



BRANCHING OUT

NOVA SCOTIA
Education

**NEWS FROM
PUBLIC SCHOOLS BRANCH**

May 2012

<http://EDnet.ns.ca>



Message from the Senior Executive Director

The agenda for P-12 in the coming months is very exciting, and just a little daunting.

Kids and Learning First commitments, such as the adoption of the Western Protocol math curriculum, a new provincial assessment plan, the highly anticipated next phase of the iNSchool information management system (TIENET), and a streamlining of school improvement planning, are just some of the initiatives underway that will contribute to a stronger system and students' success.

Other critical commitments, such as the Government's response to the Cyberbullying Task Force Report and the expansion of the very successful SchoolsPlus model, will focus on the importance of more support for students from partner departments, agencies, and organizations.

I am particularly excited about the strong commitment to build on the work of the Education Professional Development Committee through the implementation of the Study Committee Report recommendations for school-based professional learning communities. Teachers and principals have told us how valuable this collaborative learning time is to improving their practice and advancing student achievement in their schools, and we are responding. Another way we are working to help teachers and students in their learning is through the recent announcement of a Working Group to look for ways to improve the match between teachers' academic backgrounds and the courses they are asked to teach, and to provide professional learning opportunities that meet the needs of classrooms in Nova Scotia.

All of these strategies need strong and committed partnerships to be truly successful — partnerships with school boards, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, teacher education institutions, and the broader school community. The Public Schools Branch of the Department is a committed partner in this important work.

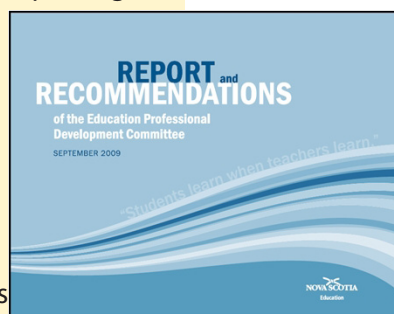
As the school year draws to a close, we're working with our school board partners to plan professional development for next year. Schools and teachers throughout the province need to be prepared in order to turn policy decisions and program directions into action in the classroom. To ensure we are using our resources in the most productive and effective way, it's more important than ever for the Department and School Board programs and services teams to work together to clarify priorities and develop a cohesive plan for PD and the other supports schools and teachers need for student learning.

We're excited about this work, and we're excited about the benefits of working more collaboratively with our partners on programs and professional development. This marks an approach we intend to take on other matters of joint interest and responsibility.

Shannon Delbridge, Acting Senior Executive Director, Public Schools Branch



**kids&learning
first** A plan to help
every student succeed



NOVA SCOTIA
Education

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2012 Summer Institutes - REGISTER NOW !!!

The Summer Institutes registration is now listed on the Department of Education website, and is now OPEN for REGISTRATION.

Please go to www.ednet.ns.ca and at the bottom right corner, under I Want To, click on Register for Summer Institutes. This will bring you to the page where you can login to your account, or create a new account. Once logged in, you may register for any of the 37 listed workshops.

(Note: for user names/passcode reset requests, please email daniella@gov.ns.ca)

Reminder: Toll Free Access to Department 1-888-825-7770

The Department of Education has a toll free number!
Toll Free Access complements other forms of communication including e-mail, the Departmental website at <http://ednet.ns.ca> and the individual contact information on the last page of this newsletter.

Newest Member of the Mi'kmaq Liaison Office

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

Kwe' / Hello/ Bonjour

My name is Mike Isaac (Mise'l Ajig). I joined the department on November 14th, 2011 as the new Student Services Consultant. I bring with me many lived experiences, fourteen years of law enforcement, several years within various federal departments in Ottawa, the last of which was the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). Upon returning to school I worked to obtain a B.A. in anthropology/sociology from Cape Breton University, a B.Ed. and M.Ed. in administration from St. Francis Xavier University. I have also written two children's books, "How The Cougar Came to Be Called The Ghost Cat" and "The Lost Teachings" written in Mi'kmaq and English. I believe that all students are capable of success! It is the responsibility of those within the educational system to ensure those successes!



Data show across Canada that the system is failing our Aboriginal students. They are part of the educational community and as such should be made to feel valued and successful. Since the beginning, our cultural knowledge and language have been devalued by the system. Our students have come to appreciate Eurocentric knowledge. But our students have also lost the value and importance of our cultural knowledge and our ways of knowing. We learn of Mi'kmaq people/culture only in high school. How can one value a culture or a people with one course?

How can this be reversed? How can we begin to engage our Mi'kmaq students? Three pillars are required to ensure success in education: building strong and respectful relationships, respectful pedagogical practice and beliefs, and content which is culturally relevant. I envision Mi'kmaq cultural knowledge interwoven into the curriculum from P-12. This will engage our students and begin to develop a respectful understanding of those within our educational community.

I can provide professional development to demonstrate how those within the educational community can assist in the improvement of the achievement gap. It's not more work—it's thinking outside the Eurocentric box. I can also provide individual class presentations.

Looking forward to working with you.

Wela'lin /Thank You/ Merci

Mike Isaac

Advancing Cultural Proficiency: Collaboration and Strategic Connections

The professional development session, Advancing Cultural Proficiency: Collaboration and Strategic Connections, is offered collaboratively by African Canadian Services, the Mi'kmaq Liaison Office and Student Services during the 2011–2012 academic year. This workshop is the third in a series of professional development opportunities in the area of cultural proficiency, focusing on Guidance Counsellors and Student Support Workers. Additionally, we were pleased to invite First Nation Support Workers and SchoolsPlus facilitators to join the sessions.

Throughout an interactive day of dialogue and hands-on activities the participants gain enhanced knowledge about cultural proficiency and explore in-depth the three barriers (Systems of Oppression, Resistance to Change, and Privilege and Entitlement) that impede movement along the Cultural Proficiency Continuum. They engage, through collaboration, in the development of a transformation plan and participate in a critical reflection process that allows them to examine their own assumptions, values, and stereotypes and how those beliefs impact their work.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any comments or questions. We can be reached via email at

Sylvia Parris: parrissv@gov.ns.ca; Paul Ash: ashps@gov.ns.ca; Mike Isaac: isaacmj@gov.ns.ca

Steven Carrington: carrinsr@gov.ns.ca; and Rola AbiHanna: abihanr@gov.ns.ca

May is Aboriginal Awareness Month

French Second Language news updates

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



Supporting Core French Teachers in the Classroom: A Model for Success

It is with much enthusiasm that literacy strategies are being implemented in the teaching of Core French 4-12 in the Chignecto Central Regional School Board. Over the past four years, four cohorts of approximately 90 Core French teachers have received intense training in literacy strategies as they apply to the oral, reading, and writing components of second language learning. These strategies are currently being implemented in a large number of Core French classrooms where teachers continue to receive ongoing support from French Literacy Lead Teachers. French Literacy Lead teachers provide on-site support through the mentoring process of consultation, collaboration and coaching. Teachers are very appreciative of being able to work with these Literacy lead teachers as they continue to deepen their understandings of a literacy-based approach in engaging their Core French students. Teachers have been pleased to report that they have seen an increase in student success, engagement, and overall attitude towards learning French. It's always a great sign when students are asking the teacher if it's time for French and are looking forward to going to that class! We hope to see this positive attitude continue to spread as this initiative continues to grow and be supported throughout CCRSB.

Donner une voix culturelle aux élèves de français, langue seconde

Intégrer concrètement l'élément culturel dans le cœur et l'esprit des élèves de français, langue seconde, présente toujours un défi de taille aux enseignants. Offrir l'occasion à ces mêmes élèves de créer un produit culturel qui contribuera à la belle mosaïque de la culture dans la Francophonie semble presque impensable. Et pourtant, voilà ce qu'un nouveau projet issu de la division des programmes de français langue seconde du Ministère de l'Éducation de la Nouvelle-Écosse leur permettra de réaliser. En effet, cette année, et pour la première fois, un groupe d'élèves de français langue seconde produira un court métrage de 5 à 10 minutes sur la thématique de l'impact du bilinguisme sur l'identité humaine. Les élèves d'Halifax West ont remporté ce privilège dans le contexte du Forum Français pour l'avenir qui a eu lieu le 24 avril 2012. Trois autres écoles ont aussi présenté des projets mémorables, mais le projet d'Halifax West s'est démarqué des autres par son attention particulière et dramatique à la thématique de l'impact tangible et marquant qu'impose le bilinguisme sur la vie et l'identité d'un individu.

Cette production cinématographique étudiante sera réalisée avec une équipe cinématographique professionnelle provenant de ViewFinders et du Festival international du film d'Halifax avec l'appui pédagogique et financier de la division des programmes de français langue seconde du Ministère de l'Éducation. Dans les prochains mois, des spécialistes en la matière appuieront ces élèves à la rédaction de leur script et à la planification de tous les éléments créatifs et techniques du tournage qui aura lieu en début juillet 2012. Le produit final sera présenté lors du Festival du film d'Halifax en automne, au prochain festival ViewFinders en avril 2013 et sans aucun doute dans bien d'autres festivals de films pour la jeunesse. Le film sera aussi distribué dans toutes les écoles de la province.

Possiblement, ce projet sera renouvelé annuellement avec de nouvelles thématiques touchant toujours l'impact de la culture sur l'apprentissage du français comme langue seconde officielle au Canada et sur l'identité francophile.

Jean-Claude Bergeron

Ministère de l'Éducation de la Nouvelle-Écosse

Student Services<http://studentservices.ednet.ns.ca>**Student Services and APSEA Workshop: Evidence Based Practice and ASD in the School Setting**

Over 140 Educators gathered at Mount St Vincent University on Wednesday April 3, to listen to Dr. Hanna Rue, Director of the National Standards Project, National Autism Centre, Boston Massachusetts talk about Evidence - Based Practice and Autism in the School Setting; The National Standards Project. This was an initiative through the APSEA Autism in Education Project, an interprovincial collaboration between the Departments of Education in the four Atlantic Provinces and APSEA, designed to allow the provinces to share best practices, professional development opportunities, and training resources in the area of Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The National Standards Project is the most comprehensive analysis to date of treatments for children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The National Standards Report emanating from this analysis provides information to educators and families about the interventions for Autism Spectrum Disorder that are supported by high level research. This information is invaluable for program planning teams as they work to support effective programs and services for students with ASD



Deputy Minister of Education, Rosalind Penfound began the day with opening remarks acknowledging the efforts of the audience to provide current, relevant information on ASD to teachers to help them do their best to teach children and youth with ASD.

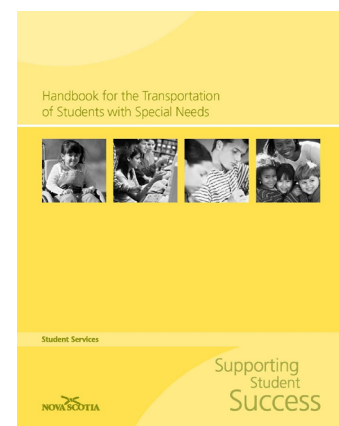
Dr. Rue was an engaging speaker as she led the group through the research that was the foundation of the National Standards Report, linked the research to real life application in educational settings and discussed the factors to consider in decision making around educational interventions and program development.

Evidence-based practices speak to integrating quality research with professional judgment and data-driven decision making along with a consideration of the values and preferences of

families and the capacity to deliver quality intervention. Boards had the opportunity in the afternoon to break into groups to discuss evidence-based practice in their schools and share in that discussion with Dr. Rue.

Supporting Student Success Series: New release – Nouveau lancement

The *Handbook for the Transportation of Students with Special Needs* et sa version française, *Manuel pour le transport des élèves ayant des besoins spéciaux*, have been released this spring by the Student Services Division. The 1999 version has been reviewed, updated and translated. We would like to thank the Nova Scotia Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee, the Motor Carrier Division of the Dept of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, and the DoE's Facilities Management for their contributions to this review, as well as invaluable feedback from APSEA, the provincial Student Services Coordinators, board transportation staff, and the OT/PT team at the IWK Health Centre. Both versions are available at www.studentservices.ednet.ns.ca or from the Student Services Division.





Art Gallery of Nova Scotia www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca

The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia working with School Communities

We have exciting news! The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS) and Canaccord Wealth Management announce the Canaccord Free Access School Program.

All entrance fees for students coming to the Gallery on school visits are now eliminated, allowing greater opportunities for school groups to visit the AGNS. This important sponsorship also allows for us to train more docents and guides who work with school groups to animate the collection and special exhibitions. It is the first of its kind for the AGNS and will run for an initial period of one year.

Ray Cronin, Director and CEO of the AGNS, states: "The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia is committed to learning and places it at the heart of what we do. The Gallery's vision is all about bringing art to life for all children, perhaps for a moment's inspiration, but more often as the beginning of a longer voyage of discovery."

The AGNS provides a wonderful teaching and learning resource for teachers. Artworks ignite discussion, spark the imagination, and are a powerful starting point for school projects across the curriculum. We invite schools across the province to come and explore the AGNS collection where a team of skilled volunteer docents will help support and expand your classroom learning.

To make a school booking please contact Laura Carmichael, Assistant Curator of Education, at 902-424-6314 carmiclm@gov.ns.ca

AGNS & the ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia Program

The ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia program is a member of the national ArtsSmarts network, which supports projects in schools in more than 170 communities across Canada. Here in Nova Scotia, projects have been taking place across the province and engaging students and teachers in a wide range of activities.

ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia celebrated Earth Day this year with students from Beaubassin School and a choir performance and mural unveiling at the AGNS. On April 22, over 300 enthusiastic family members, friends, and general Gallery visitors came to the AGNS to enjoy Beaubassin's grade 5 choir perform three songs while the mural, created by the grade 2 and 3 classes working with ArtsSmarts artist Keshena Williams, was paraded into the room and welcomed to the Gallery.

At the rural school Falmouth Elementary, the Our Community/Our School project just wrapped up. Students in grades 5 and 6 worked with ArtsSmarts artist Terry Drahos to document the community involvement at the school from October to April, assuming the roles of journalists and photographers and reporting on the school/community activities throughout the fall and winter. Like many Nova Scotia communities, the village of Falmouth does not have a town centre, and the school has evolved into the epicenter of community activity. Daily activity at the school often involves the contribution of local businesses, lunch visits from area senior citizens, visits by the children to the area nursing home, and parent participation in building projects at the school.



Mural by Ms. LeBoutillier's grade 5/6 class. Each square measures 18x18"



Detail from the mural, All Hands on Deck

All Hands on Deck is a 19' vibrant interactive canvas mural of a shipwreck depicting sea-life around Nova Scotia. Visitors are encouraged to interact with the mural by lifting up porthole covers to reveal a colourful sea-life beneath. "Working on such a large scale, and without any limitation of colour, was a great challenge to these young artists, but also fun," said AGNS docent/textile artist Sally Trower, who also worked with Keshena on the project. "We hope that they will be excited by the opportunity of knowing their work will be on display at AGNS and seen by thousands of visitors, including many other schools".

The mural will be on public view at AGNS from late May before returning to the school later in 2012.

AGNS & the ArtReach Program



Artist Will Robinson working with two of the students on the Nest project

At J.L. Ilsley High School, the ArtReach project Nest is nearing completion. Artist Will Robinson has been working with students in the Technical Studies Department to design and build a kinetic winged installation featuring fantastical flying creatures created by the students in Visual Arts 12. The installation will “fly” to its permanent home at the Department of Education later this spring.



Detail of one of the Nest birds

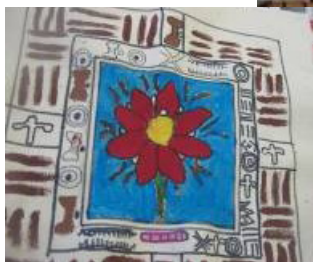
ArtReach information, resources and lessons can be found at www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca under Learn AGNS.



ArtsExpress

New spring projects by ArtsExpress

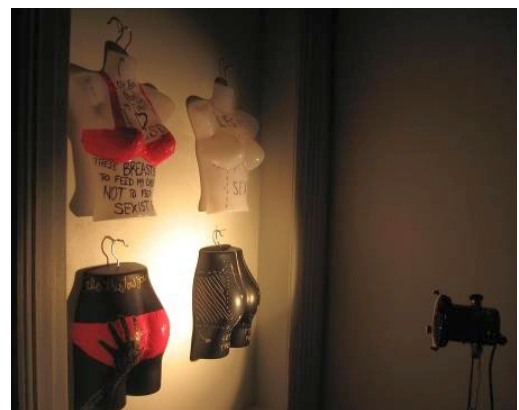
In addition to helping out with the Annual Spring Clean Up of the McIntosh Run, ArtsExpress has partnered up with the local McIntosh Run Watershed Association for several art-based projects. The students of J.L.Ilsley's Learning Centre are creating the mileage makers for the trail system, which depict local flora and fauna as well as mythological “Green Men” images. It is exciting to see the enjoyment of working with wood burning tools on birch and oak.



an adaptation of African Mud Cloth, also known as Bogolanfini, which has an important place in the traditional culture of Mali and is rich in cultural significance.

Three young women from J.L.Ilsley High are being heard and seen throughout HRM with their thought-provoking art displays and performances which explore hypersexualization of youth and the topic of Sex+Respect+Consent. Their work was recently featured at the Crime Prevention Symposium where it caught the attention of the Minister of Justice and the Chairman of the Halifax Regional School Board. Supported by The Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, their work will be shown on May 1st at the Halifax Club during the launch of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Young students from Elizabeth Sutherland School, Sambro Elementary, and Harrietsfield Elementary School contributed to the upcoming publication of ArtsLinks by the DoE by making art which is connected to books. The techniques and materials involved plasticine, papier-mâché, and mud. Yes, art can get very dirty especially when working on



Samples of art work by Caitlin Heimpel, Sarah Paynter, and Paige Cameron



Arts Education Update

Each spring, the Nova Scotia Department of Education sponsors the deGarthe Art Scholarship Competition, honouring artist William E. deGarthe. deGarthe settled in Peggy's Cove where he produced

one of his most popular sculptures, Fisherman's Monument. This competition invites submissions of original works from students in grade 12 who intend to continue their study of art when they graduate from high school. Congratulations to Adam Reiss, Prince Andrew High School, who is the 2012 recipient of the deGarthe Art Scholarship. His award-winning artworks and the works of seven finalists will be exhibited on the fifth floor of the Seton Academic Centre during the Nova Scotia Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development. Following the summit, the works will be showcased at the Department of Education's new art gallery, which will open on June 12 at 2021 Brunswick St. in Halifax.

Seven professional learning opportunities are available in arts education this summer at Edufest, August 15–20. These workshops will take place at the NSCC Waterfront Campus in Dartmouth and include
Dance: Learn to Salsa

Drama: Stage Production and Directing Challenges

Music: African Drumming

Music: Integrating Non-Pitched Instruments Into Elementary Music Classes

Music: : Guitar String (Session To Really Inspire New Guitarists)

Visual Arts: Turning Old Into New...

Teachers are encouraged to consult the Department of Education website (www.ednet.ns.ca) for details.

The Nova Scotia Virtual School

Now accepting enrolments, for September 2012 NSVS grades 10-12 PSP online courses. For more information, visit us online at <http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca> or call 424-0814.

Debut Atlantic

March was a fun and busy month for the Debut Goes to School! program.



Simone Osborne, soprano, Tyler Duncan, baritone, and pianist Erika Switzer visited schools in Cape Breton, Antigonish, and the Halifax area bringing their classical music concert to over 1,000 students in Nova Scotia!



Simone Osborne, soprano, sings for the students at Seton Elementary in Cape Breton with Erika Switzer on the piano

Presented by Debut Atlantic with the support of the Nova Scotia Department of Education, these three Canadian artists offered free concerts, discussions, and workshops to a variety of students from grade Primary through to grade 12. Concerts featured Canadian works such as *Song for the Mira* by Allister MacGillivray and *Mary Ellen Carter* by Stan Rogers, both arranged by John Greer, as well as works by well-known classical composers such as Mozart. The workshops focused on breath, posture, and singing in different languages. The discussions covered everything from favourite composers and foods to how Erika and Tyler got married.

This tour was a wonderful way to finish off the season and Debut Atlantic is already looking forward to next year! The 2012–13 lineup includes a percussion quartet in September, a baritone singer in October, and a violinist in November. After the holiday break, a pianist will perform in February and the Debut Alumni tour in March will feature the Tokai String Quartet.

If you are interested in having some of these world-class musicians visit your school next year, please visit debutatlantic.ca and click on Education Programs to fill out the application form!

If you have any questions, please contact Rémi Lefebvre via email at remi@debutatlantic.ca or 902-429-6812.



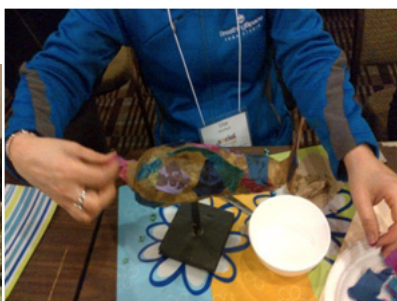
Erika, Simone, and Tyler chat with the students at Mira Road Elementary

social studies

Social Studies

Atlantic Canada Social Studies 3: Provincial Identity was introduced at a two-day workshop, March 29–30, 2012. Each of the seven English boards was represented by a lead team. A total of 60 teachers and administrators participated in this very successful workshop.

The workshop was opened with a Gaelic Milling Frolic, performed by the Gaelic Language Society of Halifax, and a Celebration of African Nova Scotian Culture with Dr. Henry Bishop. The lead teams participated in a series of hands-on workshops which included Geography Skills and Technology, Nova Scotia Culture through Folk Art, Learning with Objects—Primary Source Artefacts and Nova Scotia History, Introducing Historical and Geographic Inquiry Methodologies into Elementary Social Studies, and an Introduction to the Social Studies 3 Moodle. Participants also had the opportunity to hear a special presentation on the Mi'kmaewey Debert Cultural Centre by Gerald Gloade and Tim Bernard and to participate in the demonstration of the new African Canadian Services -Africville Kit with Museum Educator, Sally Warren, and Daurene Lewis and Sunday Miller, of the Africville Heritage Trust.



Nova Scotia Folk Art with Sabine Fels was enthusiastically received at the implementation workshop for Social Studies 3: Provincial Identity

The workshop also included a session introducing the Social Studies 3 Classroom Library Collection and the Social Studies 3 textbook, *Provincial Identity: Nova Scotia*. Grade 3 classrooms have received the following resources: The All About series from Nelson Canada Publishing includes a collection of 15 nonfiction books about Canadian attractions, provinces, symbols, geography, governance, and citizenship.

The collection includes the following titles and quantities:

All About Canadian Citizenship (1 copy/class)

All About Canadian Attractions: Cape Breton Highlands National Park (1 copy/class)

All About Canadian Communities: Towns (1 copy/class)

All About Canadian Citizenship Participation (2 copies/class)

All About Canadian Symbols: The Bluenose (1 copy/class)

All About Provinces and Territories: Prince Edward Island (1 copy/class)

All About Canadian Communities: Large Cities (1 copy/class)

All About Provinces and Territories: New Brunswick (1 copy/class)

All About Canadian Citizenship: Local Government (2 copies/class)

All About Provinces and Territories: Nova Scotia (2 copies/class)

All About Canadian Communities: Rural Communities (1 copy/class)

All About Capital Cities: Halifax (1 copy/class)

Follow That Map! (10011276) (4 copies/class)

A Fiddle for Angus (1001275) (2 copies/class)

How the Cougar Came to Be Called the Ghost Cat (1000425) (2 copies/class)

Up Home (18697) (2 copies/class)

Angel and the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia (1 copy/class)

Diamond Jubilee

The celebration of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's reign as Queen of Canada began on February 6 with the Queen's Canadian Flag raised at the provincial legislature.

In an effort to engage and recognize young Nova Scotians, 60 scholarships, one for each year of Her Majesty's reign, will be awarded to grade 12 students who have demonstrated leadership and made significant contributions to their communities and the province. Information on the scholarship can be found at www.ednet.ns.ca

A Diamond Jubilee moodle has been designed with resources to support learning about the Diamond Jubilee and The Queen as a role model for active citizenship. The moodle is available on the Nova Scotia Virtual School site at www.nsvs.ednet.ns.ca



Physical Education

Nova Scotia welcomes back Ted Temertzoglou to facilitate a session “Brain Blasts”, a physically active and informative session for teachers of Physical Education elementary through to high school, at Edufest 2012.

This active session takes participants through several Brain Blasts circuits that can be done in small or large spaces. We will use the new functional fitness charts developed by Thompson Educational which are infused with the latest brain research, to help get kids fit and ready to learn. From the on-line support site, we perform various circuits designs, small-sided games to help students of all abilities succeed. This is an excellent workshop for all teachers looking to enhance their instructional strategies for inclusive fitness and cross-curricular activities. Resources will be provided to each participant so that all participants will be able to infuse this learning into their teaching for the upcoming school year.

NSSAF



The NSSAF, in collaboration with Wrestling Nova Scotia, hosted *NCCP Wrestling – Part A, Introduction to Competition* on November 18 and 19, 2011.

As part of a renewed emphasis on Coach Education within schools, the Federation has recommended this level of training for all NSSAF Wrestling Coaches.

Twenty-two school coaches from throughout the province attended and completed the session led by Wrestling Nova Scotia Learning Facilitator, Kim Walsh. NSSAF Executive Director, Darrell Dempster, expressed enthusiasm for the initiative while commenting “Coaches are the foundation of school sport and it is imperative that they achieve a level of competency which will protect the safety of students in activity and also insure that the NSSAF goal of ‘Education Through Sport’ is achieved.”

Keeping the School in School Sport Required Training for School Coaches

The NSSAF is pleased to announce that as of May 3rd, 136 presenters have been identified for 136 schools, and 84 schools either presented or attended multi-school events. Over 1,000 coaches have attended. Seven hundred and fifty seven have registered on the NSSAF data base (408 teachers and 339 community coaches).

The September deadline is rapidly approaching, and schools are reminded to contact the NSSAF office for assistance: (902) 425-8662.



ParticipACTION

Get it right from the start: move more and sit less in the early years

New *Canadian Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines for the Early Years* (aged 0-4 years) were released nationally on March 27 by the Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology (CSEP) and ParticipACTION, with support from the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute, Healthy Active Living and Obesity Group (CHEO-HALO).

The Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines for the Early Years recommend that children under the age of one should be physically active several times daily – particularly through interactive, floor-based play, and children aged one to four should accumulate at least 180 minutes of physical activity at any intensity spread throughout the day.

Even if kids are getting enough activity, this doesn’t mean they should sit still for the rest of the day.

For healthy growth and development, the Canadian Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines for the Early Years recommend that caregivers limit prolonged sitting to no more than one hour at a time. Some examples of sedentary behaviour at this age would be sitting or reclining in a stroller, infant seat, high chair or car seat or in front of screens.

The Guidelines also state that screen time is not recommended at all for children under the age of two, and should be limited to less than one hour per day for children aged two to four. Screen time includes watching television and playing with non-active electronic devices like computers, tablets video games or phones.

To download a copy of the new *Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines for the Early Years* please visit www.csep.ca/guidelines and www.participACTION.com

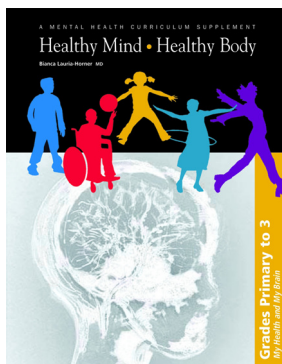
Health Education

Professional Development Summer Institutes

English Program Services is pleased to be able to provide some excellent professional learning opportunities to support learning and teaching in Health Education, this August, at the beautiful waterfront campus of the Nova Scotia Community College in Dartmouth. Each session is designed not only to inform, but to enrich participants' understanding of the importance of health education and the resources that have been distributed to schools to support its implementation.

Sheree Fitch, one of our featured facilitators, will present an engaging full-day session integrating movement experiences with elements of writing designed to spark imagination and enhance creativity that will promote safe and joyful learning. Sheree, as a certified yoga instructor, has incorporated her experience of the mindful integration of breath and movement and her passion for writing as an inspiration for her professional resource *Breathe, Stretch, Write* which addresses the connection between healthy, active learners and creativity. This session is designed to be suitable for teachers of all grade levels and for students of all abilities. Participants of this workshop will leave with a copy of *Breathe, Stretch, Write*. Be sure to register early.

We are delighted to be able to offer a learning opportunity that will be of great interest and relevance to educators at the school level, board staff, and elected board members. This session will enrich our understanding of the importance of digital literacy, social-emotional learning, and child protection. Presenters are from The Canadian Centre for Child Protection, who developed the teaching and learning resource *Kids in the Know: A Personal Safety Program* for grades Primary–9 distributed to schools in January of 2011. *Kids in the Know* emphasizes social and emotional learning and the components of healthy relationships; it teaches assertiveness and critical thinking skills, and an understanding of personal safety in relation to use of the internet to reduce child and youth victimization and sexual exploitation.



Another area of great interest and relevance to educators in the 21st century is that of sexualization of children and youth and its connection to enhanced sexual health education grade Primary through to high school. This interactive workshop will look at the health and education-related impacts that this environment is having on young people. Discussion will focus on the role that educators can play in countering the negative effects of sexualization. This session will be of interest to classroom teachers Primary–6, Healthy Living teachers 7–9, guidance counselors, youth health centre coordinators, and administrators.

If you teach grades Primary–2, please join us for a full day engaging in a play-based learning environment which will highlight a number of learning resources that will help teachers address new learning outcomes of health education primary, grade 1, and grade 2. Teachers will be introduced to both professional and play-based resources that

enhance learning in single grade and combined grade classrooms and that address mental and emotional health, sexual health, physical activity, healthy eating, injury and disease prevention, and substance use—the priority areas which frame new health education curriculum. Participants will leave with a collection of resources to use in their classrooms, including a persona doll.

Health Education - New Resources Added to the Authorized Learning List

The new edition of Second Step, grades Primary–5 is now available through the Nova Scotia School Book Bureau. This comprehensive resource which is now completely revised through to grade 8 offers rich learning and teaching experiences in social emotional learning. More information about these resources can be found at www.cfchildren.org



Family Studies

Professional Development Activities/Curriculum Support

As end of year approaches and teaching assignments change, there are a number of professional development activities planned for teachers. Please relay this information to anyone teaching Family Studies courses for the first time. These learning opportunities are also designed to help current teachers refresh their skills. For further information please contact Sheila Munro, Family Studies Services

munrosm@gov.ns.ca



**FAMILY
STUDIES**

FSTA Workshop: Real Care Baby II Plus

May 26, 2012–10:00-1:00 / Avon View High School, Payzant Drive, Windsor

Teachers who are new to using the Real Care Baby II Plus in their class or who need support on using the software should consider this opportunity to attend a hands-on, informative workshop. Cost is \$10.00.

To register contact Karen DesRoches at krdesroches@nstu.ca Deadline is May 18, 2012

What to bring: Real Care Baby II Plus (Charged) complete with components (diaper, bottle, key)

FoodSafe Level I Training in Schools

We now have eight schools who have completed the FoodSafe Level I certification process with their students. This is a Department of Agriculture Certification; the exam is designed to meet industry standards. All schools offering Food Studies/Hospitality 12, Food for Healthy Living 10, Food Preparation and Service 10, Food Technology 10 and International Foods 10 received the FoodSafe Level I Resources to support teaching the food safety outcomes in their curriculum this year. For further information on this program, please contact Sheila Munro, Family Studies Services munrosm@gov.ns.ca

EduFest 2012

Advanced Food Safety Training–August 15 and 16 / Halifax NSCC Waterfront Campus. Teachers who are teaching Food Studies/Hospitality 12 are encouraged to complete this course. Teachers who receive 90% on the course exam will be certified to teach, assess, and certify their students. Cost is \$90; to register go to www.ednet.ns.ca and follow the links for EduFest 2012.

Child Studies 9 Resource

Schools that offer Child Studies 9 in 2011–12 will be receiving three copies of the classroom resource (2000825) *1001 Fun Ways to Play: Quick, Easy Activities for Your Baby and Child* to support student project work in Unit 3: Learning through Activity.

Family Studies Curriculum Documents

Several of the draft Family Studies curriculum have been posted to the Department of Education Documents website accessible with the staff.ednet.ns.ca email login and password. There are a few changes to content, not outcomes, as we improve our lists of suggested strategies, especially for the grade 10 family studies course options. Continue to check as we will be uploading drafts over the next couple of months.

Family Studies Moodle Access

Teachers who wish to gain access to the Family Studies Moodles: Child Studies 9, Canadian Families 12, Housing and Design 12, may do so through the Nova Scotia Virtual School (NSVS) website. Teachers must have a staff.ednet.ns.ca email address to access the site (NSVS uses the same username and password as for their staff.ednet.ns.ca account). Teachers who do not have a staff.ednet.ns.ca address may secure access information from their school board technology consultant. For more information contact Sheila Munro at munrosm@gov.ns.ca

May is Gaelic Heritage Awareness Month



Perform! In the Schools

RBC Grant Awarded to Perform!
for their Commitment to Children's
Mental Health

In October, RBC announced that the Perform! In the schools program is one of 125 organizations from across the country to receive an RBC Children's Mental Health Grant. Perform! received \$9,600 to bring professional performers to schools in Nova Scotia, delivering an innovative workshop entitled No More Bullies.

Bullying is one of the most serious issues concerning the mental health of students in the province. Statistics show that, though most students will not be directly bullied, 85% of the student population will experience bullying as a bystander. The No More Bullies project brings three actors to classrooms to play these roles—the bully, a person being bullied, and bystanders. The actors create a safe environment to re-enact scenes using the suggestions of the students. Through improvisation, role play, and feedback sessions, students begin to understand the nature of bullying and its consequences.

Perform's No More Bullies program is delivered to the schools by the Irondale Theatre Project. "Perform applied for the RBC Mental Health Grant so we could lower the cost of this workshop to schools," said Perform Director Joanne Miller. This year, No More Bullies has travelled to 25 schools throughout the province so far. The workshop is booked to be visiting 15 more before the end of this school year. "We also have a very long waiting list for the workshop. The demand is not surprising to me because our workshop was developed at the request of schools," said Miller. "We hope we can continue to offer the workshop again next year at a subsidized cost. Perform will do everything it can to keep facing the issue of bullying in the schools."

For more information on the No More Bullies program, you can visit the Perform website at www.performns.ca or call Theatre Nova Scotia at, (902)425-3876.



Summit on Gifted Education & Talent Development

May 23-25, 2012 / Mount
St. Vincent University
Campus, Halifax

Think this gifted education
conference is not for you?

Think again! All classroom teachers can develop their students' gifts and talents once they know what to look for and what to do next.

Differentiation, enrichment, and creativity are some of the most tried and true educational practices to engage all learners. Join internationally renowned speakers Joseph Renzulli, Sally Reis, Rachel McAnallan, and Rebecca D. Eckert in Halifax this May to find out more.

The Nova Scotia Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development is a great opportunity to

- learn practical differentiation techniques that will benefit ALL students
- find out how to recognize and nurture students' gifts and talents
- discover how focussing on students' strengths and interests can allow you to build more meaningful and challenging learning environments
- choose topics that you would like to learn more about (with over 14 sessions being offered, everyone can find something directly related to his/her teaching)
- rediscover your joy and passion for teaching!

Don't miss this local, once in a lifetime chance to be inspired by some of the greatest minds in education today!

Delegates to the Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development are encouraged to stay in the Mount St. Vincent University condo-like residences to maximize their learning, networking, and socializing opportunities. For reservations go to reservations@MSVU.ca

Registration fee is \$399.00 (plus HST) / Full Time University Student Rate \$125 (includes HST)

Registration information and overview of the Summit is available on the NSELc website at www.nselc.ca

Literacy Summer Institutes Two-day Workshops



Lori Jamison (Rog) – Guiding Our Youngest Learners to Read, Write, Play, Learn! (Grades Primary–3)

**July 5–6, 2012,
9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
The Old Orchard Inn & Spa,
Wolfville, NS**



This two-day interactive workshop has a dual focus; Day 1 delves into organizational structures and learning routines for small group reading instruction. Day 2 will focus on literacy learning through exploration, inquiry, and content area studies. Participants will look at what the research says about the importance of play in Primary–3, and how this can be applied to how Primary classrooms function, as it relates to curriculum.

Lori is a teacher, consultant, and author of *The Write Genre*; *Marvelous Mini Lessons for Teaching Beginning Writing*; *Read, Write, Play, Learn: Literacy Instruction in Today's Kindergarten*; and *Guiding Readers: Making the Most of the 18-Minute Guided Reading Lesson*.



**Registration fee for each two-day workshop- \$100.00
50% discount for student teachers and substitute teachers.**

Lunch is NOT provided but there will be light refreshments.

**Register at <https://eapps.ednet.ns.ca/summersession>
or call Leigh Daniels at 424-7454. Registration will begin May 1, 2012.**

**For more information please contact
Daniel Gervais at 424-5996.**



**July 19–20, 2012, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
The Old Orchard Inn & Spa, Wolfville, NS**

Ellin Oliver Keene – Focus on What's Essential for Comprehension: Spotlight on Talk! (Grades Primary–6)



The first day the author will look at the broad picture of what is essential in literacy across all grades, with a particular focus on the grapho-phonetic structure and how it fits contextually within the larger literacy picture. The second day will focus on oral language and the importance of talk in Primary – 6 classrooms. This session will spotlight encouraging student talk that reflects their understanding of texts and concepts more accurately.

Ellin Oliver Keene is the author of *Mosaic of Thought: The Power of Comprehension Strategy Instruction* 2nd edition, *To Understand: New Horizons in Reading Comprehension*, and most recently *Talk About Understanding: Rethinking Classroom Talk to Enhance Comprehension*.

Cris Tovani – Finding Out What Adolescents REALLY Know in Reading and Writing! (Grades 7–12)



Cris will spend one day on reading and writing workshops as frameworks for instruction and the other day will focus on assessment. She describes systems and structures she uses in her own classroom, shows teachers how to use assessments to monitor student growth and provide targeted feedback that enables students to get content goals under control, and shares ways to bring students into the assessment cycle so they can monitor their own learning.

Cris Tovani is the author of *I Read It But I Don't Get It: Comprehension Strategies for Adolescent Readers*, *Do I Really Have To Teach Reading?: Content Comprehension Grades 6-12*, and most recently *So What Do They Really Know?: Assessment That Informs Teaching and Learning*.



Nova Scotia Provincial Library Summer Reading Program

Know a child or teen that needs to practise reading over the summer? The TD Summer Reading Club through the NS public libraries is there to help!

Incorporate the program into your teaching plan! Booklists, images, and more are available (see links at bottom of this webpage

<http://www.tdsummerreadingclub.ca>

A free library card is all that is needed to join!

All youth may participate through their local libraries. Many libraries offer a Books-by-Mail service to children and teens who live far from a library.

Disabled youth, youth challenged by dyslexia, and other print-disabled youth may participate using the various alternate formats available through the library.

The program, supported by the Toronto Dominion Bank and Library & Archives Canada, encourages children and teens to record what they read. Incentives such as posters and stickers are given to the children. Contests are run locally and provincially. Some libraries run programming over the summer, including crafts, games, and computer programs.

This year's theme is IMAGINE! The program starts just as school ends in June. Contact your local library for details.

Find out more about the program:

<http://www.tdsummerreadingclub.ca>

Find your library:

<http://publiclibraries.ns.ca>



Hackmatack

Another successful Hackmatack year came to an end on Friday, April 27 with the gala awards ceremony at the Capitol Theatre in Moncton, New Brunswick. Over 650 children attended, and Nova Scotia was represented by an intrepid group from West Colchester School in Bass River.

The Nova Scotia Department of Education sponsored author tours throughout the province in the week preceding the ceremony. Writers from across Canada visited schools from the tip of Cape Breton to the end of the Western Counties. James Leck, a local author who was nominated for *The Adventures of Jack Lime*, was by far the most traveled, giving over a dozen talks.

And while all 40 authors were winners in the students' eyes, only four could take home the prizes. They were Hugh Brewster, author of *Prisoner of Dieppe: World War II*, in the English fiction category.

Catherine Rondina, in the English non-fiction category for her book *Don't Touch That Toad & Other Strange Things Adults Tell You*.

In the French fiction category (for the second year in a row!), Richard Petit for *Ton journal intime Zone Frousse*.

And in French non-fiction, Stéphanie C. Dubois for *Le petit livre des affaires dégueulasses*.

To see the new nominated books for the 2012/2013 Hackmatack Award and to get more information about the award program, check out our website at www.hackmatack.ca

Learning Resources & Technology Services

Education Media Library

There are a number of exciting new developments happening in the Education Media Library, as we continue to evolve our operations; from a service that began evaluating and delivering curriculum movies to teachers as film strips, and then as 16mm reel to reels, VHS, DVD.....

We will be officially launching into our next phase and delivering video and digital content to teachers directly over the internet using video streaming/downloading technology. Teachers will have instant access to stream and download thousands of curriculum videos in various subject areas and grade levels.

LRTS has recently licensed the Learn360 video platform, and additionally has added content from Learn360, CBC Learning, and a number of other national and local vendors. This will give teachers access to more than 9,000 curriculum videos that will support a wide range of courses and learning outcomes in the NS Primary–12 curriculum, in English and French.

We are in the process of setting up the servers, with the aim of having the official province-wide launch in for the 2012–2013 school year.



EBSCO

<http://search.epnet.com>

Two new databases are available for teacher and student research needs:

History Reference Centre
Science Reference Centre



Edu-Portal

It is live! Teachers will now be able to locate many DOE resources in one place and set up their own Drupal webpages using templates on EdNet. This will replace front page websites.

The URL for the Edu-Portal login for Teachers:

<https://edapps.ednet.ns.ca/eduportal>

This “Phase 1” launch allows any teacher to register for the Portal using their Employee ID (found on their pay stub/e-receipt), and future phases will bring on other support staff who may also need/want to create websites and access this information.

There will be a session at the IT Summer Institute in Truro on how to create web pages using Drupal. Find out more on the Summer Institute from your Board Technology Coordinator. A webinar that was originally delivered in January on how to create a Drupal webpage is available at <http://dvl.ednet.ns.ca> for viewing.

The **Nova Scotia Virtual School** is now accepting



enrolments, for September 2012 NSVS grades 10-12 PSP online courses. For more information, visit us online at <http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca> or call (902)424-0814.

IT Integration Summer Institute 2012

August 1–3, 2012

Truro - Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Last year's Summer Institute was a resounding success! We received great feedback from participants; everyone who attended had a wonderful learning experience! We want to build on this energy and enthusiasm, and this year build a program that addresses some of the comments we received.

Information Technology can be integrated into any curriculum at all levels. This three-day Summer Institute will provide a mix of learning and working to develop ideas and activities that will fit IT into your classroom next year. Sessions will be provided to help you decide what specialized software might be right for your activities. You will be able to select from a variety of mini Tech Sessions on topics such as video editing, multimedia, podcasting, productivity tools (word processing, presentation tools, spreadsheets, etc.) as well as curriculum-focused software. You will have time to work on topics of interest to you, participate in discussions about the ins and outs of working in an ICT-integrated classroom, and develop connections with like-minded teachers from across the province.

Bring your own curriculum materials for developing IT-integrated lessons and/or activities for your students for next year: previous lesson plans, websites, or other resources (images, media, hard copies, curriculum documents, texts).

Summer Institute is sponsored by the NS Department of Education. Registration fees are \$35; this includes all food, coffee breaks, accommodations, and other learning materials. It is open to all teachers, but seats are limited. Please contact your Board Technology Coordinator for more information.





LRTS Webinars

Join us for a free after school webinar for Nova Scotia Educators

Creating On-line Communities – This webinar will be of interest to anyone who is working to create an online community of learners. Professional Associations, Administrators, PD Leaders, and others who are looking to engage educators in alternate ways through using online tools that are freely available will find this session addresses issues that they may face in developing online communities. During this session we will explore how some are doing this now and learn how to create effective communities of practice. Practical examples and demonstrations will assist participants in enhancing possibilities for existing sites or in creating new ones. Lessons from this session can also be applied to classroom practice too in engaging students online. Tuesday, May 29, 2012 from 3:00–4:00 p.m. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/cocmay29>

Digital Citizenship – What is digital citizenship? This is something that you have heard a lot about in the news. Learn more by attending this webinar. The focus will be on grades primary–12 and what digital citizenship means for teaching and learning. Resources to support teaching, issues in a digital society like the digital divide, promoting appropriate online behaviour, rights and responsibilities, copyright, and more will be discussed. Links will be made to the Integration of Information and Communication Technology within the Curriculum document. Ryan Hainstock, Coordinator of Education Technology and Student Data with AVRSB will lead this session. June 6, 2012 from 3:30–4:30 p.m. Go to <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca> to register for this webinar.

Did you miss a webinar earlier this year? Check <http://dvl.ednet.ns.ca> and you may find it online .

All you will need to participate is a computer with an internet connection!

Please register at least three days in advance of the webinar date.

You will receive an email with a link to the webinar.



Math

New PD Video Series on the Way for Math 7–9

Sharon McCready, Mathematics Support Consultant in the English Program Services Division, is currently collaborating with staff of Learning Resources & Technology Services in the post-production work towards a new teacher professional development video series for teachers of mathematics in grades 7 to 9. Ten segments are in preparation, each on a different theme:

Accommodating Students; Activating Prior Knowledge; Assessment; Classroom Management; Communicating with Parents; Language; Manipulatives; Mental Math; Preparation and Planning; and Teaching Tactics.

Each video will present best practices from a contributing team of Math teachers from across Nova Scotia, from Digby to Sydney, through both interviews and live, unrehearsed sequences from actual classes—at all three of the focus grade levels. Together, the segments will form a comprehensive professional development resource for teachers that can be used by Board and school staff whenever and wherever the need arises. The series will be available in October 2012 as both a conventional DVD set, distributed from the LRTS Media Library, and online as part of the LRTS Digital Video Library (<http://dvl.ednet.ns.ca>). The series will join the award-winning resource, Mental Math, as a practical support for Nova Scotian Math teachers.

Atlantic Science Links Association



The Atlantic Science Links Association runs a variety of programs to support grades primary to 12 science curricula Nova Scotia. These include Scientists and Innovators in the Schools, Ask-A-Scientist, and the Climate Change Action Pack. Our programs are completely free and run all year long!

Scientists and Innovators in the Schools (SITS) provides

teachers, students, community program leaders, and the general public with access to volunteers from various fields of science and technology, who are willing to give classroom presentations, lead field trips, judge at science fairs, or attend career days. Our volunteers can provide assistance at all grade levels from elementary to high school, on a wide range of topics.

Ask-A-Scientist is a section of our web site where teachers and students can ask those tough questions about science! Questions submitted through the site are answered by our volunteer experts.

The Climate Change Action Pack (CCAP) is a collection of lesson plans for grades 4-6 teachers on the underlying concepts of climate change, specifically in Nova Scotia, and is based on the Atlantic Science Curriculum. We have both English and French versions of CCAP in CDs to be distributed to science teachers in Nova Scotia.

In 2011–2012 SITS volunteers reached more than 4000 Nova Scotia students and teachers!

For more information about our programs, or to request a visit by a scientist, please contact us by email at sits@dal.ca or by phone at 902-494-2831 (toll free 1-800-565-7487). Our website is also a great source of information, and has links to other resources and activities.

Please visit us at <http://atlanticsciencelinks.dal.ca>



DAL Science

The annual Faculty of Science Discovery Days events at Dalhousie University are about to begin!

http://science.dal.ca/Files/P-12_Educators/2012_FOS_Discovery_Days_events.pdf

These activities are FREE for Nova Scotia school groups. They are educational, fun, and interactive!

The 2012 Department Events include

May 1-3 Discover CHEMISTRY Days – For grades 7-9

May 2-3 Discover PSYCHOLOGY and NEUROSCIENCE Days – For grades 10-12 (limited space available)

May 8-9 Discover EARTH SCIENCE Days – For grades 7-12 (limited space available)

May 14-18 Discover PHYSICS and ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE Days – For grades 6-12 (limited space available)

May 16-18 Discover MATH Days – For grades 10-12 (limited space available)

June 12-13 Discover BIOLOGY Days – For grades 9-12 (limited space available)

Further information on each department event can be found online at

http://science.dal.ca/FOR_P-12_EDUCATORS/2012_FOS_Discovery_Days

If interested in joining us for these FREE events, please send an email with your request including school, grade level, and number of students to theresa.myra@dal.ca. Availability for your request will be checked at time of request.

Discovery Centre

The Discovery Centre is the smartest place to play because here we make science fun!

With our unique brand of educational programming we'll bring learning to a whole new level for your students. We offer curriculum-connected, innovative programming, events, and exhibits that make us the best educational companion in Nova Scotia. And to make it even easier, educators can now register online to become part of our teacher helper – inSCIght – a dedicated membership program for teachers-only! inSCIght offers a wealth of valuable benefits and resources including a 50% discount on Family Membership, family sneak peek nights, a monthly e-newsletter, shop discounts and online resources! Visit the Teacher Zone of our website to sign up today!

Featured Exhibit:

Be the Dinosaur: Life in the Cretaceous – May to September

Why do kids love dinosaurs? Robert T. Bakker, American Paleontologist, believes it's because dinosaurs are "nature's special effects". For the first time in Canada, the Discovery Centre will bring those special effects to life in the most remarkable, realistic restoration of dinosaurs and their world ever created. The *Be the Dinosaur: Life in the Cretaceous* show is a dynamic, simulation based exhibit featuring artificial intelligence, fossils, educational materials and a fascinating dinosaur scene that includes animatronic dinosaur models.



Be the Dinosaur will explore some of the greatest mysteries of paleontology by answering questions like "What was a day in the life of a dinosaur like?", "How might they have lived?" and "What can fossil evidence tell us about the way extinct animals lived their life?" Through the magic of interactive digital HD simulation, the dinosaurs will come to life. And visitors aren't merely in the audience—they are the stars of the show! Throughout the exhibit, visitors will discover information about dinosaurs and the ecosystems in which they live that will enable them to experience more and more of the *Be the Dinosaur* simulation. Fossil reconstructions,

navigational icons and informational displays make for a fully interactive, educational and out-of-this-world experience. *Be the Dinosaur* has been designed with the proven appeal of dinosaurs via an integration of traditional physical exhibits and sophisticated computer simulation. The exhibit was developed with an expert advisory panel from the fields of paleontology, academia, and interactive entertainment to ensure high value educational content.

A guaranteed one-of-a-kind experience for students in Nova Scotia! Book your class visit today.

Phone: (902) 492-4422

Website: www.thediscoverycentre.ca

Follow us on Twitter: @DiscoveryCntr

Like us on Facebook: /DiscoveryCentre



Creating an Entrepreneurial Future

Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development

The Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CEED) will be offering a two-day workshop at Edufest 2012, August 13 to 17 at the NSCC waterfront campus. The workshop will provide teachers with the

opportunity to learn about "Out of the Box Early" in which students go through the process of creating a product and "Inventions Conventions," where students brainstorm on an everyday problem and then create a product or service to solve the problem.

May is Asian Heritage Month

Technology Education



Grade 9 technology education teachers took part in a two-day workshop in May as part of the curriculum launch of Technology Education 9. This hands-on, minds-on workshop involved engaging teachers in activities such as screen process printing, rustic furniture design and construction, game design and construction, hydraulic robotics, digital video and photography, and many others involving the four modules of the course: Communications Technology, Inventions and Innovations, Energy Engineering, and Production Technology.

Technology Education teachers will have plenty of learning opportunities at EduFest at the NSCC Dartmouth Waterfront campus from August 13–17 as well as August 22–23 in Yarmouth and Halifax. Plan now!

Karla Hames will be back by popular demand from CarsandMosher and will provide two days of hands-on learning with the Canon Rebel cameras made

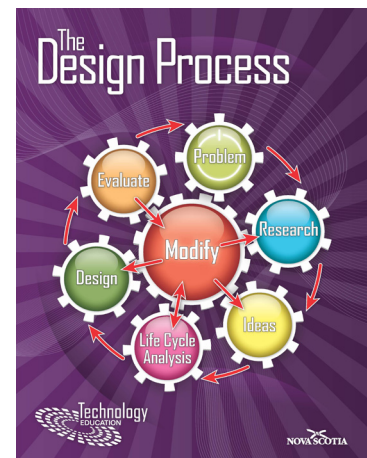
available to all schools offering Communications Technology 11 and Communications Technology 12 (first come, first served). Please be sure to bring your camera, tripod, and light kit to this summer institute.

Exploring Technology 10 and Communications Technology teachers will have opportunities to explore the solid modelling software “SolidWorks” for beginner to advanced levels in a two-day session at the NSCC Waterfront.

Later in August, cabinet maker and technology educator, Todd Wallace, will be providing a two-day training session at Yarmouth Junior High School on production technology and manufacturing practices for grades 9 through 12 teachers. This workshop will address jigs and fixtures as well as related safety practices for beginner to advanced levels. A similar workshop will be provided at Halifax West by technology educator, Craig Thornton.

Families will have an opportunity to enjoy EduFest together this summer at the NSCC Waterfront with the new “EduFest Kids” program. This all-day program is designed for children ages 5–11 and will provide for learning opportunities in science, technology, mathematics, and the arts.

For more details on these and other summer institutes, visit www.ednet.ns.ca



nscc NSCC

Skills and technology showcase highlights emerging talent

The Waterfront Campus was bursting at the seams with more than 2,000 visitors taking in the 2012 Nova Scotia Skills Competitions and NSCC Technology Showcase in April.

“This event was our biggest ever,” said Lisa Boyle, Academic Chair, School of Trades and Technology, and the event organizer.” These are great events to showcase how much fun it can be to work in trades and technology programs and to provide a firsthand view of the types of projects students get involved with.”

With over 100 student projects, this year’s event included participants from 12 NSCC campuses and business students from the Waterfront Campus. There were also 18 skills competitions held at the Waterfront Campus which ranged from carpentry to information technology.

There was a new addition to the event for 2012. Students from NSCC’s engineering and drafting programs took on the challenge of building bridges using only popsicle sticks and a bottle of glue. Each submission was then judged according to aesthetics and engineered design. The winner was Drew Rendell, a first-year student in Civil Engineering. His bridge proved that small can be mighty, supporting over 1000 lbs of weight.

This is the second year NSCC has held an industry luncheon in association with the event. This year the luncheon included a panel discussion with the theme: Oceans of Opportunity.

More than 100 invited guests learned about the Ocean Technology sector and the opportunities it presents for Nova Scotia’s economy. The discussion was facilitated by freelance journalist Jim Meek. The panel included Paul Yeatman of Geospectrum Technologies and Chair of the Ocean Technology Council of Nova Scotia (OCTNS), John Moloney of JASCO Research, Michael Glister of MOOG/Focal Technologies Inc., and Dr. Craig Brown of McGregor GeoScience Limited.

The discussion highlighted the potential with this sector. As one of the panelists noted: ‘Nova Scotia is in good position to be a leader in this exploding industry.’



Skills Canada – Nova Scotia Going for Gold!

It's been another successful competition season for Skills Canada – Nova Scotia!

The 15th Annual Nova Scotia Skills Competition launched this year on February 1st at the NSCC Dartmouth Gate campus. By the time it closed on April 5th at the NSCC Waterfront campus, over 300 students and apprentices from across the province had competed in 53 different skilled trades and technologies, and close to 1,500 students toured the sites. The Olympic-style event, hosted annually by Skills Canada – Nova Scotia is designed to showcase talent across a range of competition areas, including trades such as Plumbing and Hairstyling, or technologies like Website Design and Mechatronics. This year, the competition also featured five unique events designed specifically for persons with disabilities.



Next up for 47 of the gold medal winners is the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC), taking place this year from May 13–16 in Edmonton, Alberta. The SCNC brings together over 500 competitors from all provinces and territories for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. This year, Team Nova Scotia includes 15 secondary students from across the

province representing seven high schools. For these competitors, it is all about training, as students work with their teachers or instructors from NSCC to prepare for the intense two-day competition.

The 2012 National Competition is a qualifying year for the WorldSkills International Competition, which means gold medal winners may even have the opportunity to travel to Leipzig, Germany as part of Team Canada!

Skills Canada – Nova Scotia is a non-profit organization that promotes skilled trades and technologies to Nova Scotia youth. Through industry, government, labour, and education partnerships, Skills Canada – Nova Scotia provides opportunities for students and apprentices to explore skilled trades and technologies with presentations, hands-on workshops and the Annual Nova Scotia Skills Competition. For more information or to get involved, go to www.skillsns.ca

Skilled Trades Emerge

Four Skilled Trades students from J.L. Ilsley High School demonstrated their skills

recently at the prestigious Emergent Learning conference in Halifax. Students Alexa Fleming, Cora Finanders, Dylan Stone, Matt Wickwire, who were joined by their teacher Jim Mugford, built a section of wall in front of a group of educators from across Canada. Working from a minimal plan, the students made calculations, laid out, cut to size, and fitted the wall together. This was a chance for these students to demonstrate learning and skills that they had acquired during Skilled Trades 10.

All four students have completed Skilled Trades 10. Both Dylan and Matt completed Construction Trades 11 and are currently enrolled in Transportation Trades 11. Matt is currently in Skilled Trades 12 Coop and has applied to take Carpentry at NSCC.

Also presenting at the conference was Ferry Patterson, a Skilled Trades teacher from Annapolis West Education Centre. Ferry spoke of his experiences as a Skilled Trades teacher and the challenges and rewards that went along with it. He mentioned how much he has learned over the years and cited his work in Skilled Trades as one of many career highlights. Mr. Patterson is retiring in June after having taught for the past twenty-nine years.



Skilled Trades Learning gives students the chance to experience the skilled trades as a possible career option. Students work in an authentic learning environment

using the same tools, equipment, and materials as professional tradespeople.

As a result of Kids and Learning First, the province's new education plan, the number of schools offering Skilled Trades will double over the next four years.

Further information on the Skilled Trades program can be found at <http://www.ednet.ns.ca/skilledtrades>

Building Futures for Youth

Alumni Follow-Up Survey

In order to seek feedback as well as track program success, a follow-up survey has been conducted with students who have successfully participated in the Building Futures for Youth program. The survey was conducted from October 24, 2011 through to November 30, 2011. Successful program participants from the 2007/08 program year through to the 2009/10 program year were contacted by telephone and asked to respond to potentially 38 questions. 70 out of a possible 137 respondents completed the survey. Respondents varied in age from 17–21 years, males and females (although predominantly males) from throughout Nova Scotia.



Key findings include the following:

Employment in the Construction Industry

40 out of 70 total respondents (57%) have worked in the construction industry since their Building Futures for Youth work placements. 18 out of those 40 (45%) are currently working in the construction industry, 17 of whom are currently working in Nova Scotia.

Apprenticeship

9 out of 69 respondents (13%) are registered apprentices. 39 out of 60 (65%) respondents who are not currently registered apprentices say that they plan to register as an apprentice in the future.

Education

43 out of 70 total respondents (61%) have attended or are currently attending a post-secondary institution since graduating from high school. 36 of those 43 (84%) have attended or are attending NSCC, 29 in construction industry related programs.



For more information or complete survey results, please contact Alain Lefebvre, Coordinator – Building Futures for Youth at 468-2267 ext 712

or alefebvre@can.ns.ca

Career Kiosks are Coming to High Schools

Within the next few weeks, all high schools will receive a career kiosk. The kiosk consists of a computer, large screen monitor, wireless keyboard and mouse, all mounted on a mobile cart.

The kiosks will be a focus for career development in the school. They can be used in guidance and career centres for independent student research or career counselling. The career kiosks are designed for use by individuals or small groups in a variety of settings. The career kiosks are portable and can be used in classrooms to support students in career development courses and co-operative education, as well as in any course where a learning activity involves careers, occupations, or the workplace.

The heart of the career kiosks is CareerFutures, a new website developed specifically for Nova Scotia high schools. The site will provide access to a range of resources, activities, and websites for teachers, guidance counsellors, and students to use to gather career information and develop a career plan, and to support other course work related to careers.

CareerFutures will provide a single access point for guided access to Career Cruising; selected annotated links to EBSCO resources; a selection of links within careers.nova.scotia.ca, including Career Options, a large bank of Department of Education video resources; subscription access to jobspeopledo.com, a website with hundreds of career videos; and monthly video and links features to an occupation and a workplace, as well as an events calendar.

The career kiosks and CareerFutures website will be fully functional when the new school year begins in September 2012.

Correspondence Studies

Various correspondence courses from grades 7 to 12 are available for students.

For more information, visit our website at

<http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca> > Correspondence Studies

or call (902) 424-4054

Junior Achievement

Students from across the province celebrated for their outstanding achievements in business with JA



Junior Achievement®

The next generation of Nova Scotia business leaders was awarded more than \$15,000 in scholarships on April 30. Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia held its annual Company Program Awards Gala to recognize high school students' outstanding achievements. The event was hosted by Saint Mary's University and attended by more than 200 students from across the province, their parents, volunteers, and JA Board members.

The Awards and Recognition Gala celebrates students who participated in Junior Achievement's Company Program, an 18-week high school program where students set up, run and wind down a business. The company functions as any corporation would—with shareholders, an executive team made up of various vice presidential roles, and employee directors. Each company is assisted by a team of Advisors, made up of individuals in the local business community. Twenty-one companies ran throughout Nova Scotia in the 2011–12 school year—from Oxford, Bridgewater, Halifax, Truro, New Glasgow, Antigonish, Sydney and New Waterford.

Many winners were recipients of scholarships, donated by the business and the academic community.

Top prizes went to Morgan Fraser who received a \$500 scholarship

for Outstanding Achiever. Students from NoBull, representing Sir John A. Macdonald High School took home Company of the Year. Nova Scotia's top universities also handed out scholarships. Jillian Gordon from Oxford and Meaghan Jackson from Citadel High received scholarships to St. Francis Xavier University. David Hoskin from Sir John A. Macdonald High School and Shawn Nicholson from Citadel High received scholarships to Saint Mary's University.

This year's Company Program students produced fantastic products and services which included mittens with flip off thumbs to allow texting, home-made dog biscuits, and backpacks and purses made from recycled sweatshirts. Companies produced events and promoted societal awareness of issues such as cyber-bullying. Companies raised the bar with their level of creativity in using social media to reach new sales markets and shows the importance of social media in our business world. Congratulations to all of our awards winners!



Team members of Texttens from J.L. Ilsley, who won highest net profit award



Shad Valley
Drive. Stretch. Dream.

Shad Valley

Summer Program Gearing up for 2012

This year, Shad Valley is gearing up for its 32nd summer program. Just over 500 high-school students from across the country have been admitted, and the excitement is stirring! An exclusive Facebook group has been set up to give 2012 participants a forum to connect ahead of time. Conversations are already building in anticipation of their meeting in person in July.

The program runs for four intensive weeks with participants assigned to one of 10 host universities. Participants are exposed to science, engineering, technology and entrepreneurship in a dynamic group setting, surrounded by approximately 50 other exceptional students. In addition to taking part in advanced academic lectures, workshops, and recreational activities, students join teams to invent a product or service, write a related business plan, build a prototype and present their project to an expert panel.

The Shad Valley program is an invaluable experience for participants. They gain confidence and independence, all while ensconced in an enriched academic environment. As one recent Shad Valley participant said, "The program is an absolutely amazing experience that has changed the way I look at university and high school. It has strengthened my love for math and science along with raising my awareness of business. Shad Valley has changed the way I look at life in general."

In the last year alone, three of the Top 20 Under 20, five Loran Award recipients, and a gold medal winner at the Canada Wide Science Fair were Shad Valley alumni. Within our alumni group, we have 23 Rhodes Scholars and a \$100,000 Thiel Fellowship winner. That is a testament to the impressive high-achievers who attend the program.

To find out more about Shad Valley and how your students can apply for 2013, visit www.shad.ca. You can also view a video at www.shad.ca/studentvideo



2012–2013 Program of Learning Assessment for Nova Scotia (PLANS)

A revised program of Nova Scotia assessments begins in the fall of 2012. Highlights include:

- Elementary and Junior High Assessment Weeks will reduce the administration time for schools and teachers.
- Regional scoring sessions for all mathematics and writing assessments and mathematics examinations will continue to provide reliable scoring and professional learning for participating teachers.
- Assessment design will provide a broader range of information about student performance.
- Results will be reported as overall scores and performance levels allowing comparison of results from assessment to assessment and year to year.

Further information about Nova Scotia assessments will be available August 13, 2012 at: <http://plans.ednet.ns.ca>.

ELEMENTARY ASSESSMENT WEEK: OCTOBER 2–5, 2012

Assessment	Participation	Dates
2012–2013 Nova Scotia Assessment: Reading and Writing in Grade 3	Grade 3 English program students	October 2–3, 2012
2012–2013 Nova Scotia Assessment: Reading, Writing, and Mathematics in Grade 6	Grade 6 English program students Grade 6 French immersion students	October 2–5, 2012
2012–2013 Évaluation de la Nouvelle-Écosse : lecture et écriture en 6 ^e année*	Les élèves de la 6 ^e année du CSAP	October 2–3, 2012

Note: Anticipated for 2013–2014: Nova Scotia Assessment: Mathematics in Grade 4; Évaluation de la Nouvelle-Écosse : Mathématiques en 4^e année; Évaluation de la Nouvelle-Écosse : Lecture et écriture en 3^e année.

* In 2013–2014, the grade 6 CSAP assessment will be: 2013–2014 Évaluation de la Nouvelle-Écosse : lecture, écriture et mathématiques en 6^e année.

JUNIOR HIGH ASSESSMENT WEEK: JUNE 3–6, 2013

Assessment	Participation	Dates
2012–2013 Nova Scotia Assessment: Reading, Writing, and Mathematics in Grade 8	Grade 8 English program students Grade 8 French immersion students	June 3–6, 2013
2012–2013 Évaluation de la Nouvelle-Écosse : lecture, écriture et mathématiques en 8 ^e année	Les élèves de la 8 ^e année du CSAP	June 3–6, 2013

NOVA SCOTIA EXAMINATIONS: JANUARY 2013 & JUNE 2013

Examination	Dates
Nova Scotia Examination: Mathematics 12	January 28, 2013; June 14, 2013
Nova Scotia Examination: Advanced Mathematics 12	January 28, 2013; June 14, 2013
Examens de la Nouvelle-Écosse : Mathématiques 12	January 28, 2013; June 14, 2013
Examens de la Nouvelle-Écosse : Mathématiques avancées 12	January 28, 2013; June 14, 2013
Nova Scotia Examination: English 12	January 29, 2013; June 18, 2013
Nova Scotia Examination: English/Communications 12	January 29, 2013; June 18, 2013

Note: Grade 10 Nova Scotia Examinations in English Language Arts, Grade 10 Nova Scotia Examinations in Mathematics, 10^e année - Examens de la Nouvelle-Écosse en mathématiques, and 10^e année - Examens de la Nouvelle-Écosse en Français commencing 2013–2014, contingent upon implementation of new curriculum.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Assessment	Participation	Dates
Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP)	Grade 8 students	April/May 2013

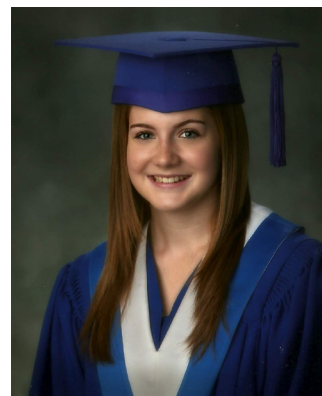


IB News

There was tremendous excitement recently at Charles P. Allen High School with the announcement that Emma Archibald, a grade 12 IB Diploma student, had been awarded the McEuen Scholarship to attend prestigious University of St. Andrews in the medieval town of St. Andrews Scotland. The University of St. Andrews

is the third oldest in the English speaking world and will celebrate its 600th anniversary in 2014. Emma was one of several Canadian finalists for the scholarship and was flown to Toronto on April 26th for an interview with the selection committee. In making the award to Emma a representative of the selection committee commented, “Emma was an amazing candidate and stood out in a very impressive field of candidates.”

Emma gives full credit for the support from “her wonderful team of IB teachers at CP Allen and in particular Heather Michael her IB Coordinator.” The McEuen Scholarship is worth over \$200,000 is awarded to only one Canadian each year. It covers all expenses over the four years of undergraduate studies.



IB Has a New Website:

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

The new recently launched website offers information about the IB program, and features Nova Scotia IB results. IB practices, as well as profiles of successful Nova Scotian IB graduates.

Public Schools Branch consists of the following Divisions:

African Canadian Services.	902-424-3151	acsd@ednet.ns.ca	http://acs.ednet.ns.ca
Diversity, Equity, and Special Projects	902-722-1405	smithcla@gov.ns.ca	
English Program Services.	902-424-8945	eps@ednet.ns.ca	http://eps.ednet.ns.ca
Evaluation Services	902-424-7746	testeval@ednet.ns.ca	http://plans.ednet.ns.ca
French Second Language Program Services. .	902-424-6646	fls@ednet.ns.ca	https://fsl.ednet.ns.ca
Learning Resources & Technology Services. .	902-424-2462	lrt@ednet.ns.ca	http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca
Mi'kmaq Liaison Office.	902-424-3428	palmatcj@gov.ns.ca	http://mikmaq.ednet.ns.ca
Student Services.	902-424-7454	studentsvcs@ednet.ns.ca	http://studentservices.ednet.ns.ca
Senior Executive Director	902-424-5829	delbrisd@gov.ns.ca	

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