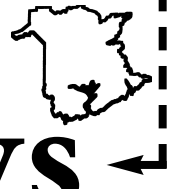


NB

January 9, 2008
Vol. L, No. 5

TA News



New Brunswick Teachers' Association

— More Than Just “Friends” — Caution the Watchword for Digital Relationship

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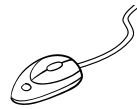
NB Teachers Make Global Connections
See articles pages 7, 9 & 23

Next Final Copy Deadline For NBTA News: Friday, February 1



Many teachers use technology to support their teaching and learning, but it also plays a key role in enriching many educators' lives beyond their profession. *Facebook*, *MySpace* and *blogging* have opened up entirely new avenues to establish and maintain relationships with an immediacy and familiarity far different from traditional means. Many teachers have created *FaceBook* profiles and are using them to effectively communicate with their students and community. This article is not intended

“The basic rule is: don't express any opinion on these sites that you wouldn't want to see printed on the front page of the newspaper.”



to suggest teachers not use these methods, but to emphasize the very real need for caution.

In short, a teacher is a teacher 24 hours a day and electronic statements can be equivalent to public ones. The basic rule is: don't express any opinion on these sites that you wouldn't want to see printed on the front page of the newspaper. This is not a hypothetical situation. Many, if not all, teacher associations in Canada have had or are currently dealing with cases relating to this issue. For example, a teacher in Northern Canada used his blog to help alleviate his sense of isolation, but included comments that could be considered critical of his employer. Others have very innocently posted

pictures of students taking part in school activities or class trips, without first seeking permission from each family to do so. Just taking a few moments to consider that this mode of communication is **not private** could be all that is necessary.

Facebook has over 30 million registered members and is definitely here to stay, or at least its next incarnation will be. A colleague in Western Canada created her own profile in doing research on the site. Although she performed no maintenance

on it, she received daily e-mail, including contacts from former boyfriends, long-lost friends and former students.

Without delving too deeply into the technical realm, privacy settings are an absolute must, and even then there is questionable safety. *Facebook* owns any material uploaded to its site, even after it is deleted.

This is far from a comprehensive review of this topic, and in the end is really just one simple message — **be informed and be careful.** Much of this information was taken from an article written by Bobbi Ethier of the Manitoba Teacher Society. Additionally, a very useful pamphlet, *E-Communications Advice from the NBTF* is now available online at their website.

Interest-Free Loans

Up to \$1,500.00 in any one school year shall be made available to statutory NBTA members **on leave** who are improving their professional qualifications through educational programs.

Application forms are available from:

Melinda Cook

New Brunswick Teachers' Association
PO Box 752, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6
Tel: (506) 452-8921
Email: melinda.cook@nbta.ca

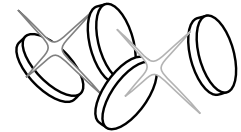
**The application
deadline for
2008-2009 is:**



Educational Improvement Grant Funds Depleted

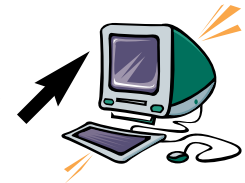
Applications can be made at any time for NBTA/DOE Provincial funding, Elementary Council and High School Council funding activities taking place after January 1, 2008.

*** Please note the Middle Level Council funds have been depleted until June 30, 2008.**



NBTA Website: Members Only Register Now!

This site will be a **primary method of communications during the upcoming round of negotiations** and in sharing other important information with our members. If you have not registered yet, please go to www.nbta.ca as soon as possible.



Moving? Name Change? Not Getting Your NBTA News? LET US KNOW!

In order to keep our NBTA members' database as accurate as possible, it is important that you advise the NBTA Communications Department (Carlene Merrick, 452-1833) of any changes such as marital status, home address, school location, phone number, etc., as soon as possible. This is necessary to ensure that all mailings reach our members and that our nominal roll is up to date for voting purposes. Initial information is collected on the green registration forms, but changes occur. Many of these changes occur during the summer months.



We do not receive this updated information through any other source, so please keep us informed of any changes.

Thank you for your assistance in helping us serve you better.

NBTA NEWS

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Brent Shaw

Bring on the New Year...

Hopefully, everyone is at least a little refreshed as they return from the Holiday Season, although I know from experience that the grind gets back underway fairly quickly. I'd like to wish everyone the absolute best in the 2008 year.

In my last President's Message, I spoke about the importance of communication with you, the members. I will continue on this topic, but in a slightly different way. The media, always an important factor, will play an even larger role in the lives of teachers over the next several months. One of the most important roles I assumed as President of the NBTA is as official spokesperson for this Association. During negotiations, beginning within a few weeks, I will also act as Co-President of the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation. The media always plays a significant role during these times and while this topic can be the subject of books rather than simply a brief article, there are a few important points that teachers should keep in mind:

- **The media should not and cannot be completely ignored.**
- **We can control the message, but not the headlines.**
- **We can insist on equal coverage, but reporters and editors will choose what to concentrate on from our statements.**
- **There are constant decisions about what to respond to and what not to respond to, but make no mistake, each response invites a counter-response.**

The media is truly a double-edged sword. Inaccuracies can be pointed out, but retractions are rarely printed. Over the next few months, we will have to concentrate on the task at hand — maintaining good open communications with the membership, media coverage, and negotiating a contract that respects teachers as the professionals they are.

As some of you are aware, the exchange of the Asking Package will take place on January 29, 2008. After that date, we have scheduled days for discussions, and negotiations.

Have a Happy and Safe New Year!
All the best,

P.S. Hope Santa found all of my friends and colleagues at CNHS.



**H
A
P
P
Y
NEW
YEAR!**

Are You Eligible to Retire?

By Larry Jamieson, NBTA Director, Teacher Welfare Services

The New Brunswick Teachers' Pension Act (TPA) provides that a teacher becomes eligible to retire on an immediate pension:

- (a) at age 65 with 5 or more years of pensionable service (no reduction)
- (b) at age 60 with 5 or more years of pensionable service (Pension reduced 5 per cent per year for each year under age 65)
- (c) at age 60 with 20 or more years of pensionable service (no reduction)
- (d) when the combination of a teacher's age and service reaches 80 (reduced pension). (Reduction will be 2.5% for each index year that retirement precedes age/service index of 87)
- (e) when a combination of a teacher's age and service equals 87 (no reduction)
- (f) after completing 35 years of pensionable service (full pension)

Below is a checklist of things you should do when you have decided to stop teaching and receive your pension:

- If you are unsure of your pension service, check with the Compensation & Employee Benefits Division, Office of Human Resources (Pensions Branch) to make sure that you are indeed eligible for retirement. Include your Social Insurance Number (SIN) and birth certificate in any communication with the Pensions Branch.
- Notify your Superintendent, in writing, of your intention to retire (the Regulations of the *Education Act* now stipulate this notification be communicated as of February 1st):
 - (a) specify the date of retirement (always at end of the month - e.g., June 30, 2008)

Note: In the case of a disability pension, these steps will only occur once the teacher has received approval for his/her disability pension from the Compensation & Employee Benefits Division, Office of Human Resources.

- Make arrangements with a financial institution to have your retirement allowance placed in a RRSP account or any other registered investment mechanism. The banking institution, trust company or credit union, etc. will then undertake the necessary steps (complete TD2 form) so that the amount is

deposited directly into a RRSP account without going through your hands. Otherwise you might end up paying tax at a high rate on that amount.

- If you are age 60 or over, do not forget to apply for the Canada Pension (CPP).

Forms to fill out at District Office:

1. Termination Notice / Benefit Request — Claim for pension benefits (copy of birth certificate(s) required)
2. TD1 — Personal exemptions for income tax purposes after retirement
3. Direct Deposit form (*blank, void cheque required*)
4. NBTF Group Insurance form indicating what you plan to do regarding your group insurance coverage. This will allow the Compensation & Employee Benefits Division to make the necessary deductions from your pension cheque.

Note: It is important that the Compensation & Employee Benefits Division receive the necessary forms properly filled out (notice of termination and TD1) at least 90 days prior to the month you expect to receive your pension. The School District will look after sending these forms where appropriate.



Larry Jamieson

Pension cheques are received on the 23rd/24th of each month, except December.
For any additional information on the above process, please contact:

→ Larry Jamieson, New Brunswick Teachers' Association
P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB E3B 5R6 Tel. 452-1722

or

→ Compensation & Employee Benefits Division, Office of Human Resources
P.O. Box 6000, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5H1 Tel. 453-2296 or 1-800-561-4012

If you have decided to retire, please notify NBTA Central Office as soon as possible.
This will help us prepare for the provincial Retiring Teachers' Luncheon which will be held on Saturday, May 31st.

2007-2008 NBTA PENSION SEMINARS REGISTRATION FORM

Please accept my application to attend the NBTA Pension Seminar to be held on (check one):

DATE OF SEMINAR _____

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION _____

____ January 26- Miramichi, Dr. Losier Middle School
 ____ February 2 - Sussex, Sussex High School

January 18
 January 25

Name of Teacher: _____ S.I. No. _____

Mailing Address: _____ Dist. _____

____ Name of Spouse (if attending) _____
 (If spouse is a teacher, please fill out a separate form)

No. of pension years you will have accumulated to June 2008 _____ Certificate Level: _____

Are you planning to buy back time? _____ If "yes", how much time? _____

Do you have Responsibility Allowance? Yes _____ No _____ (If "yes", contact your payroll officer at your District Office and have your last 5 years' salary history faxed to Karen Vautour, 453-9795)

I am enclosing a cheque in the amount of \$5.00 / \$10.00 (please circle one) to cover the cost of registration; nutrition break, and materials to be supplied. Please make cheque payable to **New Brunswick Teachers' Association**.

I hereby authorize the NBTA to obtain information from the Compensation Employee Benefits Division pertaining specifically to my pensionable service records. This information will be utilized to prepare my individual pension estimates for retirement purpose only.

YES NO

Signature: _____

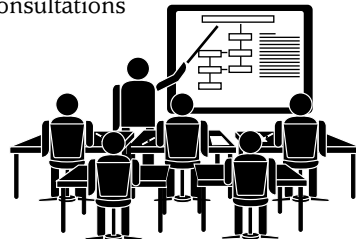
SEMINAR GUIDELINES

The following guidelines should be noted for participation in these seminars:

1. All participants must pre-register.
2. A registration fee of \$5.00 for each participant must accompany the application; however, cheques will not be cashed until after the workshop.
3. Travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the participant.
4. A nutrition break will be provided.
5. Questions relating to these seminars should be directed to: **Larry Jamieson**
 Director of Teacher Welfare Services
 New Brunswick Teachers' Association
 P.O. Box 752
 Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6 (Tel. 452-1722)
6. Any interested teachers are eligible to attend.
7. All workshops begin with registration at 8:30 am and sessions at 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. (Except Bristol, where registration will begin at 4:30pm -- Seminar at 5:00pm)
8. Detach and return the registration form as soon as possible.

PROGRAM

- Teachers' Pension Act
- The Canada Pension Plan
- Pension Records (will be available at meeting if possible)
- Pension Calculations
- Old Age Security
- Retirement Allowance
- Pre-retirement Vacations
- Deferred Salary Leave Plans
- Financial Planning for Retirement:
 - RRSPs
 - Annuities
 - Registered Retirement Income Funds
- Individual Consultations



PLEASE NOTE: YOU WILL RECEIVE CONFIRMATION WITHIN ONE WEEK OF CONFERENCE.

UNB Faculty of Education

New B.Ed. Program

The Faculty of Education at the University of New Brunswick, together with representation from the broader education community, developed a new model for teacher education to be implemented in the 2008/2009 academic year. The goals for the new B.Ed. program are: increased program coherence; more closely integrated school-base practicum and university course work; enhanced collegial relationships between UNB Faculty of Education and partners in the profession.

Features of the New Program

- This is an eleven-month continuous program of study and practice.
- All students will follow a common set of core courses (Teaching and Learning Theories, Social Contexts of Education and Inclusionary Practices).
- The Teaching and Learning Theories course integrates pedagogical theories with four levels of school-based practica.
- The levels include: initial practicum (exposure to school start-up), continuing practicum (one day per week both fall and winter terms), the novice practicum (three weeks in late fall), and the advanced practicum (an extended school experience in April/May).
- Each practicum experience is enhanced by guided reflection in cohort groups created within the core courses.
- Throughout the program, students will develop general pedagogical knowledge and skills appropriate to their level (Elementary or Secondary) and will have opportunities to gain expertise in specific areas.

Features of the New Partnership with Schools

- Interns will be assigned to a school rather than an individual teacher.
- Best-fit pairings of interns and classroom teachers will emerge over time.
- Interns will be assigned to schools in groups and may work in teams of two or three in classrooms.
- Interns will be assigned to one school for the year and ideally will be given opportunities to work at different grade levels and with different teachers.
- University supervisors will be assigned to a school rather than individual interns and will work as members of the professional learning communities of that school.
- This program is dependent upon the participation of schools throughout the Province of New Brunswick.
- Each participating school will designate a coordinator who will help organize and facilitate the practicum experience for the interns.
- The University supervisor will liaise with the coordinator at the school level on a regular basis and will participate in school-based professional learning such as: in-service, collaborative research projects, consultations, professional discussions, sharing resources, school initiatives, and classroom-based support.
- As the program unfolds, the various forms of these partnerships will evolve and expand.

Contact Information

Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies
University of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 4400, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5A3
Tel: 506-453-3508 Fax 506-453-3569
E-mail: stteach@unb.ca



School of Graduate Studies Award

The G. Forbes Elliot Award for Educational Leadership

Value: \$5,000 in 2008

Duration: One year

Description

The award is to encourage experienced teachers who have demonstrated leadership qualities related to their educational field to return to university to undertake postgraduate studies at the Master's or Doctoral level at the University of New Brunswick.

It is funded from the estate of the late Dr. G. Forbes Elliot, first Vice-President of the Saint John Campus.

Eligibility

Recipients must have taught for a minimum of five years in the public schools

of New Brunswick. They must have been accepted unconditionally into the graduate program in education and normally be in full-time attendance at the time of receipt of the award. If in any year, in the opinion of the Selection Committee, there are no full-time graduate studies candidates who satisfy the eligibility criteria, all or part of the award may be granted to one or more suitably qualified part-time graduate studies candidates.

Application Deadline

February 15 of the year in which the studies are expected to commence.

Awarding Agency

The University of New Brunswick, upon the recommendation of the Selection Committee.

Application forms available from:

The Elliot Award Selection
Committee Coordinator
P.O. Box 5050
Saint John, N.B. E2L 4L5
E-mail: pchiasso@unbsj.ca

Teaching Locally, Giving Globally: Two New Brunswick Educators Creating Awareness Beyond the Classroom

Two New Brunswick teachers were recently featured in provincial newspapers for their efforts in raising resources for poverty-stricken families in the Third World and increasing awareness of global issues. Angela Marr of Princess Elizabeth School in Saint John, and Jocelyn Myatt of St. Stephen High took their students out into their respective communities to promote real connections and understanding.

Angela Marr

Angela Marr was recently awarded the YMCA-YWCA Peace Medallion for several projects, an accomplishment even more notable considering she is only in her fifth year of full-time teaching. Most recently, her class raised money for soccer balls, air pumps, and groceries for two schools and a community center in Guatemala. She has visited Guatemala herself on summer breaks and witnessed the poverty and overwhelming needs first-hand. Marr says her students learn important lessons from giving, "even though your life isn't good all the time, you can still do things to help other people."

For the past two years, her class has been hosting a "See the World, Share a Dish" cultural night. They have an international-oriented pot-luck and students set up activity centers in the gym promoting the appreciation of diversity. Marr says that this sort of involvement teaches kids to, "make good choices, be good people, and accepting of differences." They followed up the Guatemala project this year by gathering donations for the Empty Stocking Fund and they join their teacher in volunteering at the local food bank. Marr says neighborhood involvement is especially important to her because she grew up near Princess Elizabeth School and still lives just a few minutes away.



Marr with girl she met during a visit in 2001. She has completed school and is studying to become a teacher.



Guatemalan children in the area helped by Angela Marr and her students.

Jocelyn Myatt

Jocelyn Myatt braved the cold and snow with a significantly older group of students, her World Issues 120 class, to raise money and awareness about poverty. They camped out on King Street in St. Stephen from 4 pm until midnight on a November evening, accepting donations that enabled them to purchase a full stable of farm animals for poverty-stricken Third World families. Myatt says her students really took the initiative on the project and it was wonderful to see how they were affected by it. "It really strengthened their friendships, resolve, and changed how they look at the world."

Overall, the students raised over \$1500 through various efforts, including bake sales and bottle drives, throughout the

year. Through World Vision, they will be helping a different family in the Third World every month. Myatt sees a new spark and level of consciousness among her students and a recognition that poverty is not just something that exists elsewhere. Some of the money raised will go to an adopt-a-family program and to help a local transition house. There is now also a global action group at St. Stephen High. The teacher says one of the most enjoyable parts of the experience was seeing the students take the ball and run with it, even promoting their efforts on the local radio station.



REMEMBER THESE DATES



DEADLINE DATES

Conference Grants — Five weeks prior to opening day

Certification Changes — March 31, 2008

Branch Nominations for NBTA Vice-President — February 1, 2008

Deferred Salary Leave Plan Application — January 31, 2008

Election Dates

- (a) Ballots mailed to Branch Presidents - On or before April 15, 2008
- (b) Voting to take place - April 21-25, 2008 inclusive
- (c) Ballots returned to Central Office by 5:00 pm - May 2, 2008
- (d) Counting of Ballots - May 7, 2008
- (e) Candidates notified - May 7, 2008

NBTA/Beaverbrook/Hagerman Interest-free Loans — March 31, 2008

Centennial Award Nominations — April 1, 2008

Aliant Award Nominations — April 1, 2008

Outstanding Educational Leadership — April 1, 2008

Branch Resolutions for A.G.M. — April 1, 2008

A.G.M. Registration of Delegates — April 1, 2008

Employment Insurance Rebate Report — June 1, 2008

Registration of Branches — June 1, 2008

Report of Branch Meetings — June 1, 2008

Names of Branch Committee Chairpersons — June 1, 2008

NBTA Council Annual Reports — June 13, 2008

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

NBTA AGM — May 30-31, 2008

Retiring Teachers' Luncheon — May 31, 2008

Teachers' Vacation Specials!

Only 10 seats left! Dominican Republic, Saturday, March 1— Saturday March 8, 2008
Royal Golden Section, Gran Bahia Principe Punta Cana - 5 ★, From \$1749 + \$309 tax

• Easter in New York

- (5-day tour of NY)
March 20-24, 2008
- 2 nights accommodations the boutique style Hotel Bedford
- 2 nights accommodations in Portland ME
- Exclusive group dinner at the Play Wright Tavern
- Full morning guided tour of NYC
- Up to 25% off tickets to most Broadway shows; call us to book
- Attend New York's famous Easter Sunday Parade
- Experienced tour manager who KNOWS NEW YORK



From \$575 + taxes per person
\$200 deposit by February 8, 2008 reserves your seat!

• Daniel O'Donnell Tour

- Live at the Halifax Metro Centre
May 30-31, 2008
- Overnight accommodations at Cambridge Suites (*downtown*)
- Hot buffet breakfast
- Premium seat for O'Donnell's, "Can you Feel the Love" Concert
- Gourmet buffet dinner; roof top dining at World Trade Center's "Windows"
- Baggage handling fees; professional services of experienced tour director



From \$299 + taxes per person
\$150 deposit by February 18, 2008 and save \$50 per couple

• Ireland in July!

- Explore the Country Roads of Ireland!
July 6 - 18, 2008
- Deluxe European motorcoach transportation
- First class hotel accommodations
- Most meals
- All taxes and baggage handling fees
- Experienced tour director from Collins Tours & Insight Vacations



Reserve by February 1, 2008

Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd.,



Toll free 1-888-636-8080,
www.collinstours.ca

Connecting New Brunswick Teachers and Students with Zambia

Retirement may be a stage in life that can be planned in great detail. It may also turn out to be something quite different than was expected. For these retired teachers, Patricia Ellsworth, Mary McKean and Sally Moore, retirement has brought with it an exciting adventure that has changed their lives and led them to make many discoveries about themselves and about life beyond the borders of Canada.

It all began in June of 2004 when Patricia was about to complete her 34-year teaching career. Patricia had taught at Oromocto High School for the previous 30 years and her colleagues decided that her hard work should be rewarded. They nominated her, and she was then selected for the Aliant Award for Excellence in Teaching. In her acceptance speech, Patricia cited four educators who had made a difference in her early development as a teacher. One of those educators was Simon Maonde, the Headmaster at her first school, Namwala High School in Zambia. Mr. Maonde had been a mentor in many ways to this new teacher, as CUSO volunteer sent to Africa directly from St. Thomas University. The two years in Zambia, 1969 - 1971, passed quickly but made an indelible impression.

Patricia returned to NB, obtained a BEd from UNB, and continued with her career.

Patricia had no contact with Zambia through the years, but that changed when Nancy Roach published the Aliant acceptance

speech in the NBTA newsletter of June 2004. In a strange sequence of events, a teacher in Switzerland (who had taught at the same school in Zambia, but several years later) found the NBTA article on the Web. The teacher, Johannes van der Weijden, sent an email to Loretta Clarke at the NBTA and she forwarded it to Patricia. An exchange of email brought the wonderful news that Mr. Maonde and his wife Lydia, both retired teachers, were well and were farming on a plot of land not far from the capital city of Lusaka, Zambia.



Lydia Maonde, Headmistress of Twitti School; Mary McKean, Francis Polela; contractor, Sally Moore; Patricia Ellsworth

help him and his wife to build a real school for the ever-increasing stream of local children who had been coming into their house to be taught for more than 10 years? Without any idea of how she could accomplish this, Patricia's reply was a definite "Yes". How could she say anything else to her former Headmaster?

In the two and a half years since that "Yes", a great deal has happened. Patricia has reconnected with two other Canadian CUSO volunteers who worked with Mr. Maonde in the late 60's and early 70's. Together they have formed a non-profit society with charitable donation status called *Friends For Zambia*. It is based in Fredericton, NB; Huntsville, ON; and Vancouver, BC. In Zambia, the Maondes and several former students have created an Education Trust which now owns half of the Maondes' plot of land and will soon build and administer Twitti Basic School at this location. (Twitti is a word that means "a small branch that will grow into a big tree".) In 2006-2007 *Friends for Zambia* raised enough money in Canada for Phase One of Twitti Basic School (4 classrooms, washrooms and a well).

It was during the fundraising effort in the Fredericton area that

By June of 2005 their old friendship had been renewed and Simon Maonde made a request of Patricia. In her work at his school 35 years before she had shown the typical Canadian love for education, would Patricia now



Canadian visitors sharing a meal with the Twitti School teachers.

Mary McKean and Sally Moore became involved. They had both retired from Leo Hayes High School, Mary in 2003 and Sally in 2004. With Patricia, they had visited the Swiss teacher, Johannes, and his wife in Switzerland in 2005. Their interest was piqued and the idea of going to visit Zambia in 2007 went from being a dream to becoming a reality. The three retired teachers decided to make this personally financed journey to Twitti School and to combine the trip with a camping safari in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. Preparations were made throughout last winter: flights, reservations, coordination of their visit to fit with the travel plans of the Swiss couple, and, most importantly, the collection of 150 lbs of school supplies to take with them to Zambia.

Their experience this past



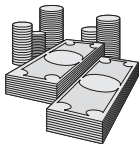
Pre-Reception class

summer was amazing. Patricia, Mary and Sally discussed construction plans with the Maondes, met the children who will benefit from the project and made friends with many other Zambian people. They visited the compound where many of the children live and saw the reality of grandmothers raising AIDS orphans, struggling to pay school fees and feed their families. Life in this

country, which is one of the richest in Africa in terms of resources, yet one of the poorest in terms of the well being of the people, is a difficult struggle. Patricia, Mary and Sally returned to Canada determined to continue with this project until all 5 phases of the school campus are completed and many more impoverished children of Lilayi, Zambia have the possibility of an education and a better future.

To learn more about Twitti School and *Friends for Zambia*, please visit the web site at www.friendsforzambia.org. If you would like Mary, Sally and Patricia to make a presentation to your class about this project, you can contact them through the website. They would be delighted to visit with you.

— Financial Wellness for Teachers —



It has been five years since I retired as Director of Teacher Welfare Services with the NBTA. Since that time my son, Andrew, and I have consulted with hundreds of teachers from "beginning" to "retired" on concepts related to financial wellness.

"No-fee" consultations and/or workshops are available to individuals or a group of teachers in your school on the following topics:

- Options for investing your **Retirement Allowance**
- Investment options for teachers that are more tax efficient than RRSP's
- How to restructure your finances to give you more cash flow
- A new mortgage product that allows you to pay far less interest and pay off your mortgage many years earlier.



If interested, please contact:

Mike Springer, (506)472-9474, springmp@nbnet.nb.ca or Andrew Springer, (506)476-0932, ad_springer@hotmail.com

Nashwaaksis Middle School – Firefighter Challenge

On Tuesday, November 20, NMS and the Fredericton Fire Department paired up once again to hold the 6th annual Firefighter Challenge. This is the first time that I have experienced this unique event and I was totally in awe from start to finish. This event is huge!

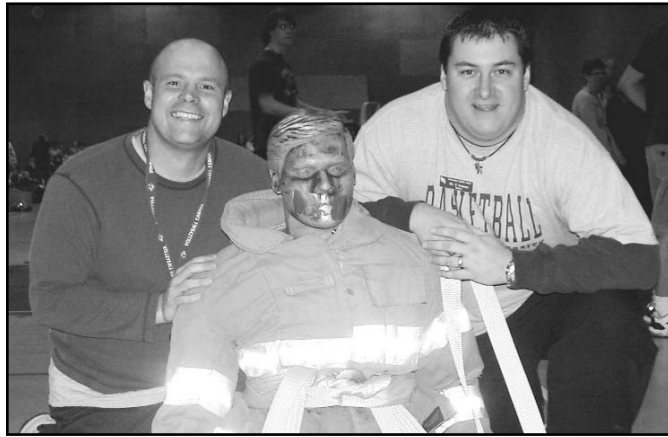
We were fortunate to have Mayor Brad Woodside and principal Alan Atkins kick off the event in the opening ceremonies. Then our energetic host, Jim McLeod, dressed in his flashy green tuxedo, took front and center stage. Jim did a fabulous job entertaining our kids. He must've run the course 30 times by the end of the day.

Speaking of the course, just what is the firefighter challenge? It's composed of a ten-station obstacle course, with activities ranging from the "dummy pull" to the "force machine" to an old-fashion "bucket brigade". Each activity helped the students to understand a little more about what it takes to be a firefighter.

To start, the firefighters, organized by Shawnee Main, ran the course and set the bar for the school to reach. They demonstrated to us how to run the course. Then the teacher 'dream team' stepped up to compete and then all thirty classes, 820 students, in the school ran the course as individual classes.

The school spirit was unbelievable; we had students painting their faces, making banners and, of course, lots of noise. To have 820 all enthusiastic about something is hard to image but this competition draws out the best in us. You can't ask for anything else; students active, supporting each other and having FUN!!!!

For the first time in the six years of this competition, we had a tie. Our co-winners for the grade six level are: 6I (Mlle Poirier) and 6A



(l-r) Teacher, Tayne Moore; "Dummy Fred"; teacher, Fred Connors

(Mrs. Wishart) with a winning time of 5 min and 16 seconds. 7F (Mlle Cormier) won the grade 7 challenge with a time of 4 min and 22 seconds. 8B (Mlle Harrison) not only had the fastest time out of the grade 8 classes, but they also had the fastest time in the school. Their record time is 3 min and 48 seconds.

We had so many people help out with this competition, and it's true that "many hands make light work". I would like to thank our wonderful parent committee, led by Mary Rowe. They helped set up, tear down and supervise the course. Without their help we truly could not run this event. Mr. Smith, who has been running this amazing "Schools Community in Action" (SCIA)

event has done a fantastic job in coordinating everything.

Some of the equipment used for the challenge has been graciously donated by Howie R. Bird and Sons and the Fort Nashwaak Motel.

Most importantly, as a community we really need to thank our wonderful members of the Fredericton Fire Department. Not only did they volunteer to do this on their day off, but they serve our community extremely well and keep us safe. The entire school (NMS) thanks and appreciates our valiant firefighters for holding such an educational event at our school. If you see one, shake his/her hand and say thanks. It's the least we can do!

– Tayne Moore

*School Community in Action Coordinator
Nashwaaksis Middle School*

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Reflection, Resolutions and Random Thoughts on Learning...

by Ardith Shirley, Director of Professional Development

Welcome to 2008! One of the many reasons I love being a teacher is the continuous feeling of renewal. How many other professions get to celebrate "a new year" twice in one calendar year? We do it in January with the rest of the world and then again each September when a teacher's REAL "new year" occurs!

New Year's has always been a time for looking back to the past, and more importantly, forward to the coming year. It's a time to reflect on the changes we want (or need) to make and resolve to follow through on those changes.

In preparing to write my "PD Page" this month, I did a quick google search (what did we do before google?) on New Year's Resolutions. Along with all of the ads for the latest weight loss fad and/or exercise regime, came several results of surveys conducted by all kinds of agencies in attempts to quantify the "Top 10 New Year's Resolutions" of North Americans for 2008.

The teacher in me was thrilled to note that "Learn Something New" made the top 10 on at least 5 of the lists I found. (Just when my cynical-

self was about to give up on humankind!)

Now, I realize that a google search revealing "Top 10" lists for New Year's Resolutions may not be the most scientific or reliable source of educational research, but one takes inspiration from wherever one finds it! The fact that so many of those polled value learning enough to resolve to devote more time to it in 2008 suggests that despite some of the more sobering statistics regarding the state of education systems in North America, the love of learning and value placed upon it is still alive and well in our society.

The question I find myself reflecting on this January: **How can we, as teachers, continue to foster and cultivate a love for and of learning within each of our own sphere's of influence – in our classrooms, in our staffrooms, schools, districts, communities and province?**

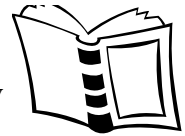
I invite you to take some time for reflection on that question and make some resolutions about your own learning for 2008. In that spirit, here are a few random thoughts and excerpts from my own recent learning, as well as some contributions from some generous

NB teachers who have taken the time to share their learning with me.

Excerpts and Thoughts

Debbie Pushor's *Welcoming Parents: Educators as Guest Hosts on School Landscapes* (Education Canada, Fall 2007) is a valuable read for any staff exploring how to improve parent-school connections. Pushor's exploration of her own experience as an experienced teacher and administrator, and THEN parent, provides a great conversation-starter for schools as they explore ways to improve communication with the home.

Alphie Kohn, author of 11 books including *The Homework Myth* and *Beyond Discipline*, always challenges my thinking. His recent article in the October 2007 issue of Phi Delta Kappan is titled, *Who's Cheating Whom?* "Cheating is a case in point because most discussions of the subject attribute the problem to the cheaters themselves. (...) It may be time to examine what leads students to do what they are not supposed to do. (...) Such a perspective reminds us that how we educate students is the dog; cheating is just the tail."



IT'S NOT OKAY...



... to treat same sex relationships differently from heterosexual relationships (i.e., compassionate leave, social functions, parent meetings, etc.)

If this is happening in your school, you have a professional obligation to address it. Contact the NBTA, your employer, or email NBTA Equity Committee members, Danielle Cormier (cormidan@nbed.nb.ca) or Richard Blaquiere (richard.blaquiere@nbed.nb.ca) if you have concerns or need help.

- Inserted by NBTA Equity in Education Committee

Also in the same October issue is an excellent article on Assessment by Margaret Heritage titled *Formative Assessment: What Do Teachers Need to Know and Do?* (I know many of you will find this one useful in your ongoing quest for professional learning on Assessment for Learning.)

The Other 3 R's by Mary Beth Lambert, Catherine Wallach and Brinton Ramsey (JSD, Fall 2007) provides reflection on initiating instructional change through **Relationships, Relevance and Rigor** by sharing the experiences of three schools working to become a more effective professional community. "Teachers in all 3

schools have made impressive progress toward turning the corner to instructional change through their commitment to adult learning in-service of improved students learning. They demonstrate the importance of the 3 R's and how distributed leadership, a clear instructional focus, and well-developed professional community make the 3 R's more robust."

Thank You!

Thanks to Willa Piercy of Harvey Elementary School who shared her copy of Rachael Kessler's book, *The Soul of Education: Helping*



Students Find Connection, Compassion, and Character at School with me over the Thanksgiving Holiday. I enjoyed reading Willa's margin notes as much as Ms. Kessler's words. Thanks to both authors for reminding me exactly why I wanted to become a teacher! A quote from this book that may give you a flavour of the contents: "We can have the best available curriculum and train teachers in technique and theory, but if we do not provide opportunities for teachers to develop their own emotional intelligence, their own spiritual depth, our students may still be unsafe and our programs hollow. We teach who we are."

Welcome New Exchange Teachers!

Many of you have heard recommendations to consider a teacher exchange as one of the most incredible professional opportunities available. Four more teachers are embarking on this experience in 2008. We welcome Australian teacher, **Marion Trainor**, who arrived this January from Western Australia to take over the class (and home) of NB teacher, Elva Lacey, from Westfield Elementary School. As well, **Lee-Anne Pares**, of New South Wales, Australia will be taking over the class (and home) of NB teacher, Louise Christie of Saint Mary's Academy in Edmundston. Best wishes to these teachers. I am confident that 2008 will be memorable for them both and they will experience MUCH learning to reflect on for years to come! If you want more information on exchange opportunities, visit www.ceef.ca.



YES! We Have Access to Educational Databases!

The Department of Education pays for access for students and teachers (from home and school) to three education databases - EBSCO, ELibrary and Encarta.

Last Spring EBSCO Host was added. (The same database UNB gives their students access to for researching.)

All three databases are accessible via the portal or via the web:

EBSCO <http://search.ebscohost.com/Login.aspx>

Username: nbed

Password: bigchalk

ELibrary <http://portal.bigchalk.com/portalweb/login.do>

Username: nbed

Password: bigchalk

Encarta (Best Bilingual Source for Students)

<http://encarta.nbed.nb.ca>

Thanks to Mary-Jo MacRae for sharing this information with me!



Ardith,

Just finished elementary reporting period and parent/teacher interviews and wish we could have read this great little article prior to but... next report in March!! The article is from the journal "Teaching Exceptional Children" Vol.40, No.2, pg.48-52, Nov/Dec 2007 and is entitled "Standards-Based Grading and Reporting - A Model for Special Education".

To summarize, the authors present a five-step process for linking SEP goals to general curriculum standards and reporting student learning in a format that is clear and meaningful for both educators and families.

A very timely article for report card writing purposes.

Carolyn Fillmore
Resource Teacher
Liverpool Elementary
Dist. 18

Closing Quote:

"This is like déjà vu all over again."

— Yogi Berra (as quoted by Noreen O'Haire, CTF in her editorial in *PD Perspectives* exploring the current trends and future vision for professional learning.)



Ardith Shirley

Director of Professional Development

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Email ardith.shirley@nbta.ca

Fairvale Elementary School – Winner of “Stand Up Against Bullying Rally”



When Shannon Shelley, a third grade student at Fairvale Elementary School in District 6, entered a contest nominating her school for a *Stand Up Against Bullying Rally* on the Family Channel’s website, she didn’t expect to win. Shelley’s letter, which spoke of the school’s “I- Care” program, was chosen as one of four winning entries out of 16,000 from across Canada.

When Jane Perkins Love, the school’s full-time guidance counsellor, learned of the honour bestowed on her school, she began preparing for the big event. All students and staff members were asked to trace and colour a life-sized representation of themselves to

symbolize everyone in the school standing up against bullying. With the help of parent and student volunteers, the paper people were arranged in a stunning display on the walls of the gymnasium.

As part of the prize, students at F.E.S. were invited to a *Stand Up Against Bullying Rally* in the gym and treated to an advance screening of an upcoming episode of the Family Channel series *Life with Derek*. Ashley Leggat and Michael Seater, stars of the popular children’s series *Life With Derek* were slated to make guest appearances but unfortunately a winter storm in Toronto postponed their arrival. The rally was a huge success nonetheless, and the students can anticipate a visit by the two celebrities at a future date.

The I-Care Program, based on “Peacemaking Skills for Little Kids” from the Peace Education Foundation, has been used at Fairvale for many years as a component of the comprehensive guidance program. The basis of the program is *respect* and with regular visits to kindergarten classes, the children learn the I-Care Rules with the help of Mrs. Perkins Love’s friends – I-Care Cat, Peace Cat, Scaredy Cat, and others. Support materials are provided to all classroom teachers and the I- Care Rules are an integral part of F.E.S.’s school culture.



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The I-Care Rules

1. We listen to each other.
2. Hands are for helping, not hurting.
3. We use I-care language.
4. We care about each other’s feelings.
5. We are responsible for what we say and do.



NBTA Councils to Continue Pilot Specialist Strand for Year 2 at May Council Day

For over a decade now, the NBTA Elementary, Middle Level and High School Councils have worked diligently to provide quality professional development for New Brunswick teachers. The 3 council model, while not perfect, has strengths that the previous model of 19 councils did not have. The most important of these strengths is that the three councils have been able to grow and develop into strong vibrant bodies, recognized by all teachers as an important part of the PD landscape in New Brunswick. Under the previous system, many small councils struggled to survive and/or to deliver programs in a meaningful or sustainable manner.

As the three councils have worked to find ways to deliver programs that meet the needs of teachers, they have come to realize that there are small groups of teachers who are in need of more specific services. These groups are referred to as 'specialist' teachers.

A 'specialist' is defined as a teacher who probably is the only person (or one of two) who teaches that particular subject in his/her school. The teacher may be teaching across many grades (i.e., K-12) and often has no network of colleagues with whom to share ideas or resources. Finally, a specialist is often not able to access meaningful PD from district or department sources because they do not fall under the literacy/numeracy umbrella. We typically think of music, art, phys ed, guidance and resource as specialist teachers.

For the NBTA Council Conference 2008 (May 2), the councils will continue the **pilot** model that was used last year in an attempt to serve some of our specialist teachers more effectively.

Each council will once again host a 'strand' of program for **K-12 teachers** of a specific specialty subject. The Elementary Council (Moncton) will offer a **K-12 Art** strand targeted at Art specialists. The Middle Level Council

(Moncton) will offer a **K-12 Music** strand while the High School Council (Saint John) will host a **K-12 Physical Education** strand.

The full programs for these strands will be posted on the Conference websites in March when the conference brochures are sent to your schools. Specialist teachers are encouraged to peruse the program strand, then register for the Council that is the host. For example, a Middle Level art teacher who believes the Art strand would be a meaningful PD experience for him/her should register for the Elementary Council. Full details about registration and sessions selection will be on the websites and are specific to each program.

A few questions that teachers may have:

? Does this mean that councils will be dividing up all subjects and offering strands in the future?

Definitely not. The NBTA Board of Directors fully endorses the three council model. We can maintain the infrastructure to support three groups...we cannot do so for more. The strand model, though, is a response to expressed needs of some of our members.

? Will this model be used every year?

This is a second-year pilot model. We will evaluate it carefully after the conference to determine if it was successful. Councils will use the pilot experience to inform their decisions about whether this model works, about what ways it might be adapted to be more effective or sustainable. Feedback will be sought from participants.

? Is there any additional fee for the specialist strand programs?

Teachers registering for specialist strands will pay the same registration fee (\$30) as all teachers. They can also register on-line as per the regular process. It is important that specialist teachers read the

special program details for further instructions about the registration process. These will be found on the NBTA website Council Conference section (live in March).

? Is there a limit on the number of participants who can register for the specialist strand programs?

There will be a limited number of spaces for teachers registering for specialist strands. The reason for this is because supplies (particularly for the Art strand) will need to be ordered in advance. The organizers will try to accommodate everyone, but the earlier you register, the better your chances. When and if the strands reach their attendance quota, it will be put on the website so when others try to register for one of the sessions they will be notified that the session(s) are at their maximum number allotted.

? What feedback did councils receive following Council Day 2007 and Year 1 of the Specialist Strand Pilot?

Councils received much positive feedback from specialist teachers around the province who attended sessions in 2007. Based on this positive feedback, the 3 Councils made the decision to continue the pilot in 2008.

? How were strands selected for this year's councils?

The Councils agree that three strands is the maximum they wish to highlight during this pilot (one specialist strand per council). Based on demand for sessions, Music and Art were clearly very well-received last year and will continue. This has required a difficult decision to be made in regards to the final available spot. Phys. Ed will be featured as a strand for the first time this year. There is clearly a high-demand, and it was not included last year. Including these strands is still in a pilot phase and continuing feedback on various models will be used in determining how best to serve teachers in future.



CELEBRATE!

In September of 2006, School District 6 initiated a program that involved every student and every employee - to **CELEBRATE What's Right With the World.** We were all asked to look within ourselves and around us to accentuate the positive and to share our pleasures and acknowledge the accomplishments (be they big or small) of those who touch "our world".

The sharing really began in November of 2006 when schools held an assembly with custodians, bus drivers, teachers, support workers, administrative assistants and students where CELEBRATE postcards were shared recognizing



accomplishments. From there, all have had the opportunity to share through the continued use of the postcards. The cards, sent on to the District Office, have been published in the weekly district Commufax. This year (2007-2008) schools have had the opportunity to showcase their CELEBRATE accomplishments. The District is creating a DVD to commemorate this initiative.

At Lakefield Elementary, we particularly CELEBRATE our great administration team of Mr. Michael

O'Neill (Principal) and Mr. David Ripley (VP). We CELEBRATE our staff who create a warm and nurturing environment for our charges in which to learn. We CELEBRATE our students who have participated in many community-minded endeavours and have strived to work toward reaching their full potential. We CELEBRATE the parents of our students who have worked to support the school's initiatives and are working toward creating an outside learning environment that supports the learning happening inside the school building.

Kindest Regards,
Rona Howald



The official opening of the outdoor classroom.



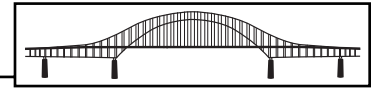
Students harvesting their learning by learning to live a healthy lifestyle by participating in physical activity.



Students working toward their full potential.



Students getting ready for the showcase - if you believe...



Middle Level Teaching Treats

Every month we will feature a few teaching treats and a website that teachers across the province are using. Please share your teaching treat by e-mailing lise.martin-keilty@nbed.nb.ca and your teaching treat could appear here in the next months! We know there are lots of great ideas out there. Thanks in advance for sharing!

It's winter, why not have a classroom snowball fight??

Ask all students to take out a piece of loose leaf and cut it in two equal parts. On one half of the piece of paper, they write a question and on the other half they write the answer. This could be review questions for a test or new concepts that you want to introduce in which case you would need to provide them with what to write. Students crumple up the piece of paper like a snowball and all at once they throw it at the front of the room (not at each other or you!). Students then are asked to pick up two snowballs and find their match by walking around the room.



Featured website: www.edhelper.com

Many of you are probably aware of this website. Many teachers on my staff use it and it's wonderful. This website is full of everything for every subject divided by grade level, subject or themes. You can access many things for free, but once you register you have access to all it has to offer. I've heard many good reviews from teachers using this site.



Team Celebrations!

This year, the Middle Level Council will recognize teams of teachers who put that extra initiative into their profession, benefiting and enriching the lives of our students. If you work with a team of teachers or you know of a team of teachers, who are: creative, innovative, and provide a stimulating learning environment, we want to hear about it!

All submissions will be recognized throughout the school year in our *NBTA News* and at Spring Council Day in Moncton. A highlighted team in each issue will be provided with a \$50 gift certificate for a local restaurant and free MLC Day registration.

Nominee Names: _____

School Name & Address: _____

Nominator Name & Contact Information: _____

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper and include any supporting documentation (photos, letters, work samples, etc... would be great!)

1. What creative teaching strategies or innovative teaching practices does this team demonstrate?
2. If you could get in the head of a middle school student, how would he/she describe these teachers? (Quotes from students would be great!)
3. Describe how this team inspires and supports other teachers.
4. What contributions does this team make to our profession?

School Administrator's Signature & Phone Number: _____



Please email, fax, or mail the completed nomination package to:

Jason Burns, Awards Chair
Prince Charles School

317-319 Union Street, Saint John, NB E2L 1B3

Tel. 506.658.5355 Fax: 506.658.6314 Email: jasonj.burns@nbed.nb.ca

— What an Opportunity! —

This November I had the opportunity to attend the National Middle School Association's 34th Annual Conference and Exhibit in Houston, Texas. To say that it was probably the professional development experience of a lifetime is an understatement. The conference, held from November 8-10th, brought together thousands of middle school teachers from North America and around the world. With more than 500 individual sessions covering 50 topics as well as major keynote speakers, the challenge was not to find a speaker or topic of interest, but to try to determine how one could be in several places at the same time. Coupled with that dilemma was the exhibit area with over 400 booths, as well as an on-site bookstore. Oh, to have only had an unlimited book budget!

I began the conference Thursday morning with a three-hour workshop entitled, "Humour in the



Middle School is Serious Business", a topic dear to my heart. I especially enjoyed the opening general session featuring Rick Dufour. Discussing myths and truths in education today, his presentation was humorous and thought-provoking. Sessions entitled, "Differentiated Grading" by Rick Wormeli and "Classroom Management" by Jack Berckemeyer were also very interesting and enjoyable. Cal Ripken Jr. opened the day on Friday. This baseball Hall of Famer impressed everyone with his story of hard work and determination. Now, let me elaborate on the only problem about every session I

attended at this conference. All the speakers were doing an excellent job and I knew that for every speaker that I heard there were dozens that were missed.

Apart from all of the speakers and exhibits was the opportunity to talk to middle school educators from so many different places with varying backgrounds. I was immediately struck by the reality that we, as middle level educators, all face the same challenges whether we are from Woodstock or Wichita. We all share the common experience of working with that special being known as the middle school student.

If you ever have the opportunity to attend an N.M.S.A. annual conference, don't hesitate for a second. It is well worth it in every aspect! It could very well be a professional development opportunity of a lifetime.

John Irvine
Woodstock Middle School

Work as a teacher in the U.S.A.

Teacher: David
Home Country: Canada
U.S.A. Placement: Georgia
Professional Goal: Broaden my overall teaching experience
Personal Goal: Go whitewater rafting on the Chattooga River
How He Got Started: www.vifprogram.com

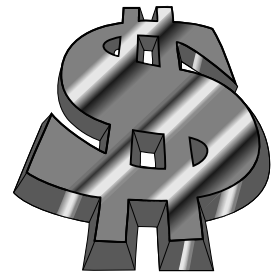


Hundreds of teachers like David are teaching in the U.S.A. and gaining experience that will advance their careers. You can, too. Visit www.vifprogram.com.



Notice: June 2008 Retirees

Teachers who will be retiring at the end of June 2008 will receive any residual (summer) money owed to them on the July 4, 2008 pay date. First pension deposit will occur on July 23/24 as long as all necessary paperwork has been completed.



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• High School Council • President's Message



Derek Taggart

It seems hard to believe, but here we are approaching exam time! Before you know it, winter will be over, the sun will be shining, and we will all be attending the greatest High School Council Day yet! Your High School Council Executive has been working in conjunction with the extremely dedicated and helpful staff at St. Malachy's Memorial High School to bring you a day to remember on Friday, May 2, 2008. Your Program Committee is now pouring through the requests to present at Council Day and the On-site Committee is busily preparing for the province to descend upon Saint John. Remember, it is never too early to think about booking your hotel room!

Your High School Council Executive met in Fredericton on Saturday, December 1st. The agenda was packed with items concerning High School Council Day, teacher professional development and curriculum assistance. In the near future, links will be available on the NBTA Website that allow you to register for Council Day using a credit card and view our program online. Please remember that starting in 2010, you will only be able to register for Council Day online or onsite – mail-in

registration will be ending! If you pre-register for the conference, all registration materials (including your nametag, social ticket, etc.) will be delivered to you prior to the Conference. **Your nametag will be your ticket into Council Day.** Please do not forget to bring it with you on May 2nd! Look for more information regarding electronic registration in future issues of the *NBTA News*.

After a successful trial run at last year's Council Day, the Specialist Services Pilot Project will continue this year. For the 2008 conference, the High School Council Executive is pleased to welcome all elementary, middle and high school physical education teachers to Saint John. The NBTA Specialist Services Committee has been working extremely hard to make sure all New Brunswick physical education teachers have the experience of a lifetime! Further details regarding this second year pilot project will be available in future editions of the *NBTA News* and on our website under the program link.

The Professional Development Committee has been busy preparing several institutes for 2008. The Committee is particularly interested in providing institutes for French second language teachers and vocational education teachers. If you have any ideas about sessions you would like to see offered at these institutes or if you would like to

organize an institute in your subject area, never hesitate to contact Jonathan Hunter (jonathan.hunter@nbed.nb.ca), our Professional Development Committee Chair. Information on how to apply for upcoming institutes will soon be available in your schools, on our website and in the *NBTA News*.

I would like to conclude this article by again encouraging you all to check out our High School Council website (<http://highschool.nbta.ca>). It is located in a link on the NBTA website. It is here that you will find all sorts of valuable information including the application forms for the Teacher Recognition Awards (**DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2008**). Check back frequently!

Your High School Council Executive will be having its third meeting during the evening of Friday, February 15 and the morning of Saturday, February 16. If you ever have any items you would like to see included on an agenda for these meetings or if you have any questions regarding any of the items mentioned in this article, please do not hesitate to contact me (derek.taggart@nbed.nb.ca) or any of your other High School Council Executive members. I hope you all have a wonderful exam period. I look forward to seeing you all on Council Day!

Derek

Mark Your Calendars! Council Day – May 2, 2008



- Elementary/K-12 Art – Moncton
- Middle Level/K-12 Music – Moncton
- High School/K-12 Physical Education – Saint John



High School Council Teacher Recognition Awards

There are 10 awards available and the winners will receive:

- \$200
- A framed award certificate
- A piece of High School Council clothing



Deadline is March 31, 2008.

Application form is available on our website: <http://highschool.nbta.ca>

Innovative New Program on Literacy Education Celebrates Its First Graduates

MONCTON, NB - It was another first for the young, but burgeoning Education program of Atlantic Baptist University. In addition to graduating 70-75 future teachers each year from its Education program, it now has a new post-degree program where teachers already within the school system can complete a one-year advanced program in Literacy Education while they continue to work. Just 13 months from the initial course being offered at ABU, 10 school teachers recently received their parchments as the first graduates from this new Advanced Literacy program.

"The idea of lending support to our educational colleagues within the schools of our province by offering innovative graduate-level courses on literacy seemed like the least we could do as a way of partnering with the Department of

Education and the local school districts in their battle over

illiteracy," stated Dr. Seth

Crowell, V.P. for Academic Affairs.

"These first 10 graduates represent, we believe, just the start of many other

teachers who want to be more equipped as educators and promoters of literacy within their schools. We celebrate their accomplishment and look forward

to others joining us in this educational challenge."

Wanda Jones, a high school teacher at Petitcodiac Regional School and one of the first graduates of the program, feels that when teaching high school students in English, they often have lost the idea that learning can be fun and fulfilling.

"By taking the Advanced Certificate in Literacy Education, I was challenged to consider my approach to teaching and to analyze how it was truly

helping my students. Throughout the courses, I learned many new

strategies that my students have already benefitted from, as they strive to be more confident in their literacy abilities. My eyes have been opened wider to how I can make my classroom more

inclusive to meet the needs of all students."

Atlantic Baptist University's Advanced Certificate in Literacy Education, a 30-credit hour or one-year graduate level program, was designed with a primary and secondary mandate. The first goal was to join with other educators and promote literacy education by providing advanced training in literacy studies for teachers presently within the school system. The secondary goal was to provide these same teachers the opportunity for professional advancement by arranging with the Department of Education for them to use the credits earned toward higher certification opportunities. For more information about the Advanced Certificate in Literacy Education, please email education.admissions@abu.nb.ca or call 858-8970.

Atlantic Baptist University, located at 333 Gorge Road, is a Christian liberal arts and science university with a mission of providing "quality university education firmly rooted in the Christian faith." Undergraduate degrees are available in Arts, Science, Business Administration and Education. For more information visit www.abu.nb.ca or call 1-888-968-6228.

"The idea of lending support to our educational colleagues within the schools of our province by offering innovative graduate-level courses on literacy seemed like the least we could do..."



Moncton, NB Public Workshops

March 25-26, 2008

De-escalating Potentially Violent Situations

May 5, 2008

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District #8 Teachers Attend National Science Teachers' Association Convention

by Jaclyn Hetherington, Princess Elizabeth School

In late March (March 29-April 1), four of us from District #8, JoAnn Brown (Princess Elizabeth School), Jillian Pacey (Centennial School), Shona Gowens (Centennial School), and I attended our first international teachers' conference, the National Science Teachers' Association convention in St. Louis, Missouri. This was an amazing experience, as we not only were attendees at this huge conference (over 15000 Science teachers in one location), but we were there as presenters as well.

Our initial impressions of the conference were that it was well organized, and huge! The main hub for the conference was located in the "America Centre" in the middle of downtown St. Louis. This new convention centre contained rooms for presenters (including one from Bill Nye, a "rock-star" in the world of science teaching) as well as a huge hall containing over 400 exhibitors and vendors. A full day could (and was!) spent in this hall examining, learning about, and interacting with the most current science resources available. Some examples include: levelled science readers that allow students of all reading levels to learn

and engage with science content, digital and electronic microscopes and scientific calculators, aprons featuring the skeleton and other body systems, "Cogno's Challenge" –

the top educational board-game in the United States, and "Versatiles", a hands-on activity that allows young students to learn and master important science vocabulary. We were all very thankful we had brought extra luggage with us in order to be able to return with all of our belongings, as well as many useful new resources for our classrooms and schools!

The opportunities for professional development, in particular learning new ideas for classroom use and networking with other teachers, were incredible. In one session, I met a teacher from Texas who also teaches Grade 7. We exchanged information and hope to look into distance learning and sharing opportunities between our two classes next year. Another presentation featured classroom ideas from teachers who won the Presidential Awards for Science Teaching, the United States' highest teaching honour.

On Saturday morning, we presented on our experiences in both the Whoo (elementary) Science Clubs and the Eco-Action (middle level) Science Clubs, both of which are part of a long-term study on science learning in conjunction with UNB-Fredericton and Crystal Atlantique. We were nervous to be presenting in the first time slot (8:30 a.m.). We were worried that presenting in a small



(l-r) Jaclyn Hetherington, JoAnn Brown, Jillian Pacey, Shona Gowens

conference room in one of the down-town hotels on a Saturday morning might mean we would have no attendees, but we had an enthusiastic bunch of teachers who specifically wanted to hear what we had to say. Our hour-long presentation turned into more conversation, and the teachers present wanted more information from the research team that would allow them to start a similar program with their students. We are excited that this experience might help create after-school science opportunities for students in the United States.

The city of St. Louis also offered wonderful learning opportunities for us outside of the conference. Highlights included: the City Museum, a one of a kind, hands-on museum/playground constructed entirely of recycled and re-used materials; The St. Louis Zoo, one of the United States' top zoos; and the Gateway Arch and Westward Expansion Museum.

This was by far the best professional development experience of our careers to date, and we are already anticipating next year's conference in Boston. We hope that other New Brunswick Science teachers will have the opportunity to become involved in this conference in the future as it is definitely worthwhile.



New Seminar Series Transition To Life After Teaching Seminar Lifestyle Planning ~ The Social Side

DATE OF SEMINAR _____

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION _____

_____ January 26 - Fredericton, NBTF Building

January 14

Name of Teacher: _____

Mailing Address: _____

_____ Email: _____

School: _____ District: _____

Name of Spouse (if attending): _____

Number of Years of Teaching: _____

Forward registration form and cheque to:
Karen Vautour, New Brunswick Teachers' Association, PO Box 752, Fredericton NB, E3B 5R6
Please make cheques payable to: **Professional Counselling Services for Teachers**

This is NOT a Financial Planning Seminar.
(see page 5 for more information on financial planning)

Seminar Guidelines

The following guidelines should be noted for participation in these seminars:

1. All participants must pre-register
2. A registration fee of \$33 for each participant to cover the cost of nutrition break, book "Life After Teaching" by Alan Roadburg and accompanying workbook. The workshop is based on this very practical guide: experiences and advice of retired teachers.
3. Travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the participants.
4. A nutrition break will be provided.
5. Any interested teachers are eligible to attend.
6. Workshops begin with registration at 9:15 and sessions from 9:30 - 12:30
7. Questions relating to these seminars should be directed to:

Michael Ketchum
Counsellor/Consultant
Phone: 462-0208 or 1-800-561-1727
michael.ketchum@nb.aibn.com

- What are New Brunswick teachers doing after retirement?
- How do I know that I am ready to retire?
- I'm scared to retire, is this normal?
- What will I do with my time?
- My friends are still at school, who will I socialize with?
- Come and hear first-hand from recently-retired teachers.
- Hear about the results of a survey to New Brunswick teachers in 2006.



Teachers Visit Lesotho through “School District 15’s Character Development Through Global Citizenship”

For the past year, all District 15’s schools have united to study HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa; in doing so, they have raised awareness among staff and students about our responsibility as Canadians to contribute to the relief efforts.

This year, sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), District 15 is developing Language Arts units focusing on the Millennium Development Goals.

“The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 – form a blueprint agreed to by all the world’s countries and all the world’s leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world’s poorest.”

www.un.org

Each grade level from six to twelve will focus on a specific MDG for a three-week period. The core Language Arts processes (Reading, Writing, Researching, etc.) will be taught within real-life contexts that are found within the scope of the MDGs.

With CIDA’s support, and in connection with District 15’s chosen NGO – Help Lesotho (**www.HelpLesotho.ca**), two district teachers, Gary Branch and George Daley, were able to teach in Lesotho for the month of September. Lesotho, a landlocked country bordered by South Africa, is approximately one-third the geographical size of NB with triple our population at over 2.1 million. It

has the second highest HIV/AIDS rates in the world, recently estimated by the UN at between 27-47 percent. The average life expectancy has tumbled to 38 and 40 years for males and females, respectively. This has led to tens of thousands of orphans and an ever-disappearing middle age class. Further weighing on the country are longer droughts and related food shortages due to Global Warming.



George Daley with 18-year-old student who lives with his 97-year-old grandmother.

Mr. Branch lived in a tiny village named Bokoro, and taught in the primary school of the same name. He experienced the true life of the Basotho people, living in a hut, using carried water, and being left to one’s thoughts in his candlelight evenings.

Bokoro’s school population is approximately 350 students, including many HIV/AIDS orphans. The Lesotho government supplies school lunches, yet there was little else in the way of funding. The school buildings are crumbling and the teachers face class sizes up to 66, in most cases having only a piece of

chalk and an old chalk board as resources.

Mr. Daley taught and lived at St. Charles Secondary school in Seboche village. This village is considered one of the poorest in the country which has resulted in some strife, as many of the community children cannot afford the school fees to attend school. Primary school has been free for the last seven years, while Secondary (6-12) has school fees.

St. Charles’ student population surpasses five hundred, many of whom walk upward of two-and-a-half hours either way to school daily. School fees result in slightly better conditions than the primary system, yet lunches are not provided at this level, so many children do not eat during their very long school day (7:45 am – 5:00 pm).

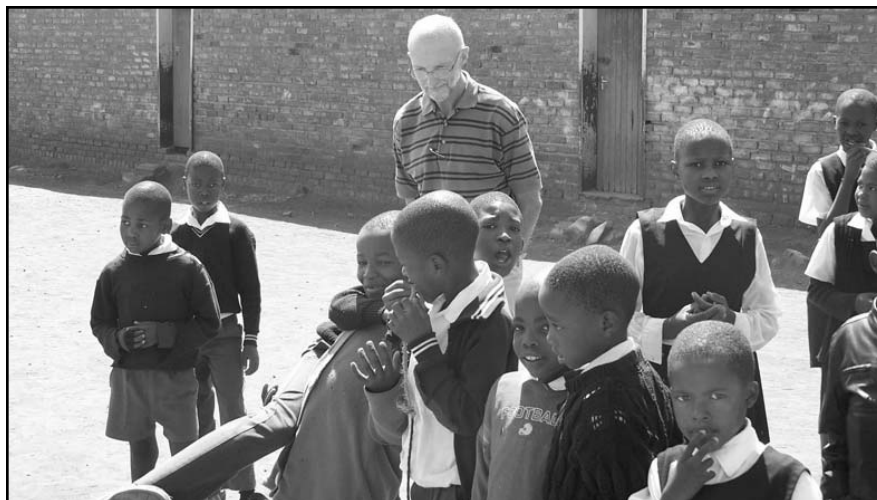
Like all other schools, St. Charles was school and sometimes home to many orphans. Mr. Daley met many such children who depend solely on their elderly grandparents and/or NGOs for support. During Mr. Daley’s stay, at least two parents died from HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Daley and Mr. Branch noted the difficulty of the curriculum, feeling it would be very challenging for NB students. They also highlighted the hospitality of the Basotho people and the country’s scenic beauty. This beauty was tempered by resulting hardships of the four-month drought Lesotho was enduring. This drought has led their government to call for international food assistance in anticipation of severe food shortages.

Since their return, Mr. Branch and Mr. Daley have had moments of reflection on their lives in Canada. Mr. Daley says, “I have always been

a proud Canadian and this trip reinforced the beauty and prosperity of our country, yet it also makes me further question the un-equilibrium between our lives here and those in Africa."

Both teachers say they will continue to work raising awareness and hopefully financial support towards this human tragedy. Both teachers will be offering sessions during various upcoming PD opportunities. Mr. Daley is also available to present to interested schools and districts. He can be contacted at George.Daley@nbed.nb.ca.



Gary Branch with students in Bokoro.

Skills for Administrators Series: A Workshop for School-Based Administrators

Sponsored by the NBTA, School Districts and the Department of Education

Educational Leadership: Walking the Line Between Professionalism and Productivity

Date: January 22nd and 23rd, 2008 (9am – 4pm)

Location: NBTF Building, Fredericton

Facilitators: Bob Fitzpatrick (NBTA), Ardith Shirley (NBTA), others TBA

Participants: Open registration; Limit 40

Registration Deadline: January 15, 2008



This two-day workshop is a repeat of the popular program offered in the 2005 series. It will engage in-school administrators in reflection and dialogue centered around the challenge of being both a colleague and a leader within your school community. A focus on both Policies and People will be developed through case studies, interactive activities and sharing. Building collaborative cultures and reducing conflict will be highlights of the two days.

Fax the registration form to: Ardith Shirley, Director of Professional Development, at 506-453-9795.

Skills for Administrators Series 2007-2008

Name: _____

School: _____

Email: _____

I wish to register for:

___ **Educational Leadership: Walking the Line Between Professionalism and Productivity**
(January 22-23, 2008)

You will be emailed with a confirmation of your seat.

NBTA STAFF

Bob Fitzpatrick(452-1721) (bob.fitzpatrick@nbta.ca)
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Director of Communications & Research

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Director of Professional Development

Larry Jamieson (452-1722) (larry.jamieson@nbta.ca)
Deputy Executive Director
Director of Teacher Welfare Services

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING SERVICE FOR TEACHERS

Betsy Colwell-Burley
(634-2901), 1-800-563-3938, Coordinator

Niel Cameron
(855-5243), 1-888-763-5050, Counsellor/Consultant

Michael Ketchum (462-0208), 1-800-561-1727
(michael.ketchum@nb.aibn.com)Counsellor/Consultant

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Deputy Executive Director

Marilyn Boudreau (452-1830)(marilyn.boudreau@nb.aibn.com)
NBTF Labour Relations Officer

Teachers' Mixed Curling Bonspiel

**Carleton Curling Club,
Saint John, NB**

February 22, 23, 24, 2008



**Registration:
\$120.00 per team**

Teams will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Entries must include skip's name, address, telephone number, and team members.

(If you want to participate, but aren't on a team, contact Rob MacMurray)

**Send entries with cheque
payable to:**

NBTA Teachers' Mixed Curling Bonspiel
c/o Rob MacMurray
30 Brickyard Rd
Little Lepreau, NB
E5J 1R4
Tel: 654-2539

Email: rob.macmurray@nbed.nb.ca



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TEACHER COUNSELLING SERVICES

Betsy Colwell-Burley, Districts 6, 8, 10

1-800-563-3938

Michael Ketchum, Districts 14, 17, 18

1-800-561-1727

Niel Cameron, Districts 2, 15, 16

1-888-763-5050

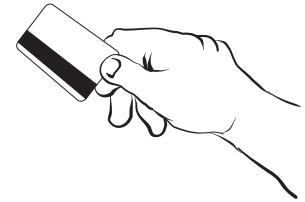
January – Winter Activities “New Beginnings”

Did You Know?

Paying Off Holiday Debt!

Gift-giving, entertaining, outings, taking time off work, and travelling can all contribute to accumulating a debt over the holiday season. To help eliminate this year’s holiday debt, and to minimize it in the future:

- Take a close look at your spending habits. Where is your money going? What kind of items are you putting on your credit cards? What is your income compared to what you are spending?
- Discuss budgeting and debt with your partner and family. Set goals together to minimize and eliminate debt.
- Make a list of ways to cut your spending. Put the money that you save towards your debt.
- Limit the number of credit cards that you have and leave them at home. Try to always pay with cash or cheque.
- Pay off the balance on your credit card with the highest interest first. Always pay the minimum balance on all other cards.



— www.canadian-health-network.ca

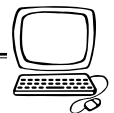
Suggested Activity from the Binder

Dance Lessons (Ballroom, Line, etc.)



Suggested Website from the Binder

Photography – www.timmonsphotography.com



A Touch of Humour

Comedy is... (offering) solace, piling sandbags of wit against the flood of anger and pain.



— **Judith Wilt**

Announcements

Environmental Teaching Resource

The National Capital Commission offers a teaching resource for use in grades 5-8 Social Science and History entitled *A Gathering Place: An Exploration of Canada's Capital*. It provides comprehensive information on Canadian culture, identity and symbols; government, citizenship and democracy; Canadian stories, heroes and celebrations; and Canada's connection to the world.

To download this resource, go to http://www.canadacapital.gc.ca/bins/ncc_web_content_page.asp?cid=16297-24521-29608-46825-46845

Environmental Youth Video Contest

Earth911.com, the nation's official environmental network, and *Quantum Shift TV*, an innovative solution-oriented web broadcaster, have partnered to deliver actionable and educational content to the next wave of environmental stewards: students.

The **Be the Change! Share the Story!** school video contest invites student teams to choose and execute a social or environmental project of their choice and document their progress in a couple of short videos that will be uploaded on Quantum Shift TV.

Inspired by schools already doing this, Quantum Shift decided to create a contest to connect schools in the United States and Canada and create a global community where students can connect with other students and learn more about the social and environmental work being done by people their own age.

The first video will be about how the students selected their project, planned it and started working on it and is due January 31, 2008. The second video, updating viewers on the execution, results and learning, is due **March 31, 2008**.

Grand Prize Winners will each receive \$10,000 in cash, \$15,000 in computer and other school material

and the schools' choice of a combination of a Bob Burnquist organic garden and greenhouse, a skateboard park, playground, jungle gym or comparable recreational facility delivered and installed by the Action Sport Environmental Coalition.

Further information, rules and guidelines are available from the website: **Earth911.com**

Tai Chi Fifty Plus Class

Did you know that practicing Tai Chi will help improve your balance, flexibility and concentration?

Wu's Tai Chi Chu'an Academy has a new Fifty Plus (senior age) Class starting in January. It will be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 11 am - 12 noon. We are located in Fredericton at 328 King St., above Victory Meat Market. For more information, please call Martin Kennedy at 450-8889. **www.wustyle.com.**

Canada Day Poster Challenge 2008

Each year, students ages 5 to 18 are invited to take part in the Canada Day Poster Challenge by designing a theme-based poster that illustrates their pride in Canada and in being Canadian. This year's theme is **My Canada Today!**

The 13 provincial and territorial finalists will win a trip to Ottawa to celebrate Canada Day on Parliament Hill. In addition, the winning entry will become the official poster of *Celebrate Canada!* which includes:

- National Aboriginal Day, June 21
- Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, June 24
- Canadian Multiculturalism Day, June 27
- Canada Day, July 1



From June to September, the Canadian Children's Museum at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec, will exhibit the artwork of all 13 provincial and territorial finalists.

This Web site has been designed to provide ideas! Explore the learning resources section and take a few minutes to try the exciting games and activities. See the previous winners and finalists, print out an entry form, and read our complete entry rules.

Financial assistance is provided to support "Celebrate Canada!" activities during the "Celebrate Canada!" period from June 21 to July 1. **<http://www.pch.gc.ca/special/canada/>**

Salary Deferred Leave Plan 2008-2009

Application forms are available from District Offices.

Application Deadline is February 28, 2008.



New Brunswick Teachers' Association
 650 Montgomery Street,
 P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB
 E3B 5R6

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