrolled in a private school can be nominated.

Of the 126 students nominated for the award, 68, both individual and as teams, were selected for 16 awards. They were chosen by an advisory committee of representatives from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Nova Scotia Teachers Union, Nova Scotia School Board Association, Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations, and La Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse.



Recipients were:

Trenton Ward, Glace Bay  
Riverview High School Gender and Sexuality Alliance, Coxheath, Cape Breton  
Caleb Talbot, Port Hawkesbury  
The Green Team, Guysborough  
Ella Webster, Bible Hill  
Riley MacEachern and Allison Ellis, Truro  
Grace Whebby, Dartmouth  
Erin Brown, Dartmouth

Douah Shakshuki, Wolfville  
Stephen Bennett  
Robyn Whynot, Liverpool  
Lunenburg County RCMP Youth Advisory Committee, Lunenburg  
Janell Stewart, Yarmouth  
Mikya Francis, Digby  
Adele Orovec, Halifax (CSAP)  
Lauren Ead, Halifax (CSAP)

## Review of Guidelines for English as a Second Language: Programming and Services

Since Guidelines for English as a Second Language: Programming and Services was developed and released in 2003, new research on teaching students who have English as an additional language has emerged to inform instructional strategies and practices that are most effective for P-12 schools. The goal for the revised and updated guidelines for English as an Additional Language programming and services is to better reflect these recommended practices.

Initial committee deliberations have identified new areas of focus in addition to traditional themes related to direct instruction and vocabulary development. These include defining EAL students in NS schools, the importance of welcoming new students and their families, initial assessment of oral and written English language skills, valuing students' first languages and diverse cultural backgrounds, teaching from a language asset model rather than a language deficit model, and the importance of understanding and applying culturally proficient practices.

A working committee consisting of representatives from two school boards, Mount Saint Vincent University (Education), and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development was established in December to review and update the current ESL guidelines. It is expected that a draft of the revised Guidelines for EAL Programming and Services will be available in June 2014.



## Literacy Summer Institutes 2014

**Peter Johnston – July 10-11, 2014**

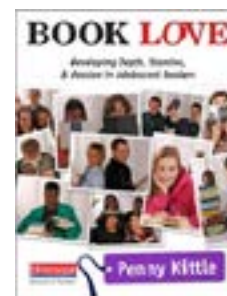
**Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville**

Classroom Talk, Engagement, and Children's Literate Development - This two day interactive workshop, for teachers Primary-8 at the Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville, shows how classroom choices we make, particularly our language choices, influence the qualities of the classroom learning community, and how to make those choices wisely. It shows how the qualities of the learning community we build will impact children's comprehension, their social relationships, their intelligence, and how they handle challenge, adversity, uncertainty, and difference. We want our children to become flexible, persistent, and collaborative problem solvers, particularly in literacy, but also in other areas of their lives. We want them to take on the challenge for learning rather than avoid it, and when they are unsuccessful, to become more strategic. The ways we interact with children have a powerful influence on whether or not we accomplish these goals. Contact Dan Gervais at [gervaispz@gov.ns.ca](mailto:gervaispz@gov.ns.ca) or (902) 424-5996 for more information on registration in the spring.

**Penny Kittle – July 21-22, 2014**

**Membertou Trade and Convention Centre in Sydney, Cape Breton**

In this two-day workshop Penny will use her most recent publication *Book Love: Developing Depth, Stamina, and Passion in Adolescent Readers* as the anchor resource. In *Book Love* Penny takes student apathy head on, first by recognizing why students don't read and then showing teachers that when we give kids books that are right for them, along with time to read and regular response to their thinking, we can create a pathway to satisfying reading that leads to more challenging literature and ultimately, a love of reading. Look for information on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website and in the EDUfest 2014 brochure.



# English Language Arts

## A Focus on PLAY for Parents, Teachers, and Schools!

Coming soon to parents, teachers, and schools of students in Grades Primary and 1 will be a cluster of supports for play-based learning. These will include a *Let's Talk About... Learning through Play* pamphlet to go home to parents or guardians of students in Grades Primary and 1, and a DVD and accompanying Viewing Guide, also named Learning through Play, that can be used by teachers of Grades Primary-2 (although many elementary staff may find this useful). A professional resource *Explorations: Learning through Inquiry and Play* will also be made available to those teachers in Grades Primary and/or Grade 1 who would like to learn more about this area through board Literacy staff.



## Grade 2 Teachers and Students to Benefit from Resources to Support TALK!!

Teachers and students will enjoy two resources coming to grade 2 classrooms in the coming weeks. A comprehensive play-based literacy resource focusing specifically on oral language, *Literacy Place for the Early Years Conversation Kit*, as well as a companion resource *Inquiry Unit Water Works!* will be available in the early spring.

Components include Big Books, and accompanying small books, on-line and print version teacher support, as well as an audio CD for shared reading. There will also be a poetry book and wordless picture books to evoke lots of conversation. Conversation cards featuring photos, diagrams, maps, menus, comics, and paintings in both print and digital format, along with videos for role-playing and story inventions will give students lots to talk about!!



## Literacy In Action Website

[www.lia.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.lia.ednet.ns.ca)

Visit the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's Literacy in Action website. On this site you will be able to access the English Language Arts Curriculum grades Primary to 12, information on the Literacy Projects (Active Young Readers, Active Readers, Literacy Success, Writers in Action P-12,) and information on Succeeding in Reading: An Early Intervention.



# Careers



Through March and April, over 250 Nova Scotian students and apprentices will participate in the Nova Scotia Skills Competition.

Forty-five skilled trade and technology competitions will be showcased throughout the event. Bronze, silver and gold medals are awarded in each competition. Qualifying gold medalists then advance to the Skills Canada National Competition

(SCNC) in Toronto as members of Team Nova Scotia, June 4-7.

This year, the SCNC is a qualifying year for the 2015 WorldSkills Competition, taking place in São Paulo, Brazil.

Skills Canada – Nova Scotia is a not-for-profit organization, providing opportunities for youth to explore skilled trades and technologies, discover their passions, and strive for excellence.

For Competition date and location information, visit [skillsns.ca](http://skillsns.ca)



O2 Service Learning Showcase  
June 2–5, 2014

Service Learning is a structured learning experience that integrates curriculum with active service opportunities in the community. The ultimate goal of a service learning project is to enhance the learning environment with real-life application, building community in a positive, real, and meaningful context for students while addressing a community issue and need.

O2 teachers and students have been providing service to their communities in multiple ways for many years. Service learning is a powerful student engagement strategy. As one O2 teacher said, "Service learning provides the students with a strong sense of community. Students and community connect in so many positive ways".

Over the next few months O2 schools will be promoting their service learning projects. O2 students will experience a wide range of cross-curricular outcomes through targeted projects, providing an exposure and immediate access to integrated career education opportunities. These projects will culminate in the province-wide O2 Service Learning Showcase, June 2–5, 2014. This promises to be an exciting week, with the participation of every O2 school!

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is excited to be part of the many partnerships that will make Service Learning Week a memorable and rewarding learning experience.

# Programs & Careers



## Building Futures

[www.buildingfutures.ca](http://www.buildingfutures.ca)

Do you know a student who is interested in a career in construction?

The Building Futures for Youth program is designed to give high school students an opportunity to safely explore careers in Nova Scotia's construction industry.



Through the program students are able to

- Gain experience in a construction industry occupation
- Earn co-operative education credits
- Register as construction trades pre-apprentices and earn apprenticeship hours
- Make connections with industry
- Become eligible for NSCC scholarships



## JobsPeopleDo.com

Available to All Jr & Sr High Schools Across Nova Scotia

Junior & Senior high schools should be IP authenticated (no login required from school),

students, teachers and parents can access the site from home

using your school's login information. Contact Ray Fernandes for more information: [fernandr@gov.ns.ca](mailto:fernandr@gov.ns.ca)  
JobsPeopleDo now includes new French language editorial content including job profiles, volunteer information and scholarships.

Click here to view the recent LRTS webinar posted on the DVL website: [Using JobsPeopleDo in the Classroom](#)



Parents as  
Career Coaches

## Parents as Career Coaches

Studies have shown that parents can play a critical role, in assisting their child navigate the career journey. Students have identified parents as their key source for career information.

- PACC provides parents with the resources, tools and information required to assist their child in making informed career decisions.
- This program emphasizes the critical link between interest/passions and personal happiness/wellness, with respect to career choices.

Sessions are offered to parents at both the senior and junior/middle high school levels.

Over the past 7 years, PACC has received extremely positive feedback from parents. 96% of the parents, who have attended programs, have rated the overall program as excellent/good. This program is available free of charge to all schools, throughout Nova Scotia.

Discover more about PACC by visiting our website [www.parentsascareercoaches.ca](http://www.parentsascareercoaches.ca)

You can also inquire about the program and hosting a session, by e-mailing Lachie MacIntosh [MACINTLA@gov.ns.ca](mailto:MACINTLA@gov.ns.ca) or Alan Cuvelier [alancuvelier@yahoo.com](mailto:alancuvelier@yahoo.com)