



# BRANCHING OUT

**NOVA SCOTIA**  
Education

**NEWS FROM  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS BRANCH**

**October 2011**

<http://EDnet.ns.ca>

## Succeeding in Reading

September marked the introduction of Succeeding in Reading, a new instructional model to support the literacy development of students in grades primary and 1. Province-wide, over 280 teachers in the English boards now wear the hat of Early Literacy Teacher (ELT) or Enseignant(e) de réussite en lecture (ERL) and work closely with grade primary and 1 classroom teachers to assess and instruct students identified to be part of daily, small group literacy support.

Co-developed by educators from boards and the Department of Education, Succeeding in Reading puts students at the centre of instructional and support decisions which reflect who the student is as a learner, build on what he/she knows and has under control, and foster his/her literacy progress. Informed by skilful observation and a range of in-class assessments, planned instruction respects the various learning and literacy experiences that each child brings to the classroom and ensures a strong foundation for continued literacy development.



The Province has provided over a million dollars in resources to assist the implementation of Succeeding in Reading. This includes each school's complement of 720 new student books, written to engage the early learner and support small group instruction. In the coming months, grade primary and grade 1 classrooms will receive resource bins as part of Succeeding in Reading. The primary bins are a cache of hands-on, activity-based resources intended to prompt oral language development and story-telling. The grade 1 bins contain four-packs of colourful fiction and non-fiction books as well as single titles of accessible texts to help students reinforce what they've learned.

Throughout the school year, with funding support from the department, boards are broadening the expertise of both classroom teachers and ELTs /ERLs through engaging professional learning sessions, some of which began as early as June 2011. Succeeding in Reading will expand into grade 2 in 2012–2013.

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

**BRANCHING OUT is published 3 times yearly in October, February, and May.**  
**Back issues are available at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>**  
**It you wish to add your name to the distribution list, please send an email to [lrt@ednet.ns.ca](mailto:lrt@ednet.ns.ca)**

## In This Issue.....

Social Studies Updates	3	Nova Scotia Provincial Library	18
Royal Canadian Legion	3	Hackmatack	18
Early Development Instrument	3	English Language Arts	19
New Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines for Children and Youth	4	Entrepreneurship Education: Creating an Enterprising Future	20
Participation	4	Nova Scotia Summit on Gifted & Talent Development	20
Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation	5	Student Services Website Update	21
Physical Health & Education Canada 2012 National Conference	5	Autism Spectrum Disorder	21
FSL Summer Institutes – Beaucoup de fun!!	6	CLASS II school report - Coming This Fall	21
African Canadian Services	6	Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium	22
SchoolsPlus in all eight school boards starting this fall	7	Cyberbullying Task Force and Working Group	23
School Boards Introduce Active Start	7	Student Contests	24
Transportation Trades 11	8	Nova Scotia International Programs	25
Helping students discover options for the future	8	Health and Safety: Cross-Curricular Connections!	26
Summer Co-op is Growing	9	Young Worker Health and Safety Through the Vision & Voices of Young Artists	26
Building Futures for 5 Years	9	iNSchool	26
Learning Resources and Technology Services	10	Family Studies Services	27
Digital Video Library	10	Food Studies/Hospitality 12 Implementation	28
EBSCO	10	The Nova Scotia Leadership Academy - Instructional Leadership Program	28
Employee Technology Purchase Option	10	Shad Valley Application Deadlines Approaching	29
IT Summer Institute 2011	11	The Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Fall, 2011!	29
Share.EDnet/Ensemble.EDnet	11	IB Program	30
Nova Scotia Virtual School	11	IB Workshops	30
LRTS Webinar Series 2011	12	Science Primary–6	31
Technology Education	12	Invitational Professional Learning Workshops	31
Understanding Media Literacy: Inside Plato's Cave	13	Science 10	31
Learning in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century – Creating our Future in Nova Scotia	13	Canadian Space Agency	32
Media Literacy Week Nov 7-11 2011	13	Nova Scotian Institute of Science	32
ArtsExpress	14	The Discovery Centre	33
Vote for Fundy!	14	Museum of Natural History	33
Arts Education Update	15	Mathematics 8 Support PD	34
Art Gallery of Nova Scotia & ArtReach	16	Common Curriculum Framework for K–9 Mathematics	34
ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia	16	Faculty of Science Discovery Days are BACK in May and June 2012	35
ViewFinders enters its pre-teen years!	17		

### 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.

# social studies

## Social Studies Updates

### Atlantic Canada Social Studies Provincial Workshop

A provincial workshop for *Atlantic Canada Social Studies 3: Provincial Identity* will be held on March 29–30, 2012.

#### Holocaust Education Week – November 1–9, 2011

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-education/holocaust-education-week>

#### Cape Breton Events - Holocaust Education Week

Educators' Workshop - November 2  
featuring Linda Hooper, principal, Whitwell Middle School, and inspiration for the Emmynominated documentary Paper Clips.  
For information on the Cape Breton agenda for Holocaust Education Week, go to <http://holocausteducationweek.tumblr.com>

#### Veterans Affairs Canada Learning Services

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 Week 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 <http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/> provides free educational materials to aid educators and engage students in learning about Canada's military history.



#### Parks Canada

Visit the Parks Canada Teachers Resource Centre website at [parkscanada.gc.ca](http://parkscanada.gc.ca) to learn about the celebrations of the Centennial of Parks Canada and discover a wide range of educational resources.



Parcs Canada

Parks Canada



#### Royal Canadian Legion

The Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command of the Royal Canadian Legion sponsors a Youth Leadership Camp that is held annually in June at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro, Nova Scotia for grades ten and eleven students. The Leadership Camp focuses on leadership training skills developed through a wide variety of activities. The application deadline for the camp is the end of February. Information on the camp and other programs and related resources can be found at <http://www.ns.legion.ca/youth.html>



#### Early Development Instrument

The government document titled *Our Kids Are Worth It, Strategy for Children and Youth* committed the Department of Education to the Early Development Instrument (EDI) and we are now ready to proceed with a provincial implementation. This is a promising time for our youngest learners and their families. The EDI is a questionnaire developed at the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University in Ontario. It measures developmental trends in populations of children, over time, in five core areas:

- Physical Health & Well-Being (Can the child hold a pencil?)
- Social Competence (Does the child share with others?)
- Emotional Maturity (Is the child able to concentrate?)
- Language and Cognitive Development (Can the child count?)
- Communication Skills & General Knowledge (Can the child tell a story?)

These areas are good predictors of health, education, and social outcomes over the long term. The data collected are used to plan educational programming for schools and early childhood investments for the community.

Participating Primary teachers complete an EDI questionnaire for each child in February of the school year. The results are presented in a way that does not identify individual children. The EDI is not used as a diagnostic tool. It is available in both French and English.



ParticipACTION's Think Again campaign encourages parents to consider whether their child is getting the recommended activity.

## New Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines for Children and Youth

Canada has new Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines for Children and Youth. Physical activity benefits children's academic performance, social behaviour, self-esteem, growth and development, and health. The new Guidelines identify the minimum time, intensity and type of physical activity, and the maximum time for sedentary behaviour that will return measurable health benefits (body composition, blood pressure, cardio-respiratory fitness).

A study (2005) in Nova Scotia showed that only 28% of youth in grade 7, and 4% of youth in grade 11, are considered physically active. Results from the 2010 Keeping Pace study (a.k.a. "PACY") will be available in early 2012. National scientific evidence is comparable and shows that physical activity and fitness levels have dropped dramatically over the same period there has been a steady increase of overweight and obesity, and associated diseases and health risks.

Sedentary behaviour carries significant health risks that are independent of those associated with a lack of leisure time physical activity. Improving health requires both increasing moderate to vigorous physical activity and decreasing sedentary behaviour.

For health benefits, children ages 5 to 17 should

- accumulate at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily. This should include vigorous-intensity activities at least three days per week, and activities that strengthen muscle and bone at least three days per week;
- limit recreational screen time to no more than two hours daily and limit extended sitting and motorized transport.

The Guidelines are *minimal* targets for measurable health benefits. The more daily physical activity and less sedentary behaviour children incorporate into their lives, the greater the health benefits.

To download the Guideline sheets, visit

[www.csep.ca/guidelines](http://www.csep.ca/guidelines)

To download Eat Well and Be Active Educational Toolkit [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca)

To download the Physical Activity Tracker and parent's guide, visit [www.participaction.com](http://www.participaction.com)



## Participaction

*Today's After School Special – Inactivity*

Canadian children missing the mark on physical activity in the after-school period.

An alarming modern-day trend has emerged—Canadian kids are coming home from school and are parking their bodies.

According to the 2011 Active Healthy Kids Canada Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth, Canadian children are only getting a meagre 14 minutes of moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity in the three-hour period between school dismissal and the supper hour.

The Report Card, focused this year on the after-school period, tells us that the pattern of after-school inactivity is overwhelming, with 92% of this time-period being spent by children and youth in sedentary pursuits or light physical activity.



*Schools can help up physical activity even after the dismissal bell rings.*

Fostering relationships between schools and local recreation providers can help facilitate the engagement of children in after-school physical activity programming, especially when programs are provided on school property. Schools that cultivate a culture of physical activity—supporting extra-curricular initiatives, providing outdoor equipment and safe playground infrastructure—help lower barriers to after-school physical activity.

*ParticipACTION offers a free after-school activity guide and physical activity tracker*

To help Canadian parents and caregivers get children away from screens and moving more in the after-school period, ParticipACTION has developed a fun, idea-rich, after-school activity guide, and weekly tracker. Kids can keep score of favourite activities, and see how often they accumulate at least 60 minutes of daily physical activity.





## Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation

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

The NSSAF Fair Play Award recognizes school sport programs throughout the academic year that demonstrate commitment to the ideals of fair play and good sportsmanship including

- respect for teammates, fellow competitors, coaches, officials, spectators and volunteers
- being modest in victory and gracious in defeat
- displaying behaviour consistent with good sportsmanship
- providing a welcoming and friendly environment when hosting
- being courteous and cooperative at all times
- being a gracious guest when visiting fellow member schools

The award is particularly important as the recognition comes from other schools both locally and throughout the province.



Charlene Barrett and Scott Elliot, Physical Education teachers, accept a 2011 NSSAF Fair Play Award for Oyster Pond Academy



Two student athletes, along with Principal Anne Bastarache, accept a 2011 NSSAF Fair Play Award for Ecole Acadienne de Truro

## Physical Health & Education Canada 2012 National Conference

**A Harbour of Hope: Health and Physical Literacy**  
Halifax, Nova Scotia / May 10-12, 2012, Dalhousie University



Presented by Nova Scotia's Teachers Association for Physical and Health Educators and Physical and Health Education Canada, this National Conference will provide an opportunity for delegates to network with colleagues and increase their knowledge and skills to foster healthy active living for children and youth in the school community.

The 2012 National Conference will offer a great professional learning opportunity for teachers of Physical Education Primary–12, Healthy Living 7–9, and Health Education Primary–6; the principals who support them; and others in the school community who have a leadership role in healthy, active living.

Delegates are people involved with the health, physical activity and education needs of children and youth including educators, public health, administrators, recreation leaders, physical education specialists and generalists who want more information regarding physical education.

The conference will feature presentations and workshops

- Active Living (e.g., cycling, yoga, weight training)
- Athletics (e.g., after-school programs, interschool athletics, intramurals)
- Dance (contemporary, multicultural, partner)
- Gymnastics (e.g., educational gymnastics, pyramids, stuntastics)
- Health Education (e.g., mental health, relationships, substance abuse)
- Outdoor Activities/Alternative Environments (e.g., camping, orienteering)
- Sport Experience/Skill Development (e.g., FMS, invasion games)

The Department of Education, English Program Services, will work with boards to offer support (beyond that available through Article 60 Professional Development Fund) for the participation of board delegates.

For more information about the conference, visit [www.phecanada.ca/conference2012](http://www.phecanada.ca/conference2012) or email [conference@phecanada.ca](mailto:conference@phecanada.ca)

For more information about support to boards for their participation, contact:

Ann Blackwood, Executive Director  
English Program Services, Department of Education  
(902) 424-5745, [blackwaa@gov.ns.ca](mailto:blackwaa@gov.ns.ca)

# October is Health Literacy Month

## FSL Summer Institutes

### – Beaucoup de fun!!

Pendant les mois de juillet et d'août, la Division des services de français langue seconde a eu le grand plaisir d'accueillir plus de 50 enseignants et enseignantes de tous nos programmes de FLS à quatre instituts d'été.

This year's workshops included the ever-popular *Quoi de neuf en FLS? Beaucoup! Level 1*, where teachers came together to explore practical literacy strategies that target the use of French as a means of communication for speaking, reading and writing. Participants had several opportunities to meet in small groups and actually practise the strategies they had learned.



As well, *Quoi de neuf en FLS? Beaucoup! Level 2* offered planning and assessment strategies designed to allow participants to increase their understanding

of literacy as it relates to learning French as a second language, particularly in the Core French classroom.

De retour à la demande générale, la renommée Dre. Katy Arnett, spécialiste en différenciation en FLS, est revenue en Nouvelle-Écosse pour présenter une



deuxième session qui ciblait de nombreuses méthodes par lesquelles on peut différencier pour faciliter la réussite de tous nos élèves en français langue seconde. Les participants à la session ont tous exprimé leur grande satisfaction à apprendre des stratégies « bien pratiques et faciles à utiliser dans la salle de classe ».

This year's very successful training session for DELF test administrators and correctors saw participants from not only a variety of school boards, but also from NS universities and from the Department of Education of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Ne manquez pas l'occasion de participer aux instituts d'été FLS en 2011! Soyez des nôtres!



## African Canadian Services

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

### ACS Division welcomes new Elementary Curriculum Consultant

African Canadian Services is pleased to announce that Rosalinde Saunders has joined our team as the P-6 Curriculum Consultant. Prior to this, Rosalinde has worked with the Halifax Regional School Board and the Council on African Canadian Education (CACE). Rosalinde comes to this position with a wide range of experience supporting all learners. She brings to the team her expertise in early elementary education; provincial knowledge of the African Nova Scotian communities, a keen understanding of educational issues as they relate to African Nova Scotian learners, and a demonstrated commitment to quality education. Rosalinde can be contacted at (902) 424-7534 or by e-mail at [SAUNDERK@gov.ns.ca](mailto:SAUNDERK@gov.ns.ca)

### 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Afrocentric Education Conference

The 18th Annual Afrocentric Educational Conference is being held at Graham Creighton Jr. High School on October 28<sup>th</sup>. This conference has been vital in helping educators have a greater understanding of African Nova Scotian learners. This, in itself, deserves to be celebrated. We also know that the practices promoted through these conferences also serve to support all learners. This year's conference is no different. The organizing committee has identified a tremendous keynote speaker that will be bringing a message which can be used to inform all educators' practices.

Keynote: (Dr. Noma LeMoine) - Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction: Transforming Perceptions, Pedagogy and Practice for Educating Underachieving Students

Discussion will also include

1. Closing the Achievement Gap: Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction
2. Shifting Paradigms and Building New Schemas for Educating Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students: Instructional Strategies that Work

# October is Mi'kmaq Heritage Month

# Schools Écoles Plus

NOVA SCOTIA / NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

## SchoolsPlus in all eight school boards starting this fall

Welcome back SchoolsPlus staff and we are pleased to introduce the new SchoolsPlus Facilitators who will be starting this fall at the remaining four school boards.

Patricia Cornwall, Annapolis Valley Regional School Board (Annapolis Royal)

Darcey Maillet, Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial (Sud-Ouest, Par-en-Bas)

Annette Kehoe, Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial (Nord-Est, École Beau-Port)

Karen Belliveau, Tri-County Regional School Board (Digby)

Kerri Fernandez, Cape Breton–Victoria Regional School Board (Sydney)

Some of the summer programming SchoolsPlus was involved with or helped support over the summer included St. FX University Science day camps, Ross Farm garden harvest, *Soldier for a Day* Program at Fort Beausejour, numerous overnight camps throughout Nova Scotia and collaborations with Recreation.



SchoolsPlus partnered with Family Services of Eastern Nova Scotia, St.FX Chemistry Department and the Strait Regional School Board to provide children in the various communities of Guysborough County the opportunity to attend science camps at school.

The SchoolsPlus after school group, the “Veggie Vikings,” harvested beans, carrots, squash and tomatoes. The staff at the Ross Farm Museum taught youth how to plow, plant and harvest crops. Each youth took a bag for herself/himself and a bag to the school cafeteria.



## School Boards Introduce Active Start

Children with an intellectual disability in grades primary/one are getting a head start on physical fitness and living a healthy lifestyle by taking in part in an initiative called Active Start being offered by Special Olympics Nova Scotia.

Active Start is part of the Long Term Athlete Development Program (LTAD), which falls under Sport Canada’s Canadian Sport for Life initiative.

With the ultimate aim of promoting fitness, physical literacy and well-being, the Active Start program provides some of the tools necessary to help students with an ID acquire these important life skills. Resources are also provided to teachers and assistants for successful implementation and achievement of outcomes.



The program was piloted by the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board last spring and has been embraced by seven of the eight boards in Nova Scotia (<http://www.ccrsb.ednet.ns.ca/?q=node/612>). Equipment distribution, training and support are ongoing throughout the fall and winter with the support of the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Wellness.

An instructional video (produced by Maureen Juma, a student at NSCC) was filmed at Elmsdale District Elementary School and has been requested by all Special Olympics chapters across Canada.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhU4ZOPIDV8>

For more information on Active Start, please contact Tom Fahie at Special Olympics NS at (902) 719-6163, or [tfahie@sportnovascotia.ca](mailto:tfahie@sportnovascotia.ca)

## 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





## Transportation Trades 11

Thirty students at Annapolis West Education Centre and Hants East Rural High School are enrolled in the newly developed Transportation Trades 11 course. This exciting new course offers students the opportunity to experience the work of a number of automotive trades. Building on the knowledge they obtained while taking Skilled Trades 10, students in Transportation Trades 11 will focus specifically on automotive sector jobs.

Among the course tasks, students will disassemble and reassemble an automobile engine. This gives them the opportunity to relate the theory of internal combustion with the actual components. Students can actually see and feel where ignition takes place and how that drives



the piston. They follow the action of the piston to the crankshaft and understand how a car is made to move.

Students will also perform routine service and maintenance on a car. They will change oil, install brakes, and diagnose trouble. Students will also remove and install parts such as doors and engine covers. All of this work is done in a project-based learning environment, the Skilled Trades Centre.

In line with the JobsHere plan, Transportation Trades 11 is one of the Skilled Trades courses designed to give students an understanding of what work in the trades can mean. The province of Nova Scotia has made a significant investment in this course by providing students with tools, equipment, new 2011 Chevrolet Cruze cars and new engines. In February four more schools will pilot Transportation Trades 11 for their students.



## Helping students discover options for the future

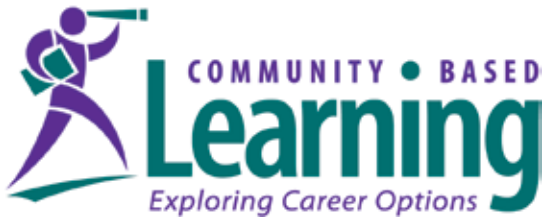
Do you know a student who likes to be creative, excels with hands on tasks and enjoys learning new things? If so, then why not encourage your student to try a skilled trade or technology. During the 2011/2012 school year nearly 600 high school students from across Nova Scotia will be invited to participate in Skills Canada – Nova Scotia's (SCNS) youth projects.

These one-day career exploration events give students the opportunity to discover various career options in the trade and technology industries. A variety of different workshops are offered – everything from Carpentry, Welding, and Plumbing to Electronics, IT Networking, and Culinary Arts – every student will find something to fit their interests. The workshops are hands-on offering students the opportunity to try out different careers. Students may build and test an electrical relay control system in the morning, construct a bird house just before lunch and make tasty artisan bread in the afternoon.

Our youth projects are completely free for schools to attend, with transportation and substitute teacher costs being reimbursed and lunch provided by SCNS. Youth projects being offered during the 2011/2012 school year include the Skills Energy Youth Quest, the African Nova Scotian Youth Conference, the Young Women's Conference, and a variety of TechShop events.

Youth projects take place at NSCC campuses across the province from November to March. This year we are also very excited to work with the Canadian Forces Naval Engineering School to offer students the opportunity to visit the Canadian Forces Base Stadacona in Halifax, NS and learn about careers in skilled trades and technologies in the Royal Canadian Navy. For information on when a youth project will be hosted in your area, or to find out how to register your students please contact Laura Decker, Project Manager at (902) 491.4647 or [laurad@skillscanada.com](mailto:laurad@skillscanada.com).





## Summer Co-op is Growing

“This has been the best experience I have ever had in my life! I came from a different province this year and signed up for this Co-op Summer Program; I could not believe a high school (Shelburne High) can offer this to their students. Others must take this same opportunity. It has set me up for life!”

This energetic response came from Ty Huskison about his summer co-op placement. Peter Graves, owner of Graves Electrical and Plumbing in Yarmouth, says, “Summer co-op students have the energy and try to please. They are focused on learning and getting all they can from the program.”

The summer of 2011 saw 155 students from across Nova Scotia earn high school co-op credits. All eight school boards had students involved. Summer co-op provides students with a concentrated co-op placement exploring a variety of careers. Summer co-op numbers have increased each year, and the dedication of teachers who provide these wonderful learning opportunities for their students is recognized by employers and community members.



Employers across Nova Scotia continue to support the tremendous growth in co-op and recognize the importance of providing career exploration opportunities. This summer the Department of Education supported school boards with summer co-op delivery. This support has been the impetus for continued growth.



## Building Futures for 5 Years

The Building Futures for Youth Program is entering its 5th year of providing grade 10 and 11 Co-operative Education students the opportunity to explore careers in the construction trades. Developed in partnership with The Construction Association of Nova Scotia (CANS), NS Department of Education – English Program Services, NS Department of Labour and Advanced Education – Apprenticeship Division, and the Nova Scotia Community College, the program has allowed 247 students from across the province the ability to gain experience in a trade, earn co-operative education credits, register as construction trades pre-apprentices, make connections with industry, become eligible for NSCC scholarships and most importantly, gather information to make informed choices about their future.

*“A program such as this allows students to have real life experiences. This information enables the student to make good decisions regarding career choices.”*

-Margie Beck, former Student Services Coordinator (CCRSB) & grandmother of 2011 program participant, Nathan Beck

In 2012, the program will once again be offered to students in all 8 regional school boards. Program components include a 25-hour in-school component, 80 hours workplace orientation, safety, and hands on tools training at an NSCC campus, and finally a 7-week paid summer work placement with a host employer in the construction industry.

For more information please contact Juanita MacDonald, HR Development Coordinator for CANS at (902) 468-2267 or [jmacdonald@cans.ns.ca](mailto:jmacdonald@cans.ns.ca) or Alain Lefebvre, HR Development Assistant for CANS at [alefebvre@cans.ns.ca](mailto:alefebvre@cans.ns.ca) or check out our website at [www.buildingfutures.ca](http://www.buildingfutures.ca)





### LRT Media Library - [lrt.ednet.ns.ca](http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca)

Check out the LRT Media Library for all your video resource needs!

We offer teachers access to video resources that have been evaluated and integrated into the NS curriculum and ship them for free anywhere in the province.

#### DID YOU KNOW???

- **We have an online Catalogue?** Search for videos by going to our website, clicking on Media Library and then Search Online Catalogue. You can search by keyword: course name, grade level, curriculum outcome, subject, title, etc.
- **We have two collections at LRTS?** Loan Videos are borrowed and returned; Dubbing Videos can be purchased for \$1.41 per DVD
- All videos in the Media Library include **public performance rights** and have been **evaluated for curriculum fit?**
- We also have **Professional Development** videos?

Contact the Education Media Library by email [mediacir@ednet.ns.ca](mailto:mediacir@ednet.ns.ca), phone (902) 424-2440, fax 428-5828, or stop by in person at Brunswick Place, 2nd floor, 2021 Brunswick Street, Halifax, NS.



### Digital Video Library

<http://www.dvl.ednet.ns.ca>

The Digital Video Library features online teacher professional development resources. Videos can be streamed online or downloaded and accessible anytime. The online player has a one-click, "full screen" option, to facilitate video projection. Flash players can be download for free from a link on the website. Just about every LRTS Media Production PD series produced in the last four years is included on the site and presented in multiple segments. All titles are also available from the LRTS Education Media Library

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

### EBSCO

<http://search.epnet.com>



EBSCO is a periodical database of hundreds of magazines, newspapers and images accessible via the Internet. It also includes an encyclopedia and a dictionary.

It is a valuable research tool that allows students to access information about current events, historical data, animals, etc., and provides numerous resources for school projects and all their research needs. EBSCO also offers access to a wide variety of professional databases like ERIC and to highly specialized collections of over 450 full text journals, designed for teachers and professional educators. LRTS pays a subscription to this service for all students, parents, teachers, public schools, and school boards in Nova Scotia. It is available through all Ednet connected computers, at home with user names and passwords that can be obtained from your school.

#### Introducing "MyEBSCOHost"

With MyEBSCOHost you can create your own personal accounts, save searches, articles, create search or journal alerts, share research articles with your students, and so much more. For more information, use the EBSCOHost support link on the EBSCO website.

### Employee Technology Purchase Option

LRTS has again this year set up an Employee Purchase Option for Lenovo desktops and Toshiba laptops, and is currently also re-acquiring a netbook option, from our successful standing offer vendors.

The program permits one employee purchase per year (desktop, laptop or netbook) of an identical unit as placed in schools. No substitution of components is permitted. Teachers arrange directly with the vendor, then pay by credit card. There is no Board support other than providing the initial contact and information.

Board technicians are not available for support, purchases are personal assets once bought. Warranty and follow-up is done with the vendor/manufacture directly.

To access this offer, teachers should contact their school technician who can provide them with the specific instructions and unit specifications, including warranty.



## IT Summer Institute 2011

The 2011 IT Integration Summer Institute was held in Truro from August 3–5, 2011. There were 74 teachers and administrators in attendance.

We were also pleased to welcome two teachers from Mi'kmawKina'matnewey to this engaging summer opportunity.

Each session was hands on and provided participants with ideas and information to help them integrate technology to enhance their teaching and students' learning. Sessions included podcasting, using SMARTboards/Mimio boards in classrooms to engage students, using Moodle for blended learning, science probeware, digital microscopes, cameras, math software, MS Office tips and tricks, video production, using EBSCO and much more!

Feedback from the enthusiastic participants was overwhelming! The most common complaint was the fact that there were so many great sessions offered, and so many fabulous facilitators that it was very difficult to decide which sessions to attend. Everyone had fun as they learned in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Thanks to our participants and facilitators for making this such a wonderful experience.

We invite you to join us next year.



## Nova Scotia Virtual School

Registrations are being accepted for NSVS courses for second semester. Guidance Counselors are encouraged to contact their board for more information, or to visit the Nova Scotia Virtual School website at:

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

The Nova Scotia Virtual School offers students the opportunity to take courses that they might not otherwise have access to. Courses are taught by certified teachers working in different school boards across the province. Students meet with their teachers and fellow students online using both synchronous (video conferencing) and asynchronous (moodle) platforms.

The Department of Education also offers courses by correspondence studies. Further information on these courses is available here: <http://csp.ednet.ns.ca>



## Share.EDnet/Ensemble.EDnet

Share.EDnet/Ensemble.EDnet is the resource-sharing arm of the Nova Scotia Virtual School. Nova Scotia teachers are invited to share the learning activities, ideas, and lessons they develop to further our collective work supporting the achievement of public school students.

A small but excellent collection is in development and best accessed by selecting the Community [Engaging 21st Century Learners/Motiver les apprenants au xxie siècle](#) to explore the collections by Issue Date. Each resource is keyed to curricular and technology integration learning outcomes. We hope, with your collaboration, to grow the collection as a rich support and showcase of Nova Scotia teachers' work. You are welcome to join using your staff. ednet or school board provided email address.

Check us out at <http://share.ednet.ns.ca> (English) <http://ensemble.ednet.ns.ca> (French).



## Learning Resources and Technology Services Webinar Series 2011

### Digital Citizenship – October 24, 2011 3:30–4:30pm

What is digital citizenship? This webinar will focus on grades P–12 and what digital citizenship means for teaching and learning. Resources to support teaching, issues in a digital society like the digital divide, 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 the session.

### Moodle Tips and Tricks – November 24, 2011 3:30–4:30pm

The use of moodle is spreading across the province and can be found in schools P–12/ Learn some new ways to use this tool and some of the features that will enhance learning opportunities. Sue Taylor-Foley, Director of Learning Resources and Technology Services, will facilitate this session.

### Extending High School Learning Opportunities through the Nova Scotia Virtual School – December 1, 2011 3:30–4:30pm

What additional learning opportunities are available for your students? Learn more about the NSVS. This session will be of particular interest to Counsellors, Administrators and school contact teachers at the High School level. For more on NSVS please see <http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca>

All you need to participate in these professional development opportunities is a computer with an internet connection!

Please register at least two days in advance of the webinar date. Numbers are limited for each session so sign up in advance to avoid disappointment.

To register go to <http://tinyurl.com/lrtwebinar11>



## Technology Education

Technology Education summer institutes were a great success during EduFest at NSCC Waterfront campus. Teachers participated in hands-on learning activities in digital photography and solid modelling software, SolidWorks. Be sure to save the dates next year and be first in line to take part in EduFest week—the third week of August.

A new outcomes framework is in place for Technology Education 7–9. Schools offering Technology Education may choose between the old courses and the new courses in Power School. The new course codes are TEC7Y11, TEC8Y11, and TEC9Y11.

Technology Education 9 will be ready for implementation in spring 2012. Schools will be invited to send one participant to a provincial implementation workshop highlighting the four modules of the course: *Inventions and Innovations*, *Communications Technology*, *Energy Engineering*, and *Production Technology*. In



addition to a curriculum review, teachers will participate in hands-on minds-on learning activities that can be transferred directly back to the classroom, integrating other subjects through problem-based and project-based learning. We will be working with our partners in industry and NSCC throughout the process and during implementation. Resource distribution will be part of the workshop.

The Province of Nova Scotia is committed to establishing a culture of safety in Technology Production labs as dust collection system repairs and replacements are taking place in schools throughout the province. Schools have been identified in one of three phases based on hours of use. Construction has begun in several schools. Phase one and phase two schools are expected to be completed within the 2011–2012 school year. Phase three schools are expected to be completed by September 2012. Upon completion, all production labs will be safer places to work and learn, with 95% source capture on all sawdust producing machines within the labs.

## Understanding Media Literacy: Inside Plato's Cave

Finally, an online credit course for teachers, teachers in training, and students interested in communications studies and media education. Media literacy is a mandated part of the curriculum across Canada, yet there is very little training available at any level. In the past teachers looking for professional development found little or no support. Many avoided teaching media studies because of their lack of education. This new online course will meet that need.

**Understanding Media Literacy: Inside Plato's Cave** is an online, 13 unit, three credit course written, tested and endorsed by teachers and delivered in partnership with Athabasca University.

Available as a summer workshop, or for individual study, the course is especially designed to aid grades 7 - 12 teachers in helping their students to develop an informed and critical understanding of the nature, impact and techniques of the mass media. The units are highly interactive and will assist teachers in developing skills to adapt these lessons to their students' needs and their teaching situations.

For more information about the course content and registration, please explore this site, and visit the home page for the course at [Athabasca University](http://cmns.athabascau.ca/featured_courses/mediaLiteracy) at [http://cmns.athabascau.ca/featured\\_courses/mediaLiteracy](http://cmns.athabascau.ca/featured_courses/mediaLiteracy)

## Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Creating our Future in Nova Scotia

Our world is changing at an astonishing rate. The rapid transformation of our global society means that we are educating our students for jobs and technologies that don't exist today. To prepare them for success in the modern world, our students will need to be creative, innovative, and technologically competent.

Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> C is about adapting to a changing world with the infusion of key skills and learning competencies that include

- active citizenship
- adaptability and a capacity for life- long learning
- creativity and innovation
- collaboration
- critical thinking and problem solving
- effective oral and written communication
- environmental literacy
- financial literacy
- global competency
- health literacy
- technological competence



## Media Literacy Week Nov 7-11 2011



The Media Awareness Network (MNet) and the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) today unveiled the theme for this year's annual Media Literacy Week– *Digital Citizenship* – calling on Canadians to encourage young people to reflect on their online lives, and their rights and responsibilities as they navigate the digital world.

“Through digital media, young people have a platform for communication and engagement that was nonexistent a generation ago. Adults have a huge role to play in ensuring youth also have the critical thinking skills to use this technology wisely and responsibly,” said Cathy Wing, MNet's Co-Executive Director. “With this year's theme we want to encourage youth to use digital media for positive activities – for advocacy, creative expression and civic engagement.”

For her part, CTF President Mary-Lou Donnelly explains how teachers play a pivotal role to help their students become active and responsible citizens in a global and increasingly complex world. “Technology has opened doors on issues related to the environment, civic engagement and social justice. Teachers' fundamental role will continue to be in helping students develop lifelong skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, information literacy, global awareness and multiple knowledges.”

To find out more on the week and how you can get involved, visit the Media Literacy Week Web site: <http://www.medialiteracyweek.ca/en/default.htm>

Educating in the 21<sup>st</sup> C is about providing students with opportunities to apply knowledge through authentic, student-centred experiences in technology rich environments. In Nova Scotia, through our Essential Graduation Learnings, we're striving to make every student's educational experience a model of learning excellence in the 21<sup>st</sup>



C. Diverse programming that includes Options and Opportunities, Online Learning, Skilled Trades, Co-operative Education, International Baccalaureate – IB, and integrated learning technologies help to support our students in a global learning environment.

Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is all about developing the skills and competencies that will ensure our students are ready to meet the challenges ahead.



## ArtsExpress

### Synaptic Connections:

**Art and the Brain** is a new exhibit at the AGNS, featuring work created by students from J.L. Ilsley's

Youth Health Centre in collaboration with the AGNS, Dr. Stan Kutcher, and artist Melissa Marr. The exhibit will be on display until January 29, 2011 and is accompanied by a series of free public lectures about the mysteries of the brain.



### **“What’s the 411? The 902 Youth Music Initiative”**

features guest artist J.Bru, DJIV, Line, Classified, and

Universal Soul. In this eight-week long workshops series students will get exposed to song writing, the basics of rapping and DJing, audio mixing, marketing, promotion and networking, equipment set up and recording. The project wrap up will culminate in audio and video recordings, which will allow all participants to walk away with their own CD. Music workshops start Monday October 3, from 3-5pm in room 105. Attendance is free and pizza will be provided.

### **Nocturne. Art at night. ‘The art side of the moon’.**

This year ArtsExpress is creating ‘Disorder in Court’ at the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia during this year’s Nocturne, Saturday, October 15 6pm - midnight. In collaboration with the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Nova Scotia, staff from J.L. Ilsley are putting on the one act comic opera “Trial by Jury” which is set in an actual courtroom.

**“Nautilus Mural”** was created by Art 12 students from Rockingstone Heights, as well as Youth of the Phoenix Youth Group and Team Possibles, under the artistic guidance of artists Miro Davis and Renee Forrestall. This is the second set of murals created by our youth to be installed in local court houses. These innovative art programs are financially supported by ‘Lighthouses Grants’ from the department of Justice’s Crime Prevention Initiatives.



## Vote for Fundy!

The countdown is on! Timing is running out and we need your help to make the Bay of Fundy one of the official New7Wonders of Nature before the final voting deadline on November 11.

The Bay of Fundy is Canada’s only finalist among 28 international competitors remaining in the contest, chosen from more than 440 original entries.

As you know, the Bay is home to the world’s highest tides. More than 100 billion tonnes of sea water flow in and out twice a day – enough to fill the Grand Canyon six times – causing tides to rise as high as a four-storey building. It is also home to 300 million-year-old fossils, spectacular rock formations, 12 species of whale, and 1,200 kilometres of beautiful coastline.

The Bay of Fundy belongs in the company of other prestigious finalists in this campaign, including the Grand Canyon, the Great Barrier Reef, Cape Town’s Table Mountain, and the Dead Sea.

We are asking all students, teachers, school support staff and parents to vote as many times as possible before November 11. Please reach out to your family, friends and colleagues across the country and encourage them to vote too.

As the clock ticks down, please take a moment to vote today by visiting [www.votemyfundy.com](http://www.votemyfundy.com), or simply text FUNDY to 77077 (\$0.25 per text vote) on any Canadian smart phone.

At [www.votemyfundy.com](http://www.votemyfundy.com) you will find lots of great ways you can help to promote the vote.

It’s time to let the world know that the Bay of Fundy is a Canadian icon – one that deserves to be recognized as a true natural wonder of the world.





## Arts Education Update

To support implementation of Band Instruments 9, Explore Music 9, and Visual Arts 9, professional learning workshops for arts education teachers serving grade 9 students will be available in each board/region. These one-day workshops will focus on implementation of the new arts curriculum. A selection of resources (print, audio, and video) will be sent to schools offering these courses in 2011–2012. In addition, teachers who attend a Visual Arts 9 professional learning workshop will receive a “starter” kit containing art supplies valued at \$600.00.

The Artists in Schools program offers students and teachers direct access to a diverse range of talented Nova Scotian artists. Our arts partners are ArtReach, ArtsSmarts, Debut Atlantic, PAINTS, PERFORM! and WITS. Schools throughout the province have received brochures and a poster outlining details of the program. An online application is also available on our website at [www.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.ednet.ns.ca)

To support activities that allow students to meet the community links requirements for Advanced Music 11, Advanced Visual Arts 11, Advanced Music 12, and Advanced Visual Arts 12, teachers/students may apply for a Community Partnership Grant. Applications must be submitted not later than October 21 for Semester One or February 28 for Semester 2.

More student artworks will soon be on display in Brunswick Place where a gallery space is being created on the 2nd floor of the Department of Education. The area will showcase the vibrant arts-based programs offered in our schools. The space will be visually engaging and reflective of youth art and culture across the province.

Five professional learning opportunities were available in arts education this summer at Edufest 2011, August 15-20. The workshops took place at the beautiful NSCC Waterfront Campus in Dartmouth.

### Dance: Translating Hip-hop: A Contextual Framework For Teaching Urban Dance

This three-day program provided the basis for an in-depth study of hip-hop culture as well as a guide through the very latest dance moves. Professional Hip-hop artists Alexis Cormier, Drew Moore, and Mariano Abarca skillfully led participants to understand the core values of urban dance: practice, team building and respect for the form as well as for fellow dancers.

*“Overall this workshop was amazing! I wish I had more days to learn from these amazing people! I would take another course for sure and recommend it to anyone!”*



### Music Workshop: People Gotta Move!

HRSB teacher James Jackson facilitated this very engaging and practical workshop for elementary music teachers. Over the two-day learning opportunity, teachers enjoyed experiences of pure movement activities and explored many aspects of movement within songs, stories, instrumental activities and dance.

*“The two-day format in the summer is perfect. I feel like I have learned a tremendous amount, without sacrificing vacation.”*

### Music: The R's for Guitar, Level 1.5

The “R's for Guitar” workshop was a one-day workshop available to graduates of the Teaching Guitar Workshop, Level 1 program (2009, 2010 or 2011). The workshop included skill review, sharing successes, ensembles, going to the next level, power chords to jazz power, and much more!

*“Very useful and informative. Great workshop! Thank you for putting it together.”*





# Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

## Art Gallery of Nova Scotia & ArtReach

There are many exciting things happening this fall both inside and outside the Gallery.

At AGNS Halifax, the exhibition, *Synaptic Connections: Art & The Brain and Minding*, by artists in residence, Melissa Marr and Heather Wilkinson, are on display until January 29, 2012.

Special programs such as school tours, lectures, and on-line lessons and resources, exploring the relationship between the science of the mind and the creativity of art are available. To book school tours appropriate for all grades, please call 424-6314.

Upcoming annual family events include Children's Festival, Sunday November 20, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm and Gingerbread Sunday, December 11, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Two events not to be missed!

The AGNS ArtReach program is supporting a variety of programs and events this year. At South Centennial School in Yarmouth, students are creating a mural illustrating sport and active living in autumn. This mural and Maitland District School's 2011 Canada Games winter mural will be exhibited at AGNS Yarmouth this November.

The ArtReach program is also planning travelling exhibitions. In October, Acadia University Art Gallery will host an exhibition of AGNS prints. This show will travel to the Fraser Cultural Centre in Tatamagouche next spring. Artist Jacques Hurtibise will be the focus of exhibitions planned for the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design in Sydney and la galerie Le Trécaré in Church Point.



Detail from Maitland District School's mural

## ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia

The 2011-2012 ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia program is off to a great start. In addition to the exciting array of ArtsSmarts project ideas submitted by schools from across the province, ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia is working with La Fédération culturelle acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse's program, GénieArts Nouvelle-Écosse, to engage English and French schools in partner projects. Students will have the opportunity to meet and share project ideas and collaborate on an exhibition, which will open at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in November.

Plans are also underway at AGNS Yarmouth to host *Estompe!* an ArtsSmarts performance art/printmaking event. The title is a play on the word, estampe, which is French for print. Students will learn about music and rhythms, and work with local musicians to produce large "prints" on canvas by mark making with their feet through dance.



Africville scene from the ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia project, Kamishibai Theatre, which will be featured on The Scotian Project website

Work is also progressing on *The Scotian Project*, the interactive education website that will offer students and teachers across the province the opportunity to contribute to their own research and artwork through written and photo documentation, audio files and video footage, which focus on African Nova Scotia culture and heritage. This is a joint project with the Nova Scotia Department of Education's African Canadian Services Division, Information Technology Services, and Learning Resources and Technology Services.



## **ViewFinders enters its pre-teen years!**

ViewFinders: International Film Festival for Youth celebrates all things film for young people, ages 3–18. From April 17-21, 2012, the festival presents daytime screenings and workshops for school groups as well as evening and weekend screenings for families, and presents the best of national and international films, made by and for youth. Working with our Teachers' Advisory Committee (TAC), we ensure that relevant Nova Scotia SCO's are addressed and pre and post-screening activities are recommended. In addition, there are a variety of hands-on workshops, for school groups and individuals, providing the groundwork for budding filmmakers and allowing young people to express their creativity through this unique and exciting festival.

### **Festival in a Van**

Festival in a Van brings the best of ViewFinders films to communities and school-based youth audiences across Atlantic Canada twice a year. In Spring and Fall, the ViewFinders team hits the road to provide opportunities for schools and communities to discover regional and international filmmaking, and explore their own creativity, tell their own stories, produce their own works and have them celebrated. Programs can be custom designed to specific age groups or community issues.

### **Training Opportunities and Film Productions**

ViewFinders offers opportunities for young people interested in art, film and media production to engage in intensive creative sessions with industry pros, in professional settings. These hands-on sessions introduce participants to professionals and connect them with peer collaborators. This March, ViewFinders is happy to be partnering again with the NSTU to offer a week-long free workshop to Nova Scotia public High School Students as well as NSTU members. From March 12–16, 2012 Participants will have the opportunity to receive mentorship in commercial marketing and filmmaking and create 3 30-second Public Service Announcements, which focus on the important issue of bullying. For information and applications on this and other film production opportunities, go to [atlanticfilm.com](http://atlanticfilm.com)

### **ViewFinders Film Challenges**

ViewFinders screens and spotlights emerging young filmmakers ages 18 and under. All genres of films are accepted: fiction, action, documentary, music video and animation. Individuals and groups may enter; submissions must be under 5 minutes, suitable for all-ages audiences, and use original or public domain music if a soundtrack is present. A jury of film industry professionals will select the finalists, screenings will be held during ViewFinders in April 2012—thousands of dollars in prizes will be awarded! Submission deadline is March 19, 2012, applications and further information will be available on the ViewFinders website in November 2012.

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



## Nova Scotia Provincial Library

In addition to growing collections of audiobooks and eBooks available through their public libraries, Nova Scotians now have access to a collection of over 23,000 public domain eBook titles from Project Gutenberg.

Available in multiple languages, these electronic books feature Canadian and international authors' works of fiction and non-fiction on a diverse range of subjects and spheres. Popular fiction authors include: Jane Austen, L. Frank Baume, Stephen Leacock, L. M. Montgomery, Robert Louis Stevenson, H. G. Wells, and many others. Non-fiction topics include: botany, chemistry, cooking, history, medicine, photography, and more.

Titles in this collection are available in EPUB format, can be downloaded without a library login, and also don't count against a patron's checkout limits. This allows for simultaneous use by a number of readers, which can be useful for classroom, home school, and Book Club study and discussion.

Downloadable eBooks and audiobooks can be found:  
in HRM:

<http://digitalmedia.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca>

the rest of Nova Scotia:

<http://digitalmedia.library.ns.ca>

To access public domain titles, look for the "Additional eBooks. Always available." icon (bottom left on webpages).

For further assistance, please contact your local library branch.

<http://publiclibraries.ns.ca>



**Nova Scotia Provincial Library**  
<http://www.library.ns.ca>



## Hackmatack

The 2011/12 Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award got off to a great start when Education Minister Ramona Jennex launched this year's program at Coldbrook and District School last month.



Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 packed Coldbrook's library as Minister Jennex presented two sets of the Hackmatack-nominated titles to librarian Sylvia Jacquard. Students were rapt as Hackmatack author James Leck read from his novel *The Adventures of Jack Lime*. Afterwards the students and guests enjoyed refreshments as they got a closer look at the books.

Every September the Department of Education provides elementary schools with two sets of the English titles selected for the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Awards program. Schools in the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) and schools that offer early French Immersion also receive two sets of the French titles.

Hackmatack clubs will be happening in schools and libraries around the Atlantic Provinces from now until April 1 when students will vote for their favourite books. Author tours are scheduled for April 23 to 26, 2012 with the awards ceremony happening in Moncton, New Brunswick on April 27.

For more information about the program, visit [www.hackmatack.ca](http://www.hackmatack.ca)

# October is Canada Library Month





## Entrepreneurship Education: Creating an Enterprising Future

<http://www.ceed.ca>

The Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CEED) is a multidimensional agency offering education and training for small business owners, micro financing, and support for priority youth, through the Second Chance and Youth Employability Project. Another important facet of CEED's mandate is entrepreneurship education outreach to schools throughout the Halifax Regional Municipality, as well as creating entrepreneurial curriculum resources for use throughout Atlantic Canada.

As an agency firmly committed to supporting small and medium sized enterprises, CEED recognizes that future success depends upon today's students understanding entrepreneurship as an important part of our region's economic growth, as well positioning entrepreneurship as a future career option.

CEED's Education Portfolio has been conducting entrepreneurship-oriented workshops throughout HRM for many years, inspiring students and supporting educators. Through dynamic workshops like *Out the Box Factory*, in which students go through the process of creating a 'product', and *Invention Convention*, in which students 'brainstorm' on an everyday problem and then create a product or service to solve that problem, students gain an understanding of the successes and challenges of entrepreneurship. ...all within the span of one class! With a suite of experiential workshops ready to be adapted to any course or program, the Education Portfolio works with educators to reflect measurable educational outcomes in the workshop material.

As another school year commences, the Educational Portfolio, and the entire CEED staff, looks forward to inspiring entrepreneurship in educators and students, and helping turn their entrepreneurial dreams into reality!



## Nova Scotia Summit on Gifted and Talent Development

May 23–25, 2012

Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Registration now open at: [www.nselc.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.nselc.ednet.ns.ca)

The Department of Education, the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union are pleased to announce an exciting professional learning event for all educators. The Nova Scotia Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development will be more than a conference. It will be an opportunity for participants to actively engage in learning how to create and sustain a culture of enrichment in our schools by exploring challenging programs and examining a wide variety of innovative ideas and practices.

During the three-day Summit, participants will also enjoy browsing the publisher and vendor displays, being entertained by gifted and talented students, gathering informally for professional discussion, and interacting with the workshop presenters and keynote speakers. The comprehensive program promises to keep participants engaged from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm with a menu of daytime and evening options.

Delegates are encouraged to stay in the MSVU condo-like residences to maximize their learning, networking, and socializing opportunities. Daily rates for these apartment style units (4 bedrooms and a common area) are \$36.21 per room or \$144.83 for the entire unit. Single dorm rooms are also available for \$40.60 per day. These prices include parking, taxes and a full breakfast. As these are 2011 prices they may change slightly in 2012. For reservations please contact:

[reservations@MSVU.ca](mailto:reservations@MSVU.ca)

Please mark your calendar and join our creative community for the first-ever Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development in the Maritimes. The registration fee is \$399.00 (plus HST) with registration now available on the NSELc.

Check the website for details on keynotes, large group speakers, breakout sessions, etc.



## Student Services Website Update

[www.studentservices.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.studentservices.ednet.ns.ca)

Since its inception in March of this year, just under 20,000 people have visited the Student Services Website – averaging 124 daily visits. The new site has the entire collection of Policies, Guidelines, and support documents, as well as program information to support student success to ensure a continuum of services to respond to the strengths and challenges of all learners. Other links, such as the popular “Additional Links” and “PD/Conference Opportunities”, as well as a link to our DOE Media Library, which contains over 25 titles of streamable digital videos.



## Autism Spectrum Disorder

Two grants were distributed by the Students Services Division in September to the school boards across the province to support specific work in the area of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Through The Special Education Implementation Review Committee (SEIRC) grant supports professional development and resources for teaching staff regarding autism awareness, assessment, programming and evidence based intervention. School boards have undertaken a variety of initiatives this year to support elementary, junior and senior high schools including ongoing training with the STAR program (Strategies for Teaching based on Autism Research), TEACCH based support, functional and social skill programming across all levels and using technology such as the iPod/ iPad. Boards are encouraged to collaborate where possible. These professional development opportunities have allowed schools to keep in the forefront of educational support for students with ASD.

The Early Identification and Intervention Services (EIIS) grant is distributed to boards to support transition for children with autism spectrum disorder from their preschool setting into grade primary. This grant supports the work of professional staff in program planning for these students through transition planning with home and community settings as well as professional development, and resources.

## CLASS II school report - Coming This Fall

CLASS is a province-wide research project that looks at the relationships between health, nutrition, physical activity, mental health and school performance of children in Nova Scotia. Last year, over 5500 Grade 5 students and their parents took part across 272 schools in Nova Scotia. The research team would like to thank all school staff, students and their parents for supporting this research.



Children's Lifestyle And School-performance Study

**This year, each participating school will receive a confidential report with school-specific results from CLASS II.** Results will be compared to the provincial averages in the areas of School Performance and Student Achievement relating to healthy eating, physical activity and mental health. This data may help to inform improvements in health promotion in your school and help to support your school improvement and/or accreditation plan. We encourage schools to share this information with the entire school community, especially those individuals who are involved with supporting health promotion activities. Please visit the project website for more details ([www.nsclass.ca](http://www.nsclass.ca)) or contact Jessie-Lee Langille (902-494-8439 or [Jessie-Lee.Langille@dal.ca](mailto:Jessie-Lee.Langille@dal.ca)).

# October is Autism Awareness Month



## **Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium Professional Learning Opportunities 2011-2012**

The NSELc presently offers the following three-day and four-day professional learning modules.

Module 1 “Working with People” includes an opportunity for participants to examine their leadership preferences (Insights Discovery). With this self understanding as a reference, participants explore a wide variety of topics related to working with others in a learning community.

Module 2 “Strategies for Teaching and Learning” is designed to extend participants understanding of the Nova Scotia curriculum (including current initiatives), differentiated instruction, classroom based assessment and evaluation, learning styles and various models of staff development.

Module 4 “The School Leader and the Law” provides participants with the opportunity to explore, comprehend and apply legal principles to a variety of school related issues.

Module 8 “Schooling and Social Justice” provides opportunities to explore racism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism and classism so participants can develop strategies to create classrooms, and schools dedicated to social justice.

Module 9 “Programming for Students with Special Needs” provides a professional learning experience intended to support educators in developing, implementing and evaluating programming for students with special needs. The term special needs also includes those students who may be gifted and talented.

Module 11 “Leadership in Human Resources” explores labour relation rolls, collective agreements, staff assignments, fair hiring practices, performance appraisals, dispute management, termination, and employee records.

Module 12 “Coaching and Mentoring” helps participants gain a deeper understanding about the dynamics of successful mentoring and coaching relationships, and recognize how these relationships provide critical support for people engaged in the change process.

Module 13 “Using Assessment to Improve Teaching and Learning” focuses on a balanced assessment program and the practical applications for classrooms. Emphasis is on improving learning and instruction through formative assessment practices.

Module 14 “Autism Spectrum Disorder” focuses on the history, diagnostic criteria and associated characteristics of Autism. Participants will learn how to develop comprehensive program plans, how to recognize the roles and responsibilities of the various team members, and the role that assessment plays in effective programming.

NSELc also offers a one-day “Insights Discovery” workshop and a two-day workshop on “Classroom Management”.

Sandi Carmichael and Tony Stewart, Executive Co-Directors

E-mail: [nselc@nselc.ca](mailto:nselc@nselc.ca)

[www.nselc.ca](http://www.nselc.ca)

## Cyberbullying Task Force and Working Group

The Cyberbullying Task Force and Working Group have been meeting for two days each month to explore the scope and prevalence of the problem and to hear from researchers and experts on what can be done to help address the issue of bullying and cyberbullying. They met for the first time on June 9 and 10, and again on July 14 and 15, August 17 and 18 and September 12 and 13. A portion of the September meeting was open to the public, as will be the meeting on October 21, 2011. This meeting will be held at Citadel High School Auditorium in Halifax.

Leading Canadian researchers on bullying and cyberbullying, Dr. Wendy Craig and Dr. Shaheen Shariff, have joined the meetings via videoconferencing to give presentations and offer suggestions and possible recommendations. We have also had others generously come to Nova Scotia from across Canada and the United States to present to the Task Force and Working Group, such as Parry Aftab, a leader on cyberbullying issues in the United States and founder of WiredSafety; and Eric Roher, author of *Educator's Guide to Violence in Schools*. Some of our province's own renowned educators and writers presented to the committee as well. Bob Konopasky, co-author of the paper *Education's Perfect Storm: Outmoded or No Bullying Policies, Grievous Harm to Victims and Justifiable Civil Litigations*; Barbara Kaiser, author of *Challenging Behaviour in Young Children*; and Dr. Stan Kutcher, Sun Life Financial Chair of Adolescent Mental Health, shared their perspective and insight on the problem and impact of bullying and cyberbullying. One of the most memorable speakers was Pam Murchinson who lost her daughter Jenna tragically this past year.

The Task Force and Working Group heard from other presenters, such as The Youth Project, YWCA and Misty Morrison, all of whom ran focus groups with some of our marginalized youth, in the LGBT, young female and African Nova Scotian communities. Pam Reardon from Nova Scotia Legal Aid talked about the impact this issue has on youth, in particular those involved or at risk of being involved in the youth criminal justice system. Gerard Cormier from the Nova Scotia Teachers Union presented on the issue of homophobia and the importance of having language in policies that speaks specifically to homophobia and transphobia. Youth focus groups were also conducted with Aboriginal youth, youth with disabilities and mental illness and new immigrant youth, to gain their perspective on this growing problem. Additional focus groups will be happening, through schools, across the province over the next month.

The Task Force is aligned with many community partners to help address this important issue. The Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women presented on the hyper-sexualization of women in the media and on the internet; the Nova Scotia Office of the Ombudsman provided information about their youth services division; and the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission discussed how bullying and cyberbullying relates to the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Bell Aliant, one of our local internet service providers and the Halifax Regional Police, Community Relations and Crime Prevention division also spoke to us about the important role they can play combating this problem and supporting our children and youth.

Members of the Task Force, chaired by Professor Wayne MacKay, and the Working Group have presented on this issue and shared valuable information on behalf of the organizations they represent. They are scheduled to meet again on October 20 and 21 and November 8 and 9, 2011. Professor MacKay will deliver a report, including recommendations, to the Minister of Education in the coming months.

Updates, information and videos are available at [cyberbullying.novascotia.ca](http://cyberbullying.novascotia.ca)

## October 17–23: School Safety Week



## Student Contests

### **Think First National Video Contest** - [www.thinkfirst.ca](http://www.thinkfirst.ca)

opens Oct 11/11, deadline March 2/12

Think First is a national injury prevention charity that runs educational programs for children in Kindergarten to grade 8. They also distribute free Brain Day kits and resources to schools (1 kit per school - grade 4-6).

### **NS Recycles Contest** - [teachers.rafb.com/?p=nsrca](http://teachers.rafb.com/?p=nsrca)

early-bird deadline Dec 9/11, final deadline February 3/12

Open to students in grades primary to twelve, challenges students to take action to promote waste reduction in their community. Classroom resources and school visits are also available.

### **Hackmatack** - [www.hackmatack.ca](http://www.hackmatack.ca)

deadline for registrations Dec 31/11

An Atlantic Canadian book award which allows children to choose their favourite Canadian and Atlantic Canadian books.

### **Geography Challenge** - [www.geochallenge.ca](http://www.geochallenge.ca)

registration Sept 6/11, registration deadline Feb 29/12

Open to Canadian students from grades 4 to 10, and is divided into two levels, the Geography Challenge aims to build interest in geography among young Canadians by allowing them to test their knowledge in friendly competition.

### **Young Writers Poetry Contest** - [www.poetryinstitute.shawbiz.ca](http://www.poetryinstitute.shawbiz.ca)

deadline Nov 18/11

Open to all age groups, the contest aims to encourage the writing of English poetry amongst young Canadians, by publishing examples of the best work received each year.

### **Young Writers Creative Writing Contest** - [www.youngwritersofcanada.ca](http://www.youngwritersofcanada.ca)

deadline Mar 15/2012

Short story contest for all children ages 7-18.

### **My Privacy & Me National Video Competition** - [youthprivacy.ca](http://youthprivacy.ca)

deadline Feb 1/2012

Open to students ages 12-18, competitions run in four categories, see website for information about rules and submission criteria.

### **Canada's Coolest School Trip Contest** - [www.myparkspass.ca](http://www.myparkspass.ca)

deadline Jan 8/2012

Open to Grade 8 classes, the contest challenges students to create a video in which they recreate a moment of significance from a Canadian national park, national historic site or national marine conservation area.

### **HKVCA Cross Canada Writing Contest** - <http://www.hkvca.ca/teacherszone/contest12/index.htm>

deadline May 25/2012

The Hong Kong Veterans Commemoration Association invites all students to submit a piece of writing in honour of the brave Canadian soldiers who fought for the defense of the Island of Hong Kong during World War II.

## Nova Scotia International Programs

### Teachers attend Global Reach-Global Teach Conference

Shanghai, PRC – Teachers from schools all over China offering the Canadian Nova Scotia Public School Program gathered in Shanghai in late August to participate in a professional learning conference in preparation for the new school year.

The theme of this year's conference was "Global Reach-Global Teach." Teachers and administrators from both private and public schools participated in a selection of workshops tailored to Nova Scotia curriculum and assessment practices, as well as instructional strategies for English as Additional Language (EAL) learners.

One of the aims of the conference was to introduce teachers to an online professional learning community commonly known as a "moodle". The moodle is intended at strengthening collaboration and provides a forum in which teaching professionals working in the 17 schools throughout China offering the Nova Scotia Program can share ideas, practices and resources.

"The idea behind the conference was to build a support network," says Gaye Rawding, the conference organizer and Director of International Programs with the Nova Scotia Department of Education. "If a teacher

or principal has a question regarding curriculum, assessment or a particular learning issue in their classroom they can now use the moodle to collaborate. They can now readily contact other experienced educators working in the international schools network."

Nova Scotia's education system is respected world-wide for its dynamic, research-based curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Nova Scotia's highly trained teachers and administrators are committed to providing quality education. Students demonstrate commendable achievement on international assessments and regularly lead other Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries in Mathematics and Literacy.

An international school accredited by the Nova Scotia Department of Education has approval to use the Nova Scotia Public School Program and a Nova Scotia high school diploma is awarded to students who meet the Nova Scotia graduation requirements. The Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma is confirmation of a superior education, and is accepted by universities and colleges worldwide.

For more information regarding International Programs: <http://internationalprograms.ednet.ns.ca>



Dr. Sarah Nixon, Principal of the Sino-Canadian (Nova Scotia Public School Program) Jilin #1 High School, Jilin, PRC has received the Jilin Provincial Foreign Expert Award. The education authority in Jilin Province, People Republic of China recognizes a foreign educator on an annual basis for exemplary contribution to the education system. Dr. Nixon's nomination came from her Chinese colleagues who work with her at the Jilin #1 High School. Congratulations!



Gaye Rawding, Director, International Programs and Dr. Sarah Nixon, Principal Jilin #1 High School, Jilin, China.

Keynote speaker, Claire Zhang, Trade Commissioner, The Consulate General of Canada, Shanghai, PRC



## October 24: United Nations Day

## WORK SAFE. FOR LIFE.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA

### Health and Safety: Cross-Curricular Connections!

Helping students understand their workplace health and safety rights and responsibilities is expanding beyond Co-Op. English teachers are using novels like "Margaret's Museum" to show relationships between people, work and community; Science teachers are explaining more about WHMIS; Technology and Trades teachers are connecting safety in the lab with safety on the worksite, and Healthy Living 9 teachers are introducing students to the world of work.

Although teachers aren't in the workplace to see their students put new health and safety knowledge into action, we certainly see the results. Over the last five years young worker injury has steadily declined in Nova Scotia and we know high school teachers have played an important role in this improvement.

Is there some way you can have a conversation about workplace safety rights in your course? Contact Tracey Leary, WCBNS Education Consultant at 902-491-8109 or by email at [tracey.leary@wcb.gov.ns.ca](mailto:tracey.leary@wcb.gov.ns.ca). You can also check out our Educators' webpage at [worksafeforlife.ca](http://worksafeforlife.ca).



### Young Worker Health and Safety Through the Vision and Voices of Young Artists

Strong collaboration between safety partners and the Dept. of Education has resulted in the creation and implementation of a workplace safety module in Healthy Living 9, which includes several compelling fictional case studies rooted in the world of youth and younger workers. **The WCB is giving young artists in Grade 8, 9 & 10 the unique opportunity to submit original artwork that brings the themes and emotions of these case studies to life.** Please encourage your students to use their art to illustrate the stories of Keisha, Britney, Yang, Jamal, Cassie, Michel and Jamie, which will be integrated to grades 7–9 teaching and learning resources created by the WCB for use by teachers and educators

26

[inschool.ednet.ns.ca](http://inschool.ednet.ns.ca)



### iNSchool

iNSchool is about leveraging technology to better support student achievement

Through iNSchool, educators will soon have access to real-time information on *all* of our students, schools and programs. Whether in the classroom or the boardroom, we'll be able to see what's happening *right away* so we can act *right away*.

iNSchool also includes a portal that gives students and parents quick and easy access to their current marks, attendance records, assignment due dates, and school announcements. It gives families a window on the classroom like never before.

**Students, parents and teachers** who have had a chance to use this web-based portal are excited. **Parents** like the fact that they can be more *in-tune* and *involved* in their children's education, and **teachers** like how *easy* and *fast* it is to manage their information and communicate with students and parents.

If you are a **student** or **parent** and would like to learn more about the portal, go to [www.inschool.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.inschool.ednet.ns.ca). If you are an **educator**, you may be interested in the many resources available to you on this web site.

iNSchool is being implemented gradually over three years. Since September 2010, 288 schools across the province started using PowerSchool/ PowerTeacher, the system our province selected to manage core student information. The remaining 130 schools will start between December 2011 and September 2012.



around the province.

For a brochure of project details and case studies' content found in Appendix B of Healthy Living 9, please contact Tracey Leary, WCBNS Education Consultant, at 902-491-8109 or by email at [tracey.leary@wcb.gov.ns.ca](mailto:tracey.leary@wcb.gov.ns.ca). Artwork will be received to this email address from November 1, 2011 to March 2, 2012.

We feel the stories and experiences of youth and young workers are richer when told in their own voices; please encourage your students to speak up with their art!



## Family Studies Services

### Curriculum Implementation Workshops

This fall we are introducing new Family Studies curriculum at the grade 9 and grade 12 levels via curriculum implementation workshops for

- Child Studies 9
- Housing & Design 12
- Textile Technology 12
- Food Studies/Hospitality 12
- Canadian Families 12

New resources have been purchased to support the implementation of these curricula and will arrive in schools this fall. As with most curricula, schools have an implementation window of three years (2011-2014) during which they can ease the new curriculum into practice.

### Real Care Baby Upgrade

Derek Murphy, our representative from Studica, has been attending the Child Studies 9 workshops to support the use of the Real Care Baby II in the Child Studies curriculum. He will also be conducting a workshop at the FSTA Conference in Sydney on October 28, 2011.

English Program Services purchased 127 upgrade kits for schools that applied to “Go Green” with their Real Care Babies. All Real Care babies in the province are now battery free! We also purchased software programs so the Real Care Baby can be managed via wireless connection to the teacher’s computer.

### Conference Project Fair

At the Family Studies Conference in Sydney on October 28, 2011 teachers are invited to submit teaching ideas to share with other teachers. Eventually these projects will be hosted on the Nova Scotia Virtual Schools website:

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

### Education Opportunities for Family Studies teachers

Acadia University is considering developing a Certificate Program in Family Studies for purposes of upgrade of teaching licence. However in order to proceed Acadia needs to know if there are teachers interested in pursuing this opportunity. Please email Acadia if you are seriously interested in finding out more or pursuing this option. Please send your email to [openacadia@acadiau.ca](mailto:openacadia@acadiau.ca) and title your email as FST Certification Inquiry.

St. Francis Xavier University has just introduced a Bachelor of Education In Family Studies this fall and have registered their first class. Congratulations, StFX!

For further information on any of the above topics or any issues related to Family Studies curriculum please contact Sheila Munro, Family Studies Services, [munrosm@gov.ns.ca](mailto:munrosm@gov.ns.ca) or phone 902-424-1639

### The City , A Financial Management Resource

*The City*, developed by the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada, is an approved resource to use in Math Essentials 10/11, Math Foundations 11, and Career Development 10/11. There will be on line Web Conferences during October supporting the use of this on line resource for teaching financial management at the high school level. Please go to the following website to find out more:

[http://resources.curriculum.org/csc/conf\\_city.adp](http://resources.curriculum.org/csc/conf_city.adp)

To access “The City” to use with your students go to the link

[www.themoneybelt.gc.ca](http://www.themoneybelt.gc.ca)

This link also has excellent information on financial management for all consumers.



## Food Studies/Hospitality 12 Implementation

Vic Schwartz, Food Protection and Enforcement Division with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Sheila Munro, Family Studies Services, Department of Education

Barry MacGregor, Food Protection and Enforcement Division with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture



On October 6 and 7, 2011, 26 teachers attended the Food Studies/Hospitality 12 Implementation Workshop at NSCC Akerley.

All of the teachers participated in a rigorous Advanced Food Safety Training Workshop facilitated by Vic Schwartz and Barry MacGregor, Food Protection and Enforcement Division with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. The intent of the workshop was to provide teachers with the skills to teach their students about safe food handling both at home and in industry. Students who successfully meet the Department of Agriculture requirements will receive the Food Handlers Certificate.

For further information, please contact Sheila Munro [munrosm@gov.ns.ca](mailto:munrosm@gov.ns.ca)

## The Nova Scotia Leadership Academy - Instructional Leadership Program

The Instructional Academy Program is being offered by the Nova Scotia Department of Education in partnership with the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium. The goal of the Academy's program is to improve the capacity for school-based instructional leadership, aimed at increasing student learning and achievement in Nova Scotia public schools.

The Instructional Leadership program extends over three years and leads to a Diploma in Instructional Leadership, granted by the Department of Education. It signifies that holders of the Diploma in Instructional Leadership have achieved and demonstrated competency in instructional leadership. Under the Education Act Regulations, the Instructional Leadership Program is a means for a teacher to upgrade his/her teacher certificate level.

The first cohort in the ILA program began classes in September in two locations in Nova Scotia: Mulgrave and Windsor. Thirty-three principals are enrolled in Year 1 of the program, coming from all eight of the province's school boards. One of the strengths of the program is that each course is co-facilitated by a curriculum specialist and a principal. In this way, theory and practice blend together seamlessly and the curriculum is linked continuously to practice in schools. Instructors in the Academy program for Course I and Course II (*Best Practices in Instruction and Assessment*) are Brenda MacIsaac and Sue LeBel, and principal facilitators/co-instructors are Lily DeYoung and Terry Wadden. The program consists of six courses, including a unique coaching laboratory course, weekly practicum experiences, and networking and "critical friends" experiences.

Online applications for Cohort II, scheduled to begin in September 2012, will be accepted through the NSILA website beginning in December. The Academy encourages all interested principals and vice-principals to apply. For more information on the Instructional Leadership Academy program, visit the NSILA webpage at [www.nsil.ca](http://www.nsil.ca), or contact Sue LeBel, Program Coordinator, at 902-354-8134 or by email at [slebel@nscel.ca](mailto:slebel@nscel.ca)



## Shad Valley Application Deadlines Approaching

Deadlines are approaching for exceptional grades 10, 11 and 12 students to apply for the exciting Shad Valley summer program. Shad Valley provides students with an enriched academic experience and opportunity to be immersed in university life before they finish high school. A month-long residential program based at 10 universities across the country, Shad Valley annually admits 500 of the nation's brightest students. The program focuses on science, technology, engineering and entrepreneurship.

"The month I spent at Shad Valley was the most challenging, creatively inspiring and spectacular month of my life. I met amazing people and learned a lot of new things. I have been encouraged to reach my true potential," says a 2011 participant.



The selection process takes into account exceptional academic standing, as well as volunteerism, community involvement and extracurricular activities. Financial aid is provided to successful candidates who need assistance with the program's fee. No candidate accepted to the program has been turned away due to financial hardship.

The fun, team-based environment at Shad Valley enables participants to grow in ways they never anticipated. Through lectures, workshops and team-building activities run by university faculty and industry leaders, students are exposed to advanced academic topics and learn new leadership skills. This exposure, combined with Shad Valley's outstanding reputation, gives participants a strong advantage when applying to university.

Applications are due by December 7, 2011 or January 18, 2012. They are available at [www.shad.ca/apply](http://www.shad.ca/apply). A great video about the program can be viewed at [www.shad.ca/studentvideo](http://www.shad.ca/studentvideo). Early applications are encouraged.



## The Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Fall, 2011!

Spring and Summer at the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been busy, and, from all indications, Fall will be busier than ever! Just the way we like it!

The Lieutenant Governor has hosted two Silver Award Ceremonies this year with forty Silver Awards presented, and a third ceremony is planned for the Fall. On June 1, we were honoured to have the Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable David Johnston, present Certificates to 47 Gold Award Achievers. The last Gold Award ceremony in Nova Scotia was held in October, 2007, so we were excited to have this opportunity to recognize the achievement of our Youth.

Our enrolment continues to surge ahead, with now well in excess of 2700 youth registered and actively pursuing either a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke Award level, with close to 50% of them involved in School groups. As the fall registrations start to come in, we are excited to see this trend continue. Since the spring we have welcomed ten new Teacher leaders and four new schools. We have offered four leader training workshops and have a fifth scheduled for October 1, with the plan to do more if required. The steady increase of participants involved in school groups over the past five years, and the marked increase in Awards achieved, is in large part due to the hard work and infinite patience of dedicated teachers. A heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to all the teachers that take such an active role in helping challenge youth to be the best that they can possibly be!!



The Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada addressing Gold Award Achievers at the Gold Award Ceremony, June 1, 2011, held at Pier 21. Also pictured (seated) is Peter Melanson, President, Duke of Edinburgh's Award National Board.





## IB Program

Nova Scotia's IB graduates achieved outstanding results in the 2011 IB examinations. Leading the way was Saba Balvardi who achieved an outstanding 44 out of 45 points, an achievement matched by only one IB

student in the history of IB in the province. Saba's achievement is all the more remarkable because she took an additional IB course, the very challenging "Further Mathematics" on a self-study basis, achieving a top score of 7. No other Nova Scotia IB student has ever attempted the Further Mathematics course. After receiving multiple scholarship offers Saba decided to attend McGill University in Montreal.

"IB taught me how to manage my time, keep up with a full course load, how to critique and analyze work, and most importantly it taught me about life outside of the classroom. I was able to spend time with people who shared the same passion as me and I was able to make life long friendships," said Ms. Balvardi.

Saba's family immigrated from Iran in 2007, and she entered Halifax West in grade 10 speaking little English. She credits the teachers at Halifax West and in particular guidance counsellor Ms. Deborah Noonan with helping her through that very difficult first year. Saba's younger sister, Sahar, is also enrolled in the IB diploma program and is in grade 11.

Right to left: John Messenger (Head of IB for Nova Scotia, Saba Balvardi, and Gary Walker, principal of Halifax West. Photo taken at the West IB graduation ceremony June 2011.

## IB Workshops

Fifty-six enthusiastic IB teachers and teachers aspiring to teach IB subjects attended two intensive workshops at the new Halifax Board offices in Burnside Park, September 31 to October 1. The workshops were organized by the Department of Education to allow teachers of IB English and IB French to fully understand the significant changes the IB organization has made to the English literature and French IB courses and to become familiar with the new assessment features of the two courses. Two experienced trainers from Toronto conducted the workshops, Michele Brand from the Toronto French School and Richard Hood from Upper Canada College, presented to a very appreciative gathering of teachers from Nova Scotia, P.E.I., and New Brunswick IB schools. Participants left energized and with the confidence that they could cope with the many changes in the two courses. Elizabeth Hughes, IB English teacher at Citadel High School, commented, "I would attend a similar workshop every Saturday if Richard Hood were presenting."





## Science Primary–6 Invitational Professional Learning Workshops

### Science: Doing, Thinking, and Connecting

English Program Services was pleased to extend an invitation to school boards earlier this year to partner in the delivery of a one-day professional learning science session on doing and thinking from Primary–6. One representative from each elementary school was invited to this exciting session and asked to share information and resources with others in their schools.

Participants explored science concepts with connections to literacy, mathematics, visual arts, movement, and social studies. Participants were involved in doing and thinking through multidisciplinary hands-on, minds-on activities. One example that the teachers were engaged was 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 were addressed. Assessment and technology were embedded in the program throughout the day.

### Learning Resources (one per school)

- Primary: Table Top Tri-Pod Magnifier
- Grade 1: Floaters & Sinkers Kit
- Grade 2: Early Simple Machines Set (Lego)
- Grade 3: Magnetism Kit

- Grade 4: Light Kit and Stereo Microscope
- Grade 5: Forces and Simple Machines Kit, Goggles (assorted colors), Aprons
- Grade 6: Electricity Kit
- Books: Science Collection, Primary to 6 (15 titles):
  - \* “Each Living Thing” (Science Primary - Exploring the World of Living Things)
  - \* “Touch the Earth” (Science 1 - Needs and Characteristics of Living Things)
  - \* “We Planted a Tree” (Science 1 - Daily and Seasonal Changes)
  - \* “A Place for Frogs” (Science 2 - Animal Growth and Changes)
  - \* “Pond Circle” (Science 2 - Air and Water in the Environment)
  - \* “Hurricanes!” (Science 2 - Air and Water in the Environment)
  - \* “Winnie Finn, Worm Farmer” (Science 3 - Exploring Soils)
  - \* “Mrs. Spitzer’s Garden” (Science 3 - Plant Growth and Changes)
  - \* “The Busy Tree” (Science 4 - Habitats)
  - \* “Winston of Churchill: One Bear’s Battle Against Global Warming” (Science 4 - Habitats)
  - \* “Earth: Feeling the Heat” (Science 5 - Weather)
  - \* “Survival at 40 Below” (Science 5 - Weather)
  - \* “The Last Polar Bear” (Science 5 - Weather)
  - \* “The Family of Earth” (Science 6 - Diversity of Life)
  - \* “Time for Kids: The Big Book of Why” (Science 5 and 6)
- Outcome cards (whole school)
- CDs: (whole school)

### Hands-on, Minds-on Science

- \* Doing & Thinking Science: Olympic Free-Style
- \* Science Primary-6 Curriculum Documents
- \* First Canadian Expedition Downlink Event

## Science 10

Science 10 is a hands-on, minds-on course that for all students. With direct hands-on activities involving doing and thinking, Science 10 is student-centred and inquiry-based-focusing on skills. Science 10 offers topics that address Life Science, Physical Sciences, and Earth and Space Science. The units are Weather Dynamics, Chemical Reactions, Motion, and Sustainability of Ecosystems.

A new Science 10 student resource is under development. It will be available for schools February 2012. The teacher’s resource will be available April 2012. There will also be an on-line site to help support the new resource. Other resources will be put together on a Department Moodle.

### Science 10 On-Line Passages

On-line Science 10 passages were created as a Literacy project. These resources complement the Science 10 curriculum and are embedded with literacy strategies. Teacher’s may access these passages at

<http://science10.ednet.ns.ca>.

For further information, please contact Marilyn Webster, Science Consultant, [websteml@gov.ns.ca](mailto:websteml@gov.ns.ca)

## Canadian Space Agency

In the fall of 2012, Canadian Astronaut **Chris Hadfield** will blast off to space as he travels aboard a **Soyuz spacecraft** to reach the International Space Station (ISS). During his six month mission he will become Canada's first commander of the ISS – a milestone for Canadian space exploration.

To coincide with this historic mission, the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) will offer classrooms unique 3D and immersive learning products. Designed on a gaming platform, students will join Commander Hadfield on a problem solving adventure to the ISS. With Hadfield's avatar as their learning guide, students will explore scientific concepts by acting on their virtual environment and even becoming part of it.

The first of two products will see elementary level students create a living wall inside the space station. Their challenge is to determine how plants can be used to support life in space. Having the ability to shrink down to the size of carbon dioxide molecules, students will actually experience the process of photosynthesis from a perspective to which they would otherwise never have access.



Chris Hadfield spoke to over 800 students at J. L. Ilsley High School on September 28, 2011.

The second, targeted to high school students, will focus on how to plan, launch and keep a space craft in its desired orbit. Hadfield will guide the student's avatar through their challenge to design an attitude control system for an unmanned space craft built to bring supplies to the space station. To further their understanding, the avatars will miniaturize to become elements in the fuel stream travelling through the Soyuz's combustion system and experience the powerful energy transformation that propels the vehicle forward, all the while learning how the system works.

Both products target science curriculum requirements in every province and territory and take an open ended approach to problem solving so your students are in complete control of their learning as well as their progression through the missions.

Stay tuned! For more information about Canada's next expedition with Chris Hadfield, visit the CSA website [www.asc-csa.gc.ca](http://www.asc-csa.gc.ca)

## Nova Scotian Institute of Science

In 2012, the Nova Scotian Institute of Science (NSIS) will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary. The NSIS is proud of its past achievements and is looking forward to promoting and representing the broad interests of science in our province well into the future. The NSIS invites you and your colleagues to join us in this year of celebration!

During the fall and winter (2011–2012), the NSIS 150th Anniversary Public Lecture Series will shine a spotlight on the scientific advances and discoveries made in Nova Scotia over the past century. Nine guest speakers will present topics ranging from marine ecosystems to protected lands, and from gold to Gravensteins. The series culminates on May 7, 2012—a special evening with Dr. Bernard Lightman of York University, who will deliver a lecture on the popularization of science in the Victorian Age.

For further information visit

<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Science/NSIS>



# Discovery Centre

Nova Scotia's Hands-On Science Centre

## The 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 free Centre admission, 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 Exhibits:

### Too Small to See

Until January 8, 2012

*Too Small to See*, Discovery Centre's current traveling exhibit, proves that small is the new BIG! This hands-on exhibit showcases how scientists see and make things that are too small to see, and how the world of nanotechnology is changing our lives. Visitors can build and stretch molecules, walk through a silicon crystal, manipulate atoms on a vibrating table, magnify a computer chip up to 100,000 times and climb on carbon nanotubes! This exhibit is proudly presented by Dalhousie University.

### Grossology

January 21 to May 13, 2012

What kid doesn't like to talk about burping, farting and barfing? In this entertaining yet educational exhibit, the Discovery Centre will take on these "gross" subjects by welcoming *Grossology – the (Impolite) Science of the Human Body*. Based on the hugely popular book of the same name, *Grossology* is a science-in-disguise exhibit where kids get the answers to many of the slimy, oozy, crusty, stinky questions they have about the human body. Topics include boogers, burps and barf, along with many other bodily functions and concepts like digestion, waste, body odour and gas.

### Let's Go – Animals in Motion

January 16 to May 9, 2012

Are you ready to run, jump, crawl, climb and even "swim" or "fly" like animals do? Then come explore the trails in this fabulous exhibit teeming with life. Seven animal guides will teach kids to move like they do in this instructive, interactive and ridiculously fun exploration of animal biodiversity and locomotion.

Phone: 902-492-4422

Website: [www.thediscoverycentre.ca](http://www.thediscoverycentre.ca)

Follow us on Twitter: @DiscoveryCntr Like us on Facebook: /DiscoveryCentre



## Museum of Natural History

[www.nature.museum.gov.ns.ca](http://www.nature.museum.gov.ns.ca)

The Museum of Natural History is very excited to be the first museum in Canada to feature Science on a Sphere®. The room-sized system, from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the United States, displays environmental, geographic, and atmospheric data in movies and shows that are both entertaining and educational.

This new permanent exhibit allows the Museum to showcase a variety of multi-disciplinary topics and subjects for all grade levels that previously were not available to the Museum.

This new permanent exhibit will truly celebrate [Our Amazing World](#), and we invite you to visit with your class, your friends, or your family to see the world in a whole new light.

For information about the museum's hours, location and daily special programs please visit the website.

As a reminder, teachers with valid ID can always visit the Museum of Natural History at no charge.



## Mathematics 8 Support PD

The Department of Education is providing two days of professional learning for each grade 8 mathematics teacher. This is in response to the Elementary Mathematical Literacy Assessment (EMLA) written by grade 8 students in 2009–2010, the Junior High Mathematics Assessment to be written in June 2011 and requests for professional learning experiences.

Each grade 8 teacher will be provided with a USB memory stick that contains many resources to help them with their grade 8 mathematics program.

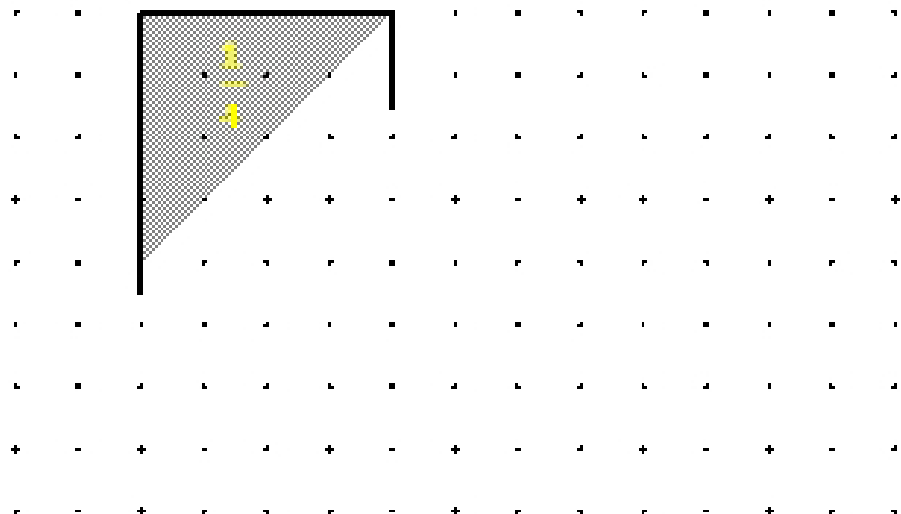
These two days will focus on the following:

- Engaging ways to review the conceptual understandings in fractions
- Examining errors and misconceptions in fraction to inform instruction.
- The importance of developing proportional reasoning.
- Differentiating instruction
- The grade 8 yearly plan for mental math
- Interpreting the EMLA results and reviewing the effective tracking materials developed for students not meeting expectations

Reviewing with teachers available material for the new grade 8 Junior High Mathematics Assessment

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

Draw the whole rectangle from which the shaded region was made



## Common Curriculum Framework for K–9 Mathematics

Nova Scotia will become the eleventh of thirteen Canadian jurisdictions to adopt the Western and Northern Canadian Protocol (WNCP) Common Curriculum Framework for K–9 Mathematics, May 2006 as the basis of their mathematics curriculum, grades primary–12.

In the past to support curriculum implementation, the Department of Education has created curriculum documents, teachers' guides, support guides, and mental math documents. It has been challenging for teachers to juggle these resources, along with text books and supplemental resources provided over the years.

Boards have been requesting comprehensive resources be packaged together to support implementation of new curriculum. They also wish to optimize support for teachers' professional growth within their school communities. In response to these requests, English Program Services is creating an Implementation Website that would contain all the information teachers will need to successfully implement the new mathematics curriculum being adopted from the Western and Northern Canadian Protocol (WNCP).

This website will allow the curriculum to be searchable, laying out the progression of learning outcome either vertically by grade or horizontally over several grades by strand or key topic. It will also layout a yearly plan and collate all of the materials and good lessons already available to teachers in one central location. It will build in differentiated instructional practices as well as formative assessment practices. The website will also embed professional learning resources for access and use on an as-needed-where-needed basis.

Implementation of the new curriculum will begin in September 2012.

## Faculty of Science Discovery Days are BACK in May and June 2012

The Faculty of Science at Dalhousie University is busy preparing for our 2012 Discovery Days events taking place next May and June 2012. These morning or afternoon sessions and events are FREE for school groups across the province in grades 6-12. In 2010, we welcomed over 2000 students and teachers for fun, hands-on and educational activities in science and math.



2012 events that have been confirmed include:

- Discover Math Days (grades 10-12)
- Discover Chemistry Days (grades 7-9)
- Discover Physics and Atmospheric Days (grades 6-12)

Schools can join us for a morning or afternoon session, activities are fun, hands-on and educational!

Teacher Quotes:

*"Our students thoroughly enjoyed the visit and talked about certain activities they did for days later. We had parents comment on how their child came home excited to share what happened that day."*

— Joy Noseworthy, Uniacke District School

*"Thank you so much for organizing this day! It was a highlight of the year!"*

— Sarah Conde, Lockview High School

Student Quotes:

*"My favourite part was the planetarium. I liked it because I liked looking at stars and trying to see shapes out of them. I also thought it was cool how in different seasons you see different stars."*

*"The trip to Dalhousie was awesome. I would definitely like to go back there!"*

For more information contact:

Theresa Myra  
School Outreach-Faculty of Science  
Tel: (902) 494.6448  
Email: [theresa.myra@dal.ca](mailto:theresa.myra@dal.ca)

...or visit online at [www.science.dal.ca/p12](http://www.science.dal.ca/p12)

### Public Schools Branch consists of the following Divisions:

African Canadian Services . . . . .	902-424-3151	<a href="mailto:acsd@ednet.ns.ca">acsd@ednet.ns.ca</a> . . . . .	<a href="http://acs.ednet.ns.ca">http://acs.ednet.ns.ca</a>
Diversity, Equity, and Special Projects . . . . .	902-722-1405	<a href="mailto:smithcla@gov.ns.ca">smithcla@gov.ns.ca</a>	
Education Quality Services . . . . .	902-424-0040	<a href="mailto:crandase@gov.ns.ca">crandase@gov.ns.ca</a>	
English Program Services . . . . .	902-424-8945	<a href="mailto:eps@ednet.ns.ca">eps@ednet.ns.ca</a> . . . . .	<a href="http://eps.ednet.ns.ca">http://eps.ednet.ns.ca</a>
Evaluation Services . . . . .	902-424-7746	<a href="mailto:testeval@ednet.ns.ca">testeval@ednet.ns.ca</a> . . . . .	<a href="http://plans.ednet.ns.ca">http://plans.ednet.ns.ca</a>
French Second Language Program Services . .	902-424-6646	<a href="mailto:fls@ednet.ns.ca">fls@ednet.ns.ca</a>	
Learning Resources & Technology Services . .	902-424-2462	<a href="mailto:lrt@ednet.ns.ca">lrt@ednet.ns.ca</a> . . . . .	<a href="http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca">http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca</a>
Mi'kmaq Liaison Office . . . . .	902-424-3428	<a href="mailto:Palmatcj@gov.ns.ca">Palmatcj@gov.ns.ca</a> . . . . .	<a href="http://mikmaq.ednet.ns.ca">http://mikmaq.ednet.ns.ca</a>
Student Services . . . . .	902-424-7454	<a href="mailto:studentsvcs@ednet.ns.ca">studentsvcs@ednet.ns.ca</a>	
Regional Education Services . . . . .	902-424-5799	(Halifax - SSRSB, HRSB) 902-424-6097 (Halifax - CSAP)	
	902-563-2080	(Sydney - CBVRSB)	
	902-742-3427	(Yarmouth - TCRSB, AVRSB)	
Senior Executive Director . . . . .	902-424-5829	<a href="mailto:lowead@gov.ns.ca">lowead@gov.ns.ca</a>	

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