



Student cell phone ban raises concerns

Recent amendments made to the Education Act during the fall sitting of the Legislature that prohibit students from using cell phones and other communications devices in a public school classroom raise concerns for the NSTU and its members.

“We believe there are appropriate and inappropriate uses of technology in the classroom,” says NSTU president Alexis Allen. “Many students use communications devices appropriately, and one of the goals of public education is to teach students the difference. There are very positive ways to use technologies for personal and group learning.”

The Private Member’s Bill was introduced by the MLA for Kings West Leo Glavine, Education Critic for the Nova Scotia Liberal party last spring in response to frustrations the former educator was hearing from teachers as to the disruptive nature of cell phones in the classroom. Government brought it forward for consideration with Minister of Education Karen Casey’s code of conduct amendments.

“We have heard the very same frustrations from our members, and are well aware of the issues these devices

can create—like the posting of images of teachers on social networking sites without their knowledge,” continues Allen. “But we have to be careful with an outright ban, and consider the educational uses of these technologies and their legitimate application in the classroom.”

“The Bill as it is written doesn’t give much room for interpretation,” she adds.

It reads as follows:

An Act to Amend Chapter 1 of the Acts of 1995-96, the Education Act.

Be it enacted by the Governor and Assembly as follows:

1 Chapter 1 of the Acts of 1995-96, the *Education Act*, is amended by adding immediate after Section 24 the following Section:

24A No student shall use a cellular telephone or other communications device in a public school classroom.

2 This Act comes into force on such a day as the Governor in Council orders and declares by proclamation

“We will be seeking further clarification from the Department of Education around this wording, and what it actually means for the classroom and for our members,” continues Allen.

A spokesperson from the Department of Education says, “It is not the intention of the bill to forbid the use of any technology that enhances educational opportunity. This amendment is intended to prohibit the use of cell phones and other personal communications devices, so they don’t become a distraction during instructional time.”

This is good news for Jack MacLeod, Lunenburg County Local president, a teacher at Forest Heights Community School in Chester Basin. “We have a student who is unable to talk who is now using text to speech software on his iPhone to communicate orally with his peers and teachers for the first time since he’s been in our school,” he says. “You have to see the smile on his face to truly appreciate how important this is. Equally, we have many students who use their phones as calculators, note takers, to do lists, homework recorders, etc.”

The Education Consultative Forum, made up of Department of Education



reps and superintendents from around the province also discussed these new amendments and further clarification is forthcoming from the Department.

“As teachers we have to be aware of the role cell phones and other communications devices play in the lives of our students and tread lightly—we also need to know what roles teachers will play with regard to students violating this bill.”

This amendment will come into force when the Minister of Education asks cabinet to proclaim the amendment.

executive highlights

November 28, 2008

- Received table officers’ report;
- Approved two candidates for the mentorship program: Mario Eleftheros for Professional Development and Bruce Abriel for Member Services;
- Approved 8 resolutions revising the NSTU Code of Ethics to go forward as Council 2009 Resolutions;
- Directed the PACC to review existing policy regarding non-attendance at the fall conferences; examine existing conference fee structure; and develop policy on conference receipts and report back to the provincial executive by February 2009; granted an extra meeting to the PACC;
- Effective August 1, 2009 increased child care expenses;
- Ratified the Northside-Victoria Local Constitution;
- Approved two amendments to the Teachers’ Pension Act pending legal counsel review;
- Selected a new venue for the executive planning conference 2009;
- Received an interim report from the ad hoc committee to Explore Options for Future Councils;
- Received the report from the ad hoc committee on Inclusive Language (Res. 2007-53) approving one 2009 resolution, guidelines and implementation procedures; Staff to review guidelines for Summer Travel Fellowship for all members;
- Ratified the BETA Constitution;
- Approved the hiring of substitute teachers with permits to teach for the Tri-County Regional School Board;
- Revised Operational Procedures addressing guidelines for NSTU members relating to strikes by non-NSTU personnel.



HOLIDAY HOURS

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Closes at noon on December 23 and reopens January 2, 2009

Teachers Plus Credit Union

Closes at noon on December 24 and reopens December 29

Closes at noon on December 31 and reopens January 2, 2009

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SEASON’S GREETINGS
FROM THE STAFF OF
THE TEACHER!

people

West Kings Remembers



Above are special guests from the West Kings District High School Remembrance Day Ceremony which took place at the school on November 10. From left to right are West Kings District High principal Mike Ouellette; Leo Glavine, MLA Kings West and Liberal Party Education Critic; Jim Davis, guest speaker and father of deceased soldier Paul Davis; West Kings District High resource teacher and staff organizer of the event, Donna Griffin; Ron Trowsdale, Vice-chair Nova Scotia Nunuvut Legion Command; 14 Wing Commander, Col. Derek Joyce; and Dr. Norman Dray, superintendent of the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board.

Congrats to:

On October 17, **Heather Horsfall**, an art teacher at Halifax West High School received the Studio 21 Fine Art and Zwicker's Gallery 2008 Art Educator of the Year award, as part of the CANVAS Art on the Spot event organized by Visual Arts Nova Scotia (VANS). Horsfall has been teaching art for 28 years. One of the most notable projects she has been involved with is the creation of a large scale mural mounted in the entrance to the school. Created with 25 student artists the mural depicts the culturally rich community they live in. The 2008 Art Educator of the Year award celebrates an individual who demonstrates an exceptional contribution and commitment to arts education.

On October 29, **A.G. MacRae**, student services Department Head at Halifax West High School was recently presented with a provincial Medal of Bravery. MacRae teaches in the Learning Centre and is also a Physical Education teacher at the school. While he was travelling on Highway 103 last December he came upon an overturned vehicle and pulled a woman and her 10-year-old son from their sport utility vehicle that was on fire. MacRae was one of four Nova Scotians to receive an inaugural Medal of Bravery on October 29 from Premier Rodney MacDonald. The medal is given to individuals who have assisted another person or protected the property of another person, and have done so at the risk of their own life or safety.

The recipients of this year's Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History were recently announced. Nova Scotia teachers **Sherri Duggan** and **Thelma Gregan** of Berwick and District School and **Owen Ferguson** of Redcliff Middle School in Truro were among the 30 finalists vying for the awards.

Steven Van Zoost recently graduated with his PhD in Education from the University of South Australia. Van Zoost, a recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Teaching Award is a member of the Hants West Local and teaches at Avon View High School in Windsor.

On November 14, 2008, **Janice Graham-Migel** graduated with a PhD in Educational Administration from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. Graham-Migel is a member of the Halifax County Local and is employed as a school counsellor with the Halifax Regional School Board, currently a counsellor at Ridgcliff Middle School.

On December 27, 2007, **Beth Robinson** graduated with a PhD in Counselling Psychology from West Virginia University and completed her internship at Memorial University of Newfoundland. She is a member of the Annapolis Local and is a school psychologist with the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board. She currently works at the Lawrencetown Teachers' Centre.



NSTU president Alexis Allen is shown with The Honourable Frank McKenna. McKenna was the guest speaker at the Coady International Institute's 6th annual *Coady Celebrates!* benefit dinner on October 8th. He spoke about leadership from a global perspective. The dinner is held each year to raise funds that support scholarships for development leaders from around the world to attend courses at the Coady International Institute in Antigonish. The NSTU has been a silver sponsor of the event for the past four years.

SENSE meets at NSTU building

NSTU president Alexis Allen provided a welcoming address for members of SENSE (Sustainability Education in Nova Scotia for Everyone) on November 3 in NSTU's Margaret Graham Conference Room.

"I believe the work of SENSE bears directly on that NSTU mission of improving the quality of programs offered our students," she said.

SENSE is a group of organizations, businesses and individuals dedicated to the promotion of ideas and practices to help Nova Scotia become sustainable. It is part of a national network of provincial and territorial working groups striving to achieve the objectives of the United Nations™ Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) from 2005-2014.

L. Ron Farrell, Dean, School of Trades & Technology with the Nova Scotia Community College, was the keynote speaker for the event and he presented the strategy behind the greening of NSCC's academic programs.

"It is often claimed that the success of the environmental movement was based largely on a children's revolution," Allen continued. "We

taught a new generation to live in an environmentally responsible way—to reduce, re-use and recycle. They then taught their parents to do the same. If we can teach a new generation to think in terms of sustainability, perhaps then they will lead us as adults to adopt these goals in our own lives."

For more information about SENSE, visit the Nova Scotia Environmental Network website at www.nsen.ca/education.php.



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**Return undeliverable Canadian
addresses to:** 3106 Joseph Howe Drive,
Halifax, NS B3L 4L7

Phone: 902-477-5621 Fax: 902-477-3517
Toll free: 1-800-565-6788
email: theteacher@nstu.ca website: www.nstu.ca

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Halifax teachers get some TIPs for their teaching

On October 1, 2008, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union/Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) Teacher Induction Program (TIP) kicked off its third year in style. Approximately 60 registered TIP participants and facilitators were invited to spend a full day learning about the Halifax Regional School Board, the NSTU/HRSB Teacher Induction Program and how this program can help early career teachers deal with issues they face on a day-to-day-basis. This program is a partnership between Halifax Regional Representative Council (Halifax City, Halifax County and Dartmouth Locals) and the Halifax Regional School Board.

Mike Christie, HRSB's Director of Human Resource Services, and Liette Doucet, President of the Halifax City Local and TIP Program coordinator, welcomed participants. An inspirational speech by HRSB superintendent Carole Olsen focused on what it means to work for the Halifax Regional School Board. This was followed by HRSB presentations from communication services, program services and human resource services. Later in the day, NSTU executive staff officer Gérard Cormier facilitated a discussion on specific issues facing new teachers. At the end of the day guests were treated to David Devan's lively presentation, *Alphabet Soup*, designed to help discover the meaning of the numerous acronyms teachers hear on a daily basis. Devan is the principal of Fairview Heights School in Halifax and one of the ten TIP Facilitators who will work with this group of early career teachers for the 2008/09 school year.

The Teacher Induction Program is intended to manifest and strengthen a collegial, reflective approach to teaching for those in the first five years of their career and is structured to provide ongoing support to beginning teachers. Participation in the program is voluntary. The objectives of the program are: to identify personal needs and expectations of early career teachers, to establish a forum for continuous dialogue and reflection on the practice of teaching, to problem-solve challenges and to celebrate successes. Participants are provided with professional development opportunities, resources, and support from both the HRSB and NSTU.



Participants in the NSTU/HRSB Teacher Induction Program.

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2008-2009 Local Presidents and RRC Chairs



Meet the NSTU Local Presidents and Regional Representative Council (RRC) Chairs for the 2008-2009 school year. This photo was taken during the Local President's conference at the NSTU building on October 18 & 19. During this conference some Local Presidents were represented by a designate.

Standing (left to right): Marlene MacDonald (Inverness), Arnold Burke, designate (Cape Breton), Eileen Coady (Yarmouth), Linda Samson (CSANE), Allister Wadden, (Annapolis), Brenda Burt (Strait RRC), Tammy Landry (Antigonish), Louis Robitaille (Community College), John Sperdakes (Chignecto RRC), Jack MacLeod (Lunenburg County), Nathane Smart, designate (Queens), Bernard LeBlanc, designate (Richmond), Kyle Marryatt, designate (Dartmouth), Tim MacLeod (Halifax County), Dean Marchand (Guysborough County), Bill Bruhm (South Shore RRC), Gary Schmidt (Hants West), Cynthia MacKinnon (Pictou), Patricia Hillier (Cumberland), and Liette Doucet (Halifax City).

Seated (left to right): Milton Bonnar (Northside-Victoria), Bonnie Mahaney (Shelburne), Kim Frank (Annapolis Valley RRC), John MacKay (Tri-County RRC), Alexis Allen (NSTU President), Bobbie Archer (Digby), Cathy Reimer (Kings), and Gerry Alley (Colchester-East Hants).

Missing from photo: Leo Campbell (Queens), Elizabeth Godreau (Dartmouth), Carolyn Cook (Richmond), and Lee MacKenzie (Cape Breton).



from the nstu president

Atlantic Canadian teachers share concerns with colleagues in Nunavut

Recently, Bill Redden, Executive Director of the NSTU, and I had the unique experience of visiting Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut, in our capacity as members of the Council of Atlantic Provinces Teacher Organizations (CAPTO). This group meets three times a year to discuss common concerns for teachers in Atlantic Canada, to network with one another, to compare provincial contracts, and to lend support to one another. Although Nunavut is not part of CAPTO, a request was made by their President, Jimmy Jacquard, to include his organization in our group meetings. Last year their president was able to attend one of our meetings and asked if we would consider visiting his region and schools. We all felt that this would be an amazing opportunity and experience so agreed!

Iqaluit is located below the Arctic Circle and does not get the 24 hour darkness or huge snowstorms; it is considered a polar desert. The population base of Nunavut is 29,000 with Iqaluit having around 6184 (2006 censuses). The median age for the territory is 22.1 and the population has had a growth rate of approximately eight per cent in five years. This is drastically different from Nova Scotia where we are seeing a low population growth rate and a decrease of around 2,000 students each year for the last five years in the province.

In all, we were able to stay two and a half days and sample the culture and uniqueness of this land. In the elementary school we visited there were 26 students, kindergarten to Grade 5, with four teachers. The language of the people, Inuktitut, was taught in the very early grades and English in Grade 3 and up. In the junior/senior high school they had 450 students and 26 teachers, and offered a variety of different programs for at-risk students. These included jewellery making, support for young mothers to learn home skills from an elder, welding, family studies and technical education courses. These courses have resulted in more students graduating from high school, as many as between 50-65 this year alone. The idea behind these programs is that if you can keep young people actively engaged with skills they need for the future they will reach their potential. Although not a novel concept, perhaps this is something all educational departments across Canada should embrace.

As mentioned, we were there to discuss common concerns. Some of the items on our agenda for the CAPTO group were:

- Class climate/composition/inclusion: All identified a concern around a necessity for more support with the diverse learning requirements of our students; more teachers must be hired if teachers are to adequately meet the needs of all students.
- Administrative/teacher workload: An issue in most regions, the pace, pressures and demands for both groups are increasing.
- Absenteeism: A huge issue in the north, the French Board in NB and in NS schools; the additional workload concerns associated with this for teachers was discussed.
- Teacher pensions: A concern for all (except Nunavut who has a large, already retired group or very young teachers); it's a wait and see for now, including Newfoundland who recently had a \$2 billion addition to their plan.
- Accreditation concerns: Currently Nova Scotia is the only province in Atlantic Canada with this model, which appears to be causing much stress and requires so much time; others have something similar but not to the same extent.
- Negotiation updates: The New Brunswick Teachers' Federation has a tentative agreement, Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association are in talks, Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation and Nunavut are not currently in negotiations with their provincial and territorial governments respectively, and the NSTU is currently in negotiations.
- Safe schools, cyberbullying, labour mobility and teacher certification were also discussed and all identified the need for breakfast programs at some of their schools, signifying that child hunger remains an issue.

As you can see from the topics discussed we have a number of things in common and the sharing of this information and networking with colleagues continues to play an important role in our continued efforts to elevate the teaching profession and public education.

Finally, as this is the December edition of The Teacher, please accept my best wishes for a safe, healthy and peaceful holiday. Enjoy your break and take time for yourself—you deserve it for all that you do every day for students in Nova Scotia!!!

NSTU REP PINS

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Les enseignants du Canada atlantique partagent leurs préoccupations avec des collègues du Nunavut

Récemment, Bill Redden, directeur exécutif du NSTU, et moi-même, avons fait l'expérience exceptionnelle de visiter Iqaluit, la capitale du Nunavut, à titre de membres du Conseil des organisations d'enseignants des provinces de l'Atlantique (Council of Atlantic Provinces Teacher Organizations - CAPTO).

Ce groupe se réunit trois fois par an pour discuter de préoccupations communes aux enseignants du Canada atlantique, pour établir des contacts, pour comparer les conventions provinciales et pour s'apporter un soutien mutuel. Bien que le Nunavut ne fasse pas partie du CAPTO, le président de l'organisation du Nunavut, Jimmy Jacquard, nous a demandé d'inclure son organisation dans les réunions de notre groupe. L'an dernier, le président a été en mesure d'assister à l'une de nos réunions et nous a demandé si nous envisagerions de visiter sa région et ses écoles. Nous étions tous d'accord que ce serait une occasion et une expérience extraordinaires et nous avons accepté!

Iqaluit est située en dessous du cercle polaire arctique et, à ce titre, elle ne reste pas dans l'obscurité 24 heures sur 24 et ne subit pas de grosses tempêtes de neige; elle est considérée comme un désert polaire. Le Nunavut a une population de 29 000 habitants et Iqaluit a environ 6184 habitants (recensement de 2006); l'âge moyen de la population de ce territoire est de 22,1 ans et le taux de croissance de la population est d'environ 8 % sur cinq ans. Cette situation est de toute évidence radicalement différente de celle de la Nouvelle-Écosse où le taux de croissance de la population est faible et où nous avons connu une réduction d'environ 2000 élèves par an au cours des cinq dernières années.

Nous avons été en mesure de séjourner au Nunavut deux jours et demi et d'apprécier la culture et l'originalité de cette région. Dans l'école élémentaire que nous avons visitée, il y avait 26 élèves, de la maternelle à la 5^e année, encadrés par quatre enseignants. La langue de la population, l'inuktitut, est enseignée dans les toutes premières années et l'anglais est enseigné à partir de la 3^e année. L'école secondaire de premier et de deuxième cycle comportait 450 élèves et 26 enseignants et elle offrait un grand choix de programmes divers aux élèves à risque comme la fabrication de bijoux, un soutien aux jeunes mères pour qu'elles puissent apprendre des compétences pratiques d'une aînée, la soudure, l'éducation familiale et l'enseignement technique.

Ces cours ont permis à davantage d'élèves d'obtenir leur diplôme d'études secondaires et leur nombre pourrait atteindre 50 à 65 cette année. L'idée derrière tout cela est que si nous pouvons faire participer activement les jeunes et leur fournir les compétences dont ils auront besoin à l'avenir, ils pourront réaliser leur plein potentiel. Bien qu'il ne s'agisse pas d'un concept nouveau, c'est peut-être une idée que tous les ministères de l'éducation du Canada devraient envisager.

Comme il a été mentionné, nous étions là pour discuter de préoccupations communes et les sujets à l'ordre du jour de la réunion du CAPTO étaient les suivants :

- Le climat et la composition des classes / l'intégration – Tous ont identifié la nécessité de davantage de soutien pour répondre aux exigences d'apprentissage très diversifiées de nos élèves; davantage d'enseignants doivent aussi être embauchés pour pouvoir répondre convenablement aux besoins de tous les élèves.
- La charge de travail des administrateurs et des enseignants – Ceci est un problème dans la plupart des régions car le rythme, les pressions et les exigences imposés à ces deux groupes ne font qu'augmenter.
- L'absentéisme – C'est un problème énorme dans le nord, au sein du Conseil scolaire francophone du Nouveau-Brunswick et dans les écoles de la Nouvelle-Écosse. Nous avons discuté de la charge de travail supplémentaire qu'engendre l'absentéisme pour les enseignants.
- Les pensions des enseignants – Un souci pour tous (à l'exception du Nunavut qui a un groupe important d'enseignants déjà à la retraite ou de très jeunes enseignants). Pour le moment, il s'agit d'attendre et voir, y compris pour les enseignants de Terre-Neuve qui ont récemment obtenu un ajout de 2 milliards à leur régime.
- L'accréditation – Actuellement, la Nouvelle-Écosse est la seule province du Canada atlantique à utiliser ce modèle d'accréditation, qui semble occasionner beaucoup de stress et exiger beaucoup de temps. Les autres provinces ont un système similaire mais pas aussi exigeant.
- Nouvelles concernant les négociations – La Fédération des enseignants du Nouveau-Brunswick a un accord de principe; l'Association des enseignants de Terre-Neuve et Labrador est en pourparlers, la Fédération des enseignants de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard et celle du Nunavut ne sont pas actuellement en négociation avec leur gouvernement provincial ou territorial et le NSTU est en cours de négociation.
- La sécurité des écoles, la cyberintimidation, la mobilité de la main-d'œuvre et la certification des enseignants ont également fait l'objet de discussions et toutes les associations ont signalé la nécessité de programmes de petit déjeuner dans certaines de leurs écoles, ce qui indique que la faim reste un problème parmi les enfants.
- Comme vous pouvez le voir d'après les sujets discutés, nous avons un certain nombre de soucis communs; l'échange d'informations et le réseautage entre collègues continuent à jouer un rôle essentiel dans le cadre de nos efforts constants pour promouvoir la profession enseignante et l'enseignement public.

Enfin, puisqu'il s'agit ici du numéro de décembre de The Teacher, je vous présente mes meilleurs vœux pour une Saison des fêtes heureuse et paisible. Profitez bien de vos vacances et prenez le temps de vous reposer, vous le méritez amplement vu ce que vous faites chaque jour pour les élèves de la Nouvelle-Écosse!!!

TIP OF THE MONTH

Some tips for the holidays:

- 1) Eggnog isn't part of a complete breakfast.
- 2) Don't drink Santa's milk if it's been sitting out longer than 30 minutes.
- 3) Make sure the snow blower works BEFORE the big storm.
- 4) Don't eat yellow snow (or any snow).
- 5) If you haven't finished your holiday shopping, GO NOW!

TEACHERS PLUS INFO CENTRE

- 1 The Holiday season will soon be here. Need extra cash?? Apply now for a Personal Line of Credit for all those special purchases.
- 2 Please visit our website www.teachersplus.ca to see our posted holiday hours.
- 3 Teachers Plus Credit Union is raising funds by collecting gas receipts from Sobeys and Superstore; we will be converting these receipts into nonperishable food items which will be donated to Feed Nova Scotia. Please help us with this wonderful cause by donating your gas receipts or by dropping off nonperishable food items at our branch.
- 4 Teachers Plus Credit Union raised over \$3500.00 in this year's IWK Bowl-a-Thon on October 24, 2008.
- 5 Teachers Plus Credit Union had a great time participating in the Parade of Lights on November 15, 2008. We look forward to next year's parade.
- 6 Visit our website during December for the name of the lucky winner of an iPod Nano. A big "Thank You" to everyone who participated in our Investment Quiz.
- 7 Teachers Plus Credit Union will be travelling throughout the province presenting Pre-Retirement Seminars.
- 8 Teachers Plus Credit Union has more ABM's in Nova Scotia than any other Financial Institution. Need to find an ABM? We now have an ABM locator available on our website.

Happy Holidays!

*From Board and Staff of
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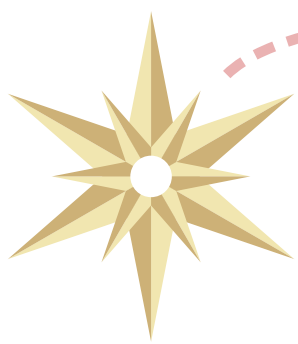
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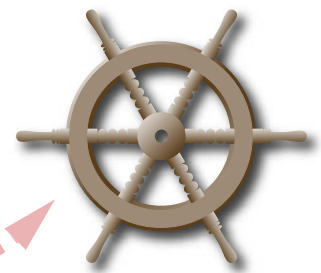
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Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Cyberconduct Cyberbullying

by Ron Brunton

NSTU EXECUTIVE STAFF OFFICER, PROFESSIONAL INITIATIVES & TECHNOLOGY

Students and teachers are becoming the targets of cyberbullying more frequently than ever. According to the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF)/Vector Research + Development Inc. public opinion survey around the issue of cyberbullying, 96 per cent of Canadians recognize cyberbullying and inappropriate use of communication technologies as a problem. It also shows that 74 per cent of teachers know of more than one case of cyberbullying. As a result of our members expressing concern for themselves, colleagues and students, the NSTU adopted a strong position on cyberbullying at Council 2008 when it adopted the Appropriate Use of Internet and Communications Technology policy.

We believe very strongly that information and communications technologies can be extremely important tools to assist and promote learning for teachers and students as part of the school/campus experience, off campus learning, and independent personal education. As technologies emerge that facilitate communication we must constantly reflect on how they can and should be used and what use must be recognized as inappropriate. We play a major role ensuring appropriate guidance is provided to colleagues and students.

It is a poor option to attempt to ban and prohibit these technologies from school or campus. If we succeed in such a prohibition but fail to teach appropriate cyberconduct, we know that some students, parents and teachers will engage in inappropriate on-line conduct outside the reach of school or campus.

There are four critical parts to this policy.

The first sets out the relevant definitions. Cyberbullying is the use of information and communication technology to bully, embarrass, threaten or harass another. It also includes the use of these technologies to engage in conduct or behaviour that is derogatory, defamatory, degrading, illegal and/or abusive.

In addition, this section defines appropriate cyberconduct, the safe school environment and an open-ended definition of information and communication technology that is not limited to what is currently available.

The second section presents the guiding principles that must be reflected in any approach to encouraging appropriate behaviour. Here, the importance of the school or campus as a safe, supportive and inviting place of work and learning is stressed. The use of Internet or communications technology in ways that is counter to this, regardless of where the inappropriate use comes from, must be addressed in a timely manner and regarded as a part of the Occupational Health and Safety environment of the school or campus. This last point is extremely important. Information and communication technologies enable

communication *to anywhere from anywhere*. This means that it makes no difference whether the communication actually originated on school grounds or a campus and the school board or the NSCC must recognize and deal with any behaviour that has a negative impact on the school or campus climate.

The third section expands on the principle that education is *"the essential pillar upon which the appropriate use of the Internet and communications technologies can be realized."* All members of the education community must be included in an educational process that helps everyone understand the responsibilities and consequences, both social and personal, of the use to which these technologies are put.

Finally, the policy outlines what we believe are the roles and responsibilities of all participants: students, parents and guardians, teachers, schools and school boards, the Department of Education, the Nova Scotia government, and the website and Internet Service Providers.

The policy is available on-line on the NSTU website. Select the "Resources" menu item and then select "Pamphlets/Guides" from the list that drops down. A link to the policy is provided on the page that will appear.

Although the new policy establishes a framework, teachers need to be proactive and understand how they can turn this policy into practical steps for their security and the safety of their students. Teachers protect themselves by ensuring their on-line presence is professional. In this regard, teachers must ensure that all communication with colleagues, administration, parents and students meets the highest standard. Never use a home or personal email account to communicate with parents or students. Use your EDNET or NSCC account for any such communication. Make sure it's your "teacher voice" that comes through in your messages, blogs or social networking site postings. Never post images or criticism of or information about students, parents, colleagues, administration, board policy, or board members without explicit permission and conscious consideration of privacy—yours and that of others. Never post personal or confidential information about yourself on-line.

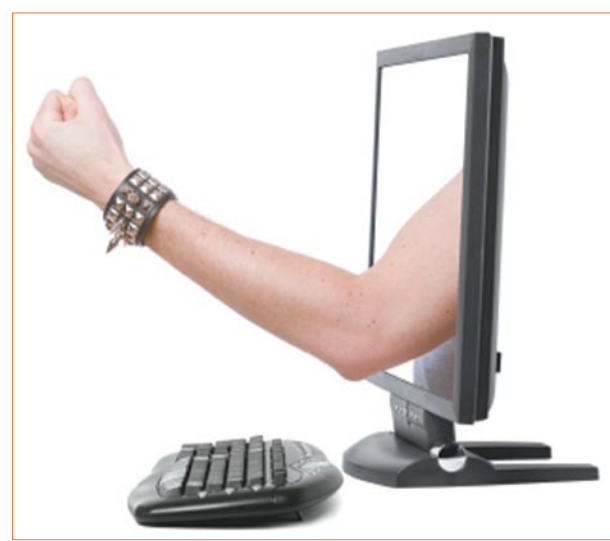
What should you do if you are the victims of cyberbullying?

First, never ignore or try to resolve the problem on your own. If you are the target of cyberbullying you should:

1. Make copies of all questionable messages, web postings, information, images, etc.
 - a. Include the URL
 - b. Take a screen shot of the material or print it in case the author of the inappropriate content removes it in an effort to hide their actions.
2. Demand the sender or author stop

sending or posting the material. Indicate the conduct violates the NSTU policy (and employer's policy if applicable). Save and print a copy of this communication to demonstrate to administration that you have acted professionally.

3. **Never** engage with the person generating the inappropriate cyber-behaviour. Doing so will never resolve the situation and will only provide encouragement to the person doing the cyberbullying.
4. Advise school or campus administration about the inappropriate communication. Be sure to show all the offensive material to the administration.
5. Access appropriate support and guidance in accordance with school board or NSCC policy. The NSTU counsellors are available to provide support. These kinds of attacks hurt no matter how strong you think you are. You need and deserve effective and sympathetic support.
6. Contact the parents of the student engaged in cyberbullying if applicable.

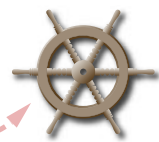


7. Inform and involve OHS. These attacks undermine a healthy and safe working environment and should be recognized as doing so.
8. Contact the NSTU if the situation is not rectified.

We know that the Internet and the other communications technologies available to us have the potential to expand our students' horizons and to give students, parents and colleagues powerful tools for their own learning. Used effectively and appropriately, these technologies should be embraced. By teaching students about their effective and appropriate use we dramatically reduce the likelihood of their misuse. This must be our goal.



Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Email your name, home address, and school or campus with PD in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by January 2 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's PD book giveaway is Allen N. Mendler and Richard L. Curwin's *Discipline, with Dignity for Challenging Youth*. This book explores the roots of student alienation and misbehaviour and identifies the goals of effective discipline, and presents ways to avoid confrontations, judgments, and punitive responses that thwart positive outcomes. It provides teachers with effective discipline strategies that preserve the dignity of students, nurtures self-control, caring and a sense of responsibility.

Readers will learn:

- The difference between punishment and consequences
- The concept of balancing limits and choices
- How to integrate discipline with instruction
- The importance of reframing success for difficult students
- How to create hope and model remorse



**The winner of the November PD book giveaway
(Lee Canter's Assertive Discipline Teacher's Plan Book #1)
is Darlene Oliver from
St. Agnes Elementary School in New Waterford.**

fresh

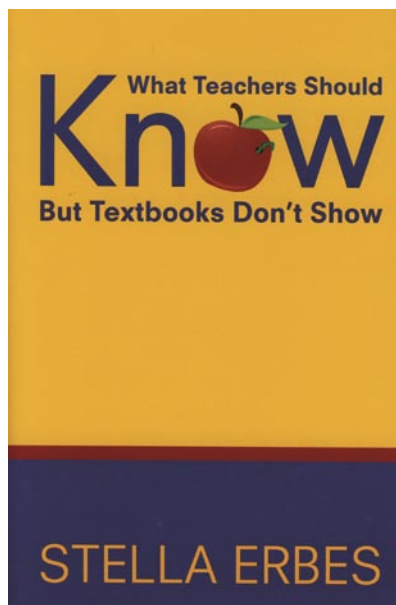
Putting new members in the KNOW!

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with FRESH in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by January 23 to be eligible for the draw.

When speaking with new members the topic of theory versus practical classroom experience often arises. Many new members find themselves looking for practical information to bridge the gap between theory and practice. *What Teachers Should Know But Textbooks Don't Show* by Stella Erbes, and published by Corwin Press, provides just that bridge. It is a clear, concise resource which provides valuable insights from veteran members to help new members. It will help new members:

- Create a positive learning environment
- Address classroom management issues while retaining their personal style
- Connect with students
- Collaborate with parents and families
- Handle personal and professional challenges

This book is ideal for all NSTU members!



NSTU executive staff officer Gérard Cormier facilitated a Teaching to Diversity Workshop for the teaching and administrative staff at Avon View High School on October 30. The workshop addressed issues of diversity in their particular school.

NSSBA releases school board election stats

The Nova Scotia School Boards Association recently released key statistical information from the October school board elections.

Of the 108 school board seats, 75 were incumbents and 30 were new members. Fifty-six people were acclaimed.

There are still three seats to be filled. There is one vacancy in District 4 of the Chignecto-Central School Board, the African Nova Scotia seat for the South Shore Regional School Board is vacant, and the Mi'kmaq seat for the Strait Regional School Board is vacant pending Ministerial appointment.

The male/female split on the boards is fairly close with 58 males and 47 females.

Provincially, voter turnout for the municipal and school board elections was 42.6 per cent. This is down slightly from the 2004 elections when the turnout was 46.7 per cent.

The majority of the province's school board members met on November 26 and 27 for two days of orientation sessions hosted by the NSSBA in partnership with the Department of Education. NSSBA, the provincial voice for school boards, has been serving school boards since 1954.

The NSSBA chaired a Joint Education Partners School Board Elections Committee with representatives from the NSTU, the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators, the Nova Scotia Department of Education and the Nova Scotia Federation of Home & School Associations. Members of the committee worked collaboratively to try and improve voter turnout by raising public awareness of the role and value of school boards and increase the number of candidates running in the school board elections.

Congratulations to our OCTOBER WINNERS of the Fresh & Equity giveaways!

FRESH: MELANIE SMITH of Caldwell Road Elementary in Dartmouth

EQUITY: TARAH HENDERSON of Caudle Park Elementary in Lower Sackville

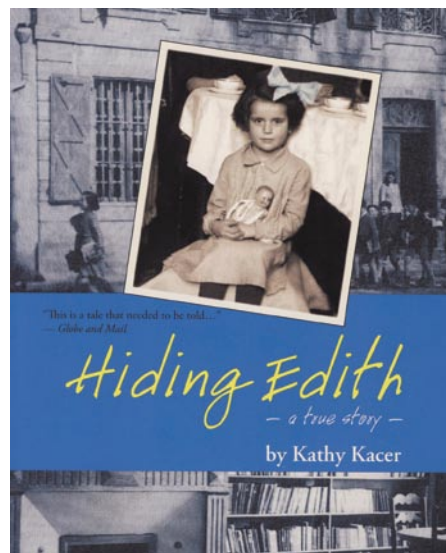
EQUITY COMMITTEE BOOK REVIEW

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by January 23 to be eligible for the draw.

Holocaust Education is one of the areas that educators should address in equity/diversity education. Recently a holocaust survivor visited schools in Nova Scotia to help educate students and educators about what can happen when people's human rights are taken away from them. Edith Schwalb tells her story so that future generations will not repeat the unspeakable events that occurred during World War II.

Imagine being separated from your parents and family. Imagine having to move so much no place is home. Imagine having armies trying to hunt you down. Imagine concealing your identity and hiding your faith. Where do you go? Who do you trust?

This month's equity book giveaway, *Hiding Edith*, written by Kathy Kacer and published by Second Story Press, tells such a story. It should be part of every school library collection.



2009 NSTU Equity Conference

Educators: Taking PRIDE in Equity

April 24 and 25, 2009
Delta Halifax

Registration Fee Includes:

- 2 Breakfasts, 1 lunch
- International Banquet on Friday evening
- Keynote Speakers, Panels, Workshops

Highlights

- Opening Keynote — Scott Brison, MP
- Closing Keynote — Steven Van Zoost, PhD
- International Banquet — Entertainers from Halifax West High School
- Workshops on diversity, homophobia, transphobia, Gay-straight Alliances, and more
- 2 Panels: Overcoming Challenges & Youth in Crisis

Registration Fee: \$150.00

Registration Deadline January 30, 2009

Spaces are limited so register early.

Register with Lise Meunier at 479-4718, 1-800-565-6788 or lmeunier@nstu.ca

Publisher displays and materials will be available



Scotsburn Elementary parent conference puts all the pieces together

On October 18 the Scotsburn Elementary School Advisory Council hosted a parent conference at the school.

The conference, *Puzzled Parents—Putting the Pieces Together*, was designed as a learning experience around such topics as discipline, school curriculum, healthy living and nutrition. “Raising children in today’s world is not an easy task and it is very important that home, school and outside agencies work together to provide the best education possible,” says Scotsburn Elementary principal Judy Lockhart.

The conference provided lots of time for participants to communicate. “We often talk about the importance of hearing parent’s ideas and suggestions but tend to ask them to spend their time chaperoning trips or fundraising for us,” comments Lockhart. “This venue provided an opportunity to hear our parents and to learn from each other.”

The day began with two guest speakers who really woke up the crowd. Ann MacGregor and Gene Mills from local radio station East Coast FM provided interactive entertainment. Parents, teachers and community members engaged in a rousing game of *Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?* Participants then had an opportunity to choose from a number of workshops. “The organizing committees spent a lot of time preparing a smooth day for all,” said Lockhart. Babysitting was made available at the Recreation Centre next to the school and nutritious snacks and a delicious lunch were provided.

Special guests at the parent conference included Lynn MacLean (Family of Schools supervisor for Celtic) and Vivian Farrell (School Board member). Workshop leaders included: Lockhart and teachers Cindy Graham and Shauna Heighton; public



From left to right are Jennifer MacLennan (Co-Chair of the Conference), Ann MacGregor and Gene Mills from East Coast FM in the morning, Lynn MacLean (Family of Schools Supervisor), and Vivian Farrell (School Board Member).



Children had a great time at the Recreation Centre while their parents attended the workshops at Scotsburn School.

health nutritionist Lindsay Corbin; Start Making Abilities Count (SMAC) facilitator Lea Nicholas; Kent Murray (who presented Barbara Coloroso’s work); and computer leader Laura MacDougall.

The school has received very positive feedback from their parent conference. Such comments include: “I loved the

conference! I found I took a lot away from it!” and “I would definitely attend in the future.”

“I am very proud of the SAC members and the staff for providing such a wonderful opportunity for our community. We are never too old to share and to learn new ideas,” concludes Lockhart.



The Board of Directors and the Program Committee of the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium

would like to thank all our participants, partners and facilitators for making 2008 another successful year for NSELC.

- Do you realize that 981 educators participated in NSELC professional learning programs this calendar year?
- **Module 1-Working with People** continued to be our most popular module, closely followed by **Module 8- Social Justice** and **Module 12- Mentoring and Coaching**.
- Newly rewritten modules, including **Module 4-The School Leader and the Law**, **Module 9- Programming for Students with Special Needs** and **Module 10- Data Driven Decision Making**, were also frequently requested.
- The highly anticipated **Module 13- It’s Time to Use Assessment to Improve Teaching and Learning** will be available early in 2009.
- On August 20 & 21, 2009 NSELC will host a two-day **Assessment Summit** in Halifax. It will feature five of the most respected authorities on using assessment to improve student learning.

Season’s Greetings from your NSELC staff:

Executive Co-Directors: Sandi Carmichael and Tony Stewart

Administrative Assistant: Karen Turner

We look forward to serving you in the New Year!

Register online at www.nselc.ednet.ns.ca or call 422-3270 for more information.

IN-PROVINCE TEACHER EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

The In-Province Teacher Exchange Program was initiated to provide a mechanism for teachers to experience new work environments through alternate teacher assignments in different geographical settings. Such work experiences may be beneficial to the professional growth of NSTU members by providing new challenges and opportunities in their teaching careers.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Download the application form from the Members’ Only NSTU website www.nstu.ca or contact the NSTU: 477-5621, 1-800-565-6788 or by email: nstu@nstu.ca

Forward completed application form to the NSTU Central Office by January 31st, 2009. Forms should be directed to:

**SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE
IN-PROVINCE TEACHER EXCHANGE PROGRAM
c/o Nova Scotia Teachers Union
3106 Joseph Howe Drive
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4L7**

IMPORTANT DATES

January 31	Application Deadline
By February 28	Meeting of Supervisory Committee to review applications and submit to School Boards for approval

What every NSTU member should know: CRIMINAL ALLEGATIONS

The worst nightmare for any NSTU member is when a criminal complaint—especially a criminal complaint of assault and/or sexual misconduct has been made against him or her.

The **first step** a member should take is to contact an executive staff officer in the member services department of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union for advice. The staff officer assigned to your case will direct the procedures that will be followed to minimize the damage that such allegations can and do create. The staff officer will advise a member of the processes to be followed and to provide access to legal counsel. Do NOT DO anything until you have talked to legal counsel. Exercise your constitutional right to remain silent.

There are a number of things that an accused member should NOT do:

1. **Do not** discuss or supply a written report on the matter with anyone other than legal counsel. This would include staff members, and/or Board/Employer officials.
2. **Do not** discuss the matter or give a written statement to police or child protection investigators until you have had the opportunity to discuss and receive advice from legal counsel.
3. **Do not** attempt to resolve the matter personally.
4. **Do not** make any contact with the accuser or his/her family.
5. **Do not** talk to the media.

There are very good reasons for each of these instructions. If a criminal charge results from the allegation, the member's right of due process could well have been compromised because of an inadvertent comment made to someone. Anyone, except legal counsel retained on behalf of an accused person, can be called to testify in a trial in regard to anything said by an accused person. **The right to consult with legal counsel before making a statement to the police or child-care workers is an absolute right in law.**

Members who have suffered such allegations have often been contacted by police authorities beyond school hours and in some cases in very unorthodox ways. Members are advised that there are a number of things you need NOT do by law.

1. You **need not** go with the police upon request, unless you are arrested and if you are informed of the reasons for being arrested.
2. You **need not** give a statement, even if arrested.
3. You **need not** give a statement at any time unless advised by legal counsel.
4. You **need not** sign a document of any kind unless it is appearance notice stating the date you are to be in court.
5. You **need not** report to the police station to answer any questions unless accompanied by legal counsel.
6. You **need not** allow police to enter your residence without a search warrant.
7. You **need not** submit to a polygraph.

A serious allegation can have impact on employment status. The Employer may feel that it is necessary to remove a member from the work environment during the investigation process. In those situations, the NSTU will work with the Employer to protect the employment rights and the financial well being of members. Often, a member will be placed on a paid leave during the period of investigation.

We must also recognize and address the normal emotions and reactions of anyone who faces the trauma of being accused of a serious offence. Most members who have been accused want to immediately resolve the situation. The key is to avoid saying anything to anybody until contact with the NSTU has been established and legal counsel has been retained on your behalf.

Usually, the resolution of the problem is a time-consuming process. Great care is taken to protect the rights of the member involved. These cases are always taken very seriously by the NSTU staff and members should be assured that advice and support will be forthcoming. Once a resolution has been reached, whatever it might be, you should be aware of the long-term emotional effects of such an experience—not only for you but also for your family members, friends and co-workers. Counselling is available through NSTU's Counselling Services.

(This is a variation of an article originally published in *The Teacher*, in April, 1994.)

DISCOUNT FOR NSTU MEMBERS

PAPA MARIO'S PIZZA - Two locations to serve you in the HRM
6954 Mumford Road (Halifax Shopping Centre Annex) and
1283 Barrington Street, Halifax **offers a 10% discount to NSTU members on food orders only.**

Papa Mario's also offer catering of more than just pizza - they have veggie/meat/fruit trays as well as salads and wraps.

School lunch program is available (pizza with a whole wheat crust!)

Visit their website at www.papamarios.com or phone 902-421-2121.

Contact is Albert at 902-425-0000 or 902-877-0247.



OVERSEAS SCHOOLS TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

Are you

- A certified teacher in Nova Scotia
- A new teacher graduate seeking full-time experience
- A retiree still interested in teaching

Why not consider

- Teaching Nova Scotia curriculum in overseas schools
- Seeing the world while working in a rewarding school environment

Teaching/administrative opportunities are available immediately in

- China (High School Program)
- United Arab Emirates (Primary – High School Program)
- Kuwait (Primary – High School Program)
- Egypt (Primary – High School Program)

Compensation includes

- Basic salary
- Return airfare
- Fully furnished apartment (including utilities)
- Meal allowance
- Medical Insurance Plan
- Work Visa

Information sessions available - (all sessions 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Truro | February 3, 2009 | CCRSB 60 Lorne St., Truro |
| • Halifax | February 24, 2009 | Dartmouth Teacher's Centre |
| • Yarmouth | March 3 (rescheduled) | Rodd Hotel, Yarmouth |

For further information contact coveyfp@gov.ns.ca

Take the *where* challenge and Win Big!

More than \$17,500 in cash prizes!
PLUS

ALL entries go into draw for FREE iPod touch!

Contest runs October 17, 2008 - February 28, 2009

In celebration of the International Year of Planet Earth, the first annual WHERE Challenge is asking Canadian kids aged 10 – 14 years to discover the answers to these questions: What on Earth is in your stuff and WHERE on Earth does it come from?

The WHERE Challenge is inviting kids and schools from across the country to compete for thousands of dollars in regional and national cash prizes by letting their imaginations run wild! Enter as a group or an individual. All you have to do is tell a story about what on Earth is in your stuff and WHERE on Earth it comes from. Pick a favourite object in your home, school or playground, identify one or more **non-renewable earth resources** needed to make that object and tell us WHERE on Earth those resources come from. Your story can be told through an essay, a poem, a song or a play, a painting or a poster, an audio, video or multimedia presentation or anything else you can dream up! The more original, the better! Winning entries will be used as promotional tools to demonstrate how Earth resources are essential to our everyday lives.

So think hard, get creative and find out interesting facts about your stuff. For more details on the WHERE Challenge or to learn about exciting careers in Earth sciences, please visit www.earthsciencescanada.com



Sponsors:



Body image is very important for everyone, both males and females. Every human being desires to look and feel good, be well and enjoy more out of what life has to offer. However, we don't always acknowledge this nor take the right steps to get there. We live in an instant society where we look for immediate gratification. Looking and feeling really good for longer than a few minutes, does actually take more time, attention and work.

Wellness is a holistic process where body, mind and spirit should be involved. Body image is not just a vanity issue but it has a serious impact on how we feel, the choices we make in life and therefore our wellness. There are many factors that affect wellness and our body image such as, diet and nutrition, physical activity, attitude, self-esteem and

confidence and how we manage our stress. Of course, how well we communicate, or manage our time also impacts our wellness. Daily laughter and meditation are great habits for everyone. Other important elements that should be considered are community network supports, spirituality, love, respect, forgiveness and healing. We have to recognize our potential and believe we can achieve and surpass our dreams.

We need to create and maintain a healthy body image through challenging times. As teachers you know that balance and equilibrium are not a constant phenomenon and we need to be vigilant. This means we need to make wise choices, manage our stress, and live a healthy life. Stress is part of everyday life. Taking care of ourselves is even more important. Feeling good starts from within and we are *the only one* who can take action. We do need to examine our choices, habits, and our responses. This will help

in empowering us and therefore feeling good.

Our attitude and feeling well really does affect healing our body and how we see ourselves. How we respond to circumstances is generally determined by our attitude, habits and how we feel. We communicate in different ways and body image is another way we convey how we feel about ourselves which sets the tone for how others treat us. Unfortunately, most people have not been socialized nor have had much training in non-verbal messages that we send by how we view ourselves.

Body image and how we carry ourselves is an important issue for everyone. Many changes in life can have an impact on how we feel. How we love and respect ourselves plays a very important role on our body image, how well our body heals, and ultimately

wellness.

Colours and lighting also affect our mood. This means the colours and lighting in our physical environment and what we wear are important. Colours emit energy and we need to pay greater attention to them. This not only affects the person who is wearing the colour but also those around them.

Here are some simple suggestions about colours:

- Add colours whenever possible in the room.
- Use more appropriate and warm lighting.
- Wear bright colours that are suitable to your complexion.
- On a rainy gloomy day wear a bright yellow or red blouse or sweater and watch people's reactions and comments.

Dieting is not a long term solution for

healthy weight loss and maintenance. There is good reason why the diet industry is worth over \$33 billion. Fad diets do not work. Over 90 per cent of women overestimate their body size. Failing to lose weight and acquire a super model body will certainly lower our self-esteem. Men are not immune to the effects of media and advertisements. There are a lot of expectations for men to be macho, strong, sensitive, tall, dark and handsome, and don't forget to have a great six pack! By cherishing who we are, our body size, and our uniqueness, we appreciate and love ourselves.

Dressing for our body type is very important to how we look and even feel on the inside. There are many body shapes and sizes and *everyone* can and should feel good about themselves. There are also many different styles of fashion to suit personality, lifestyle, occasion and mood. Being the best we can and should be is absolutely crucial for all of us.

Having fun every day should be part of everyone's life. Did you know that on average, adults laugh about 15 times per day? In contrast, a four-year-old laughs about 300 times per day. I am not talking about a three sec chuckle or giggle but rather a real belly laugh. We do take in more oxygen when laughing, it reduces stress, increases our will to live, and improves the immune system. We need to have more fun and laughter *is truly the best medicine*.

By eating well, being active, and having a positive attitude, we become more energetic, live well, make healthier choices,



manage our stress better and enjoy a happy life. By taking care of ourselves, we are able to give more and receive more in life. Looking and feeling good and having a healthy body image are possible for everyone. We just have to decide to get there and be attentive to our bodies, minds and souls.

Floria offers workshops, training, and individual consultations on a variety of topics. You can visit her website www.recognizeyourpotential.com or contact her at 902-477-9100.

*Recognize your potential
and surpass your dreams.*

2009 ASSESSMENT SUMMIT

AUGUST 20 AND 21, 2009

HALIFAX, N. S.

Use the power of assessment to drive instruction and improve learning. Hear five of the most distinguished assessment experts in North America illustrate why the fundamental purpose of assessment is not to rate, rank, and sort students, but rather to provide meaningful feedback that leads to improved student learning.

Keynote Speakers

Anne Davies	Damian Cooper	Cassandra Erkens
Ken O'Connor		Rick Stiggins

Registration Fees Include:

- ◆ 2 full days of professional learning
- ◆ Sessions with every keynote speaker
- ◆ Breakfast and lunch every day
- ◆ Evening reception with fabulous door prizes including a chance to win dinner with the keynote speakers.

Registration Fees:

Early Bird price—\$499.00 + HST (Before March 31, 2009)

Regular Price—\$549.99 + HST (After March 31, 2009)

Special Group Pricing: for registration fees paid by boards, schools etc. (organization must pay for all registered in the group with one payment). For every 15 registered receive one free registration (buy 15 get the 16th free).

Registration Deadline May 1, 2009



Register on line at
www.nselc.ednet.ns.ca
(902)422-3270



did you KNOW?

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) invites NSTU members to sign up for our Wellness email list at **Be_Well@nstu.ca**.

Please contact Erin at ekeefe@nstu.ca to provide her with your NSTU email address. The **Be_Well@nstu.ca** list will provide information about the EIP and other wellness topics.



The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

*The deadlines for applications for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program for the 2008-2009 school year are
December 15 and March 15.*

Applications for active NSTU members are available through your NSTU rep, on the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca or at Central Office 477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788. The internship provides members with an opportunity to learn more about the NSTU.

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

coming events

JANUARY 4

The Braille Challenge

Looking for a unique, hands-on opportunity to challenge your students and reinforce the value of literacy in our world today? January 4, 2009 marks the 200th birthday of Louis Braille. In honour of the occasion the Canadian Braille Authority (an organization which promotes braille literacy) is sponsoring a Braille Challenge which will enable elementary school students across Canada to learn the basics of the braille code. Free online braille tutorials will be made available. Challenge activities include tasks such as decoding secret braille messages and producing braille labels for the school environment. Participants will have a chance to win gold, silver and bronze certificates. The Braille Challenge officially began on November 17, 2008. For more information about upcoming bicentenary competitions and events see the Braille 200 website at www.braille200.ca.

JANUARY TO MARCH

Take The Roof Off Winter

Nova Scotia's winter active campaign Take The Roof Off Winter (TTROW) is designed to help Nova Scotians of all ages improve their health and quality of life by being outdoors and active. Using the winter outdoors as a theme, an educator or school volunteer can provide an opportunity for kids to experience some winter fun and physical activity. Lots of events will be going on, so get the word out and post your events on the Events Calendar at www.taketherooffwinter.ca/events.php. Be sure to take some time and explore to the Take the Roof Off Winter website at www.taketherooffwinter.ca.

JANUARY 16 DEADLINE

Get your students involved in a challenge to combat racism! The *Racism. Stop it! National Video Competition* is open to young Canadians between the ages of 12 and 18. Youth rise to the challenge by producing a 45 to 60-second video to express their thoughts on eliminating racism. The website at www.march21.gc.ca features material that will help. You don't need prior experience in film. The ten winning videos will be broadcast across Canada! Don't forget to include a completed entry form and send it with your video. If you are submitting your entry by mail, it must be **postmarked by Friday, January 16, 2009**.

JANUARY 18 TO 24

National Non Smoking Week

The National Non Smoking Week theme for 2009 is *What have you got to lose?* This year's poster (available to order at www.nnsw.ca) focuses on smoking as the number one cause of preventable home fire deaths in Canada. National Non-Smoking Week (NNSW) has been observed for more than 30 years. Since 1977 activities for the week have been coordinated by the Canadian

Council for Tobacco Control. National Non-Smoking Week is one of the longest running and most important events in Canada's ongoing public education efforts. NNSW educates Canadians about the dangers of smoking and helps to attain a smoke-free society in Canada.

JANUARY 21

Weedless Wednesday

Weedless Wednesday has been a focal point of National Non-Smoking Week focusing media and public attention on the benefits of cessation and the community resources available to help smokers quit. The idea behind Weedless Wednesday is to promote a "one day at a time" approach to quitting smoking, a concept appealing to many smokers who may be discouraged at the thought of an entire week—or lifetime—without cigarettes, but who may be able to cope with one smoke-free day. For more information visit www.nnsw.ca.

JANUARY 27

Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day, held annually on January 27, was developed by ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation and Honda Canada in 1999 to encourage families to read and learn together on a daily basis. Last year, for Family Literacy Day's tenth year celebrations, it is estimated that over 275,000 Canadians participated in literacy activities at home and in schools, libraries and literacy organizations across the country. For more information, visit www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca.

This year the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union will launch the French language edition of Sheree Fitch's *Kisses Kisses Baby-O!—Bisous Bisous Bébé-Ô!* for the Read to Me! Family Literacy Program on Family Literacy Day at the IWK Health Centre as part of their continuing sponsorship of this program.

JANUARY 31 DEADLINE

2009 Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program

The 2009 Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program rewards graduating high school students across Canada for their efforts to help the environment through school and community activities. Fifteen scholarships of \$5,000 will be awarded across Canada in five geographical regions: Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Western Canada/Northwest Territories/Nunavut, and British Columbia/Yukon. Program information and applications are available in both English and French at www.earthday.ca/scholarship. The completed Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program application including all forms, letters of reference and high school academic transcripts must be **postmarked no later than January 31, 2009**.

FEBRUARY

School of Social Work Dalhousie University courses

The Continuing Education Program of the School of Social Work, Dalhousie University is pleased to be offering some new and previously offered courses for the winter term.

For further information and to register go to <http://continuingeducation.socialwork.dal.ca> or contact Louise Ghiz, Coordinator, Continuing Education at louise.ghiz@dal.ca or 902-494-3760.

FEBRUARY 28 DEADLINE

Canada Day Poster Challenge

Each year, students 18 years of age and under are invited to take part in the Canada Day Poster Challenge by designing a poster that illustrates their pride in Canada and in being Canadian. The 13 provincial and territorial finalists will win a trip to Ottawa to celebrate Canada Day on Parliament Hill. The winning entry will also become the official poster of Celebrate Canada! activities across the country. Visit www.pch.gc.ca/special/canada/affiche-poster for details. **Application deadline is February 28, 2009.**

St. Pat's Class of '99 Reunion

Graduates from the St. Patrick's High School (Halifax) Class of 1999 will be hosting a casual mixer in Halifax in late December. Teaching staff from the '98-'99 academic year are invited to email jon.bruhm@smu.ca for event details.



After Hours Telephone Intake, Crisis Counselling and Referral Service

4:30 PM AST to 8:30 AM AST
After Hours, 24 Hour Service During Weekends and Holidays

During these hours, call: 1-800-268-7708

Provided By: Health Canada's Employee Assistance Services
Crisis Referral Centre

EDUCATION WEEK

April 19 to 25, 2009

Bringing Arts to Life /
Intégrer l'art à la vie



Nova Scotia Teachers Union

A T T E N T I O N

**ALL EARLY CAREER TEACHERS
WORKING FOR THE HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD**

Halifax Regional Council, a division of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union will be offering a workshop entitled **QUALITIES OF EXCEPTIONAL TEACHERS**.

This workshop will explore the many qualities that make great teachers great such as professional conduct, enthusiasm, and sense of humour to name but a few. Come and meet other early career teachers and you may even win one of the teacher reading resources being given away as door prizes.

Monday, January 12, 2008

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

NSTU Building, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax

Please spread the word – tell a friend, tell a new teacher!!

Please register by emailing Gérard Cormier – gcormier@nstu.ca

NSTU Professional Associations

2008 Provincial Professional Development Day

Merging Mind and Movement

This year's TAPHE (Teachers Association for Physical and Health Education) conference merged mind and movement through its keynote address, luncheon and varied workshops. At this year's conference, which took place at Truro Junior High School, close to 500 delegates attended workshops on yoga, archery, freestyle Frisbee, Nordic walking and rugby, to name a few. Other workshops focused on assessment, GBLTT issues in the classroom and naturopathic medicine.



Margie MacIntyre a phys ed teacher at Chiganois Elementary and Cobequid Consolidated Elementary schools holds a Kin-Ball with Pierre-Julien Hamel of Kin-Ball Canada.

Ted Temertzoglou, a phys ed teacher with the Toronto District School Board, was the keynote speaker for the conference. Temertzoglou is co-author of *Exercise Science*, and the lead author of the Nova Scotia Physical Education 10 Resource and the Canadian Active living Fitness Circuit

charts used in classrooms across the country. He also presented a workshop called FUNctional Fitness Blasts.



NSTU president Alexis Allen dropped by the TAPHE conference. She is shown with the conference organizing team. Front row left to right: Shawn MacNutt, Bible Hill Central Elementary School phys ed and reading recovery teacher who was in charge of hospitality; Matt Pryde, a Department of Health Promotion and Protection Active Communities Coordinator, who co-chaired the volunteer committee; Allen; Sue Stevenson, conference co-chair and healthy living consultant with the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board (CCRSB); Butch Borden, volunteers and logistics co-chair, a phys ed teacher at Truro Junior High; and Shauna Heighton exhibits co-chair and phys ed teacher at River John Consolidated, Scotsburn Elementary and Salt Springs Elementary schools. Back Row: Jill Fraser, exhibits co-chair and Trenton Middle School Healthy Living teacher; Tina Knob, publicity chair and vice principal at Maple Ridge Elementary School; Anitra Dagley conference and registration co-chair and sport animateur for the CCRSB; Brian Hayden logistics co-chair and Truro Junior High phys ed teacher; and Angela Somers registration co-chair and CCRSB community education programmer.

Missing from the photo: Ashley Phillips, treasurer and CCRSB community education programmer and Glenn MacKinnon, hospitality co-chair.

Author Donna Morrissey highlight of ATENS conference

The Association of Teachers of English of Nova Scotia (ATENS) began their conference with one of Atlantic Canada's greatest storytellers. Newfoundland writer Donna Morrissey gave a humorous, touching and inspiring address to the 250 delegates at the 2008 conference themed *Cornerstones: Connecting Words and the World*.



Morrissey, fresh from a whirlwind journey across Canada promoting her new book *What They Wanted*, relayed to the audience the power of story and how it can aid in understanding.

She told the audience one of her stories—how through story she was able to change the lives of troubled youths. “As a social worker student I was given 12 ‘hoods’ and told I had six weeks to change their lives. Six weeks later, eight of the 12 of them didn’t want to leave.”

She said she used the story of another troubled youth named David through a documentary about his life to help the young offender deal with their issues. “When David became the a-hole they jeered, they were really scoffing at themselves but didn’t know it. They booed him because they were outside the story,” she said. “To begin with David wasn’t a hero—and they wanted one—when he became a hero they cheered for him.” She asked the young offenders to reflect on their personal stories, and the mitigating circumstances leading up to their arrests.

“Seeing themselves as characters—there’s glamour in that. They really took in on, and started learning about themselves. It gave them the ability to stand back and see themselves as a character in a drama.”

“I asked them to write their ending—they were in the middle of the drama—how would they like it to end. The fact they didn’t want to leave told me they wanted to be a hero,” she continued. “But that is the power of story—it affects change within yourself. The written word becoming a powerful tool.”

“The power of story imparts the message of the individual truth,” she continued. “A scene from a book will stay with you a whole lot longer than a friend saying I told you so. We are all a story, our own truth or version of the truth.”

“I never miss an opportunity to hear other people’s stories—I thrive on other people’s stories,” she concluded.

Known for her vivid portrayal of life on the Rock, the depictions of her home province’s terrain and people, her first three novels—*Kit’s Law*, *Downhill Chance* and *Sylvanus Now*—have been compared to the worlds imagined by Thomas Hardy and William Faulkner. Morrissey’s new novel, published by Penguin Group Canada, explores the wild shores of a Newfoundland outport and the equally wild environment of an Alberta oil rig.

NSTU Professional Associations

2008 Provincial Professional Development Day A Journey of Hope



Left to right - Logan MacGillivray, Shawna Shiers (Conference chair), and Craig Kielburger.

A message of hope could be felt throughout the day at Avon View High School in Windsor as it hosted the Nova Scotia School Counsellors Association conference on October 24.

About 300 participants were led through the day by over 50 student volunteers who assumed various leadership roles such as directing, introducing and thanking over 40 workshop presenters, and taking care of technology glitches, performing drama, art and musical productions all related to the conference theme, *A Journey of Hope*. “It was wonderful to see so many youth involved in leading the adults. They were positive, committed and motivated to do more—beyond the call of duty,” says Shawna Shiers, professional counsellor and conference organizer.

The highlight of the day was the afternoon keynote address by Craig Kielburger, international child rights activist and founder of *Free The Children*, the world’s largest network of children helping children through education.

Eleven-year old Logan MacGillivray of Bedford started the session attended by student leaders and all conference participants. After seeing images of the hardships children face in Northern Province, Sierra Leone and feeling grateful for all that he had, he spearheaded sending a 40-foot shipping container to Sierra Leone filled with educational, building and recreational materials to refurbish seven schools. He also created awareness of Sierra Leone by making a documentary/music video with the help of Terry Kelly. All proceeds from the sale of the Listen To The Children video will be used to help construct a community resource centre for students and teachers at the cdpeace headquarters at Mayagba, Sierra Leone. Before he introduced Craig Kielburger, the audience viewed his documentary on connections between youth in Canada and in Sierra Leone.

Kielburger’s address, *Raising Socially Conscious Children through Inspiration, Motivation and Leadership*, was very inspiring for the audience. “Both Logan and Craig affirmed to counsellors and educators province-wide that ‘we’ have the power to encourage leadership in our youth by empowering them through esteem building opportunities, volunteerism and team work; that each of us can ‘be the change’ in the world through simple acts of giving back,” continues Shiers.

Kielburger said that according to the Dalai Lama, the greatest challenge the world is raising a generation of passive bystanders.” “I truly believe educators are the most powerful people in the world,” he remarked. “They have the ability to change the way a young person thinks.

“What if instead of teaching the 3Rs, we created the 3Cs—compassion, change and community. If they become the cornerstone of education what would the world look like?” he asked.

Kielburger relayed to the audience some interesting statistics. Students who volunteer get better grades and are less likely to drop out of school and make more responsible choices. “When youth reach beyond themselves, it’s inspiring,” Kielburger’s *Free the Children* organization, which has become the world’s leading youth-driven charity, has inspired an entire generation to stand up and have their voices heard. Their latest initiative is a joint project with Oprah Winfrey’s Angel Network called O Ambassadors. “We have O Ambassador schools right here in Nova Scotia.”

“Where do Logans come from?” he asked. “A young person sees an issue—a spark they need to respond to, something so powerful they want to reach out.” He relayed his own story of being a 12-year-old boy seeing an article about a young boy from Pakistan whose family was so poor they sold him into child slavery. When this boy spoke out about his own plight, he was shot dead for being a human rights activist.

“This boy was someone my own age, in Grade 7. I brought in the article and said to my teacher I need your help,” he continued. “My teacher could have said to me, not today—but he didn’t, he realized this is education, this is the opportunity we seize...and that’s how twelve 12-year-olds started *Free The Children* 15 years ago. That one teacher in that split second could have so easily said not today—we’re behind on math or we need to prep for the standardized test. So, you see that change is as simple as one supportive teacher.”

Kielburger urged the teachers in the audience to give their students the opportunity to have influence: “Young people are passionate about specific issues.” He also talked about courage and used Nova Scotia’s Pink Campaign to combat bullying as a very courageous act on behalf of the two youth who started it and those who continue with its message.

His final thought was about the greatest person in his life, Agnes, who was not a CEO, or a prime minister, but a teacher. “Agnes used to pass by a slum on her way to teaching school each day, and never looked inside. One day she fell ill, and asked herself, what’s the meaning of my life? She made a promise. Her legacy was to never just walk by again. She stopped and she looked inside the alley and saw a woman who needed help. She tried to get her into a hospital but was turned away because she had no money. She brought her home and she comforted her until she passed away. Agnes changed the lives of millions—Agnes was Mother Teresa of Calcutta, a teacher who taught in an all-girls school in Eastern Europe, she was a simple, humble school teacher—a tiny woman with a big heart.”

How do you do it? I asked her. She smiled and took my hands and said you have to realize we can do no great things but small things with great love. We can all do small things with great love.”

“Many people stayed after the conference to speak with Craig and Logan on what they could do at their own school or within their own community to help be part of creating global hope. The positive and inspirational emotion shared during this presentation was a beautiful reflection of the compassion and dedication to youth and personal growth shown by counsellors. My only wish would be that counsellors had more ‘professional care’ opportunities such as this day to share, support and inspire each other so we can to ‘pay it forward’ to others,” concludes Shiers.



Chef Rick Ogilvie offers tips for family studies teachers wishing to introduce healthy fun foods to students in their food labs to members of the Family Studies Teachers Association (FSTA) conference organizing committee at Hebbville Academy. Left to right are Sandra Himmelman, Hebbville Academy; Chef Ogilvie; Dorothy Matthews, Bayview Community School; and Barbara Rhodenizer, North Queens Rural High School.



Some 800 teachers attended more than 100 workshops and sessions offered by the Math Teachers Association (MTA) during its annual conference held this year at Central Kings Rural High School in Cambridge. Paula Steffen Moeller, from Texas Instruments, delivered the opening address, “Changing Opportunities, Changing Lives, By Moving Math Forward,” Thursday evening. Above, Steffen Moeller discusses some of the technology used in an innovative model for math improvement, which her company developed in partnership with US school districts, with Elinor Cameron, on-site chair of the MTA conference.

Pugwash District High School Annual Scarecrow Exhibit

Some very strange characters greeted visitors to the school grounds of Pugwash District High School during the second annual Grade 11 Scarecrow Exhibit in the last few days of October.



This scarecrow in keeping with a Halloween theme will definitely keep the crows away.

Art teacher and NSTU rep for the school Louise Cloutier says she’s working on having this event become an integral part of the community. “My hope is by the time I retire in 2015 that there will be a scarecrow festival in Pugwash.”

Cloutier, who teaches Grades 7 to 12, says her students learned about the economic, cultural and social contexts of scarecrows. Cloutier discussed with students the different kinds of scarecrow festivals like those in the town of Kentville and St. Andrews by-the-Sea in New Brunswick. “Each community has a very different feel to their scarecrows,” she says. “My students’ scarecrows are constructed with a chicken wire base and burlap covering, with some cloth. In Mahone Bay they use stuffed cloth and hand painted faces. The Kentville scarecrows

are constructed like dummies with pumpkin heads. Communities have different ways of expressing themselves.”

Cloutier says students questioned whether scarecrows still help keep away the crows. Especially when they were shown a photograph of a scarecrow that used the head of a real cow. Perhaps it attracted more crows. “What does it say about the person who created it?” she muses.

Since the scarecrow has its roots in Greek mythology, her students looked at the philosophy of Socrates and Plato. They also explored existentialism. “If the scarecrow was alive, what philosophy would it ascribe to?” Cloutier says that with this kind of project students can look at self, identity, and inner and outer traits. “They had to write a profile about their scarecrow and describe their inner and outer traits.”

They also explored the concept of avatars, a personality connected with the screen name, or handle, of an Internet user, or a way of communicating in the virtual world. “The students created the scarecrows as extensions of themselves.”



Louise Cloutier is shown with Sarah Jupp’s scarecrow Chuckles. Jupp also created the costume for her scarecrow.

Immersed in everything scarecrow, students also explored scarecrows in song, like John Cougar’s Rain on the Scarecrow. The students sketched their creations, photographed them from different perspectives and even wrote poetry.

The scarecrow project also crossed curriculum and grade levels. Using photos of their scarecrows from the previous year, Grade 12 art students created flyers for the exhibit. “The flyers were distributed around the community to promote the exhibit,” adds Cloutier. A Grade 9 PDR class created two of the 13 scarecrows on display; drama students created monologues and the PDT (production and technology) students filmed the process.

The local elementary school also visited the school’s scarecrow exhibit and wrote poetry based on their visit. Cloutier says some of her students had Halloween in mind in some of their creations, and the scarecrows remained up to spook away any would be vandals to the school grounds on Halloween night.

Name Brooklynnne

Title _____

It was awesome
and fun to go to the high school.
I was excited too!
I like the scarecrows.
The scarecrows were
funny costumes. The
pig was funniest.
I like the
pig the most.
I laughed at
him!



Brooklynnne’s favourite scarecrow.

Science 6 Implementation workshop held in Cape Breton

Grade 6 teachers in the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board, Eskasoni and Membertou attended a Science 6 Implementation workshop on October 16 at the Staff Development Centre, North Sydney. Presenters included Marilyn Webster, P-12 Science Consultant, Department of Education and Matt Bamsey from the Canadian Space Agency. Bamsey holds a BEng from Carleton University in Ottawa and an MSc in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a concentration on life-support and spacesuit design. He is currently stationed at the Canadian Space Agency and is pursuing a PhD focused on advanced life support at the University of Guelph on a scholarship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.



Teachers at various stations during the workshop.



Marilyn Webster, Science Consultant P-12, Department of Education, Matt Bamsey, Canadian Space Agency, and Joyce Morrison, Principal Greenfield Elementary and Science Lead Teacher.

He is also the student advisor to the Mars Institute Board of Advisors and presented the teachers with information on the Institutes work in sustaining life on Mars.

The day's theme was "Hands-on, Minds-On Science" and also included centers on four topic areas: diversity of light, flight, exploring space, and electricity.

NOTICES

Young Reporters for the Environment

Young Reporters for the Environment is designed to encourage students to write articles and take photos of environmental problems and solutions in their communities. The best part is that *Young Reporters for the Environment* is international. More than 12,000 students in 17 countries take part, so it's a real opportunity for your students to connect with students around the world, further their learning of environmental and sustainable issues, explore journalism as a career path, and enhance writing skills. Furthermore, the program is a great activity and tool that can be used to work closely with students.

Environmental Defence coordinates *Young Reporters for the Environment* in Canada. A charitable organization, active for nearly 25 years, Environmental Defence focuses on research, education and finding solutions for some of the most critical environmental challenges we face today. Find out more at www.environmentaldefence.ca.

More detailed information about *Young Reporters for the Environment* can be found www.environmentaldefence.ca/campaigns/youngreporters.htm or contact Environmental Defence at 416-323-9521 ext. 233 or jfrye@environmentaldefence.ca.

Essay contest encourages students to express their views in French

French for the Future's fourth National Essay Contest has \$140,000 in scholarships up for grabs. What is your cause and what would you do to promote it if you had an unlimited budget and unlimited powers? That's what high school students are asked to examine for French for the Future's fourth annual National Essay Contest.

Apathy is Boring (apathyisboring.com), a partner in this contest, is a national youth-led organization that uses art and technology to

educate Canadian Youth about democracy. It sees the contest as a fantastic opportunity to point students in the direction of lifelong active partnership.

Grade 10, 11, and 12 students from across Canada are eligible to enter the contest, either in the French-second-language category or French-first-language category. Winners in each category will be awarded \$20,000 scholarships to the University of Ottawa. Information on how to participate is available on the French for the Future's website at www.frenchforthefuture.org. The deadline is the **December 12, 2008**.

CDW Canada's first annual contest and sweepstakes

CDW Canada, a leading provider of technology solutions for Canadian organizations in the public and private sectors, has launched its first annual *Teaching With Technology™ Story Contest and Sweepstakes*, offering Canadian education providers the chance to win up to \$10,000 of technology for their classrooms.

CDW Canada is offering P to 12 educators and administrators in Canada two ways to win technology for their classrooms through the Teaching With Technology Story Contest and Sweepstakes.

To enter the story contest entrants must write and submit a short story (no more than 500 words) that describes their experience as an educator in one or more of the following three categories:

1. How technology improves or contributes to the learning experience in their classroom or educational institution;
2. How they use technology to make the learning environment more engaging, effective or enriching; or
3. How they have used or plan to use technology to achieve an educational objective or a notable success that they've accomplished using technology.

Entrants may submit their technology story online at www.TeachingWithTechnology.ca, by email or mail. Online and email

entries must be received by 6:00 p.m. ET on **Friday, January 16, 2009** and mail entries must be postmarked no later than midnight ET on **Friday, January 16, 2009**. Of the entries received, a panel of judges will select one grand prizewinner and one runner-up prizewinner.

To enter the Sweepstakes - Entrants can simply visit www.TeachingWithTechnology.ca and enter the appropriate contact information for the chance to win prizes with a total retail value of over \$3,000. Online entries must be submitted by **6:00 p.m. ET on Friday, January 16, 2009**. A full list of rules and regulations for the contest and sweepstakes are available online at www.cdw.ca or www.TeachingWithTechnology.ca.

Participate in Guinness world record Family Literacy Day event through ABC CANADA and Oxford Learning

ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation and Oxford Learning are partnering to present the Family Literacy Day® World Record Attempt, a national, bilingual initiative encouraging adults and children to engage in 30 minutes of reading together on **January 23 or 24, 2009**. The initiative, part of Family Literacy Day (FLD) 2009 celebrations, encourages Canadians to read along and help break the Guinness World Record™ for "Most Children Reading with an Adult, Multiple Venues." The current record of 78,791 was set across the U.S. in 2006.

Oxford Learning has been named the official Family Literacy Day World Record Attempt Sponsor. In addition to providing support toward the development, execution and promotion of the world record attempt, all 85 Oxford Learning centres across Canada will host on-site public events. Anyone can participate in the FLD World Record Attempt, from one adult and child reading together at home to large groups with a number of children being read to by several adult readers in a public setting. In addition to Oxford Learning centres, public events are

being planned for YMCAs, libraries, schools and literacy organizations across the country to occur in the 24-hour period between 2:00 p.m. on January 23 and 2:00 p.m. on January 24.

A special section on the ABC CANADA website (www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca and the French equivalent at www.fld-jaf.ca) has been created to provide all the information and resources teachers, librarians and families need to participate in the FLD World Record Attempt

Munsch at Home contest

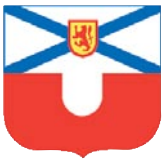
ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation is presenting the fourth annual Munsch at Home contest for a chance to win a visit from Robert Munsch, best-selling children's author and honorary chair of Family Literacy Day® (FLD).

To be eligible, families must mail their applications to ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation by **5 p.m. (EST) on December 12, 2008**. Contestants can download application forms from the Family Literacy Day pages of the ABC CANADA website, at www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca. Each entry must include a short description of how the family plans to celebrate FLD together.

The most interesting and creative event is selected, allowing the winning family to host a party for Robert Munsch, their family and friends on January 17, 2009. Families are also asked to name a public library or literacy organization of their choice that will also receive a special visit from Mr. Munsch.

The home visit from Munsch will kick off a week of activities, including an attempt to break a Guinness World Record, in celebration of Family Literacy Day (January 27). Family Literacy Day was created by ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation and founding sponsor Honda Canada in 1999 to celebrate the importance of families reading and learning together.

For more information, including contest details and rules, visit www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca.



NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION

PROCEDURES FOR 2009 REGIONAL ELECTIONS



ELECTION PROCEDURES

(a) Voting Day Scheduling

The election for NSTU President and the election of Provincial Executive members shall not take place on the same day.

Reference: Provincial Executive, November 19, 1999

RATIONALE

(b) Procedures for Elections/By-Elections for Provincial Executive

- (i)
 - a. On or before January 23, 2009, the Provincial Executive shall designate a Provincial Executive member or Local President or officer to convene the initial meeting and such a convenor will not be a candidate in the election.
 - b. The business of that meeting shall be:
 - i. to decide the date or dates of the election which must be on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, and must be held on or before Wednesday, May 6, 2009.
 - ii. to decide the date of the advance poll which must be on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday of the week prior to the election.
 - iii. to arrange for the appointment of a Nominating Committee consisting of two members from each Local within the electoral region (each Local should appoint one alternate member), or consisting of a minimum of four members where there is only one Local in the electoral region.
 - iv. to name a chairperson of the Nominating Committee who will also be the Regional Electoral Officer. The person so named shall not be a member of the Provincial Executive.
 - v. to forward from that meeting at least 30 days prior to Annual Council to central office, the names of the Nominating Committee and the dates of the election and advance poll so that they may be published in *The Teacher* preceding the election dates. **(In order to appear in the March edition of *The Teacher*, the Nominating Committee Election Information Form should be forwarded to Central Office by February 20, 2009.)**
- (ii) Notwithstanding the procedures outlined in (i), in the event of a By-Election the following procedures shall apply:
 - a. On or before a date set by the Provincial Executive, the Provincial Executive shall designate a Provincial Executive member or Local President or officer to convene the initial meeting and such a convenor will not be a candidate in the election.
 - b. The business of that meeting shall be:
 - i. to be informed of the date for the by-election.
 - ii. to arrange a place for the Advance Poll which shall take place in accordance with (i) b.ii. above.
 - iii. to arrange for the appointment of a Nominating Committee consisting of two members from each Local within the electoral region (each Local should appoint one alternate member), or consisting of a minimum of four members where there is only one Local in the electoral region.
 - iv. to name a chair of the Nominating Committee who will also be the Regional Electoral Officer.
 - v. to forward from that meeting the names of the Nominating Committee to central office, on or before a date set by the Provincial Executive.
- (iii) The Nominating Committee thus constituted shall meet at least twice:
 - a. The first meeting shall be at the call of the chairperson, and all procedures should be reviewed and agreed upon.
 - b. The first meeting of the Nominating Committee shall take place between January 26, 2009 and February 6, 2009.
 - c. The chairperson of the Committee shall be the Regional Electoral Officer who shall have general oversight and management of the election process subject to the Constitution and this procedure.
- (iv) The Nominating Committee shall meet one week prior to the close of nominations. Any member of the Committee who intends to stand for election should make this intent known to the Nominating Committee and the Local President in time to find a replacement.
- (v) The Nominating Committee thus constituted shall receive nominations for the office until 30 days prior to the date of the election. (If Wednesday, May 6, 2009 were selected as election day, nominations would close on Monday, April 6, 2009)
- (vi) At the close of nominations, the Nominating Committee shall:
 - a. forward names of nominees to the central office for the preparation of ballots. Names of candidates shall be in alphabetical order on the ballots.
 - b. cause to be circulated, a brief curriculum vitae for each candidate to each school in sufficient number for each teacher. The central office will assist in providing clerical assistance if the regional Nominating Committee deems it advisable.
 - c. the Regional Electoral Officer shall contact each NSTU representative at an appropriate date prior to the election to ensure that the NSTU representative understands his/her duties in respect of the election.

- d. if one name only is placed in nomination, the Nominating Committee shall declare that person elected and inform the central office in writing.
 - e. if no names are placed in nomination, then the vacancy shall be filled under Article IV 2. of the By-Laws, i.e. by the Provincial Executive.
- (vii) The central office shall, at a convenient time prior to the election day, distribute to each NSTU representative the required number of ballots and ballot boxes.
 - (viii) Ballots
 - a. Ballots shall be printed with candidates listed in alphabetical order. Unless otherwise instructed by a candidate, the full name of the candidate shall be printed on the ballot. Names of the candidates shall be the only information placed on the ballot.
 - b. Ballots shall be of the counterfoil numbered type.
 - (ix) Distribution of Ballots
 - a. Ballots and voters' lists will be distributed by the NSTU Central Office to NSTU representatives.
 - b. Additional ballots will be available from the Regional Electoral Officer.
 - (x) On Election Day
 - a. Ballots shall be deposited in the ballot box provided to the NSTU representative by Central Office.
 - b. Regional Electoral Officers with the assistance of an electoral committee, if necessary, shall:
 - i. call all schools on election day to make sure voting is proceeding as scheduled;
 - ii. arrange for all sealed ballot boxes to be forwarded by NSTU representative or designate to a central location;
 - iii. complete a checklist to ensure that all sealed ballot boxes are received at the central location.
 - (xi) The NSTU representative or other designated person shall:
 - a. acknowledge receipt of the ballots to the Regional Electoral Officer prior to the election;
 - b. close the balloting at 4:00 p.m. of the election day, or at the normal close of the school day;
 - c. forward the ballots on the same day to a place determined by the Nominating Committee for counting.
 - (xii) a. Within twenty-four hours of the close of balloting, the Nominating Committee shall count the ballots in the presence of a representative of each of the candidates and the chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall inform the NSTU central office, the Locals and the candidates promptly of those results. The information to NSTU central office shall be confirmed in writing by the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.
 - b. The Regional Electoral Officer shall keep the ballots in a safe place for a period of sixty days.
 - c. The Regional Electoral Officer may, at the request of the Nominating Committee, delay a final declaration of a result, should he/she have reason to believe that an irregularity has occurred in respect of which he/she needs additional information.
 - d. The period by which a final declaration of a result may be delayed shall not exceed five days.
 - (xiii) All elections are decided by a plurality of the votes cast.
 - (xiv) A quorum of the Nominating Committee shall be more than fifty percent of its membership.
 - (xv) The Presidents of the Locals in the region may make all other determinations necessary for the proper conduct of the election(s) in the region, not inconsistent with the matters outlined herein, or the By-Laws, or the Standing Orders of the Union and shall supervise the functions of the Regional Electoral Officer.
 - (xvi) In the event that the Presidents of the Locals are unable to agree, an appeal may be made to the Provincial Executive of the NSTU, which may refer the matter to the Chief Electoral Officer of the Union for determination.
 - (xvii) The Nominating Committee Chairperson shall accept calculations of the expenses of NSTU representatives engaged in the election, who have accrued expenses associated with getting to the place of counting. He/she shall submit these and his/her own expenses to central office where these will be checked, and if approved, he/she and the NSTU reps shall be reimbursed.
 - (xviii) The Advance Poll:
 - a. The advance poll will be conducted at location(s) chosen by the Regional Electoral Officer.
 - b. The Regional Electoral Officer will maintain a record of teachers voting at the advance poll.
 - c. The Regional Electoral Officer shall inform each NSTU representative of the names of teachers voting at the advance poll and the NSTU representative shall record that vote as having been cast.
 - d. The Regional Electoral Officer shall take charge of and keep safe any ballot boxes used in the advance poll and ensure that they are included with other ballot boxes used on voting day.
 - e. A teacher (active/active reserve) who certifies that he/she is unable to vote at the place and time prescribed for voting may vote at the advance poll.
 - f. A substitute teacher/auxiliary member will not be qualified to vote at an advance poll.

Reference: Provincial Executive, Sept. 1979; Feb., 1983; Jan. '86, Oct. '87, Dec., 1997; March, Sept., Dec. '99, June 6, 2003; Structure Review Report, Council 2004

DISCLAIMER: In the event of a conflict between this publication and the constitution, the latter shall prevail.

Project Overseas: Togo

by Hilarion Melanson

The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) have been working together with Project Overseas (PO) for several years. This international development project first began in 1962 when a team of Canadian teachers went to work with Nigerian teachers.

The CTF International Program is implemented through five key program areas, one being professional development for teachers in developing countries.

In July and August 2008, approximately 45 Canadian teachers led PD workshops in over 10 countries. Teams consisted of two to five teachers of various specialties. Teachers came from all three levels, elementary, junior and high school.

I had the pleasure of leading workshops in a small West African country, Togo, with a colleague from Saskatchewan, Mario Martel. Togo shares its borders with Ghana, Burkina Faso and Benin. The official language is French and its population is six million.



Above is a local market.

Project Overseas helps local teachers in their quest to learn newer teaching techniques. To this end we led two six-day workshops in the subject areas of math and sciences.

We worked with 65 teachers who came from all over the country. The high school teachers were a group of 29 males and had on average two to three years of university training. The elementary group consisted of 18 male teachers and 18 female teachers. Most had a high school diploma. On average the teachers had between two to seven years of experience in the classroom.

These teachers are well aware of the importance of their role in the economic development of their beloved country. The education system was neglected during the past 10-15 years and classroom sizes vary between 50 and 150 students due to a lack of schools and trained teachers. Teachers have access to one book per classroom and frequently have no program. The language of teaching is French. Despite all of this, 82 per cent of all children are enrolled in the education system. The government and union, FESEN (Federation des Syndicats de l'Education Nationale), are working together to setup an education faculty to train the next generation of teachers.

Despite poor working conditions, the teachers were very dynamic, positive and greatly appreciated the efforts of our team. We led approximately 30 hours of workshops over the six-day period.

The first week was spent with the high school teachers and the second with the elementary teachers. We introduced lesson planning, evaluation, classroom management and various practical teaching tools.

A regular day went from 7:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. Professional discussions continued during breaks, lunch periods and evenings; as the participants had never attended a professional development workshop during their career they had many questions.

This experience was very fulfilling and rewarding. I have stayed in contact with a few participants and they continue to request pedagogical materials. The NSTU sponsored three teachers for Project Overseas 2008 and I would strongly recommend that any interested teacher consider this project. Information is available on the CTF website (www.ctf-fce.ca) and the NSTU website (www.nstu.ca).



Melanson (front row, far right) and colleague Mario Martel of STF (third from left) is shown with elementary teachers in Togo for which they provided professional development.

Le Togo est un petit pays de l'Afrique; il partage des frontières avec le Ghana, le Bénin et le Burkina Faso. La population du Togo est d'environ six millions. Récemment une équipe canadienne a eu le plaisir d'animer des sessions de formation pour une soixantaine d'enseignants togolais pendant une période de deux semaines. Ces sessions furent organisées par la fédération canadienne des enseignants (FCE) et la fédération des syndicats éducationnels national (FESEN) du Togo. L'objectif de la formation était d'introduire des concepts en pédagogie aux participants.

Le système éducatif au Togo est basé sur le système français. Les ressources pédagogiques sont très rares et l'appui aux enseignants est minime. Il serait important de noter que 82% des enfants togolais vont à l'école et que la langue d'enseignement est le français. Les conditions de travail pour les enseignants sont très difficiles. Les enseignants du secondaire ont 2-3 années de formation universitaire en moyenne et les enseignants de l'élémentaire ont pour la grande partie un diplôme de l'école secondaire. Rare sont les enseignants qui ont une formation en éducation, y inclus des ateliers ou journées pédagogiques. De plus, une salle de classe peut regrouper entre 50-150 élèves. Nous avons rencontré des enseignantes du primaire qui avaient un effectif de 70+ élèves. Rare sont les classes qui ont plus qu'un manuel scolaire.

Malgré cette réalité, le dynamisme, l'énergie, le dévouement et le vouloir d'améliorer la situation du pays et du peuple est évident chez tous les enseignants que nous avons eu l'honneur de rencontrer. Ils reconnaissent l'importance du système éducatif et veulent simplement jouer un rôle positif dans son amélioration.

Cette initiative de la FCE et de la FESEN a permis aux participants de vivre une première formation en éducation. Leur sourire et énergie témoignaient leur grande appréciation pour cette initiative.

En conclusion, nous remercions les agences fédérales qui ont parrainé cette initiative et souhaiterions que ce projet se poursuive. Ce peuple chaleureux et accueillant bénéficierait énormément de l'appui et du soutien financier de la FCE. Ce fut un honneur pour nous de travailler et d'évoluer avec nos camarades togolais.

Hilarion Melanson, a member of the Conseil scolaire acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse (CSANE) has been teaching for 20+ years. He is the IB coordinator and coop education teacher at l'école du Carrefour in Dartmouth. Prior to this, he was the vice-principal at l'École Beaubassin in Halifax. He started his teaching career as a chemistry professor at l'Université de Moncton in 1983 and enjoys kayaking and international travel.



A workshop in progress.



2008-2009 PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS SCHEDULE

January	19 & 20 (Mon. & Tues.) - Halifax - <i>Quality Inn & Suites</i> (off Kearney Lake Road)
	29 & 30 (Thurs. & Fri.) - Halifax - <i>Quality Inn & Suites</i> (off Kearney Lake Road)



update

NSTU LONG TERM DISABILITY PROGRAM

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees want to take this opportunity to provide the NSTU members who participate in the Long Term Disability Program with a “refresher” on some of the benefits offered through this program.

First, we wish to remind members that the employer contributes 50% of the monthly premium for all members holding an NSTU Long Term Disability policy (some members have grand-fathered cost sharing). With this cost sharing arrangement, this program is more affordable for all members. If you would like more information with respect to the Long Term Disability Program, please contact Johnson Inc. at the numbers listed below.

As a brief summary, the coverage available under the Long Term Disability Program is as follows:

- ◆ 70% of gross monthly salary at time claim commences.
- ◆ For long term claims, benefits will be reduced by Teachers' Pension, and/or Canada Pension.
- ◆ Rehabilitation Benefit included.
- ◆ Elimination Period of 90 calendar days, or accumulated sick leave, whichever is greater.
- ◆ Benefits payable to age 65.

Every member of the NSTU Long Term Disability Program is automatically enrolled in the Hospital Cash Program, which is subsidized by the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund. This coverage provides a daily benefit of \$20 to an insured member when he/she is in hospital for at least four (4) days and under the care of a physician. Complete descriptions of both the Long Term Disability and Hospital Cash Programs are contained

in the Group Insurance Profile.

WHEN ARE YOU CONSIDERED “TOTALLY DISABLED”?

“Total disability” means you are wholly and continuously disabled due to illness or bodily injury and, as a result, you are not physically or mentally fit to perform the essential duties of your normal occupation during the qualifying period and the succeeding 24 months. After this time, you will still be considered totally disabled provided you are unable to perform the essential duties of your normal occupation and any other occupation:

- a) For which you are, or may become fitted, by education, training and/or experience.
- b) For which the current monthly earnings are 75% or more of the current monthly earnings for your normal occupation.

WHEN SHOULD YOU CONTACT JOHNSON INC. ?

Please do not wait until your accumulated sick leave expires to contact Johnson Inc.! While an application does not normally get sent to Manulife until 3 months before sick leave expires, it is important that your application be submitted early in order to avoid undue delay in processing the information. If you have been on accumulated sick leave for 20 or more consecutive days, and even if you may be expected to return to work prior to expiry of your accumulated sick leave, please contact the Claims Specialist at Johnson Inc., at 902-453-9522 or 1-877-303-1399 (toll-free).

If you feel you could benefit from some assistance with your return to health and return to work, the NSTU has established an Early Intervention Program for members. You may contact the Early Intervention Program at 902-477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788 (toll-free) to speak to the Early Intervention Program Manager or Case Coordinator to determine if this program may be of assistance to you.

HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Application forms may be obtained from the Claims Specialist at Johnson Inc. It is important that all instructions be followed closely and all information requested be completed to avoid delay in processing your claim.

ARE LONG TERM DISABILITY BENEFITS AFFECTED BY OTHER INCOME?

Long Term Disability payments will be reduced by other income you may be entitled to receive from the following sources. If eligible, a member must apply for the following:

- a) Disability or Retirement Provisions payable under the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), excluding benefits payable to the employee on behalf of his/her dependents.
- b) Disability Benefits payable under the Teachers' Pension Plan (TPP).

Depending on the date you apply and receive disability benefits from CPP and/or TPP, there may be a retroactive pension payment. A retroactive payment is paid by CPP and/or TPP to reimburse the insurance company for Long Term Disability Benefits paid

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to you since the end of the qualifying period. Members should be aware that the full amount of the retroactive payment may be owed to the insurance carrier. Because CPP and/or TPP pension payments may have income tax withheld, and because the insurance company is entitled to the gross amount of the pensions, a member may have to reimburse the carrier for the amount of tax withheld by TPP and CPP.

In order to request a reduction in the tax deducted from the CPP or TPP, application may be made to the Canada Revenue Agency by calling General Enquiries at 1-800-959-8281. In addition, forms for requesting tax deductions may be accessed through the Internet at www.cra-arc.gc.ca and by searching for the T1213 Form. Members may also request this form from Johnson Inc.

ELIGIBILITY

For members who have high years of pensionable service, approaching retirement within the next one to two years and have maximum sick leave entitlement, you may wish to review as part of your on-going financial planning the pros and cons with respect to continued participation in the NSTU Long Term Disability Program. Before you consider any changes with respect to your coverage, we recommend and encourage you to contact Johnson Inc. to discuss what options may be available to you.

The Group Insurance Trustees understand that applying for Long Term Disability Benefits can be a very confusing process which is further complicated by any illness you may be suffering. To further help you with access to information, the NSTU has developed “The Teachers’ Guide to Disability Benefits”. This booklet is provided to all new claimants. If you have any questions, we encourage you to contact Johnson Inc. to assist you through this sometimes-difficult process.

Should you have any questions with respect to your Long Term Disability Benefits, please contact the Claims Specialist at Johnson Inc., at 902-453-9522 or 1-877-303-1399 (toll-free).

resources

New Loan Titles from Learning Resources and Technology Services

Learning Resources and Technology Services ships multimedia curriculum resources to schools anywhere in the province. Dubbing programs become a part of your school's collection; we charge only for the price of the blank media used. Read the Public Schools Branch newsletter *Branching Out* available online at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>.

Order pre-made titles from our lists online: visit http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/media_library/express/Video_Express.shtml.

EBSCO Periodical database (<http://search.epnet.com>) EBSCO provides a series of online bibliographic and full text databases so that you and your students can find information, pictures and citations on curriculum related topics.

EBSCO offers access to a wide variety of professional databases like ERIC and to a highly specialized collection of over 450 full text journals, designed for professional educators. EBSCO is available to all students and teachers in Nova Scotia through computers connected to Ednet, or at home with passwords that can be obtained from your school.

ImagesProject (<http://imagesproject.ednet.ns.ca>) Need a photo to use in a school project? Visit the ImagesProject, a web-based collection of images for Nova Scotia public school program use. Nova Scotia students and teachers who are on Ednet may freely download, use and modify images from the ImagesProject website for curriculum purposes.

The following is a selected list of new titles that are available from the Media Library's loan collection. These titles, and all loan titles, may be borrowed for up to two weeks.

Addiction: Disease or Behaviour (call number 23723 - 25 min.) Health - Grades 9/10

This video features Bill Nye the Science Guy. Is addiction a disease? Or is it a chosen behaviour? Hear from scientists who are studying the brain, psychology, social factors, and genetics. Meet people who live with substance abuse issues then have students decide for themselves.

Antibiotics: Man vs. Microbe (call number 23724 - 25 min.) Health - Grades 9/10

This video features Bill Nye the Science Guy. Investigate the ongoing battle between man and microbe. Learn how antibiotics work, and find out how germs continually evolve to evade and survive. Watch as experts finally come clean about the way hand-washing affects germs.

Food Myths with John Stossel (call number 23725 - 28 min.) Health - Grades 9/10

Is margarine healthier than butter? Should you drink eight glasses of water a day? Does sugar make kids hyper? Emmy Award-winning John Stossel lets students hear from experts as he checks out widely held food beliefs.

Keeping Clean: Handwashing for Health (call number 23720 - 17 min.) Health - Grades P-2

Students discover that keeping clean and avoiding harmful germs helps them stay healthy. Students learn what germs are, and that hands pick up germs from the environment and are a primary means for germs entering the eyes, nose, or mouth. Petri dish and black light experiments show the effectiveness of hand washing.

How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food (call number 23726 - 8 min.) Health - Grades P-2

This animated video based on the book by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Mark Teague—With methods of eating and manners that are probably all too familiar to children and adults, these mischievous dinosaurs show in a big way that positive and pleasant mealtime behaviour gets the best results.

Drugs and Disease (call number 23727 - 23 min.) Health - Grades P-2

This program informs young students about germs like bacteria and viruses, explains how to deal with the many common ailments they cause and even gives students a glimpse of what goes on during a visit to the doctor's office. This video is part of the Health For Children series.

Dealing with Feelings (call number 23728 - 23 min.) Health - Grades P-2

This video explores how the way you feel about yourself, your friends, your family and your school affects your whole life. Students gain practical tips for communicating care and respect in relationships with friends and family as well as dealing with everyday worries, grief, fear and big life changes. The importance of self-esteem is highlighted in this program. This video is part of the Health For Children series.

Environmental Health (call number 23729 - 23 min.) Health - Grades P-2

Young students will see that one important way to help is to simply remember the three Rs: reduce, reuse and recycle. Different kinds of pollution—air, water and noise—are explored, and the various causes behind them are revealed. Want to know what you can do to help eliminate waste and pollution? This video provides tips for students, families and communities to put those three Rs in action! This video is part of the Health For Children series.

Safety Awareness (call number 23730 - 23 min.) Health - Grades P-2

From avoiding chemicals in household products, to using electricity safely, to planning for fire safety, this video provides students with tips for basic safety practices in all kinds of situations. Young students take a look at the role of the 911 dispatcher in an emergency and are reminded when to dial the number for help. Children model safety gear for all of your favourite sports, and students learn rules for special situations like being home alone. When you follow the safety rules, you're choosing to keep yourself—and everyone around you—as safe as possible! This video is part of the Health For Children series.

Education Media Library, Brunswick Place, 2nd floor, 2021 Brunswick Street, Halifax, NS B3K 2V5; 902-424-2440; 902-428-3176 (fax), Email at mediacir@ednet.ns.ca. Visit <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>.

did you KNOW?

NSTU Mentorship Program

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union Mentorship Program was created to help address the long term staffing needs of the NSTU. It is intended for individuals who may be interested in applying for Executive Staff Officer positions within the NSTU. It offers an opportunity to job shadow and discuss with current staff a variety of topics and provide insight into the types of skills and training necessary to be successful.

The Program sees two participants, one in member services and one in professional services, spend a total of four consecutive days in their respective areas.

Participation in this program is not a prerequisite for employment with the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, nor does such participation imply or guarantee preference in hiring with the Union.

The deadline for application is January 15, 2008 for April 2008. Application forms are available through your NSTU rep or on the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca.



DISCOUNT FOR NSTU MEMBERS

YOU ARE INVITED

At **ESPRIT** we value education and to show it we offer 10% off storewide everyday to all teachers & students (must have valid ID).

On Sunday, December 14 we are holding our first Teacher/Student Guest Event from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and are offering you 25% off storewide for these hours only.

A personal shopping assistant will help you with all your needs.

You will also have a chance to win 1 of 3 \$50.00 gift cards.

RSVP to dartmouthcrossings.Storemanager@esprit.com and we will email a list of the great specials in advance.

ESPRIT

The deadline for the next issue of *The Teacher* (January 2009) is December 19th. Please contact Sonia at theteacher@nstu.ca.

TEACH AND LIVE IN ALBERTA

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Contact Carol at the Canadian Educator Exchange Foundation at cwilk@ceef.ca or by telephone, 1-705-7397596

Alberta

Aspotogan students learn about the Holocaust



On October 31, as part of Holocaust Education Week, students at Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School (ACES) near Hubbards met Edith Gelbard *née* Schwalb, a Holocaust survivor and the central figure in the award-winning book, *Hiding Edith* (by Kathy Kacer). Gelbard was born in Vienna in 1932. As a small child, she and her family were forced to flee to Belgium and later France when Austria was invaded. During the hour-long interactive discussion, Gelbard shared some of her experiences and ordeals during the war. She especially stressed the effect bullying had on her life, how it still affects her, and why it is so important to be kind and accepting of one another. Afterwards, she graciously autographed books and bookmarks for ACES students. See page 7 for a chance to win *Hiding Edith*.

Anti-bully crests available



Boutilier and Fahie are shown with the team, Casey is missing from the photo.

The Bible Hill Junior High girls' soccer team don the anti-bully crests, which are now available for school sports teams across Nova Scotia. The idea for the crest came from Bible Hill Junior High guidance counsellor, coach and provincial executive member for Colchester-East Hants Eric Boutilier. Available in English and French, the crest idea was inspired by Central Kings Rural High School students Travis Price and David Shepherd; last year they launched the pink t-shirt campaign in support of a student who was teased for wearing a pink shirt on his first day at his new school.

Education Minister Karen Casey and Tom Fahie, executive director of the Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation, agreed to support the idea, and the crests were produced last spring.

Crests are available to participating NSSAF schools. Elementary schools that wish to order the crests can do so through the Book Bureau.

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union endorsed the anti-bullying crest at their April 24 provincial executive meeting. This summer the Canadian Teachers' Federation also endorsed the campaign at their Annual General Meeting.



DEALS & DISCOUNTS

FOR NSTU MEMBERS ONLY!!

INNS & ACCOMMODATIONS

Belgravia Bed & Breakfast
Delta Halifax / Delta Barrington
The Farmhouse Inn
The Waverley Inn

PERSONAL CARE

Kian Holistic Health Clinic
Morgan Donat, Massage Therapist
Remedy Spa
Robert Wallace, Certified Reflexologist

MISCELLANEOUS

Benjamin Moore Sackville Decorating Centre / Bayers Lake Decorating Centre
Big Apple Fashions
Christine Ritchie, watercolour painter
Esprit Dartmouth Crossing Outlet
Frame Express
ICI Paints
HomeLife Real Estate Centre
Irving Oil Limited
Midas
OG Event Filming
Papa Mario's Pizza (2 locations in Halifax)
Quality Footwear & Mahone Bay Trading Co.
Tall Ship Silva (Halifax)
Ultramar Refinery
Wong's Tae Kwon Do

BOOKSTORES

Chapters
Blue Griffin Books, Middleton
Tattletales
Woozles

Maritime Massage Health Clinic
Natural Path Massage Therapy
The Yoga Loft

Subject to change without notice. Updated November 2008.

For a detailed list of companies that offer discounts to members, please visit the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca (members-only side). NSTU ID may be required when obtaining discounts.

If you know of any business(es) in Nova Scotia that offer a discount and are not currently on our list, please contact **Sonia** at **1-800-565-6788** or email theteacher@nstu.ca

classifieds

Classified rates are \$2.00 for the first 15 words; 25¢ per additional word upon presentation of a professional number. Non-teachers pay \$6.00 for the first 15 words and 25¢ per additional word. To book, call Sonia Matheson at 1-800-565-6788 or email theteacher@nstu.ca.

AVAILABLE - Genny Locke Magical Entertainer presents "THE NO BULLY ZONE PRESENTATION" ideal for school assemblies. Telephone 902-567-0825.

HISTORIC HALIFAX ACCOMMODATIONS - HINS Halifax Heritage House. Enjoy holiday shopping downtown Halifax; waterfront trail, and live theatre. Private, family, or dormitory rooms. Kitchen use available. Please phone 902-422-3863 to book today. 10% discount when you mention this advertisement.

WENTWORTH COUNTRY HOSTEL - Experience nature, snowshoeing and nearby Wentworth skiing, stargazing, and open space. Private, family, or dormitory rooms. Kitchen use available. Please phone 902-548-2379 or email wentworthhostel@ns.sympatico.ca to book today. 10% discount when you mention this advertisement.

JOB EXCHANGE - Halifax Regional School Board Senior High Teacher looking for job exchange with a teacher from the CBVRSB for the 2009-2010 school year. Looking to make this change permanent if possible. If interested contact jaharris@staff.ednet.ns.ca or phone 902-489-9080 or 902-733-8080.

JOB EXCHANGE - Halifax Regional School Board teacher looking for a job exchange with an elementary or junior high teacher from

the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board for the 2009-2010 school year. If interested, please email scalnen@staff.ednet.ns.ca or call 902-403-9402.

JOB-SHARE - Experienced elementary teacher (retired in June) interested in job sharing (20 - 30%) in the Halifax Regional School Board. Contact Mary at 902-469-9117 or email marharris@ns.sympatico.ca.

HOUSE FOR RENT - Summer 2009. By Lake Banook in Dartmouth. Walking distance to ferry and Mic Mac Mall. \$800/week. Non-smokers and no pets. Call 902-466-4104.

FOR RENT - Cole Harbour. Lovely 3-bedroom bungalow on Cole Dr. This house has been renovated and shows like a new home. It has hardwood and new carpet throughout. Wonderful finished basement ideal for an entertainment room. \$1,000/month + utilities. Please phone 902-462-0750.

FOR SALE - 100 year+ home, view, near beach & surfing, kitchen/livingroom/den/4-piece bath, summer kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 45 minutes from Dartmouth, 2228 West Jeddore Road, \$168,000. Call 902-469-1016.

TEACHERS NEED A BREAK TOO



Now members of NSTU can make reservations online.

\$84*

*NSTU id must be presented at check-in for special rate; discounted parking rate of \$9.95

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