

NSTU launches 2nd Teachers Make a Difference program

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union launched its second **Teachers Make a Difference** recognition campaign on October 15, 2013.

“We received lots of positive feedback from this recognition program last year,” says Shelley Morse. “It helps to raise the positive profile of our members, giving students the opportunity to nominate a teacher who has made a difference in their lives.”



Make a Difference button, or banner, which will bring you to the official contest page. You can also share it on Facebook and tweet with #teachersmakeadifference.

A 30-second ad is running throughout programming through to November 10 inspiring students to go to the NSTU website or teachersmakeadifference.ca and nominate a public school teacher, APSEA or Community College member who has made a big difference in their life, and contributed to their school and community.

The **Teachers Make a Difference** button and banner on the NSTU website clicks through to the contest page. Ads are also running in the *Chronicle Herald* print and online.

Like last year's campaign up to 10 NSTU members will be randomly chosen in corresponding with the eight school boards around the province, the Community College, and a member who works for students through the Atlantic Provinces' Special Education Authority (APSEA). For each recognized member, a donation of \$300 will be made towards the school/campus breakfast or library program.

From November 18 to December 8, a series of four 60-second vignettes will be broadcast on CTV that will focus on the themes of: lifelong learning; care and compassion; extracurricular and volunteering; and innovation in teaching. These vignettes will also announce the randomly selected NSTU members chosen through the **Teachers Make a Difference** campaign.

“We hope that this program will continue to celebrate the importance of teachers in students' lives and help the public understand the value of teachers. Please encourage your students to participate in this program, and help spread the word.”

For more information, simply visit www.nstu.ca and click on the Teachers

NSTU denies claim of violation of Elections Act

During the week of September 30, Elections Nova Scotia informed the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) that complaints had been filed claiming a violation of the Elections Act. “Elections Nova Scotia received complaints that we have engaged in election advertising,” says NSTU president Shelley Morse. “There is a likelihood that the complaints may be forwarded to the RCMP for investigation, and we will work with them to address this issue.”

The Teaching Profession Act, an act of the legislature in which the NSTU is governed, gives the NSTU statutory authority to advance and promote the cause of public education in Nova Scotia. “We take our obligation under this act very seriously, and because of this we do not believe that the NSTU engaged in election advertising under the Elections Act,” states Morse. “Since 1895 we have directed our programs towards improving the quality of public education in this province.”

The NSTU understands the complaints arose from a Stand For Education advertisement that appeared in the *Chronicle Herald* on September 10 and the Stand for Education website, a joint project of education partners in the province, the NSTU, the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations and la Fédération des parents de la Nouvelle-Écosse. The website contained five questions pertaining to the public education system that the three groups were encouraging the public to ask of election candidates. The Stand for Education campaign encouraged the public to tell elected officials to stand up for education and make public education a priority.

“The NSTU continues to maintain its historical position of not attaching itself to any political party,” adds Morse. “We encouraged our members, parents and other members of the public to ask candidates about their priorities for public education to best meet the needs of all students in Nova Scotia.”



NSTU president is shown above with Hants West Local president Sheldon States just prior to her participation in the 15th annual Windsor Parade and Pumpkin Regatta on October 13. The Hants West Local's pumpkin was one of over 60 entrants for this year's regatta, weighing in at 955 lbs. It was decorated by Hants West Local members Jackie Allen, Tami Cox-Jardine and her daughter Lauren. This is the second year that Morse has participated in the event.



Remembrance Week
November 5-11



people

Kings Local welcomes new members

The Kings Local hosted its annual Welcome Back reception on September 25 for new and returning members of the Local. This year's event took place at Lew Murphy's Family Grill & Bar in New Minas. NSTU president Shelley Morse, who was a former president of the Local, dropped in on her way back from school visits in the Digby Local. This annual event is one way the Local engages its members in the NSTU.



From left to right: VP Communications Jane Bent Height; provincial executive member Belinda Snow (Annapolis-Hants West-Kings); Pineridge Middle School NSTU rep Ashley Abbott, new NSTU Kings Local members Ashley Rice, Stephanie Legge and Brenley Heaver (all teachers at Pine Ridge); NSTU president Shelley Morse and Kings Local president Natalie MacIsaac.

NSFHSA Annual Conference & AGM

NSTU president Shelley Morse brought greetings on behalf of NSTU members to the Nova Scotia Federation of Home & School Associations (NSFHSA) annual conference and AGM held at the Inverary Resort in Baddeck on September 27 and 28. Morse provided delegates with an update on the Stand For Education campaign, in which the NSFHSA partnered with the NSTU.

This year's theme was *Parents R the Difference* and featured a keynote address entitled *Mirror Mirror* by Pam Mood. Mood, who is the Mayor of Yarmouth is also the CEO of Mood Coaching & Consulting, and is a much sought-after workshop facilitator and motivational speaker.



From left to right are: Vanda Dow, outgoing president of the NSFHSA; Jamie Stevens, president of the Nova Scotia School Boards Association; NSTU president Shelley Morse; Cambee Dorrington, incoming president of the NSFHSA; and keynote speaker Pam Mood.

Yarmouth Local school tour

On September 18, NSTU president Shelley Morse visited schools in the Yarmouth Local followed by a media briefing. Morse was hosted by Local president Lori MacKinnon and both Morse and MacKinnon met with NSTU members at

Yarmouth Central School, the Tri-County Regional School Board Office, Yarmouth Adult High, Plymouth School, Drumlin Heights Consolidated School, Maple Grove Education Centre and Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School. From left to right: Morse; Roland Hannem, who is a guidance counsellor at South Centennial and Yarmouth Central School and the vice-president of communications for the Local; Grade 1/2 teacher at Yarmouth Central School, Susan O'Brien; Yarmouth Central music teacher Jen MacLeod, who is also the substitute liaison for the Local and Yarmouth Local president Lori MacKinnon.



Digby Local school tour

NSTU president Shelley Morse joined Digby Local president Krista Moore for a school tour on September 25. Morse began the day at Islands Consolidated School in Freeport, on Long Island a 10-minute ferry ride from Brier Island. She ended the day at St. Mary's Bay Academy and also visited Digby Neck Consolidated School, Digby Elementary, Digby Regional High, Barton School and Weymouth Consolidated School. She is shown above in Andrina Teed's textiles and design classroom at St. Mary's Bay Academy. From left to right, front row (seated): Grade 7 students Savannah Goudy, Noah Clairemont and Riley Benedict, second row: parent volunteer Mary Amiro and Grade 7 student Megan Hill. Standing: Moore, Morse, principal Janece McNutt and Andrina Teed, who teaches Grade Textiles & Design 7, Food & Nutrition 8, Healthy Living 7 and English 7 & 8.



INVOLVING | INFORMING | INSPIRING

THE

teacher

ISSN 0382-408X

Managing Editor: **Angela Murray**

Layout, Advertising & Circulation: **Sonia Matheson**

Published eight times a year (September-June)

by the **Nova Scotia Teachers Union**

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

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Halifax, NS B3L 4L7

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Toll free: 1-800-565-6788

Email: theteacher@nstu.ca

Website: www.nstu.ca

All materials for publication must be submitted

13 working days prior to printing date.

Submission deadlines for 2013-2014:

ISSUE.....DEADLINE

November/December.....November 22

January/February.....January 10

March.....February 7

April.....March 14

May.....April 11

June.....May 23

Mailed under Canada Post Publications

Agreement Number 40063555.

The opinions expressed in stories or articles

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Canadian Educational Press Association

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You may find past issues posted on

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NSTU/Johnson Inc. team up again with Discovery Centre for *Science on the Road* Contest

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) and Johnson Inc. are working together with the Discovery Centre once again to bring this unique opportunity to public school teachers across Nova Scotia. As part of the *Science on the Road* Contest, any active NSTU member, teaching in the public school system is eligible to win one of Discovery Centre's award-winning External Education programs delivered directly to their classroom—anywhere in the province.

"We're pleased to be able to continue more support to teachers in their classrooms," says NSTU president Shelley Morse. "The Discovery Centre programs are always a class favourite, and excellent complement for teachers as they look to inspire their students to the wonders of science."

Starting on Provincial Professional Development Day, October 25 until December 31, 2013, active NSTU members in the public school system will have the opportunity to win one of 55 class visits from Discovery Centre's *Science on the Road* program.

The Discovery Centre's mandate to make science and technology interesting and entertaining for children and young people has made it a leader in the delivery of interactive educational programming. Its External Education Program, which reaches over 20,000 students at over 80 schools annually, offers curriculum-connected workshops and shows that blend education and entertainment to bring science to life.

All curriculum-connected programs are between 45-60 minutes in length and are available for any grade level. Science on the Road programs include: We Like to Move It! on moving things and living things for Grade Primary; Facts of Light on light and colour for Grade 4; Beneath the Surface on rocks and minerals for Grade 7; and Above & Beyond on astronomy for Grade 12.

Starting on October 25, teachers can enter the contest at www.johnson.ca/sciencecontest by December 31, 2013. The randomly chosen winning teachers will have until April to get the activity happening in their classroom. Johnson Inc. is joining the Discovery Centre at their booths during Annual Provincial Professional Development Day on October 25 at the Association of Science Teachers (AST), Mathematics Teachers Association (MTA) and Primary Elementary Teachers Association (PETA) conferences. They will share information about the contest, provide some take away information and give attendees a chance to win one of six iPad minis and to answer any questions about the program.

Posters and brochures will be distributed to NSTU reps in public schools around the province.

For further information contact: Joann Fitzgerald, Johnson Inc. at joannfitzgerald@johnson.ca.

Discovery Centre Science on the Road Contest!



**Enter before December 31, 2013
for a chance to win 1 of 55 class visits.**

EUREKA! Bring one of the Discovery Centre's award-winning External Education programs directly into your classroom. There are a total of 55 visits to be won! Public school teachers can enter online before December 31, 2013. Good luck!

www.johnson.ca/sciencecontest

Please note: Website goes live on Oct 25th, 2013



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Nova Scotia
Teachers Union



JOHNSON

Contest ends on December 31, 2013. No purchase necessary. Limit of one entry per class teacher instructs. Chances of winning depend on the number of entries received. Winner must correctly answer a skill-testing question. One (1) of fifty-five (55) Discovery Centre "Science on the Road" sessions are available to be won in the contest (retail value is \$215 per session). For full contest details visit www.johnson.ca/sciencecontest.




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- Our office will be Closed November 11, 2013, for Remembrance Day.

from the nstu president

Shelley Morse



World Teachers' Day

In 1994, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated October 5 as an annual celebration of the valuable work done by 30 million teachers in Canada and around the globe. World Teachers' Day was the brainchild of a former Canadian teacher, the late Norman Goble.

"In many countries, including our own, this crucial profession does not receive the respect and support it deserves", UNESCO says. World Teachers' Day calls attention to the need to raise the status of the profession and acknowledge the indispensable role teachers play in building the future.

Teachers are not valued in society as they once were when I was a child. Other professions have increased in value, but not teachers. This speaks to the societal changes witnessed over many decades and the decreasing lack of respect for core values, belief systems and the role teachers play in society. The quality of the work teachers do inside and outside the classroom is not always appreciated or fully understood by those external to the teaching profession. More and more teachers are expected to take over the function and roles of the family unit while the importance of instruction sits on the back burner.

The theme for this year's World Teachers' Day was *'Pillars of Democracy'* and the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) is stressing the democratic practices teachers instill at an early age.

Democracy was gained in Canada through sacrifices by our veterans, and it's vital that this tradition be carried on by teachers. CTF's 'Hear my Voice' (vox.ctf-fce.ca) campaign, in place since last February, was developed to highlight teachers' far-reaching influence and to promote their role in a political democracy.

In a healthy democracy, decisions should be grounded in respectful consultation and ongoing dialogue with all sectors of society. Teachers play a vital role in promoting the importance of democracy and have a unique opportunity to explore with students the importance of being actively engaged citizens. Through hands-on learning programs, like Student Vote, teachers can engage students to be pillars of democracy in action.

This year marked the first provincial Student Vote (www.studentvote.ca) in Nova Scotia. The program involved 194 schools and 22,444 students province-wide. The in-school poll resulted in seats for the parties as follows: the Liberals - 32; Progressive Conservative - 11; and the New Democratic Party - 8; which closely mirrored the results from the actual election.

Taylor Gunn, Student Vote founder does recognize the value of teachers in democracy. "Teachers are the most important group of Canadians that can, will and are impacting the future of democracy. No one else is engaging kids in the democratic process," he says.

He knows that the secret to the program is teachers, and that they see value in the program and share it with their colleagues. I'd like to congratulate all of our members who got their students involved in the Student Vote program this year. Thanks also to Lynn Abbass (Cape Breton District Local) and Timothy Halman (Dartmouth Local) for sharing their Student Vote program stories for this year's NSTU World Teachers' Day feature, which appeared in the Chronicle Herald on October 5.



On September 26 NSTU president Shelley Morse visited Prince Andrew High School for a Student Vote "All Candidates Forum" facilitated by social studies teacher Timothy Halman and hosted by his O2 students. Newly appointed provincial executive member for Dartmouth Ben Sichel, who also teaches at the school had his students attend the forum as well. From left to right (Sichel, Morse and Halman).

La Journée mondiale des enseignants

En 1994, l'Organisation des Nations unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (UNESCO) a désigné le 5 octobre pour célébrer chaque année le travail inestimable accompli par 30 millions d'enseignants au Canada et partout dans le monde. La Journée mondiale des enseignants a été l'initiative d'un ancien enseignant canadien, le défunt Norman Goble.

« Dans de nombreux pays (y compris le nôtre) cette profession essentielle ne reçoit pas le respect et le soutien qu'elle mérite », déclare l'UNESCO. La Journée mondiale des enseignants porte l'attention sur la nécessité de rehausser le statut de la profession et de reconnaître le rôle indispensable joué par les enseignants dans l'édification de l'avenir.

Les enseignants ne sont plus appréciés dans la société comme ils l'étaient autrefois, lorsque j'étais enfant. D'autres professions ont amélioré leur image, mais pas les enseignants. Cela révèle les changements de société observés au cours des décennies et le manque de respect croissant pour les valeurs clés et les systèmes de croyances ainsi que pour le rôle que jouent les enseignants dans la société. La qualité du travail accompli par les enseignants au sein et en dehors de la salle de classe n'est pas toujours pleinement appréciée ou comprise par les personnes externes à la profession enseignante. De plus en plus d'enseignants se voient forcés d'adopter les fonctions et les rôles de la cellule familiale tandis que l'importance de l'instruction est reléguée au second plan.

Le thème de la Journée mondiale des enseignants de cette année est « Piliers de la démocratie » et la Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants (FCE) a mis l'accent sur les pratiques démocratiques que les enseignants inculquent aux enfants dès leur plus jeune âge.

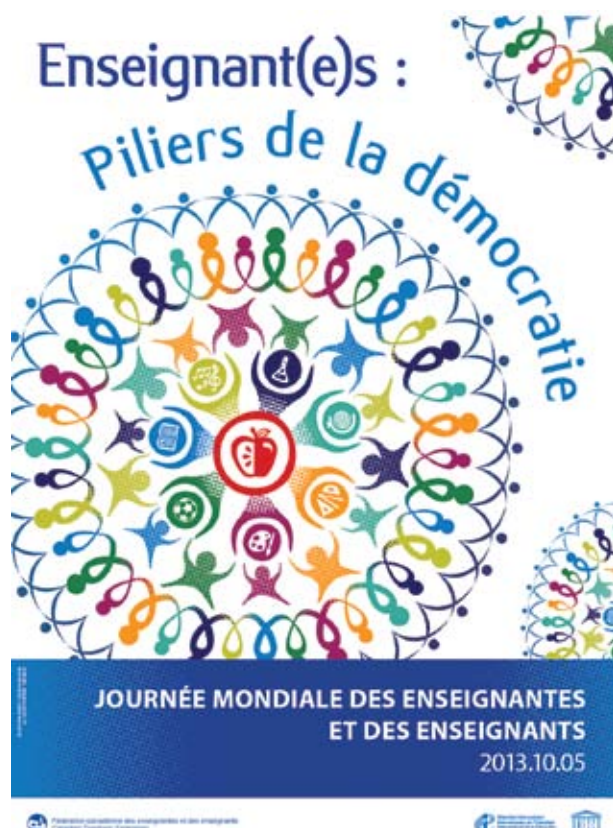
Au Canada, la démocratie a été conquise grâce aux sacrifices de nos anciens combattants et il est essentiel que cette tradition soit maintenue par les enseignants. La campagne « Écoutez ma voix » de la FCE, qui est en place depuis février dernier, a été lancée pour souligner l'influence énorme des enseignants et promouvoir leur rôle dans une démocratie politique.

Dans une démocratie saine, les décisions devraient être fondées sur une consultation respectueuse et un dialogue constant entre tous les secteurs de la société. Les enseignants jouent un rôle crucial dans la promotion de la démocratie et ont des occasions uniques d'explorer avec les élèves l'importance d'un engagement actif des citoyens. Par le biais de programmes d'apprentissage pratiques, comme le vote étudiant, les enseignants peuvent encourager les élèves à devenir des piliers de la démocratie en action.

Cette année a marqué le premier vote étudiant provincial (www.studentvote.ca) en Nouvelle-Écosse. Ce programme a impliqué 194 écoles et 22 444 élèves dans l'ensemble de la province. Ce scrutin scolaire a donné les résultats suivants : 32 sièges pour les Libéraux, 11 sièges pour les Progressistes-conservateurs et 8 sièges pour les Néo-démocrates, ce qui reflétait étroitement les résultats des élections proprement dites.

Taylor Gunn, le fondateur du vote étudiant, reconnaît l'importance des enseignants pour la démocratie. « Les enseignants sont le groupe de Canadiens qui peuvent influencer, qui influenceront et qui influent actuellement le plus sur l'avenir de la démocratie. Personne d'autre n'engage les enfants dans le processus démocratique », dit-il.

Il sait que le secret de ce programme repose sur les enseignants car ceux-ci comprennent l'intérêt du programme et le partagent avec leurs collègues. Je voudrais féliciter tous nos membres qui ont fait participer leurs élèves au programme de vote étudiant cette année. Merci aussi à Lynn Abbass (section locale de district Cape Breton) et Timothy Halman (section locale de Dartmouth) pour avoir partagé leur expérience du programme de vote étudiant en vue de l'article sur la Journée mondiale des enseignants de cette année, qui est paru dans le *Chronicle Herald* le 5 octobre.



Congrats to BEN SICHEL...

a teacher at Prince Andrew High School in Dartmouth.
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Deadline—November 8, 2013

**Stand Up Against Bullying
“Pink” Day**



Many shades of pink were adorned by the staff of Leslie Thomas Junior High School in Lower Sackville on September 12, for Nova Scotia’s *Stand Up Against Bullying Day*. The “pink day” movement began six years ago at Central Kings Rural High, when two students Travis Price and David Shepherd organized dozens of their classmates to wear pink shirts in solidarity of another student who had been bullied for wearing pink. In 2008, the Province of Nova Scotia declared the second Thursday at the start of every school year to be *Stand Up Against Bullying Day*. The province and its education partners recognize the *Stand Up Against Bullying Day* each year. Hundreds of NSTU members and thousands of their students participate each year by hosting a variety of anti-bullying activities including discussions, contests, assemblies and team-building events. Morse joined Halifax County Local president Meg Ferguson (second from the right in the first row), school staff, and the school’s mascot in celebration of the day.

**2013-14 First Vice-presidential
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Candy/Granola Bars/Chocolates	\$150.00
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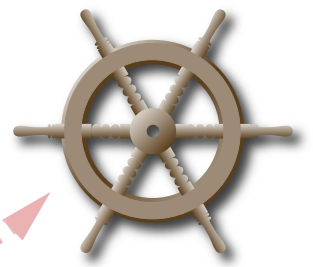
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Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Awareness and motivation lead to engagement

by Gérard Cormier, Executive Staff Officer, Outreach Programs & Equity Services

Many organizations in our society are grappling with the issue of member engagement. They want the secret recipe that will lead to their members being more engaged than they are presently. This is all well and good until the issue of level of engagement is examined. For instance the NSTU has over 10,000 members but they cannot all be engaged at the same level. The provincial executive could not be comprised of 10,000 members nor could the NSTU Equity Committee. A further examination of the three levels of engagement will shed some light on the appropriate spectrum of engagement levels for an organization the size of the NSTU.

There are three levels or rings of engagement: the inner ring, the middle ring, and the outer ring. The inner ring of engagement is comprised of the core team of leaders and most committed individuals. This would include the staff, provincial executive, and Local leaders of the NSTU. Their level of engagement has them spending a lot of time and effort in moving the organization forward. The middle ring of engagement is comprised of school/campus NSTU representatives as well as provincial and Local committee members. They are less involved than the Union leadership but still dedicate an important amount of time and energy to the functioning of the organization, especially at the Local level. The outer ring of engagement contains the majority of NSTU members. They are the members who vote on contracts and other issues such as pensions. They may check the NSTU website from time to time and periodically read an issue of *The Teacher*. The NSTU can be proud of their involvement as witnessed in the last two contract votes. Voter turnout was

much higher in the NSTU contract votes than in any provincial or federal election in some time. Regardless of whether a member is in the inner, middle, or outer ring, they are engaged to the level they feel is appropriate for their circumstance. All three levels play an important role within the organization.

The problem is not in the level of engagement; it lies in the number of members who are **disengaged**. These people belong to the outer ring but do not vote on Union contracts, do not visit the NSTU website, and do not read any materials from the organization such as *The Teacher* and *AVISO*. They do, however, have strong viewpoints on how the organization does nothing for them, but continues to collect their dues. It is these individuals that are in need of awareness of the benefits of belonging to the collective known as the NSTU. To that end, the NSTU developed a workshop entitled 'What Does the NSTU Do for You?' It gives members an opportunity to realize all the benefits and services that are available to them because of their membership in the NSTU. Very often members learn about benefits and services of which they were unaware. Also, it does not take long for them to realize that they receive their money's worth for the price it takes to belong to the NSTU. This is what is called building awareness, and awareness is critical if the organization wants their members motivated and engaged within the various levels of engagement.

At Annual Council 2013 delegates received a report from the ad hoc Committee on Member Engagement. The committee made a list of seven recommendations to the provincial executive, all of which were passed and



Above are NSTU members from the Strait RRC participating in one of seven member engagement focus groups that took place last March, as part of the work of the ad hoc Committee on Member Engagement.

have since been sent to the appropriate staff/department for implementation.

They are as follows:

- That the data collected from the random survey, the focus groups, and the '6-3-1' activity be forwarded to the appropriate NSTU Standing Committees, NSTU leaders, and/or NSTU staff for information and possible action
- That the NSTU investigate the creation of a mobile application for its membership
- That the NSTU investigate the creation of a new member packet for each new member, which would contain their NSTU address with temporary password, a welcome letter from the president, and NSTU promotional item, and a listing of NSTU documents and services;
- That NSTU staff investigate the creation of a member-engagement day and report their

findings back to the provincial executive;

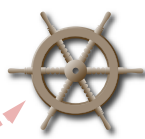
- That the NSTU public relations department conduct a yearly member satisfaction survey;
- That the NSTU staff develop an action plan on how to better engage and support NSTU representatives and report its findings back to the provincial executive

The Ad hoc committee had also recommended that *The Teacher* publication be made available in print but the provincial executive had already acted on that issue. Print copies were again in circulation starting in September.

Over the next couple of months the background work that is needed to move these resolutions forward will be done. Some of them will be sent back to the provincial executive to be re-examined and further direction given. Whatever direction is given, it is hoped that the three levels of engagement will be increased with NSTU members more aware, motivated, and engaged.



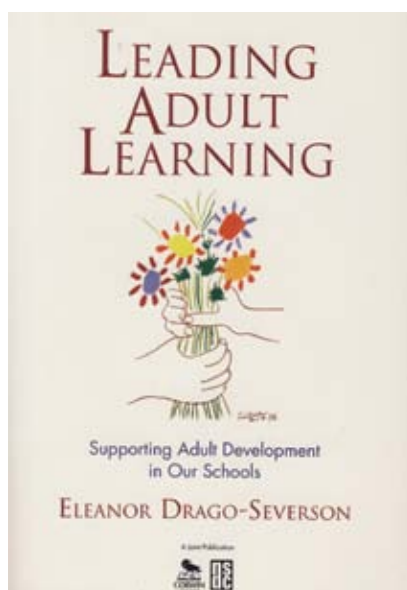
Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Email your name, home address, and school or campus name with PD Giveaway in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by November 29 to be eligible for the draw.

Leading Adult Learning: Supporting Adult Development in Our Schools
By Eleanor Drago-Severson

Leading Adult Education by Eleanor Drago-Severson and published by Corwin Press, is a resource focused on adult development and how to create and foster adult leadership in education. Drago-Severson draws from four areas of knowledge: adult learning, developmental theory, leadership practice, and organizational collaboration; to explain how and why adult growth in the education system is just as important as student growth.



Congratulations to our book winners from September!

**FRESH: Relationship-Driven
Classroom Management**
BEVERLY BAIN of Yarmouth

EQUITY: Gender, Bullying, and Harassment
CARLEEN MATHESON of Judique

**PD: Motivating Students—25 Strategies to
Light the Fire of Engagement**
WADE MacDONALD of Dartmouth

EQUITY BOOK REVIEW

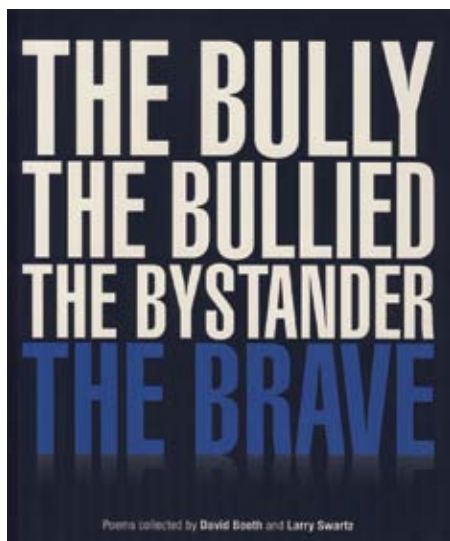
Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with **EQUITY** in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by November 29 to be eligible for the draw.

The Bully, The Bullied, The Bystander, The Brave

Poems collected by David Booth and Larry Swartz.

This anthology of poems, *The Bully, The Bullied, The Bystander, The Brave* by David Booth and Larry Swartz takes a different approach to the act of bullying and focusing on all involved from every angle. This collection takes a unique approach to bullying as it explores each type of person, directly or indirectly involved, through the works of various poets and poems they've personally written about the subject.



We Day Launch at Ellenvale Junior High



NSTU president Shelley Morse attended the **We Day Atlantic** launch at Ellenvale Junior High School (EJHS) in Dartmouth on September 10. She is shown (second from the left) with Steve Keddy, principal Wolfville School and teacher Angie Rushton; Chuck Boudreau, principal, Tamarac Education Centre; EJHS principal Jeff Lewis; Steve Miller, a vice principal at Hants West Middle School; and Paul Landry, Director of Programs and Student Service, Strait Regional School Board. For complete story on this event see page 12.

fresh

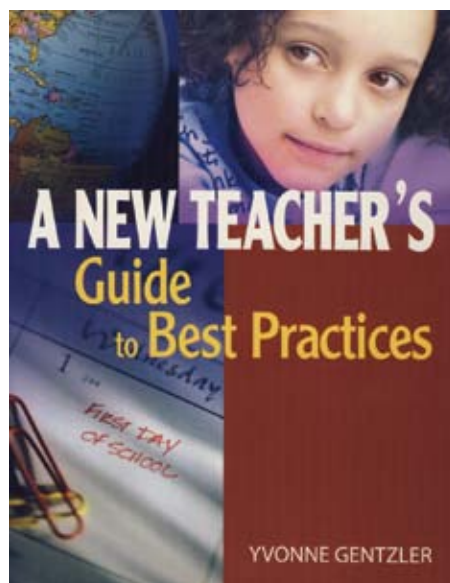
Putting new members in the KNOW!

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A New Teacher's Guide to Best Practices

By Yvonne Gentzler

This is an excellent resource for new teachers. *A New Teacher's Guide to Best Practices* by Yvonne Gentzler, published by Corwin Press, helps new teachers understand and find success in the ups and downs of starting their teaching career. The book details areas of difficulty for new teachers and with research based information, Gives them the answers that help them to build a foundation to be more confident in the classroom.



PD Committee

NSTU's provincial Professional Development Committee met for its first meeting of the school year on October 11. This committee supports and develops strategies and programs to promote professional development for the NSTU membership at the individual, educational site, Local and provincial levels. It advises the provincial executive on matters related to professional development. Members of the committee also meet to identify themes and topics for future issues of *Aviso*, NSTU's professional magazine.



Seated: Tanya Chisholm (Halifax County); committee Chair Nancy Doyle (Pictou Local president); and Andrew Pedersen (Cape Breton District). Standing: NSTU staff liaison Betty-Jean Aucoin; Ian Kent (Queens); provincial executive rep Stacy Thorburn (Shelburne); Tami Cox Jardine (Hants West Local); and Lori Richard (Inverness).



NSTU Provincial Professional Development Day

— October 25th

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Typing and clicking an alternative way

by Kristin Crocker, O.T. Reg. (N.S.)
EIP Case Coordinator

Over the last few years, computer use for teachers and community college members has increased, such as with the introduction of the SMART Board, PowerSchool, Tienet, and other computer related resources and activities. Although this technology can be an asset in some aspects of the teaching world, it may also mean that our members are spending more time in front of a computer on a regular basis. For some, prolonged computer use can lead to discomfort and can also lead to potential injuries. This may be due to the equipment set up, body positioning, pre-existing medical conditions, or a combination of many factors.

Imagine this: You are sitting in a chair at your desk at school, working on a laptop. Your back is hunched over the desk as you type on the laptop's keyboard. Your neck feels sore and your arms are cramped.

Now, take a second to consider your current posture. Does that description sound familiar? Many people do not often realize how they may be positioned at the computer until it is pointed out, or until they start feeling some sort of discomfort such as back, neck, or arm pain.

In most schools, and educational sites teachers and community college members are provided with a computer monitor, with a standard external keyboard and mouse. Some use a laptop instead, which may or may not come with external devices. "Standard" devices have a basic design and are often associated with the average set up. The benefits of standard equipment

are that they are usually easy to obtain, less expensive, and more familiar to use. However, standard equipment can be bulky and can place your body in a poor position for prolonged use. What else is out there that could be better?

Alternative computer devices can be helpful to improve ergonomic positioning while working at the computer. There are many options, but here are some commonly used examples, with points about their pros and cons for each:

Split keyboard

►► Helps your wrists stay in a more neutral position. Also helpful for body alignment for those who have wider shoulders.

►► It can take time to adjust to the different layout of keys, for those who are use to a standard design.

Mini keyboard

►► For right-handed users, it allows your arm to be positioned closer to the middle of your body, as there is no number pad. It is also more portable than larger keyboards, and can fit better in smaller desk spaces.

►► No number pad can be a disadvantage for those who type numbers frequently.

►► Keyboard with built in mouse (ball or track pad)

►► Since an external mouse is not needed, your arms can stay positioned closer to the middle of your body. It can also fit better in smaller desk spaces.



►► Risk of increased hand tension when using the ball or track pad mouse.

Vertical mouse

►► Reduces twisting of the forearm and allows a more neutral position of your wrist.

►► Can cause the thumb and/or fingers to work harder than when using a standard mouse.

Roller mouse

►► Allows your shoulders to stay in alignment and positioned closer to the middle of your body. You can also alternate hand use for mouse tasks.

►► This device is placed in front of the keyboard, which moves the keyboard farther away on the desk. This may cause your body to lean forward, and your arms reach out farther to type.

►► Proper equipment and body positioning can be very beneficial to improve your comfort and help prevent injuries

during computer use. There are many aspects to consider in addition to the computer and devices used, including the desk and chair set up. Occupational therapists can perform ergonomic assessments of your workplace, and make recommendations about what type of equipment set up and positioning techniques may work for you.

For more information, and to learn how an Occupational Therapist may be able to help you, you can call the NSTU Early Intervention Program for Teachers at 1-800-565-6788 or email eip@nstu.ca.

References:

http://blog.pbargo.com/?p=639&utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=BLOG%20E-mails&utm_medium=email

<http://blog.pbargo.com/?p=657>

<http://www.ergoexpo.com/on-demand-webinars.html>

<http://www.thebackdoc.ca/2013/03/>

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@staff.nstu.ca to provide her with your NSTU email address. This list provides information about the EIP and other wellness topics.

For previous *The Well Teacher* articles, go to www.nstu.ca



Educational Leadership Consortium of Nova Scotia

Building Effective Professional Relationships

The NSELC now offers an affordable one-day program that will help schools build more effective and productive staff relationships. *Building Effective Professional Relationships* is based on the *Insights Discovery Model* but does not require participants to have participated in the formal one day *Insights* session.

This workshop is especially useful when two schools are merging into one or when a large number of staff members are new to the school. It would also be appropriate when administration has changed or as a precursor to the establishment of school-based Continuous School Improvement teams.

The emphasis is on personal and team effectiveness and will increase each participant's ability:

- To know themselves – what they do well and what they may find challenging;
- To identify their natural or chosen communication style and be able to recognize how this has an impact on personal and professional interactions;
- To recognize the communication preferences of those with whom they work and to adapt and connect with them.

Participants leave with a model for interpersonal communication that when applied in day-to-day interactions is a key ingredient to bringing a diverse workforce together – one person at a time.

For more information and/or to book this affordable session for your school: email: nselc@nselc.ca

or call: (902) 422-3270 for more information.

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NSTU Leader Profile

GERRY ALLEY, 2nd Vice-President

NSTU provincial executive

Gerry Alley has been a teacher for 32 years, and last August, he was elected as 2nd vice-president of the NSTU by his peers on the provincial executive. For him, unionism has been in his blood for a long time. “My mother was a federal government employee, and a very involved member of her union. She was a shop steward and involved in local negotiations,” he says. “Growing up, it was just a normal course of events to talk about unions and the importance of them. Unions were never vilified in my home.”

“I understood from an early age what a grievance was, and how it was a way to solve a problem.”

He started his career in La Loche, a village in northwestern Saskatchewan, teaching in a native community of about 3,000. “It had a hospital and a Hudson’s Bay Post, and the closest cities were about a five-hour drive away to Saskatoon and Prince Albert.”

During his second year there, he became a vice-president of the Northern Area Teachers Association (NATA), which included teachers who taught from La Ronge to the Northwest Territories border. “There were about 600 teachers covering 150,000 square miles, and each year we would have an annual convention—similar to NSTU’s Annual Council, where we would engage in some professional development and hold our annual meeting,” adds Alley. He was also an alternate delegate to the AGM of the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation.

Returning to Nova Scotia in the mid ‘80s, the Acadia grad with a concentration in special education, started working at Middle River Hebert High School. “It was a 50 per cent science position, and a 50 per cent substitute position,” he comments “I remember clearing \$456 every two weeks.” He was a “motivational and individualized learning experiences” teacher working in an elementary school for kids who were dropouts. “We were trying to integrate students back into the system—trying to motivate them to see the value in school.”

He then spent some time at a Youth Training Centre in Bible Hill, working for the Department of Community Services. While there he became a shop steward with the Nova Scotia General and Government Employees Union (NSGEU).

He’s been an employee of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board since 1996, obtaining his permanent contract in 2001. Over the last 17 years, he’s worked at Uniacke District School, as a resource special education teacher, was an integration case worker for the board, a junior high resource teacher at Bible Hill Junior High, taught Grade 5 at Shubie District School, and spent two years at Truro Junior High, working with special needs students, as a classroom sub, and a social studies and English teacher.

He then taught at Uniacke District School before he went to Onslow, and Central Colchester Junior High and, “Got the science job, for Grade 8 and 9 for four years.” One of his greatest accomplishments there was the wrestling team he started. “My administrator at the time was great. She encouraged me to start the team and it was a really rough and tumble junior high school at the time, and while there was a wrestling team no one got



Gerry Alley is the 2nd Vice-President of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, and is the principal of Hants North Rural High and Kennetcook District School.

suspended.” He also got involved with the Colchester-East Hants Local during his time there, first as an NSTU rep and eventually as Local president for three years starting in 2007-08, before joining the provincial executive in 2010.

He then became the vice-principal at Maple Ridge Elementary under principal Heather McKeel, and was one of only two male teachers on staff. From there he took on his first principalship at Maitland District Elementary, where he spent 2.5 years, before becoming the principal at Hants North Rural High. “This is my third full year at Hants North and Kennetcook District Schools.” (By the way, he is married to Mary-Anne Alley, principal at Elmsdale District School.)

As president of the Colchester-East Hants Local, Alley saw an opportunity for the other two Local presidents from the RRC collaborate. So he and then Pictou Local president Cindy MacKinnon and Cumberland Local president Pat Hillier started to meet to discuss regional matters. “It was difficult at first, no one really wanted to blend the cultures. But we thought it was time to turn over a new leaf and be collegial. We wanted to be like-minded working on behalf of members in the region.” Currently Alley, Hillier and MacKinnon all serve together on the provincial executive.

As Alley reminisces about his bee keeping days, it’s clear he’s a fan of the collective aspects of unionism. “Nothing is more collective than a hive full of bees—a union is like a well maintained hive.”

“To be heard as a collective and speak as one voice—that’s what’s so wonderful about being part of this union.”

Alley’s term on the provincial executive will end this school year. “I will always be involved with the Local, and would also like to get more involved with professional associations,” he says. He’s planning on attending the TAPHE (Teachers Association for Physical and Health Education) conference on October 25. “I’m very interested in outdoor education, and would like to see what the TAPHE conference is all about.” While he’s looking forward to retiring in a few years, he knows that his involvement with the Union will continue.

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No salaries or honoraria are paid to participants in PO and the sponsors do not cover costs associated with substitute teachers or release time.

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Seven going on seventeen: Selling sexuality to kids

by Matthew Johnson, Director of Education, MediaSmarts

This article is reprinted from the Media Literacy Week Bulletin: October 11, 2013

There’s a well-known saying in the media business that “sex sells.” Like a lot of conventional wisdom, this turns out to be a truism that’s not entirely true: neither nudity nor sexual content actually increases the revenues of movies or other media, and sexual content in TV ads may make viewers like them less. In fact, there’s evidence that girls react negatively to what they recognize as sexual content: a 2008 study done at Canterbury University in New Zealand found that tweens considered Miley Cyrus’ highly sexualized *Vanity Fair* photos “gross” and “uncool.” But the *idea* of sex—in particular, the promise of adult *sexuality* —is at the heart of a tremendous amount of what’s marketed to kids, young girls in particular.

Marketers call it KGOY: Kids Getting Older Younger. That’s the phenomenon of children abandoning, earlier and earlier, the trappings of childhood and becoming wannabe teenagers. Perhaps the most disturbing example of this phenomenon is the increasingly early sexualization found in products aimed at girls, from clubwear-garbed Bratz and Monster High dolls to thong underwear aimed at preteens. Most recently, lingerie maker Victoria’s Secret faced criticism for its Pink collection, which the company claims is aimed at university students but is widely seen as marketing to young teens. While Victoria’s Secret denies targeting teens and younger children, other retailers who have traditionally catered to teens and 20-somethings have recently created new brands aimed at children. A 2012 study done at Kenyon College in Ohio found that a quarter of the girls’ clothes on display at 15 popular children’s retailers had sexualizing characteristics such as lingerie-like colours, fabrics and patterns.

One reason for this is the tremendous amount of spending power children, especially “tweens” (eight- to 12-year-olds), now control: roughly \$40 billion a year of their own money, in addition to \$150 billion of their parents. But it’s also because kids are now much more receptive to advertising messages traditionally aimed at teens. As branding strategist Eli Portnoy told the *Orlando Sentinel*, “Little kids are so status-conscious about clothing now, more than ever. It was a natural evolution for young college, teenage brands – ‘Why not go after them younger and get them hooked into our brands?’” In other words, girls don’t necessarily want to be sexy, but to be *popular*. One study found that girls as young as six were more likely to describe a doll as being popular if she was wearing “sexy” clothes. Like princess dresses, sexualized clothes are essentially costumes; the difference is that the girls wearing them are dressing up as teenagers, perceiving the clothing not as “sexy” but as “stylish” or “grown up”.

Though we generally put considerable effort into protecting young children from sexualized imagery, it’s actually tweens and young teens that are the most vulnerable, with 13 to 14-year-old girls the most likely to be influenced by media representations.

All of this can be mystifying for parents whose daughters are just getting over their Disney princess obsession, but the line between Belle or Ariel and Britney—or between *Hannah Montana* Miley Cyrus and *Vanity Fair* Miley Cyrus—is less clear than it might appear. In fact, as Sharon Lamb, co-author of the book *Packaging Girlhood* points out, “the natural progression from pale, innocent pink is not to other colors. It’s to hot, sexy pink.” In each case girls are being presented with an extremely narrow definition of femininity, one largely focused on how you are seen by others.

That progression can even be seen when comparing female Disney characters in movies to how they appear in merchandising. Probably the most striking case was Merida from the Pixar movie *Brave*, who underwent a transformation from the tomboy archer of the film—who is never seen without her bow and arrow—to a prettified, sexualized and unarmed “Disney princess.” The film’s co-director Brenda Chapman responded to the change by saying, “When little girls say they like it because it’s more sparkly, that’s all fine and good but, subconsciously, they are soaking in the sexy ‘come hither’ look and the skinny aspect of the new version.”

The 2010 *Report of the American Psychological Association Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls* suggests that focusing on how others see you, which it refers to as “self-objectification,” can be responsible for a wide range of negative effects from impaired athletic performance to lower math scores. The report also links sexualization with depression, low self-esteem and eating disorders. Of course, young boys, who are forming their ideas of masculinity and femininity at the same time as girls, are also influenced by sexualization in their attitudes, behaviours and beliefs. Rather than being pushed to be sexy, boys are vulnerable to depictions of “hyper-masculinity”, an extremely constraining gender image that values violence, toughness, a willingness to take risks and having little regard for women. A 2013 study found that half of ads in magazines aimed at men reflected the hyper-masculine ideal: in some magazines that number rose to 90 per cent.

This isn’t an issue that’s under the radar: a 2013 survey commissioned by the Canadian Women’s Foundation found that nine in ten Canadians agree that sexualized media images are a problem for girls growing up in Canada. What’s less clear, though, is what to do about it. A good first step can be to check our own attitudes: research has shown that media effects are much more powerful when they reinforce messages kids are already getting from their parents. We can talk to our children about *why* this clothing is problematic. We can point out how they have many sides to their personalities—they may be artistic, athletic, compassionate, involved and a dozen other things which are all steamrollered by these clothes into a single image of “sexy”. We can encourage girls to take part in sports and other physical activities, which have been shown to reduce the impact of media messages about sex and femininity. And with older children, it’s important to be open with them in talking about healthy sexuality so that the messages they get through advertising and other media don’t define their ideas of sex or of gender roles.

It can be tempting to limit kids’ exposure to media, and this can be a good choice for younger children. But as kids get older—particularly as they reach those most vulnerable tween and early-teen years—this becomes increasingly difficult. Moreover, there’s significant evidence that parents critically co-viewing media with their kids is more effective than banning or controlling what they watch: using media as an opportunity to discuss sexualization and related issues reduces the association of sexiness with popularity. These topics can also be addressed through media education in schools and kids can be encouraged to advocate for media portrayals that reflect who they are – like the 200,000 people who signed the petition that convinced Disney to let Merida keep her messy hair and her bow and arrow.



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- “It has been both formative and relevant to my teaching and I recommend the experience whole-heartedly.”



2013-2014 Pre-Retirement Seminars SCHEDULE



DATES		LOCATIONS
October	23 & 24 (Wednesday & Thursday)	SRSB - Port Hawkesbury Civic Center
November	6 & 7 (Wednesday & Thursday)	HRSB (Dr. Tom Parker Building, Halifax)
	13 & 14 (Wednesday & Thursday)	CCRSB (Wandlyn, Amherst)
	18 & 19 (Monday & Tuesday)	CBVRSB (Holiday Inn, Sydney)
December	2 & 3 (Monday & Tuesday)	TCRSB (Rodd Grand, Yarmouth)
	5 & 6 (Thursday & Friday)	CCRSB (Holiday Inn, Truro)
	9 & 10 (Monday & Tuesday)	HRSB (Dr. Tom Parker Building)
January	9 & 10 (Thursday & Friday)	CCRSB (Museum of Industry, Stellarton)
	14 & 15 (Tuesday & Wednesday)	AVRSB (Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich)
February	6 & 7 (Thursday & Friday)	HRSB (Dr. Tom Parker Building, Halifax)
	13 & 14 (Thursday & Friday)	SSRSB (Best Western, Bridgewater)
May	8 & 9 (Thursday & Friday)	CBVRSB (Holiday Inn, Sydney)

September, 2013

Dates/locations subject to change

Curriculum Corner

by Sarah Tutty, Curriculum Committee Chair
and Marc Breaugh, Curriculum Committee member

On October 4 the Curriculum Committee's new members, Darlene Bereta, Jason Ralph, Kathy Fougere, and Marc Breaugh, met for the first time with returning members Sophie Pedneault, Steve Trussoni and chair Sarah Tutty. In addition to the committee members, provincial executive liaison, Pat Hillier and NSTU staff liaison, Debbie McIsaac joined us at the table.

The morning started with discussions around relevant topics such as Continuous School Improvement (CSI), consistency across the province when using PowerSchool, and how to better engage our fellow NSTU members.

The afternoon did not disappoint as Ann Blackwood, Executive Director, English Language Services joined committee members to discuss different aspects of our curriculum. As always, Blackwood was very interested in what our thoughts were regarding the changes to the curriculum. She also invited a cadre of informative consultants who shared information and highlighted some valuable resources.

Math consultants Sharon MacReady and Robin Harris presented their continuing efforts to update the Mathematics curriculum. Discussion centered around the changes to Mathematics 10, as it was expanded from 110 to 220 hours for this school year. Math at Work, which is replacing the Math Foundations course, is the new 110 hour course intended for graduation. The consultants also recognized the need to support students who may be struggling with math in the early years through a program that could look similar to the Leveled Literacy Intervention program offered for English Language Arts.

Technology Education Consultant Kilah Hayden discussed the launches of Technology Education 7 and 8 and the upcoming launch of Technology Education 9. We also had the opportunity to see some of the resources given to technology education teachers.

Active, Healthy Living Consultant Natalie Flinn, highlighted the need for continued emphasis to be placed on educating students in social and emotional learning. It is worth noting that the updated health curriculum is designed to allow students to practice healthy relationships and to show teachers what they know through collaboration and participatory methods. Social emotional learning is effective when integrated throughout the curriculum so students learn these competencies in different contexts.

Finally, Susan MacDonald, new to the role of FSL Consultant formally filled by Gerald Felix, updated us on the direction of the French Department. She noted that second language literacy should not be a duplication of first language learning and work being done on the French Immersion curriculum will reflect this. MacDonald also highlighted research that supports second language learning as having cognitive benefits for all students.

If you have any questions about our meeting, please feel free to contact any members from the curriculum committee.



The NSTU Curriculum Committee held its first meeting of the school year on October 4 at NSTU's Tom Parker Building in Halifax. From left to right seated are: Debbie McIsaac (NSTU staff liaison); Pat Hillier (provincial executive rep); Committee chair Sarah Tutty (Queens) and Steve Trussoni (APSEA). Standing: Marc Breaugh (Lunenburg County); Kathy Fougere (Colchester-East Hants); Darlene Bereta (Northside-Victoria); Sophie Pedneault (CSANE), and Jason Ralph (Dartmouth).

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PUT WASTE IN ITS PLACE



Ellenvale teacher off to first ever We Day Atlantic Canada

Grade 9 teacher Therese Boudreau-MacKinnon from Ellenvale School in Dartmouth is one of dozens of lucky teachers from the East Coast who gets to hear from the likes of actor Martin Sheen, the Right Honourable Michaelle Jean, Martin Luther King III, hip hop artist Classified and pop group Hedley at the first ever *We Day Atlantic Canada* event at the Halifax Metro Centre on November 27.

But luck has nothing to do with it. Boudreau-MacKinnon and her students will have earned their way to attend We Day through their community-based projects. Ellenvale Junior High will be one of 240 schools from across the region representing some 8,000 youth that will be in attendance. Her school was also the host of the *We Day Atlantic Canada* launch on September 10, to hear from Free the Children and We Day co-founder Craig Kielburger announce the line-up of the *We Day Atlantic Canada* event. This launch event saw approximately 450 students from Ellenvale, Cole Harbour High, Hantsport School, Shelburne Regional High, West Hants Middle School and Wolfville School come together with teachers and other community members to hear about *We Day Atlantic Canada*.

We Day is an educational event and a movement of young people leading local and global change, tied to the yearlong We Act program, which offers curricular resources, campaigns and materials to help turn the day's inspiration into sustained activation. It is the brainchild of international activist and Free the Children founder Craig Kielburger, as part of a family of organizations including Free The Children and Me to We, that empower a generation to shift the world

from 'me' to 'we'. According to the We Day website (<http://www.weday.com>), this is done through "how we act, how we give, the choices we make on what to buy and what to wear, the media we consume and the experiences with which we choose to engage." We Day is free of charge to the thousands of students and educators in attendance thanks to the generous support of sponsors led by National Co Title Sponsors RBC and TELUS.

Boudreau-MacKinnon became a convert to the Free the Children and We Day movement, when she read Mark and Craig's Kielberger's about five years ago. "It convinced me that the best way to help students find a place in the world is to help them see how even their smallest choices for change can help others," she says. "I started my first Youth in Action Group at Sir Robert Borden Junior High in 2009 where they raised a lot of money for Haiti after the earthquake in 2010. When I changed schools last year, I knew that I wanted to start another group at Ellenvale. I had watched We days from all over North America for the past few years and I wanted to give my new students the opportunity to be inspired."

She says her students' worldview expanded a lot as they learned about the needs of children at home and abroad. "Once they knew about the situation of children in other countries, they immediately wanted to help and we raised over \$300 for Free the Children with donations of pennies and small change and an event we called Re-gift-o-rama where students brought in gifts they didn't want to sell to others who needed inexpensive Christmas presents."

She also adds that most of the group were in Grade 9 and knew they would



NSTU president Shelley Morse is shown with Therese Boudreau-MacKinnon (centre) and Craig Kielburger. Also shown (far left) is principal of Cole Harbour District High School (CHDHS) Debbie Rowsell, and CHDHS teacher Todd Powers.

not be going to We day with Ellenvale, "but We Day was not as important as doing what they could now."

Her student group, while small made a big impression on the school. "We did what I call paper tagging of the school with random posters about 'First World Problems' last year. For example, "There is so much food in the fridge, I can never find what I am looking for (#firstworldproblem)," she explains. "My fellow teachers told me these random posters around the school inspired many conversations in classrooms." She adds that the We are silent campaign and the bulletin board the group created really helped students understand the plight of child labourers around the world. "We did not raise a lot of money last year compared to some, but because We Day chose our school for the launch really helped students understand that little actions make a big difference."

Last year, she had 12 members, and this year she has almost 50. "On the day of the launch, one group of students immediately started a bottle drive. I had to play catch-up with them to make sure that they were following fundraising policies because a little bit of red tape is not going to stand in the way of

inspired 14-year-olds," she comments. To date, their impromptu bottle drives have raised almost \$400. "It's amazing what students can do when the adults get out of the way."

She is "super-excited" for the We Day event on November 27. "I can't wait for We Day," she says. "Many teachers say they teach to help to form young minds, but sometimes this needs to be done outside of class time. I can't wait for my students to find themselves surrounded by like-minded youth, to be among thousands of young people who are willing to make sacrifices of their time, energy, and money to make the world a better place."

She also comments on how these kinds of events help to solidify young people's identity. "They spend their days with adults and the media trying to define who they are and what they should believe. I know that We Day will help them believe that they are part of a revolution of young people who refuse to have limits put on their abilities and who are ready to do what they can to make this a better world."

For more information on *We Day Atlantic Canada* visit <http://www.weday.com/what-is-we-day/press/atlantic-canada-epk/>



TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE

DND Overseas Schools in Belgium and the Netherlands are accepting applications for teaching positions at grade levels from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, as well as teaching positions in French First Language, French Second Language and applications for Vice-Principal position.

School websites:

AFNORTH
<http://www.afnorth-is.com/index-1.html>

SHAPE
<http://www.shape-is.com/index.htm>

For details on our hiring process, specific job descriptions and job requirements, visit our website:

WWW.FAMILYFORCE.CA and select Dependent Education Management.

JOIN THE DND OVERSEAS SCHOOLS EDUCATION TEAM TODAY!

The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

The following six candidates were selected at the September 18 provincial executive meeting to participate in the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program:

Angela Ewing, Halifax County; Anna Mae Muise, Cape Breton District; Nancy Bradley, APSEA; Michelle Gillis, Colchester-East Hants; Tracy Power, Halifax County; and Jeffrey Raine, Yarmouth.

The deadlines for applications for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program for the 2013-2014 school year are November 15, February 15 and April 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



NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION 2013 - 2014 COMMITTEES



At the September Provincial Executive meeting, the following NSTU members were appointed to the committees listed:

STANDING COMMITTEES

Program

Public Affairs/Public Relations: Effie Boutilier, Antigonish (*July 31, 2014*) one-year term replacement

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT COMMITTEES

Letter of Understanding #5 – Joint Committee of the Teachers' Provincial Agreement:
Grant Frost, Halifax County Local

Community College Committees:

College-Union Committee: Damian Hall, Laurie Dauphinee, Barbara Gillis and Ferne MacLennan (Faculty members); Jennifer Dickinson (Professional Support member)

Learning Leave Fund Committee: Ronald Renz and Ron Robichaud (Faculty Members); Christine McDonald and Seana Blanchard (Professional Support members)

Joint Steering Committee – OH&S: Margaret Duncan

Classification Advisory and Appeals Committee: Stephen Parsons and Ann Windsor-Hall (Professional Support members)

Faculty Duties: Peggy Joiner and Ferne MacLennan (Faculty members)

College Advisory Committee – Community College Educational Diploma Program: Kirby Coolen (Faculty member); Kathleen Naylor (Professional Support member)

Salary Placement Advisory and Appeals Committee: Vaughn Bullerwell and Lisa Simpson (Faculty members)

Learning College Portfolio Committee – Faculty: Suzette Lowe and Todd Verge (Faculty members)

Learning College Portfolio Committee – Professional Support: Seana Blanchard and Ann Windsor-Hall (Professional Support members)

executive highlights

September 20-21

- Filed table officers report;
- Selected six candidates to the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program, along with two alternates;
- Selected a member to serve on the Letter of Understanding #5 – Joint Committee of the Teachers' Provincial Agreement;
- Selected a member to serve on the Public Affairs/Public Relations committee for a one-year term replacement to expire July 31, 2014;
- Approved a French Services contract;
- Approved a recommendation that a replacement not be hired for a counsellor at this time;
- Approved the rental of a bus on an annual basis for both the Halifax Pride Parade and the Cape Breton Pride Parade;
- Approved revisions to Operational Procedures 12 (vii) Policy Procedures;
- Approved a recommendation that the NSTU endorse the National Inventory of Interventions for LGBTQ-Inclusive Schools;
- Changed the February 27-28, 2014 Provincial Executive meeting to February 20-21, 2014;
- Selected members to serve on Community College committees;
- Filed the Annual Reports from NSTU Standing Committees to be posted to the Members' Only website.

beyondimages
a self-esteem and body-image curriculum

GRADES
4-8

LESSONS
20+

\$0

at www.beyondimages.ca

MORE than half of children report being involved in appearance based bullying. *Be part of the solution.*

A positive body-image can lead to better self-esteem, emotional stability, happiness and confidence in children.

TEACHER ADVANTAGES: a comprehensive media literacy curriculum written by teachers that includes:

- Lesson objectives
- Lesson plans and contemporary mixed media examples
- Student worksheets
- Evaluation rubrics
- Curriculum outcomes matched for all provinces
- Free!

Beyond Images helps students understand how and why media messages are constructed – and then learn to make their own. *Beyond Images* explores current concepts of what it means to 'fit in'.

Join us on this journey of self-discovery and build understanding and resilience towards negative messaging in students and in the schoolyard. *Beyond Images* meets students where they're at and takes them further.

Developed by the National Eating Disorder Information Centre (www.nedic.ca)
Beyond Images is generously supported by the Dove Self-Esteem Project

nedic



Rep retreat season

Fall is a busy time for teachers and Community College members, but is also very busy for NSTU Locals as they hold their annual retreats for the NSTU representatives. NSTU reps are the key link in schools and campuses to NSTU’s programs and services. Their role is crucial in the functioning of the NSTU at the Local level. Local presidents, VPs of PD and even RRC chairs help to organize the retreats. NSTU executive staff members are also very busy presenting at these annual events, and NSTU president Shelley Morse tries to attend the retreats to bring greetings on behalf of her office



Shown are NSTU leaders along with new Cumberland Local reps, seated (l – r) are: Cheryl Johnson (Parrsboro Regional High); Jennifer Hines (Amherst High); Tracy Trenholm (Northport Consolidated Elementary); Denise Acton (River Hebert District Elementary); and Tony Eaton (River Hebert District High). Standing: Cumberland provincial executive rep Pat Hilier; NSTU executive director Joan Ling; Lisa Gilbert (Amherst High); Cumberland Local president Wade Van Snick; and NSTU president Shelley Morse.

Cumberland Local rep retreat

On September 27, the Cumberland Local held its annual retreat at the Amherst Wandlyn Inn. Cumberland Local president Wade Van Snick hosted the event. Executive staff officer Debbie MacIsaac presented a workshop on the resolutions process of the NSTU to give NSTU reps information on crafting effective resolutions to be forwarded to NSTU’s Annual Council.

Cumberland Local members were the first NSTU members to receive a new workshop presented by NSTU executive director Joan Ling, *Working Together to stop Incivility in the Workplace*. “Examples of workplace incivility include discourteous behaviour like not saying hello, thank-you or please. Failing to return phone calls or email, belittling others’ opinions and setting impossible deadlines for people to meet are others,” she says. Incivility, unlike harassment and bullying is a series of inconsequential events she says.

She reviewed some research on the effect of ostracism and rejection in the workplace. “The impact of incivility can lead to people not being motivated to do their job. The ability to do one’s job may also be affected due to physical and cognitive tolls.” Ling encouraged participants to recognize incivility and take steps to stop it. Some of these steps include: making people aware of what it is and fix the situation as soon as it takes place; managing one’s own behaviour appropriately; and intervening when incivility takes place. “Don’t allow the other person to be isolated and on their own,” she says.

She left participants with a mantra that helps in recognizing whether actions and behaviours are deemed as incivility: “If it can’t be on our banner, stop the manner.”

Strait Rep Retreat

On September 27 & 28 approximately 25 NSTU members from the Antigonish, Guysborough County, Inverness and Richmond Locals joined forces for the annual Strait Rep Retreat, which took place at the Dundee Resort and Golf Club. Executive staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin kicked off the retreat with her *Lead like a Pirate* presentation the evening of September 27. On September 28 member services executive staff officer Allan MacLean presented a workshop on member discipline and parental harassment. Antigonish-Guysborough provincial executive member Tammy Landry closed the retreat with a presentation that helped to demystify the SRIDS (Strait Regional Institute for Staff Development) process. SRIDS is a collaborative committee designed to support the professional development needs of teachers in the Strait Regional School Board that comes from Article 60 of the collective agreement. Landry is a the NSTU member on the committee representing the Antigonish Local.



From left to right: Neil MacIsaac, the Antigonish Local president, who hosted the event; Angela Deagle, Inverness Local president; Eddy Avery, Guysborough Local president; NSTU president Shelley Morse; provincial executive member Tammy Landry; Phillip Samson, Richmond Local president; and Jane Dorey, Chair, Strait REWC (Inverness).



Overseas opportunities for Nova Scotia Teachers

Recruitment will soon commence for September 2014 openings in the Nova Scotia international programs. Teach in an exciting environment or apply your school leadership expertise to a new set of challenges. Nova Scotia programs in China (grades 10-12) and the UAE (grades p-12) offer:

- competitive pay
- annual return flights
- apartment or living allowance
- paid holidays

Live, work and experience a new culture, while giving students the best that Nova Scotia has to offer.

To learn more, email us at:
internationalprograms@gov.ns.ca

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.” Mark Twain

From time to time, opportunities arise throughout the year for short-term positions. If you would like to be considered for these positions, please register your interest at internationalprograms@gov.ns.ca



The deadline for the November/December issue of The Teacher is November 22.
Contact Sonia Matheson at 1-800-565-6788 or email theteacher@nstu.ca
To view previous issues go to www.nstu.ca

Teachers' use of Internet materials in the classroom

Changes to our country's copyright laws have established a clearer legal framework for digital technology and use of Internet materials for learning purposes. Updating our country's copyright law to address Canadians' evolving digital learning needs has been long overdue. So, it is very good news that the new copyright law supports the use of the Internet in classrooms.

NEW INTERNET AMENDMENT

A new Internet provision in the *Copyright Act* establishes that teachers and students can legally conduct routine classroom activities such as downloading, saving, and sharing publicly available Internet text or images. Teachers and students can also incorporate Internet materials into assignments, and exchange work electronically with one another.

Where the copyright law was once silent on activities like surfing and using on-line resources, it is now stated explicitly within our country's *Copyright Act*. The Internet amendment permits teachers and students to use publicly available materials on the Internet for educational purposes without having to pay copyright or license fees.

This Internet amendment is essential in a day and age when our federal and provincial/ territorial governments are simultaneously increasing our levels of connectivity and positioning the country to be a leader in the information age.

RESPECTING CREATORS

However, this new Internet amendment does not allow teachers or students to use any and all material that they find on the Internet.

The new Internet amendment applies only to material that has been posted to the Internet with the authorization of the copyright holder and without any barriers to restrict access such as encryption or password protection. Teachers and students must respect any "digital" lock that in any way restricts access or use of the Internet content.

The new education amendment does not apply to materials that are not publicly accessible. Content creators and copyright owners still have a right to continue to sell and receive payment for their works through subscription, password, and payment technologies. In this way, the amendment respects the rights of those creators and other copyright holders who post materials on-line for commercial purposes.

Note as well that the new Internet amendment does not apply to pirated textbooks or films.

The use of pirated materials is akin to plagiarizing works. The education sector teaches respect for creators and copyright. Students are required to cite materials used no matter what the source, as a matter of appropriate use of material created by others. This practice teaches respect and recognition for intellectual property. Teaching the inappropriateness of pirating materials is one way the education sector re-enforces respect for creators.

INTERNET IN THE CLASSROOM

The Internet provides us with access to a wealth of information. Computers and digital technology are invaluable tools in the learning process. With the new copyright law, teachers have wonderful new opportunities to teach and use on-line materials.

The new copyright law and its Internet amendment ensures that both teachers and students can reap the full benefits of the evolving digital technology without harming the interests of copyright owners.

Resource materials available through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, as well as the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), the Canadian Teachers' Federation and the Canadian School Board Association help to clarify the new copyright law:

Fair Dealing Guidelines are set to help educators deal fairly with copyright-protected works. The guidelines provide a detailed description of "short excerpts".

Copyright Matters! is a helpful guide to copyright law and education, providing teachers with user-friendly information on what they need to know about copyright in the classroom.

These materials can be downloaded from the CMEC website: www.cmec.ca or through the Canadian Teachers' Federation website at http://www.ctf-fce.ca/Documents/Priorities/EN/advocacy/Copyright/Copyright_Matters%203rd%20Edition.pdf.



We are happy to be holding our 4th conference and our special presenter at this event is Enrique Feldman!

With over 25 years experience as an educator, author and 2-time Grammy Nominated Composer and Artist, Enrique currently directs the national non-profit education organization, the F.A.M.E. Foundation (Fostering Arts-Mind Education).

Enrique offers multiple services, including:

- * Early Childhood - Grade 12 Professional Development related to Arts Integration
- * Author Events: Most recent published book is "Living Like a Child" by Redleaf Press
- * Film Composer: Most recent film in theaters was Gun Hill Road, www.gunhillroad.com
- * Music Production: Most recent album is "A Cowboy Operetta"
- * Public Speaking with the Point of View of "Living Like a Child" (How to engage a sense of wonder, risk and elevated energy in any professional setting).

Enrique presents for:

- * F.A.M.E. Foundation (www.famefoundation.org)
- * SDE (www.sde.com)
- * Arts Integration Solutions (www.artsintegration.com).

His music for early learning, strategies and brain game videos can be found online at: www.prekandksharing.com

His monthly blog, which releases on the 5th of every month is online at: www.prekandksharing.blogspot.com

His recent book, "Living Like a Child" is available online at: www.redleaf.org

His soon to be released new film composition website is at: www.hankfeldman.com

Enrique's educational focus is to help teachers elevate their educational practice by learning how to use different Art Forms and connecting them organically to academic and social-emotional growth. The scope of his work is from Early Childhood through Adult, with a focus on early childhood - Grade 5.

For more information and to register, go to www.dewresources.ca

This conference counts for 5.75 hours of professional development.

Living Like A Child

**Bella Rose Arts Centre,
283 Thomas Raddall Drive, Halifax, N.S.
(Inside Halifax West High School)**

<http://bellaroseartscentre.com/>

**Saturday, November 16th, 2013
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**



Workshops Taking Place that Day!

♦ **Living Like a Child** - Experience the perspective of living through the lens of a child and in doing so; rekindle the sense of discovery and risk to explore new ideas as an adult.

♦ **Music for Learning Environments (Art form: Music; Academic Connection: Cognition, Emotional Intelligence, and Social-Emotional Development)** – Learn how to harness the emotional and cognitive power of music. Participants will leave with a working knowledge of what kinds of music produce certain behaviors, how to use music while reading to children, and how to use music for increased focus and inner peace.

♦ **Visual Literacy and Critical Thinking (Art form: Visual Arts; Academic Connection: Language Arts)** - Explore an adult strategy of reconstructing the story sequence of an adult picture book and what kinds of clues/evidence you have to use to look for repeating themes, patterns and sequence. Participants will then be able to take this strategy and use it with young children. Learn what "Visual Literacy" is and how it helps shape our life experiences.

November 16th, 2013 Schedule

8:00	-	9:00 a.m.	Registration & Check In
9:00	-	12:00 p.m.	Living Like a Child [10:15 – 10:30 am - break]
12:00	-	1:00 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK (Lunch is not provided) We recommend you bring lunch or make plans in advance.
1:00	-	2:30 p.m.	Music for Learning Environments
2:30	-	2:45 p.m.	BREAK
2:45	-	4:15 p.m.	Visual Literacy and Critical Thinking
4:15	-	4:30 p.m.	Certificate presented and wrap-up

coming events & notices

October is...

Autism month (<http://www.autism-society.org>); Breast Cancer Awareness month (<http://www.cbcf.org>); Canadian Library Month (www.cla.ca/clm12/); Eye Health Month (www.cnib.ca/en/support/events/vhml/); Healthy Workplace Month (<http://www.ngi.ca>); Learning Disabilities Awareness Month (www.ldac-acta.ca); Occupational Therapy Month (www.caot.ca); Women's History Month (www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/index-eng.html).

November is...

Osteoporosis Month (www.osteoporosis.ca); Diabetes Awareness Month (www.diabetes.ca); Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Month (www.ccf.ca); and CPR Awareness Month (www.heartandstroke.ca).

OCTOBER 24

The ABCs of Restorative Practices presented by The Canadian Safe School Network

This day-long training session brought to you by the Canadian Safe School Network is an opportunity for educators, those in law enforcement and other leadership roles, to learn about the principles of Restorative Practices. Winston Blake, BA, C.Med, a celebrated trainer and presenter will be introducing attendees to a new style of thinking and conflict management. To register or to learn more about this event please visit www.canadiansafeschools.com

NOVEMBER 4 TO 8

8th Annual Media Literacy Week

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union is a proud sponsor of the 8th Annual Media Literacy Week, to take place November 4 to 8, 2013. A program of MediaSmarts and the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF), this year's focus is marketing and consumerism. The official theme of the week: "*What's Being Sold: Helping Kids Make Sense of Marketing Messages*", will encourage educators and parents to talk to children and teens about the marketing they encounter on a daily basis. Tweet @MediaSmarts using hash tag #MLW2013 to help spread the word.

NOVEMBER 5 TO 11

Veterans' Week

Veterans Affairs Canada has marked 2013 as the Year of the Korean War Veteran in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. It also marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and South Korea. There are learning materials available designed to educate youth about the history and personal experiences of Canadian Veterans who fought in this battle. Go to: <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/feature/koreanwar/learning>. Each year schools are involved in hundreds of commemorative ceremonies and events to commemorate Veterans' week. These opportunities provide Canadians

the opportunity to honour Veterans and recognize their contributions. Follow on twitter, @VeteransENG_CA . Tweet with #ShowYouRemember and like the campaign on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/CanadaRemembers>.

NOVEMBER 6

Take Our Kids to Work Day

The Learning Partnership presents *Take Your Kids to Work Day* on Wednesday, November 6, 2013. This initiative is an annual event which allows students in Grade 9 to take a day and work alongside their parents, family members, or family friends. Students can explore career interests, experience the working world hands-on and are provided with motivation to continue in their educational pursuits. To register and obtain more information please visit www.thelearningpartnership.ca

NOVEMBER 15

Le Prix du partenariat musées-écoles

Le Prix du partenariat musées-écoles qui est décerné annuellement, reconnaît et encourage l'excellence de la collaboration entre, d'une part, les musées et, d'autre part, les écoles et conseils, commissions ou districts scolaires dans le cadre du développement d'une programmation éducative. ArtsSmarts Open

ArtsSmarts Open is a web initiative by ArtsSmarts, a nationwide arts education program. This program functions as a social network for arts education practitioners, and provides a space where teachers can post their projects, track their progress, get inspiration from the work happening in other classrooms, connect with each other about their initiatives, engage in live chats with ArtsSmarts representatives, and more. The site also incorporates a training component that will equip anyone – teachers, school boards, funders, artists, etc. – with step-by-step guidelines to implement an ArtsSmarts' initiative in their community. The end goal is to bring the ArtsSmarts' inquiry-based approach to learning to as many students in Canada as possible. Visit the website at www.artsmartsoopen.ca, where teachers are already sharing projects and ideas.

NOVEMBER 15 DEADLINE

ArtsSmarts Youth Creativity Challenge 2013-2014

This year ArtsSmarts is happy to launch their annual Youth Creativity Challenge. This challenge allows students in Grades P-12, also known as the art creators of the future, to open their minds and express their creative sides. This year projects will be supported with grants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 and must engage at least one class and include one arts discipline and one curriculum subject matter. All Canadian private schools, public schools and those who are home-schooled are eligible. Please visit www.artsmarts.ca for more information.

NOVEMBER 15

Museums and Schools Partnership Award

Each year the Canadian Museums Association looks forward to awarding a school or school board with the Museums and Schools Partnership Award. The contest is open to all schools and boards across Canada who are interested in developing ways to enrich the minds of students while collaborating with museums to expand their knowledge of our culture and heritage. The collaboration must be with a non-profit museum or museum group. For more information and how to apply please visit <http://www.museums.ca/?n=16-94>.

NOVEMBER 21 & 22

Working with Stuck Kids: A workshop presented by the IWK

The IWK is excited to present a two-day workshop featuring bestselling author Gordon Neufeld, Ph.D. entitled "Working with Stuck Kids" as part of the G. Wayne MacDonald Professional Lecture Series. The workshop looks at Dr. Neufeld's approach to reaching troubled kids with his constructs of attachment, vulnerability and maturation, and how it can be applied to professionals who work with or are responsible for these children. Registration is required for the event which will be held at the OE Smith Auditorium in the IWK Health Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Please visit <http://www.iwk.nshealth.ca/content/working-stuck-kids-gordon-neufeld-phd> for more information.

DECEMBER 11 DEADLINE

A&E Canadian Classroom's, 'LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ESSAY CONTEST'

Students in Grades 5 to 12 are invited to write a 300-word essay on an individual who they believe made the biggest difference in Canadian society in the last year. The essay must explain whether the impact was positive or negative, and do not necessarily need to be written on a person(s) of Canadian origin. Students can win cash prizes for themselves (\$3,000 grand prize, \$2,000 first prize) and teachers can win prizes for their school and classroom (\$1,000 grand prize, \$1,000 first prize). The deadline to submit the essay is December 11, 2013. For further information please visit <http://www.livesthatmakeadifference.com>

DECEMBER 20 DEADLINE

Off the Rails Contest

This exciting contest for ages 11-14 and brought to you by Operation Lifesaver, is a chance for kids to spread the word about railroad safety. The winner will have made a submission of a short video, poster, song or comic strip explaining the dangers of being around trains and how others can Stay Off, Stay Away, Stay Alive! The top entries chosen will be judged in online voting.

Please visit <http://www.offtherailscontest.ca/> for more information.



Calling all teachers!!

Have your students enter! The secondary school with the most entries wins a 2014 Forum for Young Canadians bursary. Forum brings students from across Canada to Ottawa for a week-long, behind-the-scenes look at politics and public affairs.

Details on the challenge:

[http://www.democracy-democratie.ca/content.](http://www.democracy-democratie.ca/content.asp?section=nyc&dir=nyc2013/details&document=index&lang=e)

[asp?section=nyc&dir=nyc2013/details&document=index&lang=e](http://www.democracy-democratie.ca/content.asp?section=nyc&dir=nyc2013/details&document=index&lang=e)





International Walk to School and Walk at School Month
in October 2013

Register & qualify your school for great prize draws

Register your school at
www.saferoutesns.ca
(click on the IWALK icon)

NOTICES

Imagineaction School-community project subsidies - 90,000 students engaged in 380 Imagineaction projects - deadline Nov. 15

Teachers can submit their project applications until November 15, 2013 to be eligible for \$350 school subsidies. Social action projects must include a community link, be student-led and completed by June 30, 2014.

Create a profile by registering online. (Your email address is your username). You will receive an email with the verification link to confirm your registration to the Imagineaction platform. Once approved, you will have access to apply for funding, showcase your projects, PD resources and a database of community partners.

Visit the showcase for inspiring project ideas. www.imagine-action.ca.

CTF is excited about the development of My Voice – Our Rights, a national opportunity for students to write lyrics and poems about human rights. To help teachers support their students in this project, the Canadian Teachers’ Federation (CTF) has developed K-12 lesson plans to introduce the concept of Rights and Articles of the UN Declaration, and to stimulate students’ creativity in the writing of lyric and poems.

On October 24, 2013 – United Nations Day – CTF’s Imagineaction program will release these lesson plans as well as copyright-free sound recordings. Teachers are encouraged to have students submit music videos or spoken word videos. The videos will be showcased not only on Imagineaction’s website, they will also grace the 2014 CTF’s President’s Forum on Equity and Social Justice, in Winnipeg next July, as teacher organizations, educators and human rights activists from across the country gather. These creative productions aim to celebrate the voice of youth and to highlight the pivotal role that education plays in the promotion of human rights.

CTF is pleased to subsidize the travel/accommodations costs for five teachers across the country to travel to Winnipeg, Manitoba in July 2014, to attend the CTF’s President’s Forum on Equity and Social Justice. Teachers will be chosen from all those video selections received and posted on the Imagineaction public showcase pages.

Wanted Creative, Inspiring Youth Adventure Tales

Kids Write 4 Kids is searching for our next youth authors. Kids Write 4 Kids is a creative challenge that searches for youth with original stories who are interested in becoming published authors. The annual call for entries is open from now until December 31. Selected authors having their ebooks published in summer 2014. Proceeds from ebook sales are designated to charities that promote reading and writing. The 2013-2014 charity of choice is the National Reading Campaign.

Books from last year’s authors are available on Amazon Kindle, Apple iBookstore and Kobo Bookstore.

Read Toronto native Safaa Ali’s pourquoi tale of how the peacock got its gift of colour in *Why Peacocks Have Colourful Feathers*.

Become engrossed with Victoria’s Sofie Finn Storan’s *A Truly Gross Adventure*, a collection of whimsical verses that are filled with circus-performing cats, ghosts, ghouls, and the even more frightening things found at the back of a fridge.

Join Leah Oster from Napanee, Ontario in *Half Asleep* a story that shares where dreams come from and where they go when we wake up.

Ever wonder if what you wished for came true and how your life would change? Whitecourt, Alberta’s Hannah Rennie shares her version in *The Wish*.

To find out more visit: <http://www.ripplepublishing.ca> or email info@ripplepublishing.ca

Attention Grads of 1963 & 1964

The class of 1963 had their reunion in August of 2013 with 29 classmates in attendance! Since everyone had such a good time, we felt that 10 years was too long to wait until the next class gathering.

Our idea is to spread the word to as many ‘63 and ‘64 grads that we can so that we have a super-large reunion in 2014 along with the class of 1964 during their reunion on the August 15th and 17th, 2014.

If you know of someone who should be contacted, please email the following special email address with their contact information (preferably an email address) and we will periodically remind them about the reunion. Email reminders will be kept to 2-3 at most and will be sent from this special email address: nstc2014reunion@teachers.org

So search through your list of contacts and help make Reunion 2014 a memorable one for all!

Employee Interactions

A Study on the Interpretation of Employee Interactions

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/interpret_workplace_scenarios

Purpose of the Study:

Workplace harassment is fairly widespread and has been receiving increasing attention over the past decade. Studies that have been conducted on the issue have tended to use different definitions, making it difficult to be sure that the same thing is being investigated. In the current study I examine factors thought to influence whether a situation is perceived to be harassment. Anyone with current or past working experience is invited to participate in the study.

Description of the Study:

This study is in an online survey format. Participants will be asked to read one, short scenario describing an interaction between two employees and then answer 8 questions about the scenario. The questions ask participants for their judgments of the situation described in the scenario. Though participants may complete the survey at their convenience and take as long as they would like, it is anticipated the survey will usually take no longer than 10-15 minutes. The link to the study is:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/interpret_workplace_scenarios



Employee Interactions

A Study on Interpreting Employee Interactions

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51 Dineen Drive, St. Thomas University, Dept. of Psychology, Fredericton, NB E3B 5G3



update

Do you have a Smart Phone? Medavie Blue Cross (MBC) has a new App for you

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees would like to make members aware of a new Smart phone app available from Medavie Blue Cross.

MBC has recently released a Smart phone app that will enhance the member experience available to all MBC cardholders. Specifically, as an NSTU active or retired member covered under the Total Care Medical and/or the Total Care Dental plans, you may wish to take a closer look at the various features available through this app.

The Medavie Mobile App can:

- ◆ **Submit a claim** – submit claims through the app and be reimbursed by direct deposit. Members must be set up for direct deposit for this function to be available. If you have not already, you can register for direct deposit by going to www.medavie.bluecross.ca and click on **Find a Form** under **Today I'd like to** along the left side menu. Once the page loads you can scroll down to **Group Plan Member Ontario/Atlantic Canada** and click on **Direct Deposit Request Form**. Print off this form and follow the instructions to register for direct deposit.
- ◆ **View past claims** – look up claims history in one convenient location.

- ◆ **Browse coverage** – browse coverage summaries for eligible benefits.
- ◆ **Find a health care professional** – the app uses GPS-style navigation to assist you in finding a health professional near you.
- ◆ **Save your favourites** – the app will save all of your favorite health professionals in one convenient place in “My Health Professionals” for quick reference and easy calling.
- ◆ **Mobile ID Card** – the app provides access to a convenient electronic version of your ID card. As long as you have your phone, you will have your ID card.

Members can download the mobile for free at the **App Store** for Apple products, the android app can be downloaded at **Google play** and you can get the app for Blackberry at **Blackberry World**.

If you are interested in learning more about the Medavie Mobile app, you can visit www.medavie.bluecross.ca. You should also note that for the app to function, you must be registered on the plan members' site which you can access at the same web address mentioned above.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the Administrator, Johnson Inc., at 453-9543 (local) or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).

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resources



Visit our website <http://medialibrary.ednet.ns.ca> to access these and other digital classroom resources!

- *Educational Videos*
- *Branching Out*
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- *ImagesProject*
- *Education Portal*
- *Nova Scotia Virtual School*

NEW SCIENCE VIDEOS!!

To order any of the titles listed below, please click here: <https://medialibrary.ednet.ns.ca/videos>

Changing Phases of Matter *Science 3-6*

In this program, students will witness how a substance, such as water, can exist in several dramatically different phases. Easy-to-understand examples illustrate how phase changes occur. Topics include: states of matter, melting, freezing, evaporation, condensation, and sublimation. (14 min.)

Describing Matter and Its Properties *Science 3-6*

Matter is everywhere around us. This colourful video uses everyday examples to illustrate how matter is described, observed, and measured. Topics include: mass, weight, volume, density, size, and physical and chemical properties of matter. (14 min.)

Investigating Chemical Reactions *Science 3-6*

From cooking food to enjoying the warmth of a fire, we use chemical reactions every day. This exciting video highlights the major characteristics and types of chemical reactions. Topics include: reactants, products, physical and chemical changes, chemical equation, reaction rate, and indicators of chemical reactions. (14 min.)

Weather Around Us *Science 3-6*

This program introduces students to some of the fundamentals of weather including air pressure, wind, and moisture. The basic principles of cloud formation and precipitation are explored. Topics include: heat energy, atmosphere, troposphere, sun, evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. (14 min.)

Weather On The Move *Science 3-6*

This video program investigates some of the key elements responsible for weather formation. Different types of air masses and their origins are investigated, as are the formation of weather fronts. Specific weather phenomenon including tornados, hurricanes, and thunderstorms are illustrated in detail. Topics include: warm front, cold front, low pressure, and storm surge. (14 min.)

Weathering and Erosion *Science 3-6*

This program illustrates the everyday, real-life processes of weathering and erosion. Easy-to-understand examples of weathering help students differentiate between the processes of mechanical and chemical weathering. Vivid footage of processes such as freezing, thawing, condensation, and rusting help students grasp how weathering works. (14 min.)

In Matter: Atoms, Elements and Chemistry *Science 3-6*

This series of 19 animated episodes introduces viewers to matter and atoms and includes segments on the properties of matter, chemical reactions and the periodic table. (60 min.)

In the Clouds: Air, Weather and Water *Science 3-6*

This series of 19 animated episodes reveals the wonders of water and how it moves and includes segments on the atmosphere, cloud formation and regional weather changes. (60 min.)

In the Body: Organs, Health and Nutrition *Science 3-6*

This series of 21 animated episodes takes you inside the amazing machine that is the human body and includes segments on organ systems, how cells survive and nutrition facts. (60 min.)

In Force: Gravity, Friction and Work *Science 3-6*

This series of 18 animated episodes presents the laws of motion and includes segments on reacting to two or more forces, unbalanced forces and simple machines. (60 min.)

New program to teach Canadian youth to act ethically online

In recognition of Cyber Security Month, MediaSmarts—a Canadian centre for digital and media literacy—has launched a series of digital citizenship resources. *Stay on the Path: Teaching Kids to be Safe and Ethical Online* is a new program for parents and teachers to teach young people to be ethical online citizens.

“It’s increasingly important to prepare young people to be engaged digital citizens who contribute to their communities in positive ways” says Cathy Wing, Co-Executive Director of MediaSmarts. “These new resources will support the development of ethical decision-making skills and help kids stay on a safe path when communicating, playing and doing homework online.”

The bilingual program teaches young people to respect people’s privacy (by not oversharing), respect people’s feelings (by not bullying) and respect people’s property (by understanding copyright and plagiarism). It includes a four-lesson unit on search skills and critical thinking; a self-directed tutorial that examines the moral dilemmas that young people face in their online activities and strategies for dealing with them; and three tip sheets for parents on how to teach kids to be safe and ethical online.

MediaSmarts is dedicated to providing parents and educators with the information and tools they need to help young people safely and effectively navigate today’s digital world. It works closely with its partners and sponsors to advance education around important online issues such as cyberbullying, online hate, privacy and Internet safety. To find out more about MediaSmarts’ programs, visit: mediasmarts.ca.

RESOURCES

Veterans’ Week materials

The 2013 Veterans’ Week learning materials are flying off the shelves. Veterans’ Affairs Canada is out of stock for the ‘Take Time to Remember’ activity booklet, but it is not too late to order other free, bilingual products. Make your request by October 25 to receive your shipment by November 5.

Get what you need today by clicking on the “Order Veterans’ Week 2013 Materials Online” box at this link: www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/veterans-week/educational-resources

Passages Canada launches videos exploring Canada’s distinct diversity

This latest educational tool from Passaged Canada titled *beCOMING Canada*, is a collection of 23 bilingual interviews which share the stories of Canadians from all over the country. These stories explore all areas of our cultural past and present with interviews from those growing up in the out ports of Newfoundland to refugees relocating to Toronto. Passages Canada brings a voice and a face to our diverse and multidimensional cultural. It explores what it means and who we are as Canadians. For more information please contact Fadia Otari at fotariste@HistoricaCanada.ca.

EI’s Unite for Quality Education

Check out Education International’s (EI) new Unite for Quality Education: <http://www.unite4education.org/> campaign site. The splash page features a number of articles written by Canadian teachers who took part in the Canadian Teachers’ Federation’s Project Overseas program. Follow the campaign on Twitter @Unite4ed

Check out the EI videos, It all starts with a teacher: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSMqN_-A2gY

A day in the life trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfdW-aGaBEg>

Pumpkin Regatta & Parade



Bill Hines, a teacher at Aldershot Elementary School proudly displays his first prize winning float for the Annual Windsor—West Hants Pumpkin Regatta and Parade, which took place on October 13 in Windsor.

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- ▶ Enlighten Laser & Skin Care Clinic
- ▶ Erin Balodis, Naturopathic Doctor
- ▶ Eterno Laser & Medispa
- ▶ Maritime Massage Health Clinic
- ▶ Medicine in Motion
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For detailed information on each business - go to www.nstu.ca click on Communications and then Deals & Discounts.

classifieds

Classified rates are \$2.00 for the first 15 words; 25¢ per additional word upon presentation of a professional or NSCC Employee number. Non-members 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

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND & HAWAII TRIP - JULY 2014 - Teachers, relatives and friends are invited to join an AMAZING trip of a lifetime! Enjoy a Sydney Harbour Cruise, snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef, holding a koala... For information contact Sarah/Wally Fiander (TCRSB teachers) at sifiander@nstu.ca See <http://www.eftours.ca/eliterature/DBD/14/JDU.pdf> for itinerary.

ITALY & GREECE Trip - August 2015 or THAILAND, CAMBODIA & VIETNAM July 2015 - Plan ahead now to have an amazing Summer Adventure! Teachers, relatives and friends are invited to join these AMAZING trips! For information contact Sarah/Wally Fiander (TCRSB teachers) at sifiander@nstu.ca. Itineraries available.

FOR RENT - Florida Condominium For Rent in Estero (near Naples) – Owned by Halifax couple. Beautiful condo community includes pools, golf, tennis, nearby beaches and shopping. Email pmccallum@hfx.eastlink.ca for pictures. Available September 1 - December 15, January & February.

TEACHER EXCHANGE - Permanent Resource teacher with AVRSB interested in an exchange with SSRSB or HRSB for the 2014-2015 school year. A permanent exchange is desired. If interested, please contact sgiovannetti@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

TEACHER EXCHANGE - Permanent Elementary French Teacher with the AVRSB interested in an exchange with the CCRSB for the 2014-2015 school year. A permanent exchange is desired. If interested, please contact savoieiml@ccrsb.ca.

TEACHER EXCHANGE - Permanent junior/senior high learning center/resource teacher with the HRSB is looking to exchange positions with a teacher from CCRSB for the 2014-15 school year. A permanent exchange is possible. If interested, please contact me at deani2009@hotmail.com.

TEACHER EXCHANGE - Permanent Jr. High French and Social Studies teacher with the CBVRSB is seeking an exchange to HRSB for the 2014-2015 school year. A permanent exchange is possible. If interested please contact amjbenoit@staff.ednet.ns.ca

EXCHANGE - Guidance counsellor in HRM looking to (permanently) transfer positions with guidance counsellor in the valley. I am 100% guidance with excellent seniority. Contact: s_headly@hotmail.com

TEACHER EXCHANGE - Permanent Elementary teacher with HRSB interested in exchange with a permanent elementary teacher from CBVRSB for 2014-2015 school year. Possible permanent exchange desired. If interested please contact clarkd@staff.ednet.ns.ca

Subject to change without notice. Latest update: October 10, 2013.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ▶ Banana Republic
- ▶ Benjamin Moore Bayers Lake
- ▶ Big Apple Fashions
- ▶ Budget Rent-A-Car Maritimes
- ▶ Comfort Orthotics by: 4th Generation
- ▶ COSTCO
- ▶ Discount Car and Truck Rentals
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- ▶ Dulux Paints
- ▶ EOA Scientific
- ▶ Erinn G. Moore, Family Law Practice
- ▶ Esprit Dartmouth Crossing Outlet
- ▶ Event System Rentals
- ▶ Frame Express
- ▶ Garden View Restaurant
- ▶ GCR Tire Centres
- ▶ Grand & Toy
- ▶ Homelife Real Estate Centre Inc.
- ▶ Hotel Discount Program
- ▶ Intrepid Travel
- ▶ Irving Oil
- ▶ Lung Association of Nova Scotia
- ▶ Midas - Total Car Service
- ▶ Neptune Theatre
- ▶ OG Event Filming
- ▶ Oh My Sole!
- ▶ Papa Mario's Pizza
- ▶ Park 'n Fly - Halifax Stanfield Airport
- ▶ Port Hawkesbury's Lingerie Store
- ▶ Quality Footwear & Mahone Bay Trading Company
- ▶ Rogers Wireless (AML)
- ▶ Scotia Auto Glass
- ▶ SoftMoc
- ▶ Soles in Motion
- ▶ Tall Ship Silva (Halifax)
- ▶ The Sackville Sports Stadium
- ▶ Ultramar Refinery
- ▶ What's for Supper?
- ▶ Winsby's
- ▶ Wong's Tae Kwon Do

