

Casey meets with Local Presidents: Early entry for Primary and student attendance top issues

Early entry for Primary, student absenteeism, and class size and composition were resounding themes during Education Minister Karen Casey's meeting with Local presidents, RRC chairs and provincial executive during their biannual conference on October 17.

Issues around the early entry into the Primary program relayed to the Minister from the Local presidents, RRC chairs and provincial executive members focused on school preparedness, including fine motor development, sociability, toilet training and attention span.

"There are early entry Primary concerns in my Local," said Tammy Landry, Antigonish Local president. "When are they getting resources? It seems there is a communication problem. It's important to have the same communication from your department through the Boards to the classrooms."

"It's the implementation of the program we have to monitor very carefully," responded Casey. "The Department outlined and scheduled inservices and we are hearing from Primary teachers that they need more inservices."

As far as resources are concerned, Casey said her government put \$4.6 million toward the program, \$1.4 million of which was dispersed to boards designated for additional resources needed to support the early entry into Primary. "We are hearing that some staff in some Boards are happy—and we expected that the Boards would consult with their teachers on how to use the money."

At the meeting Casey committed to providing a breakdown of the allocation of the \$1.4 million in resources for Primary teachers to assist with the inclusion of the

early entry age pupils. This restricted funding for equipment and materials was as follows: Annapolis Valley Regional School Board received \$157,900; Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board \$154,500; Chignecto-Central Regional School Board \$238,800; Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial \$58,400; Halifax Regional School Board \$557,600; South Shore Regional School Board \$77,000; Strait Regional School Board \$77,000; and Tri-County Regional School Board \$78,800.

Since the meeting on October 17, Landry was informed by Primary teachers in her Local that they had received a list of resources to choose from.

"Student absenteeism is becoming a major problem in schools; not only is it affecting senior and junior high schools, it is starting to trickle down to elementary schools," said Gail Walsh, provincial executive member, Cumberland. "When students miss school, absenteeism impacts on learning assessment results and accountability of schools. Please tell us what the Department of Education can do to ensure that students are in school ready to learn."

Casey recognized teachers' commitment to students and also admitted that continued work is needed on the current attendance policy.

"Teachers are doing something they were never expected to do—giving extra help to students with inexcusable absences," responded Minister Casey. "They're doing it because they want to help every child learn."

"The frustration level is huge," said Chignecto-Central RRC chair John Spurdakes.

Casey replied that the Department had a committee looking into student attendance and that it may be time to resurrect it or create a new one with NSTU involvement.



Education Minister Karen Casey is shown with NSTU president Alexis Allen and the Department of Education's senior executive director of public schools Dr. Alan Lowe at the NSTU's fall Local President's conference on October 17.

Dr. Alan Lowe, Senior Executive Director, Public Schools for the Department of Education, also commented on the issue: "We have to instill student responsibility. Education is a right, not a privilege, and so sanctions are difficult. We need further suggestions. Elementary absences are very worrying. We are looking at UN rights of a child to education; we see it as a form of child neglect and are following it up."

"When it comes to class size and composition there are increasing numbers of IPPs, adaptations, behavioural issues, etc.," said Halifax County Local president Tim MacLeod. "How do we work together on this?"

"Compositions of classrooms have changed. Different levels have always existed. But now there are a whole host of social issues as well. We have capped to Grade 4 and intend to extend the cap to Grade 6."

There was also some discussion about the fact that class caps are not being respected. Casey said that she expects class caps to be

respected and will clarify with the Board chairs and superintendents to make sure this is happening.

"I called for a review of special education in the province. I needed to know for sure that the dollars were being spent for the best interests of every child in the program."

She reported that the department is starting to work through the report on the review of the special education policy. "We need a different model for the delivery of services to special needs students in our classrooms. I fully support some degree of inclusion—but we're all over the map with it."

Former NSTU president Mary-Lou Donnelly asked Casey how the NSTU could support her efforts in increasing public education funding.

"The Union can help by identifying the needs, challenges and cost of delivering the program to students [in particular those with special needs.] "It will help to strengthen my arguments."

executive highlights

October 16

- Received table officers' report;
- Approved a three-year contract with St. FX University for the August Leadership Conference;
- Approved recommendations from the nominating committee report, including the appointment of the substitute teacher committee;
- Filed the report from the Provincial Returning Officer of the 2008 presidential election; deferred an item to staff to develop proactive strategies to increase voter turnout;
- Received a presentation on the audited financial statements of the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund;
- Revised Operational Procedure 15 regarding professional associations' finances and grants;
- Approved a 2009 Council resolution to amend the by-laws regarding payment of union dues by members on leave;
- Ratified the Halifax RRC constitution with noted amendments;
- Granted six out-of-province grants of \$475 plus two alternates;
- Approved a 2009 Council resolution amending current Policy #88 Health & Safety – scent reduction.

inside



NSTU NOW

The NSTU has created a web-based organizational calendar. Find out all about it on page 3.

EDUCATION NOW

Lockport Elementary students have an enriched music program thanks to the Program Development Assistance Fund. The story is on found on page 12.

ONLINE EDITION

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people

NSTU Education Research Awards

Cape Breton Local member Joyce Lively was presented with a certificate recognizing her Education Research Award at the Local's first general meeting of the school year on September 24. Lively's research project was *A Collaborative Journey to Better Music Teaching Through Authentic Assessment: A Narrative Inquiry*.

The purpose of the Education Research Awards is to recognize the contribution of teacher research to public education. "We are pleased to recognize teachers' contributions to improving teaching and learning through educational research," says NSTU president Alexis Allen. The Nova Scotia Teachers Union selected four teachers to receive education research awards at last January's meeting of the provincial executive.

Also receiving research awards during the last school year were Dennis Myer, a member of the Community College Local who teaches at NSCC's Institute of Technology, for *Applied Research into Robotic Control Systems*, Marla Davis from the Kings Local who is a teacher at Aldershot Elementary School for her project *Helping Children of Divorce*, and Janice Graham-Migel from the Halifax County Local who is a guidance counsellor at Ridgecliff Middle School, for *Distributed Leadership in a Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Program: Collaboration between Education and Health in the context of School Reform*.

The annual fund was established to encourage and assist education research. Teachers are awarded a maximum of \$475 based on research completed in the current or previous two school years. To be eligible individuals must be active members of the NSTU. Members of the NSTU's professional development committee choose recipients through a peer assessment review. The NSTU provincial executive grants the awards. Application forms may be obtained from the NSTU Central Office, Local Office, or the NSTU website. **This year's deadline is December 3, 2008.**



NSTU president Alexis Allen presents Joyce Lively with her Education Research Award certificate.

New Member Contact Conference

The annual New Member Contact Conference took place at the Delta Barrington on September 26 and 27. This conference helps to further develop programs and services for new members, by providing networking and sharing opportunities and enhancing relevant knowledge and skills. Conference delegates—members of their Local executives—ensure that relevant program information and resources are brought to the attention of new members in their Locals. This year's conference featured workshops about wellness with NSTU's Early Intervention Program Manager Jennifer Finlayson, Insurance Matters with Paul Boudreau, Chair, NSTU Insurance Trustees, and responding to the millennial generation with NSTU PD staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin.



Amber Hiltz and Lee Gorham-Smith (Shelburne Local), Krista Oswald and Theresa Nickerson (Digby Local) and Rachel Belliveau (Yarmouth Local) participate in the 2008 New Member Contact Conference.

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Coady Celebrates! Benefits Dinner

The NSTU was once again a silver sponsor of *Coady Celebrates!* Benefit Dinner that took place at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel on October 8. Organized by the Coady International Institute, this year's guest speaker was The Honourable Frank McKenna. All proceeds for the event go towards providing bursaries for community leaders from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East to attend the Coady International Institute's Education for Action Programs at St. Francis Xavier University.

The NSTU hosted a Coady student at their table, Maxon Grasten Taulo, who is a 2008 Coady Diploma participant Taulo is from Malawi and it has taken him 10 years to realize his dream of attending the Coady Institute. In his home country, he is a senior community development assistant in the Ministry of Gender Child Welfare & Community Services. His area of interest is community development.



Taulo (middle) is shown with the NSTU table officers, from the left is second vice-president Belinda Snow, president Alexis Allen, first vice-president Shelley Morse and secretary-treasurer David Jones.

Web calendar offers unique view of NSTU events

Local presidents, Regional Representative Council (RRC) chairs and provincial executive members got their first look at a new web-based NSTU organizational calendar during the NSTU Local Presidents' Conference held October 17 in Halifax.

“The calendar offers our Union a unique opportunity to inform members of events that the provincial organization, our Locals, RRCs and professional associations are hosting,” says NSTU President Alexis Allen.

Each Local has been assigned a user name and password that will allow it to post upcoming events to the calendar. RRC chairs have also been assigned user rights. Professional association presidents and conference registrars will receive a demonstration of the calendar software at their conference in early December.

“Once all affiliated NSTU bodies begin posting to this calendar it will be very easy for any member to quickly check on-line for events of interest, indicate attendance, receive automatic notification and get a real sense of the many activities in which NSTU members are involved,” says Allen.

The calendar can be opened from the front page of the members-only site. Information can be sorted by type of event, Local or recent changes. A list of recently updated events is also displayed.

The calendar is also featured on a new electronic directory in the front lobby of the Dr. Tom Parker building in Halifax. The directory, which is equipped with a motion sensor that detects a viewer's approach, also displays NSTU messages and graphics and boasts an interactive floor plan of the building.

The calendar and directory are one component of the third phase of a technology initiative begun by the NSTU in 2004. Work is currently underway to develop an organizational database that will be launched later in the school year. At press time, Dartmouth and Lunenburg County Locals and the Tri-County RRC had posted their year's events to the calendar.



Students under voting age embrace responsibilities of citizenship through parallel municipal/school board elections



The final tallies for Student Vote Nova Scotia were released on Wednesday, October 22 representing more than 11,000 votes for municipal candidates across the province.

Student Vote, a national non-profit, non-partisan organization, coordinated its first parallel municipal election program during the Nova Scotia municipal and school board elections on October 18. The Student Vote Nova Scotia project was offered to elementary, junior high and high schools in partnership with Democracy 250. The goal of the project was to introduce students to the candidates, issues, and electoral process of their local government, with the project culminating in a vote on the official candidates running in the mayoral, councillor, and school board elections. Students voted on Thursday and Friday before the vote on October 18.

Bep Hardy-Mattern, a participating teacher from Michael Wallace Elementary School in Dartmouth says, “My students are now quite well aware of their municipal, provincial and federal representatives and what each level of government is responsible for. They are excited to vote, and we have spent valuable time researching the different platforms of the political parties and candidates. The discussions in class have been of a high caliber, showing the students' increased understanding of the issues around them. Many students have taken this dialogue home to be discussed with family. Most of the parents have voted, in no small way due to the responsibility that comes with the right of having free elections as I am sure their children reminded them of.”

Taylor Gunn, Chief Election Officer of Student Vote, praises Nova Scotia teachers for their leadership in ensuring students under the voting age experienced the democratic process. “Teaching democracy within any election is a challenge, but this past month has been especially demanding for Nova Scotia teachers who engaged their students in both the federal and municipal elections. These teachers are the true heroes of our democracy. Without their effort, it is likely that no other adults would be introducing our democratic process to young Nova Scotians.”

Also, comments Gunn, “without Democracy 250, both Student Vote and thousands of Nova Scotia students would have missed this terrific experience. We are sincerely grateful for their support in this special project – Student Vote's first municipal election initiative.”

For a comprehensive look at how students in your school voted, please refer to the special Nova Scotia section of the Student Vote website at www.studentvote.ca/novascotia/index.html. There you will find a news release, as well as a region-by-region breakdown of the results. Please note, not all regions reported results.

Now Available

Recognize your members' years of service!

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union has a series of lapel pins featuring the NSTU logo and years of service, in five-year increments from five to 30 years. These pins are available for **purchase by NSTU Locals** at \$2.25 each from the NSTU public relations department.

To order, contact: **NSTU Public Relations**
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from the nstu president

Helping to support impoverished children

According to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Nova Scotia Child Poverty Report Card (2006), over a million Canadian children (1,195,804) live in poverty. As one of the most successful industrialized countries in the world, with sustained economic growth, producing record levels of wealth and profit, this is unacceptable. While the report card does indicate a decline in the child poverty rate in Nova Scotia between 2003 and 2004 (from 21.3 per cent to 18.1 per cent), 34,000 children in our province still live in poverty, and there is much work to be done. As teachers in public schools and faculty and professional support members at Community College campuses across Nova Scotia, we see the effects of poverty on learning and student success in our classrooms.

Every month, according to Feed Nova Scotia, 40,000 men, women and children depend on the food bank to support their family needs. Many of our members are concerned with child poverty and the fact that children are going to school without basic staples such as food. As you may be aware, most elementary schools and many junior/senior high schools in the province have a breakfast program offered to all students free of charge. Many also offer a lunch program or snack programs. In partnership with schools in the province, as of June 2008 there were 315 breakfast programs serving approximately 25,000 children from Grades Primary to 12. According to Breakfast for Learning Nova Scotia Advisory Council there were less than 100 programs three years ago. Since 2005 the number of programs has grown exponentially. Program extension can be attributed in part to increased awareness of the link between nutrition and learning, and also because much-needed funding was made available from the province for boards and schools under the Department of Education's Learning for Life II's initiative, administered by the Department of Health Promotion and Protection. These programs are important in helping to alleviate child poverty in the province, but are also essential in preparing students for learning.

Many of our members run these programs with parent and community volunteers. Many also raise money and organize food drives for local food banks. Last August I received a call from one member who suggested that if parents or guardians wanted to give a gift to a teacher for the Holiday season, they could perhaps consider a donation to the food bank in their area. Currently a number of our members already offer this suggestion to the parents and guardians of their students. By choosing this option, the teacher would receive a card indicating that a donation was made on her/his behalf to Feed Nova Scotia. But, more importantly, this would help to support a much-needed program that provides necessities to struggling families. We are currently in discussion with Feed Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations to formalize this approach to gift giving. Stay tuned for more information through the NSTU rep mailings, *The Teacher*, and on the NSTU website. This will be a voluntary program. The NSTU recognizes that this small gesture by a child at Christmas is a token of the parent/child's appreciation for all that teachers do on a daily basis. However, if you are interested in this alternative way of supporting your community and wish to participate you can find out more about Feed Nova Scotia and gift giving at www.feednovascotia.ca/howToHelp/christmas.html.

At the NSTU, central office has decided to lend support to this identified need, and have been forgoing the printing and sending of Christmas/Holiday cards. The budgeted amount is forwarded to a charity. Also, NSTU staff, like so many schools, adopts a family and raises money to provide gifts, clothing and food for the holiday season. The NSTU provincial executive are also donating \$1,000 to Feed Nova Scotia. The need is there.

And while we encourage all of you to look at this approach, as many of you have already, we all know that a simple thank you is often appreciated but not always given. So, on that note, please accept my heartfelt thank you on behalf of the children in Nova Scotia for everything you do every day!

Pour aider à soutenir les enfants pauvres

Selon le Rapport 2006 sur la pauvreté des enfants en Nouvelle-Écosse publié par le Centre canadien de politiques alternatives, plus d'un million d'enfants canadiens (1 195 804) vivent dans la pauvreté. Pour des enfants vivant dans l'un des pays industrialisés les plus prospères du monde, qui jouit d'une croissance économique soutenue et produit des niveaux record de richesses et de profits, c'est une situation inacceptable. Bien que ce rapport signale un déclin du taux de pauvreté des enfants en Nouvelle-Écosse entre 2003 et 2004 (ce taux étant passé de 21,3 % à 18,1 %), 34 000 enfants dans notre province vivent toujours dans la pauvreté et il reste encore beaucoup à faire. Les enseignants des écoles publiques ainsi que le personnel enseignant et le personnel de soutien professionnel des campus du Collège communautaire de la Nouvelle-Écosse constatent régulièrement les effets de la pauvreté sur l'apprentissage et sur la réussite des élèves dans leurs classes.

Chaque mois, selon Feed Nova Scotia, 40 000 hommes, femmes et enfants dépendent de la banque alimentaire pour répondre aux besoins de leur famille. Beaucoup de nos membres s'inquiètent de la pauvreté des enfants et du fait que des enfants vont à l'école sans avoir accès à des produits de première nécessité comme la nourriture. Comme vous le savez peut-être, la plupart des écoles élémentaires et un grand nombre d'écoles secondaires de premier et de deuxième cycles dans la province ont un programme de déjeuners, qui est offert gratuitement à tous les élèves. Bon nombre d'écoles offrent également un programme de dîners et un programme de collations. En partenariat avec les écoles de la province, il y avait en juin 2008 315 programmes de déjeuners qui servaient environ 25 000 enfants de la 1^{ère} à la 12^e année. Selon le Conseil consultatif Déjeuner pour apprendre Nouvelle-Écosse, il existait moins de 100 programmes de ce type il y a trois ans. Depuis 2005, le nombre des programmes a augmenté de manière exponentielle. L'expansion des programmes peut être attribuée en partie à une prise de conscience accrue du lien entre la nutrition et l'apprentissage ainsi qu'au fait que la province a mis à la disposition des conseils scolaires et des écoles un financement indispensable dans le cadre de l'initiative Vie et apprentissages II du ministère de l'Éducation, administrée par le Service de promotion et de protection du ministère de la Santé. Ces programmes jouent un rôle important dans la réduction de la pauvreté des enfants dans la province mais ils sont également essentiels pour préparer les élèves à l'apprentissage.

Bon nombre de nos membres gèrent ces programmes avec des parents et des bénévoles de la communauté. Bon nombre de nos membres organisent également des collectes de fonds et des campagnes de collecte d'aliments pour les banques alimentaires de la région. Au mois d'août dernier, j'ai reçu un appel d'un membre qui proposait de demander aux parents ou aux tuteurs qui souhaitaient offrir un cadeau à un enseignant pour la saison des fêtes d'envisager de faire un don à la banque alimentaire de sa région. À l'heure actuelle, un certain nombre de nos membres font déjà cette suggestion aux parents et aux tuteurs de leurs élèves. Dans ce cas, l'enseignant recevrait une carte indiquant qu'un don a été fait en son nom à Feed Nova Scotia. Et, ce qui est plus important, cela contribuerait à soutenir un programme essentiel qui fournit des produits de première nécessité aux familles en difficulté. Nous sommes actuellement en pourparlers avec Feed Nova Scotia et la Fédération des associations foyers-écoles de la Nouvelle-Écosse pour formaliser cette approche aux dons de cadeaux. Restez à l'écoute et de plus amples renseignements vous seront fournis par les représentants du NSTU, dans la revue *The Teacher* et sur le site Web du NSTU. Il s'agit d'une initiative bénévole. Le NSTU sait que ce petit geste fait par un enfant à l'occasion des Fêtes est un gage de reconnaissance du parent et de l'enfant à l'égard de vos efforts quotidiens. Toutefois, si cet autre moyen de soutenir votre communauté vous intéresse et si vous souhaitez y participer, vous pouvez obtenir de plus amples renseignements au sujet de Feed Nova Scotia et des dons de cadeaux à www.feednovascotia.ca/howToHelp/christmas.html.

Le bureau central du NSTU a décidé d'apporter son soutien à cette initiative en renonçant à imprimer et à envoyer des cartes de vœux pour les Fêtes et en versant la somme prévue au budget à une organisation caritative. En cette période de l'année, des membres du personnel du NSTU, de même que de nombreuses écoles, adoptent une famille et collectent des fonds pour lui fournir des cadeaux, des vêtements et des aliments pour la saison des Fêtes. Le Comité exécutif provincial du NSTU fait également un don de 1000 \$ à Feed Nova Scotia. Le besoin est impérieux.

Et tandis que nous vous invitons à envisager cette approche, comme beaucoup d'entre vous l'ont déjà fait, nous savons aussi qu'un simple remerciement est souvent très apprécié. À ce propos, veuillez accepter mes remerciements les plus sincères au nom des enfants de la Nouvelle-Écosse pour le travail extraordinaire que vous accomplissez chaque jour!



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NSTU REP PINS



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TIP OF THE MONTH

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2

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3

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4

Teachers *Plus* Credit Union would like to thank everyone who celebrated Credit Union day with us and enjoyed the tasty treats!!!!

5

Teachers *Plus* Credit Union had an enjoyable day and lots of fun participating in the Credit Union IWK Bowl-a-thon on October 24th, 2008.

6

Teachers *Plus* Credit Union will be traveling throughout the province presenting Pre-Retirement Seminars.

7

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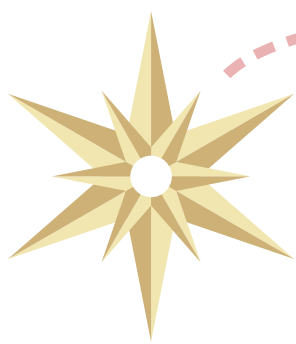
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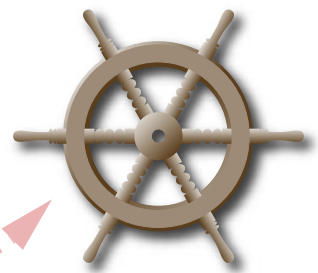
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Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The continuum of teacher education

by Betty-Jean Aucoin

NSTU EXECUTIVE STAFF OFFICER, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

There exists a strong relationship, both formal and informal between pre-service teacher education and teacher education. The Nova Scotia Teachers Union views teacher development as a continuum beginning with pre-service education and extending throughout the teacher's career. In support of this professional learning continuum, the NSTU works cooperatively with our teacher education programs at Acadia, Cape Breton University, Mount Saint Vincent University, Université Sainte Anne and St. Francis Xavier University. We offer opportunities for workshops, case studies and mock councils. The existing programs and those under development are based on research, practice and the Nova Scotia context.

We recently concluded our case study review with first year students from St. FX's Bachelor of Education program. The 103 first year students spent the morning responding to six case studies centered on such topics as equity, group discipline, and copyright infringement. This session, part of the students' principles and practices course, is one of the many opportunities that the NSTU provides to support teachers in developing accomplished professional practice.

The NSTU collaboration with St. FX's School of Education has been ongoing since October 2004. Andrew Foran, professor/liaison from St. FX describes the importance

of NSTU participation. "After five years, I continue to learn more about teacher education and the importance this partnership has for our pre-service teachers. The NSTU is a highlight of the semester. I feel both partners gain by sharing information, perspectives, and professional insights on the scope of practice occurring in Nova Scotia schools."

This fall, the NSTU is pleased to mirror this liaison and present workshops within Acadia University's professional seminar program. "The Nova Scotia Teachers Union has an active and on-going role to play in supporting and augmenting the BEd. program at Acadia University," says Glynis Ross, professor at Acadia's School of Education. "In consultation with the School of Education, the NSTU has put together a series of six 1 1/2 hour workshop sessions that occur throughout the academic year and explore crucial professional issues that confront new teachers as they go out into the field. This unique opportunity allows Acadia's pre-service teachers to make the essential connection with the Union that will support and encourage their professional growth and, at the same time, to prepare for the realities they will face.

Mount Saint Vincent University's School of Education has had the NSTU provide workshops and presentations to pre-service teachers for the past five years. Max Moulton,



Member Services Staff Officer Grant MacLean presents *The Role of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union* workshop to students in Acadia University's Bachelor of Education program on October 8.

Assistant Professor recognizes the benefits of NSTU involvement. "The coordinated venture plays a major role in the balance between theory and practice in the education of our student teachers," he says. "The sessions range from the implications of serving an increasingly diverse student population or integrating different teaching styles into the curriculum to the ways each unique school culture transmits its particular perspectives, values, and practices."

Students feel the NSTU visits are beneficial because of the information but also because of the realization they were now a part of something much larger than first thought. Referencing student evaluations from St. FX, we hear directly about

how important a role the NSTU plays in pre-service education. "The NSTU partnership is needed because students learn firsthand that there is much more going on in teachers' lives that extend way beyond the classroom." "The NSTU visits were a valuable component of the course because the lessons were of my rights, concerns that impact my classroom, and a range of support that I can access as a professional."

As we left Morrison Hall at X last month the St. FX students thanked NSTU staff for providing their time, knowledge and expertise. As we headed out in five different directions, we, in turn, thanked the staff and students for their time and for the honour of working with our future members.

Benefits of Membership workshop for the Cape Breton Local

On September 24 the Cape Breton Local hosted its annual session for new members to the Local at Malcolm Munroe Memorial Junior High School in Sydney. NSTU staff officer Gérard Cormier presented his "Benefits of Membership" workshop to 20 beginning teachers working as term teachers and substitutes at the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board.

The NSTU regularly provides PD sessions for beginning teachers through NSTU Locals and school boards, and has available Beginning Guides for Teachers in both official languages. Contact Gérard Cormier for further information at gcormier@nstu.ca.



Shown from left to right are: Aaron MacIsaac, a physical education teacher at Tompkins Memorial School in Reserve Mines; Anne Grenier, a teacher at Holy Angels High School in Sydney and Member-at-Large on the Cape Breton Local Executive who is responsible for the New Member Contact portfolio; and substitute teachers Carol Ann MacMaster and John King.



Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Professional Development Book Review

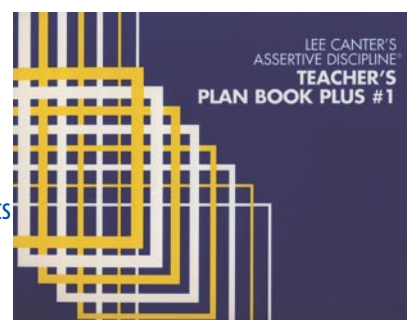
New to *The Teacher* this year is a Professional Development Book Giveaway. Each month, we will be giving members an opportunity to win a book relevant to their classroom teaching and learning.

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with PD in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by November 28 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's PD book giveaway is Lee Canter's *Assertive Discipline Teacher's Plan Book #1*. Written by Lee Canter and published by Canter and Associates, this 104 page planner is filled with tips, strategies and ideas to support teachers in implementing positive effective discipline.

Some keys to success you will find:

- Seven Steps to a Successful Start to School
- Long Range Planner and Guide
- Weekly Planning Tips
- Positive Recognition Ideas
- Strategies for Dealing with At-Risk Students
- Positive Parent Communication Log
- Behaviour Documentation Record



fresh

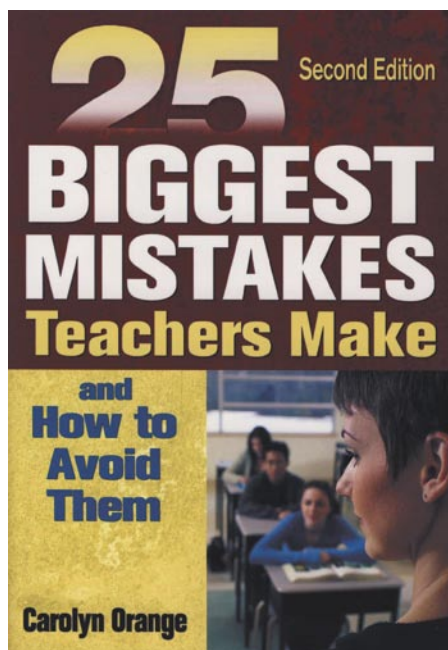
Putting new members in the KNOW!

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with FRESH in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by December 19 to be eligible for the draw.

Avoid common teaching mistakes and acquire positive strategies and approaches! *25 Biggest Mistakes Teachers Make and How to Avoid Them* written by Carolyn Orange and published by Corwin Press will instruct you on how to do just that. This resource includes updated scenarios containing real student voices and teacher vignettes, as well as the author's prescriptions for better solutions. The book covers the following areas:

- Discipline
- Teacher-student relations
- Classroom policy and practices
- Classroom management and instruction
- Personality and professionalism
- Teaching style and behaviour

The book's back cover says it all, 'This book will make you laugh, make you shake your head in disbelief, and keep you amazed. Most important, this book will help you become a more enlightened and effective educator as you gracefully sidestep difficult situations by remembering the practical lessons within these pages.'



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

EQUITY: Elizabeth Thomas
of St. Mary's Bay Academy in Weymouth

FRESH: Angela Beaton
of Enfield District School in Enfield

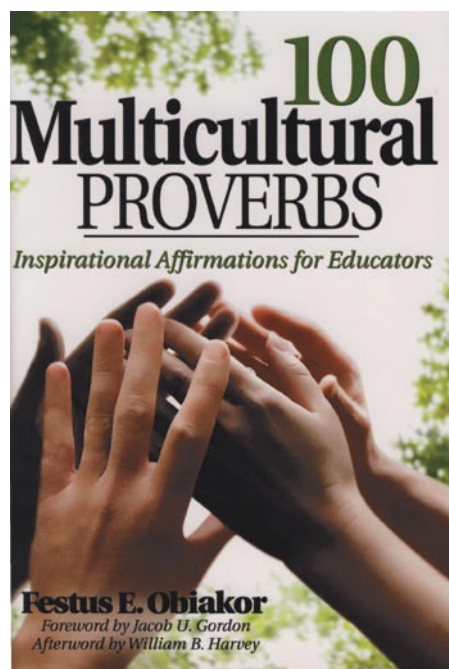
EQUITY COMMITTEE BOOK REVIEW

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by December 19 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's equity book giveaway is *100 Multicultural Proverbs: Inspirational affirmations for Educators*. Written by Festus E. Obiakor and published by Corwin Press, this resource contains traditional wisdom to inspire and enrich the teaching and leadership of educators. Ideal for teachers and administrators, this book offers thoughtful reflection about the following:

- Self-responsibility
- Collaboration and consultation
- Spirituality
- General life lessons

An Associate Professor of Special Education at the University of Virginia says it best, 'Obiakor poignantly bestows upon us the infinite wisdom of culturally diverse peoples that has been passed down from generation to generation. At the same time, he provides interpretations that challenge us to rethink traditional school leadership and teaching styles in ways that lead to transformed educational practices for all learners—adults and children alike—in an age of accountability and reform.'



The Curriculum Committee met for the first time of the 2008-2009 school year on October 10. This year's committee is chaired by Kathy MacLean (Cumberland Local), and includes Gérard Allain (CSANE), Marlene MacDonald (Inverness), Glen Pulley (Annapolis), Mary Ann Alley (Colchester-East Hants), Elizabeth Thomas (Digby), and Donald Rice (Lunenburg County). David Harris is the provincial executive member and Ron Brunton is NSTU staff liaison.

Curriculum Corner



The Committee's mandate is to:

- Study the curriculum and all proposed changes
- Report findings and make recommendations to the provincial executive
- Inform teachers of trends and developments in curriculum
- Consider resolutions referred by Annual Council and make recommendations
- Review NSTU Policy and make recommendations to the provincial executive

At the October meeting, we reviewed the curriculum resolutions adopted at Council 2008, NSTU Policy and the recommendations made by the 2007-2008 Curriculum Committee. We met with Ann Blackwood, the Nova Scotia Department of Education's Director of English Program Services and discussed the mathematics curriculum, adaptations, class size, early learning development, Learning for Life III, the entry age for Primary students and more.

Blackwood said there are no revisions planned for the Foundations Math 11 text and provided documentation on the implementation of the P-9 curriculum revisions. Plans to extend the class size cap to Grades 5 and 6 are underway. The Grade 6 Science guide should be arriving at schools soon and the Grade 9 Social Studies text is in development.

We discussed at length the entry date change for Grade Primary. She reported that a sum of \$1.4 million of restricted funding was divided among the Boards for teachers to purchase resources and supplies for their Primary classes, and another \$3.2 million was dispersed to Boards to support the change of the age of entry. Each Board has had or will have PD for Primary teachers this fall, focused on literacy. Next year, the PD will have more of mathematics focus. This year, there were an additional 1,800 students enrolled in Primary. The NSTU will continue to voice the need for support for curriculum and professional development.

We also discussed Literacy Development Records for Grade 4 teachers. Currently there is no release time for completion of the Grade 4 LDRs, although it is recognized that time is needed. We maintained that it is difficult for teachers to continue to do more when the time has not been given to the task. We see the value in assessments, but time must also be made available to support these assessments. The NSTU will continue to call for support for release time for the completion of the LDRs.

Blackwood reviewed the provincial report card template and the rationale behind it, maintaining that the report card is just one tool to communicate with parents. She understands there are still some technology challenges in certain areas of the province, but that most reports have been positive.

The Curriculum Committee will hold its next meeting on December 12. The focus of the next meeting will be the Special Education Policy which will be addressed by Don Glover Department of Education's Director of Student Services.

Kathy MacLean
Chair, NSTU Curriculum Committee

GRADUATE STUDIES IN EDUCATION



StFX University, renowned for its enduring commitment to quality educational experiences for students, is now accepting applications for full-time and part-time study in the Master of Education program.

- facilitates the preparation of educational leaders
- furthers the professional growth and development of practicing educators
- engages educators in research activities
- examines educational issues
- contributes to the knowledge of teaching, learning, curriculum and administrative processes

Choose a course-based, project-based, or thesis-based program in Educational Administration and Leadership or Curriculum and Instruction. Inquire about specific program foci. For more information about benefits and opportunities of full time study, please see the Continuing & Distance Education web site.

To receive an information package call 1-877-867-3906 or (902) 867-3906 or e-mail: med@stfx.ca. Visit www.stfx.ca/academic/continuing/Graduate.html Application deadline: March 1.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
UNIVERSITY



By Jennifer Finlayson, EIP Manager
NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION

December 3, 2008 marks the United Nations' first annual International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The theme of this year's convention is "dignity and justice for us all." Also, 2008 marks the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the UN continually strives to create a universal equality amongst all humans. Until recently, however, there has not been any legal obligation to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities. According to the United Nations, Human Rights indicate that "each person has the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control."

The UN indicates that approximately 10 per cent of the world's population lives with a disability. We all have limitations and deal with disabilities, personally, professionally or in our communities on a daily basis. You have probably noticed an

increase in accessibility for persons with disabilities in your community, such as automatic doors, accessible parking, Braille on elevator buttons, wheelchair ramps, and bird chirps at crosswalks. Universal design is a paradigm that seeks to improve access to the environment through less stigmatized solutions that are accepted amongst the general population. There is, however, still a great deal of work to be done to make our communities, our homes, and our workplaces acceptably accessible to persons with disabilities.

Inclusion in schools is something we are all familiar with and have incorporated into our values and daily routines. Inclusion began as a policy to ensure that all students, regardless of ability, are integrated into classrooms and school communities. Inclusion works towards promoting a sense of belonging, feelings of respect, and value for those who may otherwise be excluded because of their differing abilities. Although inclusion is often focused

on children and students, it is equally important for adults to implement this way of thinking into their daily routine with other adults at work, at home, or in communities.

Adults have that same need to feel valued

and supported so they can do their best work and optimize their potential.

The NSTU works with members and their employers to ensure contractual and legal rights are upheld at the workplace and members are often accommodated when this becomes necessary. Sometimes, however, a simple acknowledgement, a slight change in policy, procedure or environment, or an offer of support or assistance can provide as much inclusion as a legal or contractual accommodation. Being supportive of your fellow human beings and allowing them the opportunity to reach their potential, regardless of health or disability, is something we can all do to improve the dignity and justice within our

communities and social networks.

Attitudes, social supports, access to information and physical structures are all important pieces of the puzzle.

Every

human being has his or her own unique needs, strengths and potential. As the International Day of Persons with Disabilities approaches, take the time to recognize that persons with disabilities—whether they are physical, emotional, cognitive, or social—have equal right to full enjoyment of their human rights.

For more information about Human Rights, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities or supporting your workplace with universal design and inclusion of persons with disabilities, refer to www.un.org, www.chrc-ccdp.ca, www.hrea.org, or contact the Early Intervention Program at the NSTU.



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.



NOVA SCOTIA Department of Education

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

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

Compensation includes

- Basic salary
- Return airfare
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- Meal allowance
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- Work Visa

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

- | | | |
|------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| • Sydney | November 4, 2008 | Delta Hotel, Sydney |
| • Yarmouth | November 26, 2008 | Rodd Hotel, Yarmouth |
| • Truro | February 3, 2009 | CCRSB 60 Lorne Street, Truro |
| • Halifax | February 24, 2009 | Dartmouth Teacher's Centre |

For further information contact coveyfp@gov.ns.ca

**Deadline for the December issue of
The Teacher is November 21.
Contact Sonia at theteacher@nstu.ca
for advertising information.**

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).

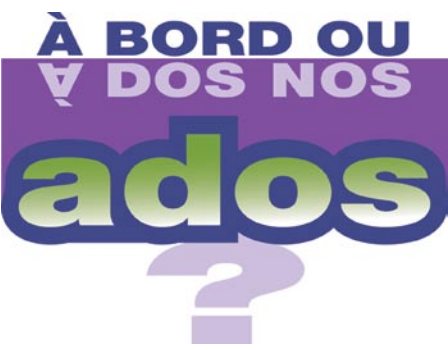
Registration Deadline May 1, 2009



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



À bord ou à dos, nos ados? Symposium 2008 de la FCE



Écosse a partagé ses expériences quant au respect des niveaux de langue des élèves, sans oublier la question des accents! Dolorèse Nolette de l'Alberta mettait en relief les défis particuliers de l'éducation dans les milieux ruraux. Gilberte Godin, du Nouveau-Brunswick, quant à elle présentait une approche à la conscientisation auprès des élèves du secondaire tandis que Sylvain Groulx de la Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française (FJCF) soutenait l'importance du partenariat entre les écoles et le réseau-jeunesse afin d'enrichir ces espaces physiques temporaires qui sont essentiels à l'éveil culturel des jeunes.

La FCE profitait également de l'occasion pour faire le lancement de la vidéo « À bord ou à dos nos ados? » où des adolescents et des adolescentes d'un peu partout au Canada s'expriment sur leur perception de l'école de langue française. Cette vidéo sera bientôt disponible auprès de la FCE dans un ensemble de ressources visant à favoriser des échanges sur le thème de l'adolescence dans les milieux éducatifs francophones.

En 2009, la FCE tiendra à nouveau un symposium annuel public, cette fois le thème de la douance à l'école de langue française. Une enquête sur le sujet est d'ailleurs en cours et permettra de bien camper la thématique de cet événement qui aura lieu à Ottawa les 21 et 22 mai 2009. Notez bien ces dates pour vous joindre aux discussions qui porteront sur nos efforts actuels et sur les stratégies nécessaires pour répondre, en français, aux besoins de ces élèves qui ont des talents particuliers et qui pourraient bien constituer nos modèles de demain.

EDUCATION WEEK
April 19-25, 2009
Bringing Arts to Life

FUEL DISCOUNT OFFER FOR NSTU MEMBERS!

Save 3 cents per litre on your home heating oil and save 5 cents per litre on your propane fuel costs!

This program expires May 31, 2009.
Not to be combined with any other offers.
Terms and conditions apply.

Call or email your Irving Rep, **Owen Johnsen** at 902-229-1929 or owen.johnsen@irvingoil.com

BONUS OFFER - 100 litres of free oil and/or propane for anyone who takes advantage of this offer by November 31, 2008.




La Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants (FCE) est une organisation pancanadienne qui regroupe des associations professionnelles du milieu de l'enseignement. Avec les développements des dernières années en éducation de langue française, la FCE est devenue beaucoup plus active auprès de ses membres francophones et en tant que partenaire sur la scène nationale.

Depuis une quarantaine d'année, la FCE organise les symposiums annuels qui touchent des aspects particuliers de l'éducation en français. Alors que ceux-ci étaient réservés aux membres des associations provinciales et territoriales, les derniers symposiums ont accueilli des partenaires et d'autres participants et participantes qui s'intéressent aux questions qu'examine la FCE.

C'est ainsi qu'une soixantaine de personnes se sont réunies le 27 mai dernier pour lancer le coup d'envoi à une recherche pancanadienne sur le thème de l'adolescence. Le programme de la journée prévoyait une conférence de Christine Dallaire qui dressait un portrait de l'adolescence en milieu minoritaire francophone par le biais d'enquêtes portant sur les grands rassemblements jeunesse.

Une table ronde a également permis d'entendre des points de vue divers sur la question de l'adolescence : l'auteur d'un article dans le webzine Frenquêtes de la FCE, Michèle Matteau, a insisté sur notre rôle de guide auprès de la jeunesse. Gilles G. Le Blanc de la Nouvelle-



Add MegaExcitement to your GRADE FIVE health & science curriculum

MegaSearch™ is a cartoon health research bulletin designed for Grade Five teaching and learning. It's all about bringing health and science together in a fun and educational way.

MegaSearch™ introduces you and your students to exciting health research carried out by Dalhousie Medical School researchers.

Topic areas for 2008-2009 include:





- Wheelchair skills
- Cancer cures
- Diabetes
- Healthy fats and your heart
- Peanut allergies
- Sleep and mental health

MegaSearch™ is FUN and EDUCATIONAL - with stories, activities and science experiments that fit the Grade Five curriculum. There's even a competition for best student health research project - your students could win a tour of Dalhousie Medical School's research labs.

MegaSearch™ is distributed to Grade Five classes in all three Maritime provinces.

For more information, call (902)494-2756 or visit the **MegaSearch™** website at www.medicine.dal.ca/megasearch

MegaSearch™ is produced by Dalhousie Medical School in partnership with Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation, Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Manulife Financial.



coming events

November is... Diabetes Awareness Month (www.diabetes.ca); Crohn's & Colitis Awareness Month (www.ccfc.ca); CPR Awareness Month (www.heartand-stroke.ns.ca); Osteoporosis Month (www.osteoporosis.ca).

OCTOBER 21 TO JUNE 30

One Million Acts of Green

The CTF Green Street program has partnered with CBC Television and the program "The Hour" on a campaign to amass One Million Acts of Green (OMAG).



this school year. CBC has sent out the following comments: the idea behind the campaign is that one small act can make a big difference. It's not about overhauling your life; it's about one act from each individual amassing to a million. You can switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs, you can start a recycling program, or you can buy a hybrid car. But whatever you do, you have to register your act on the website—www.onemillionactsofgreen.com.

The highly interactive website will be the hub of the campaign, allowing users to log their acts, view content, post photos and videos, create groups, and challenge others to act. CBC and "The Hour" are challenging everyone to get involved, from CBC TV and Radio, to schools and universities,

communities and cities, politicians, athletes, and even celebrities! One Million Acts of Green is backed by some big environmental partners, including: Clean Air Foundation, The David Suzuki Foundation, Earth Day Canada, Environmental Defence, Evergreen, GreenNexus, Green Street (managed by the Canadian Teachers' Federation), and The Climate Project - Canada. Most importantly, we need YOU to register your act. It's one million acts of green, one act at a time.

NOVEMBER 11

Remembrance Day

Each year, Canada marks **Veterans' Week from November 5 to 11**. It is a time to honour and remember all those who served Canada in times of war, military conflict, and peace. Throughout the week, commemorative events and activities will be held in communities across Canada including many schools in Nova Scotia.

This year's Veterans' Week and Remembrance Day recognizes the 90th Anniversary of the End of the First World War. Remembrance events and activities will be held across Canada and overseas, providing opportunities for Canadians to learn about Canada's role in the First World War.

For study guides, activities and teacher resources for Veterans' Week go to www.vacc.gc.ca/youth/. Another website to visit is the Dominion Institute's Memory Project at www.thememoryproject.com

UNTIL NOVEMBER 16

Frost/Nixon at Neptune

Neptune Theatre's latest production is *Frost/Nixon*, which highlights the famous television interviews between disgraced American President Richard Nixon and playboy British talk show host David Frost. Written by Peter Morgan, the Academy Award winning writer of *The Queen* and *The Last King of Scotland*, the play recreates the events surrounding a pivotal moment in American television and political history. This Tony Award winning drama makes the Sarah Palin – Katie Couric interview look like a light-hearted ribbing.

Directed by Joseph Ziegler and starring Jim Mezon as Richard Nixon and Clive Walton as David Frost, *Frost/Nixon* recounts the incredible backstory of one of the most memorable interviews of the 1970s – when Nixon admitted guilt for the Watergate scandal. Set to be a major motion picture directed by Ron Howard, *Frost/Nixon* is presidential history at its most compelling and you can experience it live on stage at Neptune Theatre until November 16.

NSTU members receive a 20 per cent discount on single tickets to Neptune Theatre productions. Call 902-429-7070 or visit www.neptunetheatre.com to book your tickets.

NOVEMBER 16 TO 22

National Bullying Awareness Week

This year's National Bullying Awareness Week's theme is *Stand Up! (to bullying)*.

Organized by Bullying.org Canada, this is the sixth annual Bullying Awareness Week. This Week has received support from busi-

nesses like Family Channel and organizations like the Canadian Teachers' Federation. Since its inception in November 2003, Bullying Awareness Week has grown in support and is increasingly recognized by schools, individuals, organizations and communities as a time to celebrate and promote solutions to the problems of bullying. For more information go to www.bullyingawarenessweek.org.

NOVEMBER 20

National Child Day

Canada's national "Child Day" is held November 20th each year as enacted in Bill C-371, otherwise known as the Child Day Act, by the Parliament of Canada in 1993. It commemorates the United Nations adoption of two landmark documents concerned with the human rights of all children and youths.

On "Child Day" Canadians honour our children and The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of The Child on November 20th, 1959, and The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on November 20th, 1989. The purpose of Child Day is to promote awareness about the Convention to Canadians.

It is also a day to support Canadian children's rights by voicing your concerns about Canadian children's rights violations to the politicians of Canada and to educate our children about their rights and responsibilities. The theme of this year's celebration is "*Being Free From Harm: Our Right to Protection*."

(continued on page 11)



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Entries must be postmarked by January 14, 2009.
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EARLY BIRD PRIZES!

For more information go to Public Health Agency of Canada website at www.phac-aspc.gc.ca or the Canadian Child Care Federation website at www.cccf-fcsge.ca/home_en.html.

DECEMBER 1

World AIDS Day 2008, One Hour on AIDS initiative

Participate in the “One Hour on AIDS” initiative. For World AIDS Day on December 1, 2008, Education International (EI) invites teachers to participate in the *One Hour on AIDS* initiative. Building on the success of last year, EI hopes the lesson proposed in the *One Hour on AIDS* activity kit can be taught in thousands of schools and union offices around the world. The idea is simple, the message is clear: teachers have a central role in raising awareness about HIV and AIDS. World AIDS Day is an opportunity to get involved. Start by taking one hour to talk about HIV and AIDS on December 1.

Despite recent progress in combating the spread of the virus, HIV and AIDS remain significant threats to public health in many countries, affecting teachers and students worldwide. In 2001, governments pledged at the UN General Assembly that over 90 per cent of young men and women would have the knowledge needed to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection by 2010. However, the results of national surveys in 2007 show worryingly low numbers—around 40 per cent—of young women and men have accurate knowledge regarding HIV and AIDS.

Education for prevention is a must, not only in countries with high HIV prevalence, but equally in countries with low prevalence where the trivialization of the virus is leading to a rise in irresponsible sexual behaviour among young people, resulting in a greater risk of HIV infection.

As part of this initiative, a *One Hour on AIDS* activity kit, which contains the *One Hour on AIDS* lesson plan and the *Take the lead on AIDS* poster, can be used to accompany the lesson and displayed in your classrooms and as an ongoing reference point for HIV and AIDS education throughout the year. All material can be downloaded at: www.ei-ie.org/ef aids.

DECEMBER 3

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 3, 2008 marks the United Nations’ first annual International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The theme of this year’s convention is “dignity and justice for us all.” For further information, visit www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=31&cpid=109.

DECEMBER 6

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day coincides with the sad anniversary of the death of 14 young women who were tragically killed on December 6, 1989 at l’École Polytechnique in Montréal because of their gender.

The day commemorates the loss of these 14 young lives, but also represents a time to pause and reflect about violence against women in our society and all the women and girls who live daily with the threat of violence or who have died as a result of gender-based violence.

It is especially a day for communities to reflect on concrete actions we can take to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. For more information go to the Status of Women Canada website at www.swc-cfc.gc.ca. Every year, YWCA Canada sells the distinctive rose buttons for their December 6 Commemorative Rose Button Campaign. It’s one way to commemorate the young women who died in Montreal and remember all the women and girls who have died as a direct or indirect consequence of gender-specific violence. It is also a way to raise money for shelters and critical supportive programming that assist women and girls who are at risk or in crisis. For more info visit www.ywcanada.ca.

DECEMBER 10

International Human Rights Day

The Partners for Human Rights, of which the NSTU is a member, is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, with the theme *Belonging: Celebrating 60 Years of Human Rights*. This year’s event on December 10 will take place at the Dartmouth Sportsplex from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It will begin with a “Harmony” breakfast and will feature youth, speakers, local entertainment and a message of belonging and inclusion. The evening event will take place at the Halifax Memorial Library on Gottingen St. in Halifax. For more information contact Linda Nicholl at 902-424-4139 or nichollj@gov.ns.ca.

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DECEMBER 12

Deadline for Myprivacy & Me Video PSA Contest

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner (OPC) is inviting young people, between the ages of 12 and 18, to create their own public service announcement (PSA) on the issue of privacy. Privacy is a growing concern, particularly among youth. The OPC is encouraging young people to create their own video PSA to inform their

peers about current privacy issues and the importance of protecting one’s personal information. The ultimate goal of the contest is to encourage youth to critically think about how their personal information is collected and used every day, and how their privacy can be compromised. MNet is supporting this contest with new privacy education resources for the classroom (see Featured resource).

For more details: <http://www.youthprivacy.ca/en/contest.html>.



Search Associates

INTERNATIONAL TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH SEARCH ASSOCIATES

Plan to attend the 13th annual international recruiting fair Friday, January 30 to Sunday February 1st at the Delta Chelsea Hotel, Toronto. This is the first international job fair in Canada during the recruiting season. Hundreds of jobs! Fifty (50) recruiters representing over 80 schools in over 30 countries will be in attendance. Please go to the SEARCH ASSOCIATES website www.searchassociates.com and click on 2009 FAIR SCHEDULE and Toronto fair for more information.

An information session will be held at MSVU in November. Please check on website under NEWS for updates.

Please check our website under the “NEWS” banner for information sessions with dates and locations in your area!

Contact Ray Sparks at raysparks@eastlink.ca for additional information.

SECONDMENT RESOURCE FILE



The Nova Scotia Teachers Union is looking to add to its resource file of active members interested in short-term secondment to the NSTU staff.

The purpose of secondment is: to supplement the work of the permanent staff; to increase the staffing when demand exceeds the capacity of permanent staff; or to respond to a specific need of the organization.

Individuals may be seconded to provide a service or program over a period of weeks, to serve as a resource person to liaise with an NSTU committee or group, or to initiate and/or implement a specific NSTU program, project or task.

Secondments may be in member services, professional services, or organizational support.

Secondment application forms are available on the NSTU “Members-Only” website.

To obtain the secondment application form:

- Enter the NSTU members-only website
- Select “Union Affairs” from the menu
- Select “Secondments” from the drop-down menu

Information forms will be retained in the resource file for a period of one year.

Music really matters for Lockeport students

Primary teacher Shelly MacIntosh's love of music has made a big difference for the students at Lockeport Elementary School. As the project coordinator for *Music Matters*, she and her team have enriched the school's music program like never before.

"We are always looking for interesting ways to help motivate our students," says MacIntosh, the 26-year teaching veteran who was brought up with music. Her father Louis Buchanan was a champion Maritime fiddler and her daughter, Natalie Lynn MacIntosh, a high school student in Shelburne, is an aspiring musician.

With the support of principal Andrew Stuart, former vice-principal Jackie Treloar and music teacher Janice Holden along with a \$5,000 grant from the Program Development Assistance Fund (PDAF),

"The PDAF has also given our students the opportunity to participate in a professional scale performance," says MacIntosh. Last May, the school presented a Musical Festival—a first for the school. It showcased students, and local guests for an evening performance that was open to the community. "We had 40 kids out of 120 perform in the festival." Students were not only given the opportunity to perform but also to become an active part of a receptive audience.

"It's a way to get involved with music and it's great to see them develop and get involved with something they enjoy." MacIntosh says many of the younger students wrote their own songs for the festival. "The parents loved it and it was well received by the community."

Music teacher Janice Holden is very



Music teacher Janice Holden listens to a visiting musician.

are singer/song writers and have strong ties with the community."

She says that exposure to local musicians helps students build relationships and become active members of the performing community. "It also shows them that people can be successful in the music industry."

Through this community involvement students see songwriters and composers and "see they write songs about everyday things, and learn that anyone can write songs and have an opportunity to have a musical career," continues MacIntosh.

Jamie Cotter, a local country singer, has been involved with the program. He and his son, a Grade 6 student at the school performed together at the festival last May. "It's very important, [exposing children to music]," says Cotter. "Kids love it and they can all sing in key—it's pretty impressive."

A musicians' biography kit was developed featuring local musicians including Cotter, Cathy Cooke, Robbie Smith (who has written songs for Roger Whittaker), Killic, and Christine Crawford and others. The kit contains a compilation of their compact discs, and a website with links to some of the local musicians.

MacIntosh admits that cultural events are not readily available in the area; *Music Matters*

To that end, MacIntosh has also started offering guitar lessons for Grade 5 and 6 students. "I started giving lessons during lunch time and the students can borrow the guitars and take them home to practice." She has 20 students taking guitar lessons this school year. "Hopefully we'll get them to perform now and then."

For the first time the school also participated in Music Monday (www.musicmonday.ca), a nation-wide simultaneous concert that celebrates music education in Canadian schools organized by the Coalition for Music Education in Canada. "Students and teachers from across Canada perform the same song at the same time," explains MacIntosh.

MacIntosh says she'll continue offering guitar lessons, plan another music festival with Janice Holden and attempt to raise more money to enhance the program. "We would like to get more things, to begin with a cabinet to hold the instruments and to store the PA system."

The PDAF program encourages innovative program development in Nova Scotia's schools. Co-sponsored by the NSTU and the Department of Education with an annual sum of \$200,000, it provides financial support



Jamie Cotter a local country singer plays for Grade Primary and 1 students.

the *Music Matters* project has highlighted the importance of music culture at Lockeport Elementary School.

Musical instruments and sound equipment were purchased to develop student talents. "Before the PDAF funding, the school's musical equipment consisted of a few 'mismatched' early childhood rhythm instruments, and no string instruments at all," says MacIntosh. Now the school has guitars, ukuleles, tambourines, hand drums, maracas, a PA system with speakers, monitors, microphones, speaker cables and more.

pleased with the program. "We now have instruments to play and students are really keen. After having an opportunity to perform they had a lot more confidence." Holden notes that their level of confidence was witnessed in the reflections they wrote about the experience in the Music Festival.

Another component of *Music Matters* exposes students to local musical talent. "We invited local musicians to perform, and share musical insights with our students and staff," says MacIntosh. "Many of them



A sample of the instruments Lockeport Elementary purchased through their PDAF project.



Grade Primary teacher Shelley MacIntosh sings with her Grade Primary students.

has increased awareness of musical choices, and has helped to develop talents within the community. "Although many students from P-6 have musical interests and abilities, they rarely have opportunities to share them with their peers," she adds. Many families are unable to purchase instruments for their children and access to lessons is also an issue.

for projects directly related to the Public School Program. For more information visit the members-only side of the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca or contact NSTU staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin at 1-800-565-6788 or 477-5621, bjaucoin@nstu.ca. **The deadline for the next round of project proposals is December 1, 2008.**

NOTICES

Call for volunteers for the SPCA

The Nova Scotia SPCA (Society for the Prevention and Cruelty to Animals) is looking for volunteers to help develop curriculum material and teacher/school kits to teach children about respect for animals, dog bite prevention, etc. If you are interested, please contact Mary Hill, Nova Scotia SPCA, Board Member & Chair of Education Committee, Halifax, NS at maryhill628@hotmail.com or 902-454-8413.

Peaceful Schools International's Sam and the Goodwill Sandwich

Peaceful Schools International (PSI) is raising funds for *Sam and the Goodwill Sandwich*. *Sam and the Goodwill Sandwich* is a children's book which was written to give teachers an academic tool to build reading and writing skills, while planting the seeds of pro-social thought in the minds of their students. While the story could be read simply for entertainment or social skill-building, the lesson plan included can be used to reinforce a variety of academic benchmarks.

The title refers to the technique of engaging another person as an ally in problem-solving or conflict resolution by wrapping the issue in a given conflict with a covering of articulated personal goodwill. By students making it clear that a positive relationship with the person is just as important as a positive outcome to the problem, there is a greater chance the other person will join the problem as a friend, and not as an adversary.

PSI would like to be able to print and distribute at no charge, copies of the book to hospitals and other organizations that offer support to families. Although PSI has been successful in obtaining a few donations, more is needed to cover the printing costs.

If you wish to donate, contact Hetty van Gurp, PSI President at hvangurp@mail.com. PSI is very happy to share the book in its pdf version with anyone interested. The book is downloadable in pdf version by visiting <http://peacefulschoolsinternational.org/smf/index.php?topic=549.msg1289>.

The Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance online Survey

PARTICIPATE BY NOVEMBER 15

The Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance (CSLP) at Concordia University is looking for participants for an online survey about the use of research-based information in professional practice. Your viewpoints on this topic—even (and especially) if you feel that available research findings are not particularly useful to your teaching—are needed. Responses will help the CSLP examine and better understand how school practitioners use research, and what factors affect decisions to use the results of research in practice. Understanding this will help estimate the impact of current research on instructional practices, and devise strategies that researchers can use to communicate results of research more effectively to practitioners.

This is an anonymous survey. To participate, simply access and complete the online questionnaire before November 15, 2008 at <http://echoonline.ccl-cca.ca/Default.aspx?release=010edbbd-b2d0-4f53-9f7c-a164f5838d63>.

If you feel that research knowledge affects your practices or, on the contrary, is of little use, here is a way of making your views known.

To obtain further information, or tell the Centre about your experience directly, contact Dr. Robert M. Bernard, Research Project Leader, Professor of Education, CSLP/Education, S-LB-581, Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve blvd West Montreal, QC, H3G 1M8; Tel. (514) 848 2424 ext 2027, email: bernard@education.concordia.ca or visit the website: <http://doe.concordia.ca/cslp>.

The main findings from this survey will be made public and presented on the website of the Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance, at Concordia University, in spring 2009.

Call for submissions Museums and Schools Partnership Award

DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15, 2008

The purpose of the 2008-2009 Museums and Schools Partnership Award is to recognize excellence in collaboration between Canadian museums and schools in developing educational programming to

enrich and expand students' understanding of and appreciation for Canada's cultural and natural heritage. The Museums and Schools Partnership Award is co-sponsored by the Canadian College of Teachers and the Canadian Teachers' Federation in collaboration with the Canadian Museums Association (CMA).

The award is open to any Canadian school or school board in collaboration with any Canadian public non-profit museum (including closely related institutions such as zoos and science centers) or museum group, with the exception of institutions employing members of the awards committee.

The submission deadline is November 15, 2008. Award recipients will be honoured at the CMA National conference in Toronto, in March 2009.

For more information about this award and to download the award application form, please visit the CMA website at: http://www.museums.ca/en/about_cma/awards/museums_and_schools_partnership_award/index.php.

A&E Canadian Classroom's 2008 Essay Contest

DEADLINE DECEMBER 15, 2008

Students in Grades 5-12 are invited to enter A&E's 'LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE' ESSAY CONTEST [formerly the 'BIOGRAPHY® OF THE YEAR ESSAY CONTEST'] by writing and submitting an original essay in 300 words or less on who they think made the greatest impact on Canadian society in 2008.

Each entry must include the student's name, complete address, postal code, telephone number, age, grade, name of teacher, school, school address, and local cable system (if known). Don't Delay! Send entries to: LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ESSAY CONTEST, c/o Temple Scott Associates, 250 The Esplanade, Suite 301, Toronto, Ontario M5A 1J2. The deadline is December 15, 2008. Two winners from each grade level — 5th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade — will be selected.

For complete details and official contest rules, go to the A&E Canadian Classroom website at <http://www.biography.com/classroom/canadianclassroom.jsp>.

Hackmatack Registration Open: Get Ready to Read!

The Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award is now accepting registrants for its 2008-2009 program. Whether through their school, public library, or as individuals, students in Grades 4 through 6 are encouraged to register in this exciting reading program which introduces new and enticing Canadian books to young readers. Both fiction and non-fiction, English and French—there is something

here for every reading taste. In the spring, registered readers get to vote for their favourite books, have authors visit their schools and libraries, and perhaps attend May's gala award ceremony in Halifax where results of the children's votes are announced.

The Hackmatack Award—whose name comes from the Mi'kmaq word for tamarack or larch tree—is now in its tenth year. The Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award is a literary program designed to promote and advance reading and literacy among school-aged children in Atlantic Canada, foster the development and appreciation of writing in Atlantic Canada, and encourage a greater public recognition of the work of Canadian writers.

Ten books are chosen in each of four categories—French fiction and non-fiction, and English fiction and non-fiction. The 40 short-listed books cover a wide range of reading abilities, themes, and cultures. Groups who register receive a kit—including information on each author and book, tally sheets and voting forms, certificates and clip-art—produced to aid teachers or facilitators in presenting the program to students. The Nova Scotia Department of Education provides a set of books to every elementary school in the province. In addition, sets can be purchased at selected bookstores in each Atlantic province.

The deadline for registration for this year's Hackmatack Award is December 31, 2008. For more information, registration procedures and fees, and a downloadable program kit, visit the Hackmatack website: www.hackmatack.ca.

DIRECTIONS Council for Vocational Services Society

DIRECTIONS Council for Vocational Services Society is a not for profit organization representing 28 member agencies throughout Nova Scotia, from Glace Bay to Yarmouth. The Council's mandate is to assist and support member organizations in the delivery of services that promote the abilities and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the everyday activities of their community. DIRECTIONS member agencies employ approximately 300 staff that provide program services for 1,800 participants within the province.

Many of the universities and community colleges are marketing their programs for prospective students, but, unfortunately, the post-secondary options available for students with an intellectual disability graduating from high school are limited. We are interested in proposing training for the educators of these students to give them an opportunity to learn more about successful school to community transition planning.

For further information please visit our website at www.directionscouncil.org or contact Cheryl @ 902-466-2220.



NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION COMMITTEES — UPDATE

Public Affairs Committee Chair Appointment (Appointed - October 2008)

F. Sandra Mitchell (Lunenburg County) appointed as new chair

Educational Leave Committee (Article 20 - Community College - Professional Support) (Appointed - October 2008)

Ernie Parkes (Burrige Campus) appointed to replace Val O'Callaghan

Substitute Teacher Committee (Appointed - October 2008)

Debby Trask-Cushing, Chair (2009 – Digby *retired*)
Colin Grant Donegani (2009 – Halifax City)
Pamela Langille (2009 – Kings)
Leanna Poirier (2009 – Cape Breton)
Michael Stewart (2009 – Lunenburg County)
Amanda Marchand (Executive Member)
Gérard Cormier (NSTU Staff Liaison)

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





update

NSTU MEDOC® GROUP TRAVEL PLAN — A REFRESHER AND INTRODUCTION TO THE NSTU TRIP CANCELLATION/ TRIP INTERRUPTION PLAN

For many years now, the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees have made available to both active and retired members, a competitively priced Out-Of-Country/Province Travel Insurance Program. The MEDOC® Travel Insurance Plan offers NSTU members complete coverage for your travel insurance needs.

The Provincial Health Insurance Plan provides limited basic coverage while members travel outside of province. However, this coverage is not enough. If you have a medical emergency while travelling out of Province or out of Canada, costs can easily escalate and it can cost thousands of dollars.

Covered expenses under the NSTU MEDOC® Group Travel Plan include prescription drugs, x-rays, nursing services, air emergency transportation or evacuation, emergency dental services, bedside transportation, repatriation, return of vehicle, and board and lodging.

The MEDOC® Group Travel Plan provides year-round coverage. With a 35 day annual Base Plan, you are covered for an unlimited number of trips up to 35 consecutive days per trip during the policy year. For longer periods of travel, you can purchase a Supplemental Plan for additional

protection to cover the period of time that you will be away. The Supplemental Plan provides coverage for one single trip longer than 35 days and includes the annual Base Plan coverage. Premium payments are made through monthly payroll deduction to the policy renewal, which is September 1st. Effective May 1, 2008, the MEDOC® Group Travel Plan introduced a new, lower rate structure, while coverage remained the same.

NSTU Trip Cancellation/Trip Interruption Plan

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees are very excited to offer a Trip Cancellation/Trip Interruption Plan effective November 1, 2008. This option helps protect travellers against unforeseen circumstances that may prevent or discontinue a trip. Coverage highlights of this plan are:

Annual Plan

Trip Cancellation - up to a maximum of \$5,000 per insured person per annual coverage period.

Trip Interruption - up to a maximum of \$5,000 per insured person for each covered trip.

- Up to a maximum of \$3,500 for lodging, meals, car rental, telephone calls and taxi costs (\$350 per day).
- Up to a maximum of \$1,000 for loss of, or damage to, baggage and personal effects during a covered trip.
- Personal effects – actual cash value or \$500, whichever is less.
- Document replacement – up to a maximum of \$200.
- Baggage Delay – up to \$400.

You must be enrolled in the MEDOC® Travel Plan in order to apply for Trip Cancellation / Trip Interruption coverage. For members purchasing Trip Cancellation / Trip Interruption coverage for the first time, premiums will be pro-rated from the date your coverage is effective until the policy renewal date (September 1st). Like the MEDOC® Group Travel Plan, coverage will renew automatically on September 1st of each year. The monthly premium is very competitive with the convenience of year-round coverage.

In the near future, you will receive an information package in the mail providing additional details and rate information on both of these products. It is easy to enroll !! Just complete the application form(s) which have been included with the pamphlets and forward to Johnson Inc. or fax to 902-453-8539. You may also contact Johnson Inc. at the numbers below, should you have any questions.

If you have any questions, please call 453-9543 (locally) or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).

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resources

Last Chance for High School Science Videos 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.

We have limited copies of these 6-part science series. They are available in VHS format only and on a first-come first-served basis.

Chemical Equilibrium (60 min.) Chemistry 11/12

This series uses animation and analogy to introduce senior chemistry students to the concepts of chemical reactions. It explores and examines the theories of steady state, dynamic equilibrium, kinetic molecular theory, reaction tendencies, and the equilibrium constant. Titles in this series: Unsteady steadiness, Dynamic equilibrium, Reaction kinetics, Reaction tendencies, The equilibrium constant, and The Haber process.

Electricity (60 min.) Physics 11/12

This series covers the fundamentals of electrostatics and current electricity, using the medium of video to help students formulate mental images of abstract concepts. Titles in this series: Conductors and insulators, Charging and discharging, Charging by induction, Current electricity, Potential difference, and Resistance.

Electrochemistry (60 min.) Chemistry 11/12

This series starts by explaining the basic principles of the common battery, then illustrates the terminology and processes of electrochemical reactions and how half cell potentials can be determined. Titles in this series: The building blocks of electrochemistry, Electrochemical cells, Designing electrochemical cells, Commercial electrochemical cells, Corrosion, and Electroplating.

Energy Flow (60 min.) Biology 11/12

This series deals with energy flow in organisms, within a cell, and the role of energy flow in our agricultural system. Titles in this series: The concept of energy flow, Photosynthesis, Energy flow in the ecosystem, Energy flow at the cellular level, Energy flow in agriculture, and Energy flow in the biosphere.

Mole Concept (60 min.) Chemistry 11/12

This series clarifies the reasoning behind the historical development of the mole concept—the mole is the ultimate standard container for directly comparing large numbers of atoms—and opens the way to understanding chemical reactions at the molecular level. Titles in this series: Relative mass, Gas volumes, Combining gas volumes, Avogadro's hypothesis, Relative atomic mass, and The mole.

Nuclear Physics (60 min.) Physics 11/12

This series shows, step by step, how an interest in cathode rays led scientists to discover X-rays, then alpha, beta, and gamma radiation, and finally to explore the conversion of matter into energy. Titles in this series: The discovery of radioactivity, Properties of Becquerel rays, Natural transmutations, Energy from the nucleus, Electrical energy from fission, Nuclear by-products.

Organic Evolution (60 min.) Biology 11/12

This series traces the development of various theories of evolution. It begins with the Biblical account of creation, then goes on to discuss Darwin, Mendel, the Hardy-Weinberg law, and more. Titles in this series: In the beginning, Darwin naturally, Factoring in Mendel, Meiotic mix, Population picture, and Mutation and all that.

Protein Synthesis (60 min.) Biology 11/12

This series explores one aspect of the process, from the manufacture of DNA to the roles of the messenger and transfer RNA. Titles in this series: Protein : the stuff of life, DNA : the molecule of heredity, DNA replication : the repeating formula, RNA synthesis : the genetic messenger, Transfer RNA : the genetic messenger, and Ribosomal RNA : the protein maker.

Structure of the Atom (60 min.) Physics 11/12

This series explores the history and development of the model of the atom, from the hypotheses of early Greek philosophers to the wave-mechanical model of modern atomic physicists. Titles in this series: The earliest models, Smaller than the smallest, The Rutherford model, The Bohr model, Spectra, and The wave mechanical model.

Wave Particle Duality (60 min.) Physics 11/12

This series traces the development of the various theories advanced to explain the behavior of light, from the concepts of the ancient Greeks to the proven models of today. Titles in this series: The particle model, The wave model, The electromagnetic model, The quantum idea, Photons, and Matter waves.

Education Media Library, Brunswick Place, 2nd floor, 2021 Brunswick Street, Halifax, NS B3K 2V5; 902-424-2440; 902-428-5828 (fax), Email us at mediacir@ednet.ns.ca. Visit our website at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>.

RESOURCES

New website features career futures in Nova Scotia

Young Nova Scotians have a bright future in this province. There is a new tool to help them discover the opportunities available right here at home. BrightCareerFutures.com is the new, one-stop interactive website designed to link students, educators and parents to career information on hot jobs and growing sectors like Health Care, IT, Finance, Skilled Trades and even Aerospace.

The site provides career information such as where these jobs are, expected income and educational pathways that will connect your students to their future career in Nova Scotia.

While on the site, students can listen to Nova Scotia music and watch videos on the profiled sectors. Additional features and promotions will be added to the portal to encourage repeat visits.

Want information about other careers? Visit the newly redesigned Nova Scotia Career Options site (www.nscareeroptions.ca) where you can get information on more than 2,500 careers across the province, view career and education planning resources, complete self-assessment quizzes, and access an interactive career exploration tool.

Visit brightcareerfutures.com today and be sure to tell your students and colleagues, too. You could help your students find their dream job, right here at home!

DriveWiser, the fuel efficiency program

DriveWiser is the fuel efficient driving program for the province, spreading the word about how to save fuel since 2006. DriveWiser has expanded its program to include a youth-focused element. Keen to increase fuel efficiency awareness among senior high school students and staff throughout Nova Scotia they offer FREE presentations and workshops which highlight both the challenges and opportunities for change, including how to cut gas bills and reduce emissions. Along with this high-energy information session, students will also walk away with convenient handouts and tire gauges.

One-hour workshops encourage participation and critical thinking. Book one or both of the following: *Transportation: The Big Picture*—The concept of transportation is introduced by exploring the realities of driving in Nova Scotia. Students will learn through activities about the challenges of our current transportation choices, while unveiling the not-so-obvious consequences. They will have the opportunity to assume roles as ministers of transportation, with the challenge of planning for a more sustainable future.

Driving Wiser—Participants will learn about the direct and indirect effects of driving and what they can do to get from 'a' to 'b' using the least amount of fuel possible.

DriveWiser presentations are ideal for lunch and learns and for classrooms. Participants will leave empowered and armed with the knowledge needed to make more positive driving choices.

If your class or group would like to book DriveWiser to deliver a workshop or presentation, please call Jessica at 902-420-3475 or Kristy at 902-420-7924. We can also be contacted at www.DriveWiser.ca.

Playmobil's Imagine Your World

Playmobil's Imagine Your World free program for classroom teachers has developed curriculum in partnership with Scholastic, which is designed to help grade-school teachers inspire creativity in the classroom with free lessons, printables and student activities, interactive quizzes and Playmobil calendars.

If you are interested in learning more take a look at the lesson at www.scholastic.com/playmobil.

The www.youngpoets.ca Teacher's Lounge

The Young Poet's website is excited to announce new bilingual poetry teaching units and workshop ideas written by Canadian poets and poetry teachers, including Glen Soresland, Kathryn Bjornson, and Aaron Tucker. To view the newest additions to its teachers' lounge, visit: www.youngpoets.ca/teachers_lounge. For a full list of workshop ideas and teaching units, visit: www.youngpoets.ca/poetry_workshop_ideas_for_teachers_0.

The YP Teachers' Lounge is a project of the League of Canadian Poets.

Passchendaele "In the Classroom"

Passchendaele, written and directed by Canadian actor and writer Paul Gross, is a romantic drama set at the height of the First World War, and a testament to history that provides a needed reminder of Canada's sacrifices during "the Great War." The film shows the heroism of those that fought in battle, and of those that loved them. It opened in theaters nationwide on October 17, 2008. The Dominion Institute has a free Passchendaele Education Guide downloadable from their website at www.dominion.ca/passchendaele/. More information on the film can be found at <http://passchendaelethemovie.com/>.



2008-2009 PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS SCHEDULE

November	12 & 13 (Wed. & Thurs.) - Annapolis - <i>Wandlyn Inn, Coldbrook</i> 24 & 25 (Mon. & Tues.) - Truro - <i>Best Western Glengarry, Truro</i> 26 & 27 (Wed. & Thurs.) - Bridgewater - <i>Wandlyn Inn, Bridgewater</i>
December	3 & 4 (Wed. & Thurs.) - Halifax - <i>Quality Inn & Suites (off Kearney Lake Road)</i> 9 & 10 (Tues. & Wed.) - Halifax - <i>Quality Inn & Suites (off Kearney Lake Road)</i>
January	19 & 20 (Mon. & Tues.) - Halifax - <i>Quality Inn & Suites (off Kearney Lake Road)</i> 29 & 30 (Thurs. & Fri.) - Halifax - <i>Quality Inn & Suites (off Kearney Lake Road)</i>

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

NSTU's John Huntley four fall interns participated in their internship at the NSTU office October 22 and 23. Part of their internship included meeting with NSTU staff officers in member services, professional development, public relations, counselling services, library services and the Early Intervention Program. This internship offers NSTU members the chance to "job shadow" NSTU staff and learn more about the many NSTU programs and services provided to members. New provincial executive members are also given the opportunity to participate in the program.



From left to right are: Donalda Westcott from the Cape Breton Local who teaches music at Shipyard Elementary and Mira Road Elementary schools in Sydney; Sonia Parisé is a member of the CSANE Local and she teaches Grade 3 at École Bois-Joli in Dartmouth; David Harris is a provincial executive member from the Halifax City Local and he is the Social Studies Department Head at J.L. Ilsley High School in Halifax; Rhonda Gerrior, a member of the Richmond Local teaches Grade Primary at Felix Marchand Education Centre in Louisdale and Cheryl Sutherland from the Pictou Local teaches Grade 1 at Walter Duggan Consolidated School in Westville.

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, 2009 for April 2009. Application forms are available through your NSTU rep or on the NSTU website at www.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. Experience downtown Halifax; shopping, waterfront trail, and live theatre. Private, family, or dormitory rooms. Kitchen use available. Please phone 902-422-3863 to book today.

WENTWORTH COUNTRY HOSTEL - Experience nature, bird watching, hiking trails, star gazing, 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.

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 in the Halifax Regional School Board. Contact Mary at 902-469-9117 or email marharris@ns.sympatico.ca.

FOR RENT - Windsor, NS. I have lovely 3 bedroom bungalow, oil heat, pellet stove, in a family friendly area which backs onto King's Edgehill School for rent immediately. It has a pleasant backyard, sidewalks and a park across the road. The neighbourhood is friendly and quiet. The cost is \$800.00, not including utilities. Contact Ann at 902 757 3880 or 902-792-8303. Occupancy dates can be negotiated.

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Subject to change without notice. Updated October 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