



NOVA SCOTIA
Education

BRANCHING OUT

NEWS FROM
PUBLIC SCHOOLS BRANCH

October 2010

<http://EDnet.ns.ca>

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program



On September 20, 2010 I participated with the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Mayann Francis, in a flag-raising ceremony at Province House to mark Duke Awareness Week in Nova Scotia.

More than 2,300 young people between the ages of 14 and 25 participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program in Nova Scotia. The program offers life skills which lead to personal growth and achievement and also focuses on leadership skills centred on service to the community. The program develops qualities such as self-confidence, responsibility, compassion, and self-reliance.

There are four program components at each level of the award:

- community service where participants provide volunteer service to others and the community
- personal skill development where participants develop a personal interest or a social or practical skill
- physical recreation where participants gain a sense of achievement and personal health through physical fitness activities
- adventurous journey where participants undertake a wilderness or adventure experience

Duke of Edinburgh Program achievement awards may be used by students to earn elective high school credits:

Bronze Award—Duke of Edinburgh Bronze 10 (course code 149117)

Silver Award—Duke of Edinburgh Silver 11 (course code 149118)

Gold Award—Duke of Edinburgh Gold 12 (course code 149119)

I congratulate students who have participated in the programs and those who are currently participating, and I also express thanks to the teachers and other adults who volunteer and work with the participants.

For more information, visit <http://www.dukeofed.org> and select Nova Scotia.

Dr. Alan Lowe, Senior Executive Director, Public Schools Branch

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Who's New in Public Schools Branch

Sue Taylor-Foley, Director, Learning Resources and Technology Services

We are delighted to announce that Sue-Taylor Foley has been appointed Director of the Department of Education's Learning Resources and Technology Division, effective October 1, 2010.

Sue's expertise has been recognized nationally and internationally. In addition, she brings to the Department her valuable experience from a range of previous positions including Co-ordinator for Assessment and Technology; Consultant for Research, Planning and Technology; Consultant of Professional Development in Literacy and Technology; and principal in the South Shore Regional School Board, as well as school administration and teaching in Ontario and Georgia. Her knowledge, expertise, and innovative ideas will be greatly appreciated.

Sue is certainly a great asset to Learning Resources and Technology Services Division, Public Schools Branch, and key education and technology partners.

Gilles Belliveau, P-6 French Immersion Consultant

Gilles Belliveau has joined Programmes de français langue seconde as the Primary–6 French Immersion Consultant. Gilles is on leave from the HRSB. He brings to the Department a wealth of experience with the French Immersion program as well as a strong background in French literacy.

Ray Fernandes, Education Media Librarian

Ray Fernandes has joined the Learning Resources and Technology Division as the Department's new Education Media Librarian.

Ray has a Bachelor of Environmental Studies (York University) and a Masters of Library and Information Studies (University of Alberta). Ray's experience includes serving as Librarian at the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, working on an archival digitization project at Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, serving as Multicultural Librarian and then Teen Services Librarian for Edmonton Public Libraries, serving in various positions with Halifax Public Libraries and as Adult Services Librarian with Vaughan Public Libraries in Ontario. This range of experience will certainly be an asset in Ray's new role.

The Education Media Library is a valuable education resource, and we look forward to upgrading our collection and listing new multimedia and software resources (just one of Ray's priorities!).

October is Autism Awareness Month

October is Autism Awareness Month and the Student Services Division is moving forward on a number of initiatives to support programming and services for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

School boards across the province have developed professional learning plans for their teaching staff to address autism awareness, assessment, programming, and evidence-based interventions. These professional development opportunities have allowed schools to keep in the forefront of educational support for students with ASD. The Department of Education provides all boards with funding to support these efforts, and they will be receiving notification of their grants this month. The Provincial Education Autism Advisory Team (PEAAT) meets several times a year with representatives of School Board Autism Lead Teams. This is a great opportunity for boards to share what they have been doing to support students with ASD and for the group to collaboratively plan for future professional development.

The provincial autism document *Programming for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder* is going through the final editing process, and it will soon be available to schools. In addition to our new document, Student Services is working on a provincial autism strategy to guide our practice. This will be a busy fall and a busy year as we move forward supporting students with ASD.

The Student Services Division is pleased to welcome Susan Jozsa as our Autism Consultant. Susan has an outstanding record of working with students, teachers, and families to support programming and services for students with Autism. Susan can be reached at 424-1640 or jozsasm@gov.ns.ca



Debut Atlantic 2010-11

Last year's successful partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Education program, Artists in Schools, brought Debut Atlantic to over 1,850 students across Nova Scotia. Debut is happy to once again offer its roster of musicians to schools for concerts, workshops, and masterclasses!

This year, the available artists are

- Catherine Manoukian, violin, and Susanne Ruberg-Gordon, piano
- Pantaèdre (Wind Quintet)
- Anne-Julie Caron, marimba, and Marie-Ève Scarfone, piano

All of Debut's programs are offered free of cost to schools in Nova Scotia. To be considered, one need just apply by filling out the forms in the Education Programs section of the website, which can be found at <http://debutatlantic.ca>

For more information, please feel free to contact **Rémi Lefebvre, Administrative Officer** by emailing remi@debutatlantic.ca or by calling **902-429-6812**.

Here's to another wonderful year of *bringing extraordinary classical music home*...to schools across the province!



Branching Out

Peaceful Schools International

Peaceful Schools International (PSI) provides support and recognition to schools in Nova Scotia and around the world that have declared a commitment to creating and maintaining a culture of peace. Unfortunately, bullying, harassment, and violence are all too common in schools. In Canada, research has shown that 1 in 4 children is victimized in school. PSI's approach focuses on prevention by helping schools to create an environment where bullying is unacceptable to everyone. In PSI member schools, students, teachers, and community members work together to ensure that everyone feels safe, respected, and valued.

PSI is non-prescriptive. We work on the principle that each school's journey to creating a culture of peace is unique. PSI acts as a clearinghouse for innovative ideas, programs and resources and lets each school determine which ones best suit its needs. We encourage each school to formulate its own special blend of ingredients to create a peaceful school, and as the school journeys along its own path to create a culture of peace, PSI provides support, ideas, and recognition along the way.

Become a member of PSI today! For more information, see our website, <http://www.peacefultschoolsinternational.org> or contact us at 1-866-532-0228 (toll free) or by email at info@peacefultschoolsinternational.org



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 email, the Departmental website at <http://ednet.ns.ca> and the individual contact information on the last page of this newsletter.

October is Mi'kmaq Heritage Month



New Anchor Resource for Grade 7 English language arts teachers!!

The *Nelson Literacy 7 Classroom Anchor Resource* is a comprehensive literacy resource.

It includes a fresh, current design that engages the attention of adolescent learners; selections with great appeal and impact; resources for a wide variety of abilities and interests; quick and focused assessment with complete support for differentiating instruction; and explicit instruction for transferring literacy learning to science and social studies.

Nelson Literacy 7 Classroom Anchor Resource will assist teachers in differentiating instruction through ongoing assessment to guide instruction. The components are based on a gradual release of responsibility model, providing read-alouds, modeling, guided practice, and independent practice. All aspects of literacy are attended to, including listening, speaking, reading, viewing, writing, representing, word study, conventions, and media literacy. In addition, there are specific links to geography, history, mathematics, science and technology, health, and the arts.

Young Writers in Action (Primary-1)

With a refocus on the youngest learners at the Primary-3 level, we were pleased to begin implementation of Young Writers in Action. At this event, held at the Old Orchard Inn October 6–8, 2010, we began by looking at the students in grades primary and 1. We focused on our beliefs about learning and the learner, both generally and specifically with regard to this age group; the developmental nature of writing; and the Writing Workshop as an instructional framework for working on the Writing and Other Ways of Representing strand of our English language arts curriculum. The featured speaker, Georgia Heard, spent the second day working with teachers on non-fiction writing and the third day on poetry.

Writers in Action 10–12 Consolidation

May 4–6, 2011 we will complete the Writers in Action work at the high school level by implementing our final focus on high school writing. Author Thomas Newkirk from the University of New Hampshire will spend the first two days concentrating teachers' efforts on six principles identified from his recent book *Holding on to Good Ideas in a Time of Bad Ones: Six Literacy Principles Worth Fighting For*. On the last day, as a fitting finale, we will look at “Great Writers in Our Own Backyard,” celebrating the work of local talented writers including Bryden MacDonald, Daniel MacIvor, Donna Morrissey, and Don Aker, who will be on site to give workshops on that day.



Resources for Primary-3

As another way to refocus our efforts on teachers and students at the Primary-3 level, the Department has purchased and distributed two key resources: one for use within professional learning communities and one for grade primary classroom students.

It's All About Comprehension: Teaching K–3 Readers from the Ground Up is a staff development DVD collection/Facilitator's Guide that guides teachers and students in whole-class, small-group, and one-on-one settings, clearly modeling highly effective ways to develop comprehension throughout Active Reading Hour.

Triple Treats Stage 3 Shapes I Can See Trio Pack and *Stage 3 Seasons Trio Pack* sets of resources consist of eighteen small books (six books of 3 titles), a big book, two CDs, and a teaching guide. These are innovative shared reading resources for the enjoyment and instruction of young readers in whole-class and small-group situations. Captivating illustrations, high-frequency vocabulary, and repetitive sentence patterns provide solid support in these trios of books.

Units of Study for Teaching Reading: A Curriculum for the Reading Workshop Grades 3–5 by Lucy Calkins

This resource has been provided to schools with grades 3–5 and is designed to be used over time throughout grades 3–5 in an instructionally aligned way.



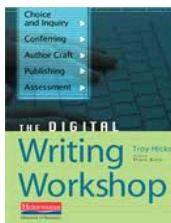
Teachers of these grade levels can work together to decide which units are focused on in which grades. There are seven units in all, and each unit is supported by a myriad of additional materials on DVD such as book lists, letters to parents, excerpts of read-alouds, teaching charts, teacher and student forms, additional minilessons, non-fiction articles, and assessment materials. This excellent resource provides depth and richness to the reading curriculum that can only provide clarity and enhance instruction in the effort to increase student achievement and the love of reading for students in these grade levels.



Writers in Action 12 Professional Resource Distribution

As part of the *Writers in Action* literacy project and as a follow-up to the *Writers in Action Grade 12 Implementation Event* in May 2010, the following professional resources will be distributed to grade 12 English language arts teachers: *Holding on to Good Ideas in a Time of Bad Ones: Six Literacy Principles Worth Fighting For*, *Teaching the Neglected "R"*, *Rethinking Writing in Secondary Classrooms*, and *The Digital Writing Workshop*.

Holding on to Good Ideas in a Time of Bad Ones: Six Literacy Principles Worth Fighting For is an insightful and thought-provoking book offering important and useful perspectives on many of the central issues in literacy education. This resource invites teachers to decide and lay claim to what's worth fighting for through a compact model for teaching reading and writing by answering four questions and presenting sixteen focal points. The book emphasizes the role of pleasure and personal connection in learning that is supported by evidence and research.



The Digital Writing Workshop shows how to use new technologies to enhance the teaching of writing. The chapters in this book are organized around the familiar principles of the writing workshop—student choice, active revision, studying author's craft, publication beyond the classroom, and assessment of both product and process. Each chapter expands and improves teaching by smartly incorporating new technologies like wikis, blogs, and other forms of multimedia. References to resources readily available online are found throughout the text. Included is a practical set of lessons for how to use wikis to explore a key concept in digital writing—copyright.



Teaching the Neglected "R" contains the combined wisdom and practice of twenty-four outstanding teachers and researchers, including Nancie Atwell, Jeffrey Wilhelm, Michael Smith, Jim Burke, Donald Murray, and Kim Stafford. Writing expressly for this volume, they address key topics, helping you re-imagine traditional genres and understand digital ones. They also focus on key constituencies, exploring ways to connect with English language learners, African Americans, and boys. And with chapters from Barry Lane on revision, Sara Kajder on integrating technology, and Tom Romano on multigenre papers, *Teaching the Neglected "R"* spans and expands the possibilities of writing instruction to offer both inspiration and day-to-day teaching suggestions. *Teaching the Neglected "R"* will help you see new ways to increase the prominence of writing in your teaching and remember the real goal of writing instruction—to truly engage students in purposeful writing, no matter what form that writing takes.



Celebrated author Thomas Newkirk will be the featured speaker at the Writers in Action 10, 11, 12 Consolidation Event in May 2011. Tom will present ideas and insights from his most recent books *Holding on to Good Ideas in a Time of Bad Ones* (2009) and *Teaching the Neglected "R"* (2007, co-edited with Richard Kent). One of Tom Newkirk's books, *Misreading Masculinity* (2004), was cited by *Instructor Magazine* as one of the most significant books for teachers in the past decade. Tom has studied literacy learning at a variety of educational levels—from preschool to college.



Physics 11 Markers Needed—Correspondence Studies

The Correspondence Study Program is seeking to contract with self-employed markers interested in assessing and evaluating student assignments and examinations in courses written and published by the Correspondence Study Program. Markers receive a fee per assignment, lesson, or unit evaluated. Markers are currently required in Physics 11.

For more information about how to apply for this, please visit our website at <http://csp.ednet.ns.ca> and select Markers and Contracts from the menu on the left of the page.

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

Holocaust Education Week November 1–9, 2010

Holocaust Education Week is an opportunity to reflect upon one of the darkest moments in twentieth century history and to honour and preserve the memories of the victims and survivors of the Holocaust. For more information on Holocaust Education Week, please see the Atlantic Jewish Council website at <http://www.theajc.ns.ca/holocaust.php>.

Schedule:

Date	Time	Location	Topic
Oct. 26	7:00–9:00 pm	McGinnis Room, Dalhousie 6136 University Avenue	Philip Riteman
Oct. 28	7:00–9:00 pm	University of King's College 2 nd floor, 6350 Coburg Road	Film: Po-Lin
Nov. 1	7:00–9:00 pm	Nova Scotia Teachers Union Bldg. 3106 Joseph Howe Drive	Azrieli Foundation Educators Workshop Presenter Anne McLeod
Nov. 2	7:00–9:00 pm	Heritage Hall, Pier 21 1055 Marginal Road	Art Exhibit: Polish Jews Artist Marita Benke Gajda
Nov. 3	7:00–9:00 pm	Pier 21 1055 Marginal Road	Film: Killing Kasztner
Nov. 7	6:30 pm	Maritime Museum of the Atlantic 1675 Lower Water Street	Dignity Day Ceremony

One event of note is to be held on Monday, November 1st, 2010, from 7:00–9:00 p.m. The Atlantic Jewish Council together with the Azrieli Foundation and NSTU will present a Holocaust Curricula Workshop for Educators. This will take place at the NSTU building in Halifax. The workshop is offered at no charge to all educators. Participants will receive a set of Series 3 of the Azrieli Series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs in Halifax.

Registration is required. Please email elevine@theajc.ns.ca or telephone 422-7491 ext. 226 to register.

Health Promotion and Protection Conferences

The Department of Health Promotion and Protection hosted the Child & Youth Drinking Knowledge Exchange on May 6, 2010 and the 2nd Annual Alcohol Policy & Research Forum on May 7, 2010. These conferences brought together a broad group of stakeholders who gathered to learn, share information and develop strategies to address harmful alcohol consumption in the province of Nova Scotia.

The Child & Youth Drinking Knowledge Exchange provided the opportunity to build capacity to address child and youth drinking and alcohol marketing. The 2nd Annual Alcohol Policy & Research Forum provided an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the role that alcohol plays as a public health concern and how to best address harmful alcohol consumption in Nova Scotia.

A website has been developed to provide copies of the event reports, presentations made by key note speakers, relevant research articles and advertisements presented at both events. This can be found at http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/knowledge_exchange_and_alcohol_forum/presentations.asp



Global Education Conference

The 2010 Global Education Conference will be held November 15–19, 2010, online and free. Sessions will be held in multiple time zones and multiple languages over the five days. Proposals for presentations are now being accepted.

The conference is a collaborative and world-wide community effort to significantly increase opportunities for globally-connecting education activities and initiatives. This is a worldwide conference on globally-connected education, not a “global conference on general education topics.”

There is no formal registration required for the conference, as all the sessions will be open and public. All sessions will be held in the Elluminate video conferencing platform, will be broadcast live, and will be available in recorded formats afterwards. The session schedule will be posted on the website starting in early November.

Please visit the website for this event at <http://www.globaleducationconference.com/>

October 24: United Nations Day

Social Studies Workshops

A provincial implementation workshop for Atlantic Canada Social Studies 4: *Explorations* will be held on March 24–25, 2011.

On May 7, 2011, a one-day provincial workshop will be held for the new Law 12 curriculum.

Renewable Energy in Nova Scotia

Grade 9 students at select schools in the province will again have a chance to explore renewable energy and the role it will play in Nova Scotia's future as part of a province-wide pilot project called *The Energy Around Us*. The Departments of Energy and Education will provide a series of resources to help students develop a deeper understanding of sustainable development issues, including the interconnections between energy and climate change.

Students will be encouraged to take part in hands-on activities and projects that stimulate learning around the social, economic, and environmental effects of renewable energy, with a strong focus on wind. There will also be a call to action—asking students what they can do to make a difference in their communities when it comes to renewable energy. As a conclusion to this initiative, student/class projects will be showcased at a year-end celebration in June.

CEED

CEED will offer an interactive workshop focusing on integrating entrepreneurship into the classroom through CEEDE's new *Entrepreneurship in Action* resource package at the 2010 Social Studies Teacher's Association Conference.

IB 2010 Results



The 2010 results are in and Nova Scotia IB students and their teachers did themselves proud. Our students scored higher than the worldwide results in 22 of 27 subjects and higher than the North American average in all but four subjects. Nova Scotia students also had outstanding results in the test of their research writing skills in which 48% of them achieved either an A or B in the required 4000-word Extended Essay Paper as compared to 37% of students worldwide who achieved an A or B. As was the case last year, our superior Extended Essay results were due in large measure to the Extended Essay workshops for our IB students conducted across the province by Dr. William Barker, President of University of Kings College. Overall 84% of Nova Scotia IB students received their diploma compared to 77% of students around the world who were successful.

Our IB students were generously rewarded for this academic success, earning over \$3,700,000 in scholarships and academic awards, including two national Loran Scholarships worth \$75,000 each. While 85% of the awards were provided by Atlantic Canadian universities, individual students won prestigious awards outside the province. An IB student at Dr. John Hugh Gillis High School won a full scholarship to the Glen Gould School of Music at the University of Toronto. One Park View student won a full scholarship to St. Andrew's College in Scotland, while another was awarded a full scholarship to attend the United World College in Singapore. A CEC student will attend Harvard this year with a major award based on her outstanding IB Diploma results.

Next year we will be welcoming Horton High School into the Nova Scotia family of IB schools under the leadership of the principal, Brad Stokes, and with the support of Thérèse Forsythe of the Annapolis Valley School Board. Horton has applied to the IB organization to be authorized as an IB Diploma World School.

Veterans Affairs Canada Learning Resources

Remembrance Week, November 5 to 11, is a time for all Canadians to recognize the sacrifices and achievements of those who have served the cause of peace and security for our country. Veterans Affairs Canada offers a broad range of free, bilingual learning resources about Remembrance and Canada's military history for teachers and students. From public information sheets and historical booklets to comprehensive multimedia learning kits that offer in-depth historical information on the First World War, the Second World War, and the Korean War, the Youth and Educators' section of the Veterans Affairs website at <http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/> provides free educational materials to aid educators and engage students in learning about Canada's military history.

Reminder: Free Veterans' Week posters and bookmarks must be ordered by the second week of October to be received prior to Remembrance Week. To request these materials, use the on-line Veterans' Week ordering system at <http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=feature/week2008>.



Royal Canadian Legion



The Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command of the Royal Canadian Legion sponsors a series of teacher and student programs that focus on Canada's military history. Information on these programs and related resources can be found at <http://www.ns.legion.ca/youth.html>.

Health Education

The new learning outcomes frameworks for Health Education Primary–6 and Healthy Living 7–9 are ready to be introduced to schools this fall. These documents feature a reduced number of outcomes at each grade level, the number ranging from 12 to 22. The new curriculum was developed using the World Health Organization's life skills model as one of its foundational principles and identifies six priority health areas which the outcomes address—mental health; physical activity; sexual health; healthy eating; injury and disease prevention; and substance use and gambling.

Classroom student and teacher resources to support learning and teaching within this new health education framework across the grade levels are being distributed to schools this fall. Schools that include grades primary–6 can expect to receive two classroom collections of resources, picture books and other student titles that help to address outcomes. The first collection comprises materials related to sexual health; the other collection addresses outcomes related to mental and emotional health.

The Department of Education is delighted to provide classroom teachers of grades primary–3 with the curriculum supplement *Healthy Mind, Healthy Body: My Health and My Brain*. This mental health curriculum supplement is aligned with new health education specific curriculum outcomes at each grade level related to mental health. Teachers of grades 4–6 health education and Healthy Living 7–9 received a supplement in the spring of 2009. The primary–3 supplement will be distributed to classroom teachers in the spring of 2011.

In November, schools with grades primary–9 can expect to receive *Kids in the Know: Personal Safety Program*, an interactive and comprehensive safety education program for increasing the personal safety of children and reducing their risk of victimization. Created by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, this comprehensive personal safety education program addresses topics such as internet safety, cell phone safety, emotional health, healthy relationships/friendships, the importance of safe and trusted adults, and how to get help, through interactive and developmentally appropriate learning and teaching experiences across each grade level. Schools will receive one complete kit to share among teachers. This program includes information for parents and families. Visit <http://www.kidzintheknow.ca> to access more information.



TextED.ca



Also from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, and of interest to teachers of Healthy Living 7 and 8, is a new and field tested online educational learning and teaching tool which includes a teaching guide and lesson plans to help youth engage in safe texting practices and the consequences for the misuse of the kinds of social networking used by youth. Visit the website for more information on the program at <http://www.texted.ca>

Nutrition Supplement Released

The Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion Health Canada is pleased to announce the release of *Supportive Environments for Learning: Healthy Eating and Physical Activity within Comprehensive School Health*, a special supplement to the Canadian Journal of Public Health.



The supplement comprises a series of seven articles that summarize the state of knowledge on policy options to support healthy eating and physical activity in the school setting; describe roles of stakeholders; and provide an overview of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of school policies. The need for further research to strengthen the evidence base to inform future programs and policies is also highlighted.

The coordination and production of this supplement was a collaborative effort among Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the Joint Consortium for School Health. All three organizations acknowledge the significant contribution of the authors in enhancing the evidence base that promotes and supports integrated action on physical activity and healthy eating within a comprehensive school health framework.

An Adobe Acrobat (pdf) version of this resource can be downloaded from the Canadian Public Health Association website at <http://journal.cpha.ca/index.php/cjph/article/view/2538/2206>

October is Health Literacy Month

Grade 7 Mathematics Support PD

The Department of Education is providing two days of professional learning sessions for each grade 7 mathematics teacher in response to the Early Elementary Mathematical Literacy Assessment (EMLA). These two days will focus on the following:

- Interpreting the EMLA results and developing effective tracking materials for students not meeting expectations
- Revising, when appropriate, whole class instruction in response to EMLA data
- Examining engaging ways to activate prior knowledge
- Examining examples of assessment for learning as a means to inform instruction
- Examining students' work as a means to inform instruction
- Uncovering misconceptions and understanding how they inform instruction
- Experiencing a lesson from the grade 7 core resource in which teachers will learn how to differentiate the instruction when teaching a lesson
- Differentiating instruction

Information about scheduled dates can be obtained through your Board Mathematics Coordinator.

EBSCO News

EBSCO has announced the release of user interface improvements to the EBSCOhost system. The following information summarizes the most significant changes you will see when you carry out a search in EBSCOhost:

- Limiters and the date slider will move from the right to the left column beside the Result List, which is a more intuitive position for these popular features, consolidating all the ways users can refine and work with their results in one area.
- Detailed record pages will be more streamlined, and links to full text and various tools will be more prominently displayed in the margins.
- Users will be able to select multiple clusters and source types when managing results.
- There will be an enhanced PDF Viewer, Content Viewer, HTML Full Text, etc.
- A “breadbox” will show users which limiters, expanders and source types have already been selected.
- Simpler overall interface elements will increase the intuitiveness of the user experience.

None of these enhancements requires that you change the way you search EBSCOhost. If you require help or wish to review tutorials in using these features, they are available through the “New Features!” link at the top right corner of the website at

<http://search.ebscohost.com>



Science Olympics Grades 4 and 5

The Department of Education and other partners are pleased to support the Nova Scotia Invitational Science Olympics on November 27, 2010. The event is being held on a Saturday so as not to conflict with school schedules. This is an invitational provincial event. Teams of four students will participate in several challenges, requiring them to work cooperatively to construct and test devices that fulfill required tasks. This event will be held at Saint Mary's University in Halifax. All boards have been invited to send teams.



Science Primary-6 Professional Learning

A one-day professional learning science session on doing and thinking from primary-6 will be held in each school board. Boards will be invited to send one representative from each elementary school to attend this exciting session.

Participants will explore science concepts with connections to literacy, mathematics, visual arts, movement, and social studies. Participants will be involved in doing and thinking through hands-on, minds-on activities that are multidisciplinary. One example that the teachers will explore is the developmental progress in measuring as it relates to science. The factors that support a positive student/teacher relationship and the role the environment plays in building confidence and competence among learners will be addressed. Assessment and technology will be embedded in the program throughout the day.

Each participant will receive a selection of learning resources related to the day's events that are designed to promote hands-on, minds-on learning. For each grade, these include picture books, science equipment, and measuring tools. As well, each participating elementary school will receive copies of various science information texts, and copies of Department of Education science videos.

Communities of Practice Moodle

CoP: Transforming Classroom Learning with ICT—Elementary is a new Moodle environment at the Nova Scotia Virtual School for teachers integrating information and communication technology within the curriculum. Go to the Nova Scotia Virtual School located at <http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca/moodle>. Use your staff ednet.ns.ca user ID (e.g., tsmith portion of tsmith@staff.ednet.ns.ca) and email password. Select Provincial Teacher Communities of Practice → CoP: Transforming Classroom Learning with ICT—Elementary

Provincial Assessment Schedule

During the first two months of this school year, the department administered the following assessments: ELLA and ARL in September and ELA in October.

The next scheduled assessments prior to the Canada Games in 2011 are

Date	Assessment	Grade Level
janv 10–13, 2011	Appréciation de rendement en littératie au secondaire (ARLS)	9 ^e année
Jan. 25, 2011	NSE Mathematics	Senior High
Jan. 25, 2011	NSE Advanced Mathematics	Senior High
janv 25, 2011	ENÉ Mathématiques	2 ^e cycle: secondaire
janv 25, 2011	ENÉ Mathématiques avancées	2 ^e cycle: secondaire
Jan. 26, 2011	NSE English	Senior High
Jan. 26, 2011	NSE English/Communications	Senior High
Feb 1–4, 2011	Junior High Literacy Assessment (JHLA)	Grade 9

Information about each of the assessments may be found at <http://plans.ednet.ca>

CLASS II



Children's Lifestyle And School-performance Study

Children's Lifestyle and School-performance Study (CLASS II)

In 2003, the *Children's Lifestyle and School-performance Study* or CLASS was conducted with over 5000 grade 5 students in elementary schools across Nova Scotia. The project gathered information on nutrition, activities, body weights and school performance. The findings provided insight on children's health behaviours and also helped to inform recent policies and programs related to healthy eating and physical activity.

To help understand how changes in policies, programs, and practices have influenced children's health and health behaviours since 2003, a follow-up study, CLASS II, began in April 2009. Led by Dr. Sara Kirk (Dalhousie University) and Dr. Paul Veugelers (University of Alberta), CLASS II will investigate the impact of provincial and school board level healthy eating and active living policies and programs on school practices and diet, activity, body weights, and other outcomes of children in Nova Scotia.

Class II will be collecting information from all schools with grade 5 this school year (winter/spring 2011).

All participating schools will receive a report on their schools' result. School boards and the Department of Education will be presented with summary reports. The project's website will post study findings as they become available. CLASS II will help to inform the development and implementation of future healthy eating and active living strategies for children in Nova Scotia.

If you would like more information please contact Jessie-Lee Langille, Project Coordinator, by email at jessie-lee.langille@dal.ca or by telephone at 902-494-8439. You can also visit the website at <http://www.nsclass.ca>



English Language Arts Digital Audio Kit

A group of elementary teachers and technology integration mentors is developing an English language arts Digital Audio Kit for distribution to schools with one or more grades 2–6 classrooms in January 2011. The kit will contain four handheld digital audio recorders, connector cables, and a CD of resources. The resources on the CD include English language arts and cross curricular implementation ideas, activities, and student research projects addressing speaking and listening strand learning outcomes and key-stage ICT integration learning outcomes, especially for the Research, Problem Solving, and Decision Making; Social, Ethical, and Human Issues; and Communication strands. You are welcome to contribute your ideas and materials with a Creative Commons licence by joining the English Language Arts Digital Audio Kit Virtual Environment.

2010 Prime Minister's Awards - Call for Nominations

The 2010 Prime Minister's Awards nomination forms will be available in early October, with nominations accepted until November 30th. Please spread the word, and help ensure that more outstanding Nova Scotian educators receive the recognition they deserve!

Please visit <http://www.pma.gc.ca> for details.

Préparez-vous aux Prix du Premier ministre 2010 - Appel de mises en candidature

Les formulaires de mises en candidature 2010 seront disponibles au début octobre, et les candidatures seront acceptées jusqu'au 30 novembre. N'hésitez pas à passer le mot afin que les enseignants de la Nouvelle-Écosse qui excellent dans leur domaine puissent recevoir la reconnaissance qu'ils méritent!

Ajoutez comme signet <http://www.pma.gc.ca> pour obtenir de plus amples détails.

Envirothon 2010-11

Envirothon is a grades 9–12 program focusing on natural resources. The theme this year is **Salt and Fresh Water**

Estuaries. Students can become involved in their schools through various clubs. This hands-on, minds-on experience culminates in a three-day provincial competition. Students and teachers have the opportunity to hear speakers, do field work, and present their work to a wide range of professionals and students across the province. The winning team represents Nova Scotia at the Canon Envirothon which will be held at Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, on July 24–29, 2011.

This year's Envirothon competition will be taking place at Acadia University on May 5–7, 2011. The registration deadline is March 30, 2011. For more information, or for registration forms, please visit <http://www.nsfa.ca/>



Atlantic Teachers' Tour: Forests Worth Knowing

The 2010 Atlantic Teachers' Tour was held in August this year, with more than 20 teachers from across Atlantic Canada learning about the forest industry right here in our own backyard. If you would like to join the three-day tour in 2011, keep an eye on <http://www.teacherstour.com> for dates and location.

Saint Mary's University Creates New Entrance Award for Options and Opportunities Graduates

Saint Mary's University (SMU) has joined the many partners of the Options and Opportunities (O₂) program and is currently offering a \$2000 renewable entrance award to an O₂ graduate. The O₂ Entrance Award is awarded annually to a student entering a SMU program in the Faculty of Arts, Commerce, or Science. Upon satisfactory academic achievement and continued full-time enrolment, it will be renewed each year of the recipient's four year degree. Award selection will be determined by SMU and based upon academic success, work experience, and related accreditations.

SMU is also available to provide resources and support to students and teachers in the form of customized presentations; classroom visits by faculty, Career Services, and Liaison and Admissions staff; free province-wide transportation to the campus for interactive tours; and professional development for teachers in aligned disciplines. In addition to this menu of resources, SMU is now also recognizing high school co-operative education credits in the calculation of a student's average.

To learn more about these resources and supports, please contact Jenny Calder, Liaison and Admissions Officer, Saint Mary's University at 420-5070 or by email at jenny.calder@smu.ca



ELA Grades 2–6 Software

The Department of Education has purchased one (1) copy of Photoshop Elements for each English program classroom, grades 2–6, and each French first language and immersion programs English classrooms, grades 4–6. Contact your school board technology department for its rollout plan. Photoshop Elements is a photo editing software that supports student creation of photo montage, collages, and basic as well as advanced photo fixes such as red-eye, crooked horizons, colour correction, and exposure adjustments. Online help is available at the Nova Scotia Virtual School at <http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca/moodle>. Login and select Provincial Professional Learning → DOE Technology Integration PD Modules. Scroll down the page and look for PhotoShop Elements!

Arts Education Information

Advanced Music 11, Advanced Music 12, Advanced Visual Arts 11, and Advanced Visual Arts 12 continue to be offered in high schools throughout the province. Students enrolled in these courses enjoy unique opportunities to work with artists in their communities. An application form for the Community Partnership Grant may be found in the pertinent curriculum document and should be submitted to the Department of Education by Oct. 19 for first term, and February 28 for term two.



Implementation of new grade 8 arts education curriculum begins this school year. To support arts educators serving grade 8 students and implementation of the new curriculum for *Band Instruments 8, Music 8*, and *Visual Arts 8*, professional learning workshops will be offered in each school board. Schools implementing these courses have received text and video resources. Teachers attending the *Visual Arts 8* implementation workshops will receive a startup kit containing a range of art supplies. In addition, new arts education curriculum at the grade 9 level is being piloted this year.

The *Artists in Schools* program provides opportunities for professional artists to work with students and teachers (grades primary–12) in classrooms throughout Nova Scotia. As they learn through the arts, students and teachers collaborate with artists on creative, hands-on projects that are linked to curriculum outcomes across all subject areas. Potential partnerships are available with ArtReach, ArtsSmarts, Debut Atlantic, PAINTS, Perform!, and WITS. For further information, consult the brochure distributed to schools in September, the Department of Education website (<http://www.ednet.ns.ca>), or the individual organization's website.



This *Youth on the Radar* project is now installed at the Provincial Courthouse and was created by junior high students of Elizabeth Sutherland School and Cunard Junior High School, guided by artist Miro Davis.

Grade 7 students engage in an activity from the *Music 7: World Drumming* curriculum (May 2010).



Gifted Education

After two years of review of the *Challenge for Excellence* document (1999), the new *Gifted Education and Talent Development* guide is about to be launched. The review committee has planned a three-phase rollout in order to ensure that as many classroom teachers in Nova Scotia have access to this new guide.

Phase I of the rollout is a two-fold official launch. This will occur in conjunction with the NSTU 2010 Provincial Conference Day. Professional associations will announce the official launch during the opening remarks of their conference, and over 12 professional associations will present workshops on October 22nd, 2010 on addressing the needs of students who are gifted and talented.

Phase II of the rollout will see four of the eight sections of the guide online, as podcasts. These will be available online to all NS teachers, along with access to the entire document in downloadable parts. Hard copy of the document will also be available from the Nova Scotia Book Bureau.

Phase III of the rollout will be a conference with international speakers, and will take place at the end of May 2012. The conference will be a collaborative event organized by NSEL, NSTU, and the Student Services Divisions of the Department of Education.



Technology for Elementary Learning

is a new support CD for teachers integrating technology within the curriculum program. Nova Scotia teacher-designed materials and resources have been specifically selected to help you in your work with the full range of learners at the upper elementary level. Two copies of the CD per school have been supplied to school board technology integration mentors and leaders to distribute to your school. As the information economy initiative extension refreshes ICT hardware and software in grades 4–6 this fall, teachers will find many ideas and strategies on the CD for using ICT effectively to support student learning and achievement.

October 17–23: School Safety Week

Grade One Professional Learning

Once again the Department of Education is partnering with regional school boards to support Nova Scotia's young learners. A one-day professional learning session for grade 1 teachers



will exemplify an educationally sound, developmentally appropriate approach to learning. The format follows the highly successful 2009–2010 Primary Invitational Professional Learning session, *Connecting Play with Learning in Science, Visual Arts, and Movement*; and the 2010 Summer Institute *Learning at Play: Playful Learning Experiences to Support Health Education in the Primary–2 Classroom*. Throughout the day opportunities for experience, reflection, and information will combine to confirm the central role of play in a grade 1 classroom.

This year, participating teachers will be introduced to thoughtfully designed "Learning Zones" intended to pique children's curiosity and help them draw on prior knowledge to create new understandings. Teachers will think about and discuss the ways in which children might solve problems, practise and learn new skills, and interact with others in a manner appropriate to a group setting. This approach is intended to weave together the role of child development and learning—deepening knowledge acquired through authentic experience.

As in the past, participating teachers will take away a wide array of resources intended for immediate use in the grade 1 classroom. For example the visually rich *Young Learners Experiences in Art*, published jointly by Department of Education and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, will serve as a framework for observing children's development through their art. A classroom pack of *Explorations in Art, Book 1, The Arts Go To School*, along with clay, clay tools, and multicultural coloured pencils will enhance the visual arts zone; a selection of teacher resources referenced throughout the day, including *Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs: Serving Children from Birth through Age 8*; *Anti Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves*; a persona doll; and several pertinent student texts will be included as take-away resources.

This session is shaping up to be a day full of fun and learning!

New Look for LRTS Online PD Videos

On October 26, the LRTS online teacher professional development collection (formerly called "MEWS") will have a new look, with new formatting for the videos in the collection. It will now be known as the *Digital Video Library*. The videos will be provided in Flash format, offering better quality images, bigger pictures, and clearer sound. Just about every LRTS Media Production PD series in the last four years will be included on the site when all videos have been transformed and prepared.

Our online player has a one-click, "full screen" option, to facilitate video projection. Don't worry if you don't have Flash on your CPU; you can download the latest (free) software from a link on our site.

Series included in our initial batch of videos are

Assistive Technology: Supporting Student Success

(CNIE Award of Excellence, 2010)

Mental Math

(All four DVD discs)

Providing Support through Co-teaching

Doing and Thinking Science: Olympic Freestyle

Hands-On, Minds-On Science

Open Options: Careers in Science

Core French 10: Les simulations globales

Teaching & Learning: A Primary Focus

(CNIE Award of Excellence, 2008)

Writing Workshop P–3

Writing Workshop 4–9

Most of these titles include multiple segments. Some may look familiar, because they've been in DVD distribution from the LRTS Media Library catalogue. All titles still remain available from the Media Library (<http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/>) as conventional DVD copies, but now teachers can also access them at will online or download segments to their school or home computers as necessary.

So please visit the new website on October 26, and watch for additional titles in the months ahead. The URL is <http://DVL.ednet.ns.ca>

PS: Special thanks to the Department's web developers, Karen DeWolfe and Kelly Campbell, for the new look and functionality of this site.

21st Century Skills

Nova Scotia, along with other jurisdictions within Canada and around the world, will participate in the International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS). This is the first international comparative study of student preparedness for life in the information age—the study will assess the ability to use computers to investigate, create and communicate in order to participate effectively at home, at school, in the workplace and in the community.

Students in grade 8 will complete two 30-minute assessment modules that engage learners in authentic computer-based tasks in an online environment. These assessments, along with questionnaires for students, teachers, and school administrators, will provide a rich source of information about how our students integrate technology in their learning.

Nova Scotia has signed on at the beginning of this new and highly relevant international study. The first group of students to participate will be in grade 8 in the 2012–2013 school year.

Questions will we answer with this study:

- How well are our students prepared for study, work, and life in the information age?
- How does student computer and information literacy vary within and between countries?
- What factors influence students' computer and information literacy?
- What can education systems and schools do to improve computer and information literacy?

Online Resources for Teachers

Grade 6 teachers are invited to join the **Social Studies**

6 Implementation Moodle which is filled with over 200 resources, links, activities, and modifiable resources designed to support your implementation of this new curriculum! Go to the Nova Scotia Virtual School located at <http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca/moodle>. Use your staff.ednet.ns.ca user ID (e.g., tsmith portion of tsmith@staff.ednet.ns.ca) and email password. Select Provincial Teacher Communities of Practice → Social Studies → Social Studies 6 Implementation Moodle.

LRTS Media Library

Visit the Media Library online at: <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca> We ship multimedia curriculum resources to schools anywhere in the province. You can search our catalogue by course name, grade level, or curriculum area, in addition to subject, series, or title. We also have professional development resources on a number of different subjects.

Resources are available from two different collections:

- **Dubbing** programs become a part of your school's collection; we charge only for the cost of the media used (DVD \$1.62 / VHS \$1.13-1.62 - tax incl.).
- **Loans** are available for 5 to 10 days.

For more information, visit our website or, contact the Education Media Library: by phone 424-2440, by fax at 428- 5828, or by mail at Brunswick Place, 2nd floor, 2021 Brunswick Street, Halifax, NS B3K 2V5. You can also email us at mediacir@ednet.ns.ca

Special Note: The Media Library is in the process of purchasing new materials for our collection! If you would like to recommend a title, or be involved in evaluating videos for possible inclusion in the library, please contact Ray Fernandes, Education Media Librarian, at (902) 424-2439, or send an email to fernandrf@gov.ns.ca

Creative Commons Licensing

In many classrooms, teachers and students are transforming classroom learning through technology anchored practices. With the growth of the Internet, key world class educational resources are available in digital formats and are freely accessible. Many individuals and organizations are adopting Creative Commons licensing as a tool to ensure that their intellectual property is freely available to others. Detailed information about Creative Commons licensing is available at <http://creativecommons.org>. In your next Google search with students, why not select the Advanced Search option, and select to search for resources that are available with permissions such as the right to use, share, and modify as shown in the screen shot below:

Date, usage rights, numeric range, and more

Date: (how recent the page is) anytime

Usage rights: not filtered by license

Where your keywords show up: not filtered by license

Region:

Numeric range:

free to use or share
free to use or share, even commercially
free to use share or modify
free to use, share or modify, even commercially
(e.g. \$1500-\$3000)

October is Canada Library Month



Phase I of iNSchool Launched this Fall

In September, 78 schools (Phase I) in Nova Scotia began registering and managing student information on one common system. Soon, students and parents of these Phase I schools will see a consistent provincial report card format and connect with their school using the same student-parent portal.

It's all part of iNSchool, a province-wide program aimed at leveraging technology to better support student achievement. iNSchool is being led by our province's eight school boards and the Department of Education.

Once in place, iNSchool will contribute to other key functions—curriculum and program development, student assessment, and school accreditation and improvement programs—with real-time access to information on our students, schools and programs.

"It's very powerful... the department will have what they need, instantly," says Annette Lefort, Junior High Teacher at École NDA. "It will stop the need to produce reports on paper. It will already be there—marks, absenteeism, enrolment, disciplinary reports, etc."

iNSchool will have a significant impact on Nova Scotia's public school system. Everyone will benefit—students, parents, teachers, school administrators and assistants, school boards, and the Department of Education. It will enable parents to be more engaged in their children's education, and lead to a more responsive education system.

iNSchool will be implemented gradually over the next three years. To learn more about iNSchool, go to <http://www.inschool.ednet.ns.ca>

"I'm not a technically savvy person at all, but I think the new system is wonderful," says Nancy MacBain, Guidance Counsellor at Sir John A Macdonald High. "It's a long time coming and we need it."

Current News in Technology Education:

Technology Education teachers who are teaching in a production technology facility are currently being affected by the temporary shut-down of the dust extraction units (due to fire regulation inspections). This means that machines must be used on a cycled basis while production machines are disconnected from the dust extraction unit. Teachers are reminded that cleanup efforts during this time are imperative and must be built into the cycle of use of production machinery. Kilah Hayden has been providing one-day professional development sessions for technology education teachers in boards that wish to make use of this service.

For more information, contact Kilah Hayden at 902-896-2459 or haydenkj@gov.ns.ca

Technology Education teachers are reminded to attend the annual NSTEA conference on October 22 at the NSCC Dartmouth Waterfront Campus.

Lancement de la première phase du programme Info Élèves cet automne

En septembre, 78 écoles de la Nouvelle-Écosse ont commencé à inscrire et à gérer l'information sur les élèves dans un système commun. Bientôt, les élèves et les parents de ces 78 écoles incluses dans la première phase recevront un bulletin scolaire dans un format qui est uniforme à l'échelle de la province et communiqueront avec leur école à l'aide du même portail parents-élèves.

Ces changements sont effectués dans le cadre du programme Info Élèves, un programme provincial destiné à tirer parti de la technologie pour mieux soutenir la réussite des élèves. Info Élèves est géré par nos huit conseils scolaires provinciaux et le ministère de l'Éducation.

Une fois en place, Info Élèves contribuera à d'autres fonctions clés, telles que les programmes d'enseignement, l'évaluation des élèves et les programmes de mise en œuvre et de confirmation de l'amélioration des écoles, sans oublier l'accès en temps réel à des renseignements sur nos élèves, nos écoles et nos programmes.

"C'est très puissant; le ministère dispose de l'information dont il a besoin de façon instantanée, a dit Annette Lefort, enseignante du premier cycle du secondaire à l'École NDA. Il n'est plus nécessaire de créer des rapports sur papier. Tout est déjà là—les notes, les absences, les inscriptions, les rapports disciplinaires, etc."

Info Élèves aura des répercussions importantes sur le système des écoles publiques en Nouvelle-Écosse. Tout le monde tirera profit du nouveau système—les élèves, leurs parents et leurs enseignants, les adjoints et les administrateurs scolaires, les conseils scolaires, et le ministère de l'Éducation. Il permettra aux parents de prendre une part plus active dans l'éducation de leurs enfants, ce qui produira un système d'éducation mieux adapté.

Info Élèves sera mis en œuvre graduellement au cours des trois prochaines années, en débutant par 78 écoles cette année. Pour obtenir plus d'information sur le programme Info Élèves, consultez le <http://www.inschool.ednet.ns.ca/fr>

"Je ne m'y connais pas beaucoup en technologie, mais je crois que ce nouveau système est merveilleux, a dit Nancy MacBain, conseillère en orientation à l'école secondaire Sir John A. Macdonald. Il est attendu et nécessaire depuis longtemps."



New Video Promotes Options and Opportunities for Students

Teachers gathered in August for an Options and Opportunities (O_2) New Teacher workshop and to launch a new promotional video. The video, produced by the Department of Education's Learning Resources and Technology Division, shows how the O_2 program connects high school students with employers and offers them meaningful hands-on learning in schools and in the community.

"The great thing about Options and Opportunities is that students can see the paths that lead to a range of careers," said acting Education Minister John MacDonell. "This program helps government further its commitment to help prepare young Nova Scotians for good jobs that grow the economy. The O_2 program would not be possible without the great work of our dedicated teachers."

O_2 gives students opportunities to gain experience in a workplace and focus on career development. The program is ideal for students interested in building a career in arts, culture, recreation, business, health, human services, hospitality and tourism, information technology, trades and technologies.

High school students who participate in the program get hands-on experience in a career academy and increased opportunities for community-based learning such as co-operative education credits and short-term work placements. In addition to learning in high school, O_2 graduates are secured admission to the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), should they choose that post-secondary option.

" O_2 has helped me in many ways. Not only has being in the program helped me find the right career path, it has also taught me valuable life skills," said Jessica Albert, an O_2 graduate who entered the culinary arts program at NSCC this fall. "By being part of O_2 I was able to learn about my career choice and have different experiences that would help me in my future. The teachers were always there to encourage me to take another step forward."

Enrolment in the O_2 program has quadrupled since the program was introduced in 2006–07. Forty-six schools offered the O_2 program to 1,620 students across the province in 2009–2010, and enrolment is expected to increase in this school year. The Department of Education provides support for O_2 teachers and administrators, including professional learning opportunities, resources, and mentor services.

The new Options and Opportunities video is available at <http://www.ednet.ns.ca/O2/content/options-opportunities-what-weve-learned>



Acting Education Minister John MacDonell with O_2 students Cody Smith and Jessica Albert

Teaching Financial Management

At the high school level two resources are being used in Nova Scotia for teaching financial management. These are

- "The City: A Financial Life Skills Resource for Teachers and Students" is a web-based resource produced and supported by the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada which is well suited for grades 10 and 11 students. Teachers and students must register in order to access the site. This registration is free. More information is also available through the website at <http://www.themoneybelt.gc.ca>

- "Your Everything Money Guide" is a CD-ROM and Teachers' Guide distributed by the Credit Union Central of Nova Scotia. This resource is a mature look at financial management and is well suited to grades 11 and 12 students. Teachers can access information on this Financial Literacy Program via the following website <http://www.nscreditunions.ca> under the community section. If you would like to order "Your Everything Money Guide" for your class, please fill out the form provided on the website and fax the orders to (902) 454-6260.

For more information on the use of these resources in Nova Scotia please contact Sheila Munro through email at munrosm@gov.ns.ca

African Canadian Services Division - Reality Check Update

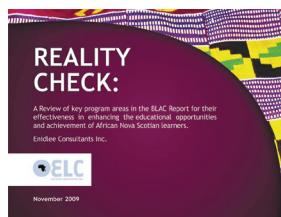
In February 2008, Dr. Enid Lee and Clem Marshall of EnidLee Consultants were commissioned to complete a review of 12 recommendations from the *BLAC Report*. Dr. Lee's report entitled Reality Check which contained 68 recommendations, was released on December 10, 2009, and was made available to stakeholders and members of the public for feedback.

There were several key recommendations made within the Reality Check report, but there were two all-encompassing themes. The first is that we must elevate our response to the needs of African Nova Scotian learners from that of an equity supports approach to a leadership and results focused approach. What this essentially means is that the leadership at all levels of education from the Department of Education senior administrative team to school board members to principals must hold themselves accountable for addressing the needs of African Nova Scotian learners. We can no longer expect that individuals in supportive roles can effect the systemic change needed.

The second major theme is that we must continue to refine and fine tune the models to further meet the needs of learners. Dr Lee was quite clear that Nova Scotia has a model that is recognized internationally for addressing the needs of African Nova Scotian Learners. Many of the programs developed and implemented as a result of the *BLAC Report on Education* are affecting opportunities and achievement for African Nova Scotian learners. This review is an opportunity to take something that is having a positive impact and increase its effectiveness.

Extensive consultation was held by Dr. Lee and the Minister of Education to ensure this report and the Minister's Response reflected many voices. The Minister has considered all input and is prepared to provide her response to Dr. Lee's report on October 18, 2010. The department will continue to work with its partners at the school boards and with African Nova Scotian organizations to improve educational opportunities and results for African Nova Scotian learners.

Copies of the BLAC report and Dr. Lee's report (in Adobe Acrobat Reader format) can be found at http://www.ednet.ns.ca/stay_informed/blac-review-report.shtml



Building Futures for Youth Update



The main objective of Building Futures for Youth is the promotion of careers in the construction industry as an exciting and viable choice for our province's youth. A partnership between the Construction Association of Nova Scotia (CANS), the Department of Education, the Department of Labour and Workforce Development, the Nova Scotia Community College, and industry employers, Building Futures for Youth allows grade 11 students to earn high school co-op credits and apprenticeship hours while being paid for their work over the summer.

In 2010 we expanded, growing from four school boards to cover the entire province. Over 200 students applied to be part of our program. This past summer, the Building Futures for Youth program was able to provide opportunities to over 100 students in communities from Yarmouth to Sydney. With 56 employers participating, students were able to explore careers in carpentry, heavy duty equipment repair, project management and architecture, to name just a few.

We want to thank all the employers who participated in the program this summer, not just in hosting students but in assisting in the interview process, hosting site tours, providing safety officers to present to students during their training, and promoting the program with their colleagues.

September has seen us back in schools, making presentations to a new crop of students and their teachers, attempting to engage students for the summer of 2011. We will be depending on teacher 'champions' within schools as well as our student 'alumni' to spread the word on the advantages of the program.

If you are interested in more information or you'd like to schedule a presentation for your students, please contact the Community-Based Learning Consultant for your school board or Juanita MacDonald of CANS at 468-2267 or by email at jmacdonald@cans.ns.ca



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Fall, 2010

What an exciting fall this is turning out to be! We are seeing unprecedented growth in both participant enrollment and in Awards achieved. We have welcomed several new school groups on board including Astral Drive Junior

High School, Centre Consolidated School, Dartmouth High School, École du Sommet, École Rose-des-Vents, Park View Education Centre, and Shelburne Regional High School, and École de la Rive-Sud will be starting in November. We have made a concerted effort to continue our mission of being accessible to all youth, and thus have produced display and record keeping materials in French, which will allow Francophone students and leaders to participate. A new French promotional DVD will be produced by the Department of Education's Learning Resources and Technology Services Division, which will capture the activities of our Francophone students. This is expected to be released late Spring of 2011 and will be a wonderful resource.



Pictured left: Amy Burry, our Award Officer, preparing display materials for display for CSAP schools.

With the schools in the province becoming more engaged in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award program, we are seeing more and more teachers becoming Duke Leaders. We held a successful Leader Training day on August 12, as part of the Department of Education's Summer Institute program. We are also providing Leader Training at the TAPHE Conference on October 22, 2010. Thank you, teachers, for becoming involved and helping us move this program forward. We couldn't do it without you!!

For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.dukeofed.org> and select Nova Scotia.

Take the challenge

Live the achievement

Relève le défi

À toi de jouer

Back row: Mike Morrison, Tim Henneberry, Ian Wilson, Jim Mugford
Front row: Ferry Patterson, Mark Sampson, Dave Gallant

Arts Express

Arts Express is in the process of turning the local courthouses in Halifax into Art Galleries! For the first time ever, the Provincial Courthouse on Spring Garden Road will be open as one of the venues for the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia's festival "Nocturne: art at night. Glow in the Dark", on October 16, 2010. Nocturne is a spectacular HRM event during which the public has free access to all the galleries and public places. It is a vibrant and exciting evening. The program for Nocturne can be found at <http://www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca>

The exhibit at the Provincial Courthouse will showcase work created by students of the J.L. Ilsley family of schools as part of the "Youth on the Radar" project. This project was funded by the Minister of Justice's Crime Prevention Initiative and aims to offer youth the opportunity to work with professional artists, channeling their energies in creative and productive ways.

Our next location for 'public art' will be the Supreme Court and the first site visit with the Court Administration has already taken place. The artist who will lead this project is Miro Davis, who is the Research fellow for NSCAD University.

Arts Express will exhibit student work at other locations during Nocturne. A project created at J.L. Ilsley High School, with the financial support of Dr. Stan Kutcher, will be exhibited on the 4th floor of the AGNS. The work was created by students of the Teen Health Centre and Gay-Straight Alliance under the artistic guidance of Melissa Marr. The work is a giant print, depicting the "Teenage Brain", which is at times a confusing place.... .



Modeling a Culture of Safety

Nova Scotia's Skilled Trades teachers recently participated in day-long seminar designed to support them as teachers of safe working practices.

All workers in the certified trades are expected to work safely. This is not only for their personal safety, but also for the safety of their fellow workers and the protection of what they may be working on. Skilled Trades 10 and Construction Trades 11 are built on a culture of safety to model this approach to work.

As part of ongoing professional development and in order to show due diligence, our teachers learned about fall protection and hazard identification in a course



presented by the Nova Scotia Community College and designed specifically for this seminar. Instructor Gil Johnson provided the teachers with a unique learning opportunity.

Family Studies Update

Textile Arts and Design 7 is in its second year of implementation, with 112 schools offering this hands-on, consumer focus curriculum to students. Teachers of this curriculum will be receiving another resource soon—*Clothes and Your Appearance, Student Resource*. This is the student resource for Grade 10; however, it is a good source of basic information for the Textile Arts and Design 7 teacher.

Food and Nutrition 8 Implementation Workshops have been completed in every school board. All 110 schools offering Food and Nutrition 8 have received a set of teacher and classroom resources. This is a practical, hands-on curriculum that complements the nutrition components of the Healthy Living 7, 8 and 9 curricula.

Child Studies 9 is currently being piloted in 11 schools across the province. Students practice their nutrition and sewing skills acquired in grade 7 and 8 as they prepare healthy food and safe play activities for young children, and develop skill in relating to and working with young children.

At the **Grade 10** level, 33 high schools in the province are implementing the various Family Studies curriculum options available. Schools select any two of five curriculum options to offer as a full credit. Three of these options qualify for the technology credit.

Learning Resources and Technology Services' Media Library has listed *The Great Food Revolution* as a video set available for dubbing purposes. The episodes are well-matched to outcomes in various food-related high school courses.

This four-part CBC documentary series takes viewers on a gastronomic journey that explores how food has been transformed from mere sustenance to the 21st century's magnificent obsession. You can learn more details about the four episodes through the online catalogue at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca> →Media Library (videos). The call number is V2795.

The **Child Studies 11** curriculum includes the use of the *Real Care Baby II*, listed in Nova Scotia's Authorized Learning Resources. The new listing for this resource will be more environmentally conscious as we switch from a battery-based product to a rechargeable model.

The grade 12 Family Studies curriculum options are in the process of being developed as full outcomes-based credit courses. The curriculum at this level has a strong skills base along with a focus on career options. Courses include the following:

Canadian Families 12 is being developed in collaboration with Correspondence Studies. It will use online resources such as the new Vanier Institute of the Family resource (released October 2010). The *Families Count* databook and highlights are available online at <http://www.vifamily.ca>

Food Studies and Hospitality 12 is being developed by a teacher work group in collaboration with the Nova Scotia Community College: Culinary Studies. Through this curriculum, students will develop culinary skills for their own use as well as an understanding of the career expectations and opportunities in the food service industry.

Housing and Design 12 will be taught through project-based learning and community connections. The course is designed to be practical and interactive. The curriculum includes units on environmentally sustainable housing, various housing options, interior design, and career opportunities in this field.

Textile Technology 12 focuses on the development of textiles from fibre to fabric. This will be a very practical course in which students create and work with textiles. In September, the Textile Technology 12 Workgroup met in the Annapolis Valley to continue their work on developing this new curriculum. While there, we toured Turbine Fashion Studio and Gaspereau Fibres. Participants learned about lifework opportunities related to textiles as well as observing some new "old" technology.



A new model of a spinning wheel.

For further information on Family Studies, please contact Sheila Munro by email at munrosn@gov.ns.ca

Summer Institutes

Student Services Summer Institute

A one-day summer institute on differentiation of instruction was held on August 11th. Sixteen participants explored the basic tenet of differentiation, and strategies to better plan and respond to learners' strengths and challenges.

Combined Classes Workshop

Participants from grades primary–8 were invited to develop materials and resources for their combined classes, using the subject of their choice as a basis and integrating other subjects where appropriate outcomes could be addressed. The 13 participants explored materials for specific topics and presented ideas and plans for what might happen in their classrooms. Assessment for learning and of learning was embedded throughout and addressed specifically as well.

Technology Education Summer Institutes

Teachers of Communications Technology took part in a very successful two-day hands-on, minds-on photography institute with Karla Hames from Carsand Mosher Photographic. Karla will also be conducting a one-day photography session at the NSTEA conference on October 22 at NSCC Dartmouth Waterfront Campus.

SolidWorks solid modeling software has been purchased for all high schools. A group of teachers who are working with this software participated in a summer institute involving two full days of practice with the software.

Technology Educators teaching in a production technology facility had an opportunity to hone their production skills by attending an introductory session on Production Technology Machines and Safety Practices. Teachers had an opportunity to build a product using their skills in the two-day hands-on, minds-on session.

Les instituts d'été

Encore cet été, le Ministère a présenté l'institut d'été *Quoi de neuf en française langue seconde? Beaucoup! (niveau 1)*. Cet institut, qui a eu lieu les 12 et 13 août, cible les stratégies de littératie en français de base de la 4^{ème} à la 9^{ème} année et offre aux professeurs l'occasion de pratiquer sur place ce qu'ils apprennent. Il y avait 32 participants qui y ont assisté et, pour la première fois, on avait une liste d'attente de participants.

L'institut d'été *Faire la différence en français de base* a eu lieu les 26 et 27 juillet 2010 aux bureaux du Ministère de l'Éducation. Vingt-deux professeurs de français de base de la 4^{ème} à la 12^{ème} année ont profité pleinement de l'expertise de notre facilitatrice renommée, la D^r Katy Arnett, qui tient actuellement le poste de professeure associée en études pédagogiques à St. Mary's College of Maryland aux États-Unis.

D^r Arnett nous a aidé à comprendre l'importance de l'inclusion des élèves en difficulté d'apprentissage dans la classe de français de base; elle a employé des simulations afin de guider nos professeurs à se mettre dans la peau de nos élèves ayant des difficultés d'apprentissage, telles que la TDAH, la dyslexie et le décodage auditif; et elle présentait des stratégies pour différencier des activités qui répondent aux divers besoins de nos élèves.

Cultural Proficiency

The Cultural Proficiency: Culturally Responsive Teaching summer institute provided 17 attendees with the opportunity to experience instructional and assessment practices that could be applied and integrated into their ongoing work and initiatives developed to assist them in developing and implementing programming to meet the needs of all learners, especially culturally diverse learners. Through hands-on learning and mini-lectures the participants gained an overview of cultural proficiency and an introduction to strategies and practices applicable the various educational settings and beyond.

Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System 1 (Grades K–2, Levels A–N)

Cathy Cotton, a retired Reading Recovery Teacher Leader from the Strait Regional School Board, facilitated two workshops on the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System 1 (Grades K–2, Levels A–N) for nearly 40 participants. The workshops focused on determining students' independent and instructional reading levels, grouping students for reading instruction, and assessing the outcomes of teaching. They also learned how this assessment system could be used to plan for teaching and monitoring of student progress across a school year and across grade levels.



Arts Education Summer Institutes

Art from Within: The word 'mandala' is Sanskrit for circular, meaning both centre and circumference. Mandala art has been used throughout the world for centuries as a means of self-expression, personal growth, and spiritual transformation. A vibrant group of teachers gathered at the NSCC to study and create mandalas, hoping to be able to incorporate the process and inspiration of self-reflective experience into their classrooms.

Tool Kit for Creating Choreography: Facilitators Heather Allen and Karen Bradley skillfully led participants through a variety of new dance moves, assessment strategies, and creative movement activities.

Guitar Institute: Twenty-five experienced and not-so-experienced guitarists joined us for the guitar workshop. Participants received a guitar, numerous text/audio resources, miscellaneous equipment and outstanding instruction. At the end of the week, they presented a fantastic recital in the performance centre.

Conducting Symposium: Band directors gathered in Wolfville at Acadia University to study with Dr. Colleen Richardson, University of Western Ontario. Participants had the opportunity to hone their conducting skills and to engage in vibrant discussion over the course of their week-long study.

Ukulele Institute: Ukulele enthusiasts gathered in Truro at the NSCC for expert instruction from world-renowned ukulele virtuoso, James Hill.



Drumming the Future: Workshop attendees experienced first-hand, the thrill of creating music in an engaging, challenging environment. They even had an opportunity to play in an authentic setting, as they provided music for the early learners' movement session!



Pathway to Care Model for Youth Mental Health Promotion

Yifeng Wei and Stan Kutcher *

According to the World Health Organization, mental disorders comprise the greatest single burden of illness among youth globally. In Canada, it is estimated that one in five young people suffers from a mental disorder that requires professional intervention. Translated into the average secondary school classroom, this means four or five students per class may require a mental health intervention.

Educators, health providers, and education/health administrators alike have identified the need to effectively and proactively address youth mental health in the school setting. In response to this, the Sun Life Financial Chair in Adolescent Mental Health Team at the IWK/Dalhousie has created a school-based integrated pathway to care model—Mental Health Identification and Navigation (MH-IN). It addresses youth mental health needs through promotion, early identification and prevention, evidence-driven interventions, and community-based continuing mental health care. The model relies on many partners working together with a similar goal of improving youth mental health in the school setting and beyond.

The MH-IN model was first piloted at Forest Heights Community School in the South Shore Regional School Board, Nova Scotia. A report about the pilot was developed and is available at the Chair's website <http://www.teenmentalhealth.org>. Another pilot of the MH-IN model is scheduled to take place in two high schools (one English and one French) this autumn in the Tri-County Regional School Board and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial.

The MH-IN model will be the first of its kind in Canada to provide a framework for educators, health care providers, families, and the wider community to address youth mental health in schools in a cohesive and collaborative manner. Its development and initial implementation in Nova Scotia will place local educators, health care providers, and researchers as innovators and pioneers in school mental health research and practice endeavors, and will benefit youth in Nova Scotia and beyond.

To access a variety of resources pertaining to youth mental health, visit <http://www.teenmentalhealth.org>

* Dr. Stan Kutcher holds the Sun Life Financial Chair in Adolescent Mental Health at IWK/Dalhousie. Yifeng Wei is a Research Coordinator with Dr. Kutcher's team.

ViewFinders 10th Anniversary

ViewFinders is celebrating its 10th Anniversary from April 12–16, 2011! ViewFinders is an international film festival for youth ages 3–18. The festival offers daytime screenings and workshops for school groups as well as evening and weekend screenings for families. ViewFinders presents the best of national and international films that tackle important youth issues such as bullying, diversity, and conflict.

In addition, a variety of hands-on workshops provide the groundwork for budding filmmakers and allow young people to express their creativity through this unique and exciting festival, including

- **Festival in a Van**—Tours are organized across Atlantic Canada twice a year to provide meaningful opportunities for Atlantic Canadians to explore regional and international filmmaking, and provide an opportunity for them to explore their own creativity, tell their own stories, produce their own works, and have their creativity celebrated.
- **Training Opportunities and Film Productions**—Young people interested in art, film, and media production may engage in intensive creative sessions with industry pros, in professional settings. The dates are November 26–28, 2010, January 14–16, 2011, and January 28–30, 2011; applications are available on our website.
- **ViewFinders Film Challenges** —ViewFinders is looking for great works of film and video from Atlantic Canadian youth ages 18 and under. Details about submission requirements and judging are available on our website. The submission deadline is March 11, 2011.

For more information on any of these programs or to find out more about ViewFinders, please visit our website at <http://www.atlanticfilm.com/view/> or email us at viewfinders@atlanticfilm.com



Photos of Events, 2010



Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor Mayann Francis and Alan Lowe, Executive Director of Public Schools Branch, raise the flag for Duke Awareness Week in September, celebrating the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program.



Education Minister Marilyn More delivered two sets of books, finalists in the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Awards 2011, and read with students at Alderney School in September.



Education Minister Marilyn More examines refurbished equipment at an Open House in June to celebrate the success of the Computers for Schools Nova Scotia program.



Education Minister Marilyn More with students of the Co-operative Education program at a recognition ceremony for the program in January.



Some of the participants at the eighth annual Nova Scotia Model Legislature, held in May.

Co-operative Education Update

On November 16 and 17, 2010, the Department of Education will be hosting a workshop for 130 Co-operative Education



teachers. This two-day workshop will provide co-op teachers an opportunity to share resources and ideas that are critical to the effective delivery of co-op courses.

The Celebration of Success component of the program will feature student presentations; comments from Education Minister, Marilyn More; and the launch of the new co-op video.

Other sessions will include Building Strong Co-op Programs, Ensuring our Students are Safe, Placement Assessment, Co-operative Education Resource Moodle, the In-School Component of Co-operative Education and Reflective Learning, Keeping Employers in Co-op, Apprenticeship, and Risk Management Best Practices.

The Department of Education is supporting the expansion of co-op in 24 high schools, in addition to support provided to the 42 Options and Opportunities (O_2) schools that are offering Co-operative Education to students outside the O_2 cohort. Co-operative Education has seen huge expansion in recent years. Schools and communities have embraced the community classroom concept, and continued growth is expected.

For information on Co-operative Education, please visit <http://www.ednet.ns.ca/coop>

Revamp the Rainbow

The first annual Chester Area Gay Straight Alliance workshop for youth and their supportive adults was held on April 10 at the Forest Heights Community School. The event was a great success with an overwhelmingly positive response. South Shore Schools Plus supported and sponsored the conference, along with many other community partners such as PFLAG, local churches, EGALE, parents, the municipality and school staff.



Students received training in media leadership and public relations which was helpful when the youth were interviewed on television, on the radio, and by newspapers.

There were interactive sessions on The Art of Empathy and Healthy Living: Feel Good. The Chester Area GSA formed an action group as well as producing a very impressive Revamp the Rainbow Conference Report.

For more information or a copy of the report, please email Raymond Johnson at raymondjohnson@eastlink.ca



The Honorable Denise Peterson-Rafuse, Minister of Community Services, with participants and Raymond Johnson
L-R Anthony, Hon Minister, Hayley, Ray Johnson, Benjie, and Kyla

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Evaluation Services	902-424-7746	testeval@ednet.ns.ca http://plans.ednet.ns.ca
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