



BRANCHING OUT

NOVA SCOTIA
Education

**NEWS FROM
PUBLIC SCHOOLS BRANCH**

October 2012

<http://EDnet.ns.ca>

Message from the Senior Executive Director

Continuous School Improvement ... it's what we are all about!

As we transition toward a more flexible approach to school improvement planning, it is helpful to reflect on the strengths and capacity that have been built through the former School Accreditation program. Through this program, teachers, principals and community members have been deeply engaged in examining data and evidence of student learning, establishing goals for improvement that are specific and attainable, and measuring progress toward those goals. This work was supported by strong engagement of school board and departmental staff as we worked together to meet the learning needs of all students.

Nova Scotia has much to be proud of. Nova Scotia can stand tall beside other international OECD and Commonwealth leaders with its dogged focus on the use of data and evidence for student achievement, advancing collaborative professional learning to support quality teaching, and strengthening competencies and skill in instructional leadership.

School improvement processes together with learning community practices focused on increasing instructional effectiveness ... a powerful combination!

The transition from school accreditation to a learning community approach for school improvement is a response to feedback from the system.

Educators, leaders in public education, and policy makers have asked for changes to the provincial School Accreditation Program. This as an opportunity to streamline and, indeed, strengthen how we approach school improvement initiatives in Nova Scotia.

These changes are an evolution of our school improvement journey. In many respects it will be a continuation of successes from the past, a change in emphasis, and the introduction of some new ideas. This new approach is intended to allow for more flexibility and innovation, and allow for schools to be more responsive to their individual needs and contexts. These changes will bring school improvement processes together with learning

continued on next page...



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community practices focused on increasing instructional effectiveness. This powerful combination will benefit students first and foremost in terms of increased student achievement and success in our schools. It will also create rich, respectful, and collaborative working environments for educators.

The new framework will promote and support the interrelated nature of the school improvement planning process and plan, learning community practices (to enhance teacher capacity), and classroom instructional improvement. Current professional literature, research on school reform, and our experience suggest that these three processes need to be working simultaneously and effectively in order to significantly increase learning and achievement for all students. Each of these components strengthens or weakens the other. A school needs a coherent and focused school improvement plan to give direction and to establish priorities for the school. Learning community practices frame how teachers are going to learn together and collaborate within a team structure to move changes forward. Best and promising instructional practices identify the teaching strategies and methods that will most likely have the greatest impact on student learning and achievement.

As educators work together to create and sustain a professional learning community within the school, these three processes provide the content for what staffs need to work on and how they need to work together to implement changes and make improvements stick.

The new framework for continuous school improvement, instructional improvement and collaborative learning teams is intended to be a guide for school boards and schools as they work to create a learning community culture throughout our public education system.

Our great teachers and principals make the difference!

Teachers, working together with a shared sense of purpose and a common compass, have the power to create amazing learning experiences for our students. I am reminded of a favorite quote from Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Thank you to the many dedicated professionals who helped to build Nova Scotia's capacity for school improvement planning through the school accreditation program. I especially want to say thank you to three groups that were instrumental in leading these changes: the Guiding Coalition for PLCs, the team of School Accreditation Coordinators, and the many principals who participated in feedback sessions during Principals in Focus. Hopefully the new Continuous School Improvement framework, or CSI, captures both the spirit and content of their ideas for the way forward.

Shannon Delbridge, Acting Senior Executive Director, Public Schools Branch

**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.

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Who's New in Public Schools Branch

Learning Resources and Technology Services is pleased to welcome Peter Oldreive in the role of ICT Consultant specializing in Language Arts, Social Studies and the Arts.

Peter is replacing Nancy MacDonald who retired in September. He is a graduate of the Nova Scotia Teacher's College and Mount Saint Vincent University. He has also completed a Diploma in Educational Technology from the University Of Cape Breton.

Peter has been working within the field of education for the past 24 years. During his career he has taught at all levels and a variety of subject areas including high school music. Peter became interested in the field of technology when transferring to a newly built middle school and was asked to be member of the technology team. He has attended and delivered numerous workshops and PD sessions that focus on the effective integration of technology in the classroom. For the past 13 years Peter has been actively involved with technology integration as school-based mentor, lead team member, facilitator at provincial ICT summer institutes, and a regional mentor for the Chignecto Central Regional School Board. Most recently he has been the Acting Technology Integration Consultant with CCRSB. We are pleased to have Peter join our team to help support teacher needs across the province.



**Mi'kmaq Liaison
Office**
mikmaq.ednet.ns.ca

**Working Towards
Engagement for Success**

Kwe' Bonjour Hello

Fall is upon us and a new school year has begun. The achievement gap indicates that our Mi'kmaw students are struggling within the public schools of Nova Scotia. What can be done to address this? Dr. Marie Battiste states "The educational system needs to shift from viewing/presenting Mi'kmaq from deficiency to accomplishment, from misunderstanding to respect, from exasperation to pride, and from division to cooperation."

The preamble to the *Education Act* states the "the educational system should be committed to fair and equitable participation and benefit all people in Nova Scotia."

The Racial Equity Policy states the following under section 2.0: "The Department of Education shall, ensure that all curricula developed and/or implemented by the department are equitable and advance racial equity. The belief that educational programs and services and teaching and learning environments must not only be sensitive to the culture and heritage of learners but actively promote the principles contained in this policy".

"While accountability is often associated with educational achievement...There is another term

however, that is not used enough in regard to school success or lack of it. This concept is responsibility...it offers another concept in education that asks everyone to share responsibility for young people's learning & place students at the center of the educational process". (Joan Poliner Shapiro & Jacqueline A. Stefkovich).

"Cultural Proficiency as a means to understanding our personal and institutional barriers that impede our students as a mean for embracing values and behaviors that ensure our students success through our intentional acts". (Reyes L. Quezada, Delores B. Lindsey & Randall B. Lindsay).

As lifelong learners the challenge is to seek and apply Mi'kmaq knowledge when possible across the curricula. This will allow our Mi'kmaw students to see the richness of our cultural knowledge and improve their active engagement for success. This will also begin the journey of a deeper appreciation and understanding of the unique richness of Mi'kma'ki and Mi'kmaw peoples by all students and educational community.

An engaged student will have fun learning and create the critical thinker we all strive for our students.

Professional development workshops are available through the Mi'kmaq Liaison Office in better servicing the needs of our Mi'kmaw students.

In embracing humility we stop thinking about ourselves and begin to think of others.

Wela'lin Merci ThankYou

Mike Isaac (Student Services Consultant,
isaacmj@gov.ns.ca)

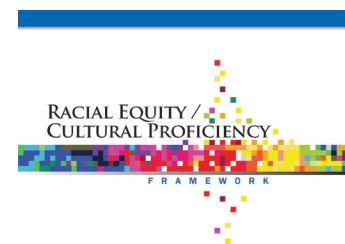
Self-Identification

This fall, schools and school boards will be inviting students to self-identify their cultural heritage—for example, if they are of European, Mi'kmaq or African Nova Scotian descent. Students can do this themselves, or parents or guardians can do it on their behalf.

Why is this important? We recognize and value that schools are diverse places. We believe, as the Education Act states, that "the education system should be committed to fair and equitable participation and benefit by all people in Nova Scotia."

Having a greater awareness of the diversity in our student population will help schools, school boards, and the Department of Education better meet the needs of all our students.

All student information is handled with discretion and respect to confidentiality. If you have questions, feel free to contact your school administrator. For more information on the benefits of self-identification, visit the Provincial Racial Equity Policy website at www.prep.ednet.ns.ca



NOVA SCOTIA

October is Mi'kmaq Heritage Month

FSL Summer Institutes – Beaucoup de fun!!!

fsl.ednet.ns.ca

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 through the approche neurolinguistique de littératie. Participants had several opportunities to meet in small groups and actually practice the strategies they had learned. Along with the theory and analysis of best practices came the fun of playing communicative games aligned to the approach that help students to build their own grammaire interne and communicate effectively en français!



This year's very successful training session for DELF test administrators-correctors saw participants from a variety of school boards,

as well as several retired teachers who wanted to be a part of this exciting initiative. After a challenging but rewarding week-long training, the newly minted DELF administrators-correctors will be putting their training to good use when DELF testing takes place in several schools around the province in April 2013.

Ne manquez pas l'occasion de participer aux instituts d'été FLS en 2013! Soyez des nôtres!



New to Nova Scotia? Find out more about our schools

The Newcomers' Guide to Nova Scotia Schools contains practical information to help parents, students and families who are new to Nova Scotia gain a better understanding of our public school system. It includes useful information on topics including curriculum, registering for school, support for English as an Additional Language, communication between home and school, and suggestions for promoting student success.

The Newcomers' Guide was developed in 2011 by the Halifax Regional School Board in partnership with the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration and the Department of Education. It is available online through the "English as an Additional Language" link at www.studentservices.ednet.ns.ca

Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF)

National Symposium, Halifax – Oct 17-19, 2012

www.crr.ca

CCRF is hosting its biennial Award of Excellence & Symposium 2012 in Halifax this year, October 17–19 at the Westin Hotel. The symposium recognizes public, private or voluntary organizations whose efforts represent excellence and innovation in combating racism in Canada. The Award of Excellence initiative to recognize Best Practices is part of an exciting educational program sponsored by the CRRF. All the winners will take part in a national symposium where they will share their success and knowledge with all participants.

CRRF is Canada's leading agency dedicated to the elimination of racism in the country.

CRRF National Video Competition

Deadline February 28, 2013

Open to youth from 16–25 yrs of age, the competition encourages youth to discuss issues of identity, values, competing belief systems and human rights. The goal is to produce a creative 30 second video that enhances interfaith relations and/or deepens one's sense of belonging.

African Canadian Services

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

Brain Power Program

The BrainPower project also known as the Summer-Slide Program began some five years ago when the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) in North Preston witnessed first hand the number of grade seven students from their community were not meeting with success. Through their diligent research and investigations they became aware that over the summer months many students weren't retaining the information presented during the year. The students were unable to recall many of these valuable lessons and lacked the ability to apply them to their next year's learning. This especially became evident at the grade 7 level, so a decision was made to look at what could be done for a month in the summer with grades 5 and 6 students. A term of reference was created and the idea became a reality. Each of the six sites has a master teacher on site which is a prerequisite. The staff is made up of two specialist teachers in literacy and mathematics and two students act as peer tutors. The goal is to provide a fun-filled learning experience for the students and to provide them with the Africentric principles that place the students and their history and experiences at the centre of their learning.

African Canadian Services Division supported six programs province wide. The BrainPower program was delivered in

North Preston
Northend Dartmouth
Sydney/Whitney Pier
Digby/Weymouth
Antigonish/Guysborough
Windsor



All in all these programs were successful and experienced overall support from parents and the community. It should also be noted that the BrainPower program was greatly supported by many community organizations and in some instances there was a partnership with other community agencies.

It is our hope to support these programs in summers to come if the assessments prove their usefulness and the students are making the positive transition from the summer slide program to the regular school system.

Linking Language to Literacy (LINKS to Preston)

The African Canadian Services Division has been working to facilitate a partnership between the Black Educators Association (BEA), Learning Disabilities Association of Nova Scotia (LDANS), Isaac Walton Killian Hospital (IWK) and St. Francis Xavier University (St.F.X). This relationship involves 13 African Nova Scotian Bachelor of Education students working directly with students from the community of North Preston to promote and support reading and writing skills. The program will see the B.Ed students working with students through a Cultural Academic Enrichment Program (CAEP) currently being delivered by the BEA through to the beginning of November as a way of giving back to the African Nova Scotian community for their support throughout their B.Ed program. The African Canadian Services Division would like to thank all of the above partners, as well as Mount Saint Vincent University, Acadia University, Nelson Whynder Parent-Teacher Organization, CAEP staff, Nelson Whynder staff, parents, and the students for making this program a great success.

Thinkers' Lodge

Inspired by a visit to the Thinkers' Lodge in July, Teresa Kewachuck, a Social Studies Teacher at Pugwash District High School, arranged to bring her Canadian History 11 class to visit the National Historic Site to tour the building and learn about the Pugwash Peace Movement throughout the Cold War. Ms. Kewachuk wanted her students to understand the role of the building and the role the international Pugwash organization played during the Cold War, and the efforts that continue today.

At the height of the Cold War, the first Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs took place at the Thinkers' Lodge. Scientists met to discuss the threat of nuclear weapons and the responsibility of scientists to work for peace. This event led to a Nobel Prize for Peace, awarded in 1995.

For more information on the Thinkers' Lodge, please see the website www.thinkerslodge.org



Students from Pugwash District High School, October 2012

iNSchool

Onboard with PowerSchool & TIENET

Thanks to all of your efforts, the iNSchool program is right on track!

PowerSchool - The remaining forty-seven (47) schools are transitioning to PowerSchool this September, marking the completion of this implementation. This is a significant milestone - all schools in Nova Scotia are now online with PowerSchool!

TIENET - As of May 2012, all schools within the Annapolis Valley, Cape Breton-Victoria, Strait, South Shore, and Tri-County regional school boards have full access to TIENET, as well as 22 schools within Chignecto-Central. TIENET is the iNSchool solution for student services information that is better managed outside of PowerSchool, namely IPPs, adaptations and Schools Plus. This September, implementation will continue in Chignecto-Central and start in the Halifax Regional School Board, and early in 2013 implementation will start in Conseil scolaire acadien provincial. By the end of this school year TIENET will be implemented in all Nova Scotia schools.

Schools that are onboard with PowerSchool are reaping the benefits of this powerful online system.

"We're benefiting at all levels, PowerSchool is definitely making our lives easier," says Gerard Ryan, principal at Dr. J. H. Gillis Regional High School in the Strait Region, "We're more efficient and because we're more efficient we have more time to spend on educational leadership issues."

Janie Lumsden, a teacher at Dr. J.H. Gillis High School agrees, "I've been teaching for 16 years and this is by far the best tool I've ever had."

Perhaps what excites Janie and Gerard the most is the impact the portal has had on student and parent engagement at their school. At the high school level, students are active users of the portal, which Gerard sees as a real positive, "I really feel that we are realizing success when students can immediately see where they stand."

Parents like the fact that they can be more in-tune and involved in their children's education. And so do teachers. At Dr. J. H. Gillis Regional High School, 84% of parents are using the portal. "The greatest benefit for me is that parents are more engaged in their child's education," says Janie, "it makes such a huge difference."

PowerSchool is in year three of its implementation, so by now most teachers and school staff have had more time and experience using the system. TIENET, on the other hand, is still in the early stages of implementation. Yet, some teachers are already appreciating the benefits it has to offer.

"I really like the fact that all related documents are stored electronically," says Cindy Kowalyk, a resource teacher at Chester Middle School. "It's huge for teachers, they can access them anywhere. TIENET saves them a lot of time."

Cindy also believes TIENET will benefit students. For example, Cindy says the application of the IPP format in TIENET will prompt teachers to consider how its key goals – literacy, numeracy, social development skills and life skills – apply to every subject. "The system forces you to prioritize and focus on the items that we believe are important skills for these students to have," says Cindy.

Thank you for helping to make iNSchool a success. For more information please go to www.inschool.ednet.ns.ca



iNSchool is about leveraging technology to better support student achievement.

Educators now have access to real-time information on all of their students, schools and programs. Whether in the classroom or the boardroom, they can see what's happening *right away* so they 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.

Early Development Instrument

2012-2013 Implementation

This year, the Department of Education, in partnership with all eight school boards, is delivering on a commitment to introduce the Early Development Instrument (EDI) to the school system as part of a province-wide approach to supporting children.

The EDI was developed at the Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University, as a way to measure specific developmental outcomes related to children's readiness to learn at school. Primary is the first place all children in Nova Scotia enter a universal system and, at age 5, developmental indicators provide reliable data. The EDI measures five core areas of children's development: physical health and well-being; social knowledge and competence; emotional health/maturity; language and cognitive development; and general knowledge and communication skills. Readiness to learn at school is a good predictor of adult health, education, and social outcomes. This is a population-level measurement that reports on whether children, from a defined neighbourhood, are ready to learn in a school environment or vulnerable and less likely to do well.



Classroom teachers complete one questionnaire per Primary student, once everyone has settled into school—usually in February. The results provide information on how well prepared children are to play and work with other children, listen to the teacher, remember and follow rules, and how comfortable they are exploring and asking questions. Families, the school system and community planning tables will find the results helpful as they work together to develop and support high quality early experiences and a smooth transition to school.

Parents are informed that this assessment will take place, and they can choose not to participate if they wish. All results are shared as aggregate data so individual children remain anonymous. This is consistent with Nova Scotia's Freedom of Information and the Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Act. In 2012, EDI data were collected in the Tri-

County and Chignecto-Central Regional School Boards as well as the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP). We are beginning to develop a provincial reporting strategy.

There is considerable EDI experience in the province. Several federally-funded Understanding the Early Years projects, as well as the Department of Education's EDI pilots, have established working partnerships and a significant community of interest.

For further information, contact

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Arts Education Update

New *ArtsLinks* Document

The Department of Education will be releasing a new *ArtsLinks* document later this fall, offering arts activities for 60 resources at the grades primary–6 level.

Demonstrating best practices and underscoring the importance of integration across the curriculum, it will assist elementary classroom teachers in using the arts to support learning through all content areas. Professional learning workshops for grade 4 classroom teachers will be available in each board/region to support implementation of the new *ArtsLinks* document.

Community Links

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 no later than October 19 for Semester One or February 28 for Semester 2.

Artists in Schools

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

Nocturne

Nocturne: Art at Night is back for a 5th year, transforming Halifax into an engaging space for visual arts, Saturday, October 13, 2012. This year, the Department of Education's Blackwood Gallery will participate, featuring a new installation project that combines trades, physics and visual arts. Led by conceptual artist William Robinson, the project is made possible through the ArtReach Program; an exciting educational partnership between the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, the NS Department of Education and the Canada Council Art Bank.

Edufest 2012

Four professional learning opportunities were available in arts education this summer at Edufest 2012. The workshops took place at the beautiful NSCC Waterfront Campus in Dartmouth.



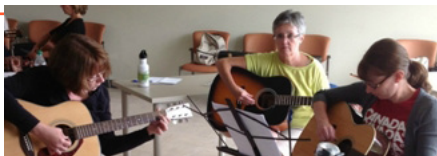
"The two-day format in the summer is perfect. I feel as if I have learned a tremendous amount, without sacrificing vacation."

Music: African Drumming A dozen summer institute participants took part in a wonderful two-day drumming experience. Teachers learned about the history, construction, and cultural relevance of the djembe. In addition, they were taught proper playing technique and several traditional West African rhythms, solos, and arrangements. They played on authentic, hand crafted West African drums, provided by facilitator Chris Kennedy of Goatworks.



Music: Integrating Non-Pitched Instruments Into Elementary Music Classes HRSB teacher James Jackson led elementary music teachers in an engaging and practical workshop. Over the two-day learning opportunity, teachers explored ways to utilize classroom instruments (hand drums, rhythm sticks, triangles) into daily lessons. The session culminated in a presentation to the entire EduFest community during lunch break!

Music: Guitar String (Session To Really Inspire New Guitarists) GUITAR STRING was designed to assist teachers in promoting guitar in schools. In an inspiring workshop led by Ken Davidson, beginning and experienced guitarists enjoyed two days of honing their personal guitar skills, while developing their pedagogical abilities.



Visual Arts: Turning Old Into New... Participants in this workshop experienced hands-on learning with artist Karen Schlick. Teachers were thrilled with the opportunities to transform old, recycled, and discarded objects into new forms, using many techniques, including plaster casting.





Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia

The 2012-2013 ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia program is off to a great start. In September, Antigonish's Art after Dark event, Antigonight, featured ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia projects from two local schools: grade 3 students from the Antigonish Education Centre presented a creative interpretation of the evolution of life and the grade 4/5 class from H.M. MacDonald Elementary School invited the community to contribute to their Powerful, Positive, Peaceful Citizen mural.



Teacher and students from H.M. MacDonald Elementary School at Antigonight

In addition to the exciting array of ArtsSmarts project ideas submitted by schools from across the province, ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia

is continuing its work with La Fédération culturelle acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse's program, GénieArts Nouvelle-Écosse to support projects at École Rose-des-Vent in Greenwood and Centre scolaire de la Rive Sud in Bridgewater.

Plans are underway for an ArtsSmarts project working with the Halifax Regional Municipality's Cops and Kids program. Launched in 2004, the program is designed to create positive interactions between Halifax Regional Police and Halifax District RCMP and children identified by their schools as succeeding despite facing challenges.



Antigonish Education Centre students performing at Antigonight

ArtReach

ArtReach has begun another exciting year of programs and exhibitions! On October 17, an exhibition of ArtReach prints will be opening at the Acadia University Art Gallery in Wolfville. A series of workshops for teachers and students will be offered in conjunction with the exhibition.

At the AGNS Western Branch in Yarmouth, plans are underway for an exhibition of prints by Jacques Hurtubise and a series

of Hurtubise-inspired painting and printmaking workshops. Local students will also have an opportunity to sign up for photography workshops with Bill Curry. Curry is a Conservation Photographer and an accredited award-winning member of the Professional Photographers of Canada.



Teachers engaged in making Hurtubise inspired prints



Photo by Bill Curry, who will be leading photography workshops for students at AGNS Yarmouth

Free Tours now available for School Groups – Book Now!

The Canaccord Free Access School Program at the AGNS is pleased to offer free admission to Nova Scotia students coming to the Gallery on school visits.

Opening this fall, the exhibition, Canadian Pioneers: Tom Thomson, Emily Carr, J.W. Morrice and The Group of Seven - Masterworks from the Sobey Collections, will be a great point of departure for school groups to explore Canadian art, history, and identity through iconic images of the Canadian landscape by famous Canadian artists. To book, please contact Laura Carmichael at 424-6314 (Halifax) or Angela Collier at 749-2251 (Yarmouth).

For information on Tour Options and exhibitions please visit www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca

ArtsExpress



New Autumn Projects

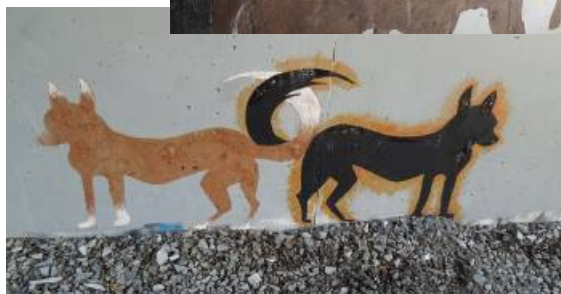
New Art in the Drysdale Overpass in Spryfield

With financial support of the McIntosh Run Watershed Association and in collaboration with the public safety office of the Halifax Regional Police, students from J.L. Ilsley's Advanced Biology Program and science teacher Kathy Gartner transformed the Spryfield Drysdale Overpass into a contemporary version of a stone age cave. Students researched Palaeolithic art through archaeological records, designed animal stencils and created their own hand-made paints with earth pigments such as iron ore, ochre, and charcoal in order to create layers of archetypal images. Before the painting started, the space was spiritually cleansed from past acts of violence with the help of women from the Halifax Aboriginal Peoples Network under the leadership of Debbie Eisan, who performed a powerful smudging and drumming ceremony before the mural was painted.



Before

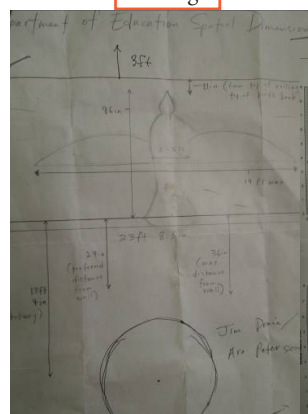
After



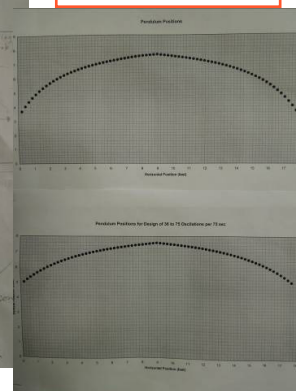
ArtReach Project:

In partnership with ArtReach, J.L. Ilsley High is preparing to get ready for Nocturne 2012, during which a new large scale art installation will be revealed in the new Blackwood Gallery. The project is a collaboration between the artist Will Robinson and students from technology, visual arts, English and physics classes, as well as staff and students from the learning centre. Without revealing the final piece before Nocturne, here is a behind-the-scenes glimpse at the planning, preparation and hard work such a large scale project requires.

Drawings



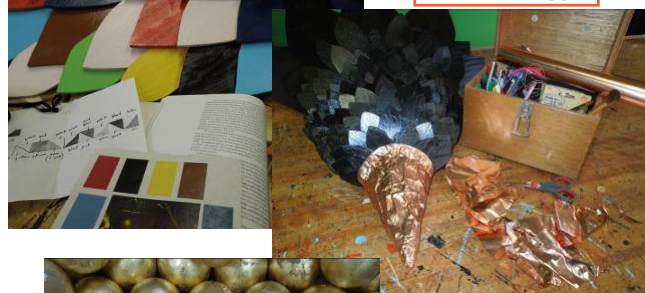
Kinetics and pendulum movement



Colour palette inspired by the medieval Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch



Hammered copper



Gilded spheres



Common Roots Urban Farm:

In partnership with NS Communities, Culture and Heritage, Common Roots, Partners for Care, and the 4C Foundation, ArtsExpress will be contributing to the gradually growing and expanding "Art in the Garden" project, which is taking over the former site of the QEH. In the fall and winter months the students of the Learning Centre, in collaboration with the Trades Department, will be creating art for the corner of Robie Street and Bell Road in Halifax.

Debut Atlantic

...bringing extraordinary classical music home.



The Debut Goes to

School! program serves to educate, engage and inspire children to be musical and creative in their daily lives by bringing touring classical musicians to their classrooms.



Geneviève Guimond - cello and Philippe Chiu - piano perform a piece for the students at South Centennial School in Yarmouth NS in November of 2011

This program is presented by Debut Atlantic with the support of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and is offered at absolutely no cost to the presenting schools.

The 2012/13 Season will see TorQ Percussion Quartet in September, followed by Philippe Sly - baritone and Michael McMahon - piano in October. For the November tour, Debut Atlantic welcomes Boson Mo - violin with returning collaborative pianist

Philip Chiu.

Emerging pianist Todd Yaniv tours in February and the season wraps up in March of 2013, when Debut Atlantic welcomes back the Tokai String Quartet who first toured with the organization in 2007.

If you are interested in having some of these world-

class musicians visit your school, visit debutatlantic.ca to find out more. Questions? Contact Debut Atlantic's Administrative Officer, Rémi Lefebvre, email at remi@debutatlantic.ca or call 902-429-6812.

Please note that participation in Debut Goes to School is limited. Early application is recommended and program scheduling is subject to artist availability and itinerary.

Viewfinders



ViewFinders Turns Twelve in 2013!

ViewFinders: International Film Festival for Youth is one of Canada's premiere celebrations of Screen Arts for young people. From April 14–20, 2013, the Festival presents daytime screenings and workshops for school groups as well as evening and weekend screenings for families, featuring the best of regional, national and international films made by and for youth.

Our Teachers' Advisory Committee ensures that NS SCOs are identified and correlated with each film, and recommended pre- and post-screening activities are provided for every presentation. There are a variety of hands-on workshops for school groups and individuals.

Festival in a Van

The ViewFinders Festival in a Van School Tour 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 consider films and filmmaking for youth while encouraging students to explore their own creativity, tell their own stories, produce their own works and have them celebrated.

Training Opportunities

ViewFinders offers opportunities for young people interested in film and media production to engage in intensive creative sessions, with industry personnel, in professional settings. Offered throughout the year, these multi-day, hands-on sessions introduce participants to highly trained professionals and connect them with peer collaborators. For information, go to atlanticfilm.com/vf

Film Competitions for Youth

ViewFinders screens and spotlights emerging young filmmakers, ages 18 and under, in multiple categories. With a grand prize of \$1000, all types of films are accepted for the NBC Universal Film Challenge: live action, documentary, animation and more. The Green Screen Challenge, presented by Efficiency Nova Scotia and the Resource Recovery Fund Board has, not one, but two grand prizes of \$1,000: one for films about energy conservation and one for films about waste diversion. Submission deadline for both competitions is March 22, 2013. Applications and further information will be available on the ViewFinders website in October.

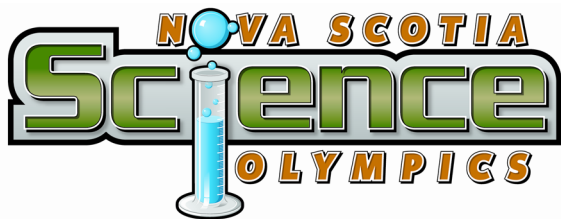
For more information on any of these programs, please visit our website at atlanticfilm.com/vf or email us at viewfinders@atlanticfilm.com



Kornel Wolak - clarinetist, chats with students at Sackville High in September of 2011 while on tour with Chris Donnelly - piano

Science Olympics

The Department of Education is pleased to support the Nova Scotia Invitational Science Olympics on November 3, 2012. This invitational event provides proportional representation by school board, all boards are invited to send teams.



The Science Olympics will be held at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, registration begins at 8:45a.m., the day ends at 3:00 p.m.

Space is available for 32 teams from across the province. Each team should consist of two girls and two boys. Students must be in grade 4 or 5, and will participate in activities that address curriculum outcomes as well as in recreational activities. One chaperone of the school's choosing is also required.

Interested schools should contact Aja Lefave at lefaveal@gov.ns.ca to register and for further information. The deadline for registration is October 15, 2012 at noon.



For more information, download the video, *Doing and Thinking Science: Olympic Freestyle*, from the Digital Video Library website at dvl.ednet.ns.ca/download/file/fid/158

Science Olympics: Science 4 and Science 5: A Curriculum Resource, is also available for download at sapps.ednet.ns.ca/Cart/description.php?II=301&UID=20031024095517142.227.51.61

Science

Question,
Investigate,
Discover!

Atlantic Science Links Association

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

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

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



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

In 2011-2012 SITS volunteers reached more than 5000 Nova Scotia students and teachers!

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

Please visit us at atlanticsciencelinks.dal.ca





Faculty of Science Discovery Days

Spring 2013 - Mark your calendars!

Join us for one or more of our Discovery Days events taking place in May and June 2013!

Last year, over 3000 students/teachers joined us from around the province for our Discovery Days events. In 2013, we will have just as much fun as last year!

Events are for grades 6-12 and are FREE for Nova Scotia school groups.

Hands-on – Educational – Fun – Interactive

Departments confirmed for May & June 2013
Discover Math Days (grades 10–12)
Discover Chemistry Days (grades 7–9)
Discover Physics and Atmospheric Days (grades 6–12)
Discover Earth Days (grades 7–12)
Discover Psychology and Neuroscience Days

For more information, contact
Theresa Myra
School Outreach-Faculty of Science
Tel: (902) 494.6448
Email: theresa.myra@dal.ca
....or visit online at www.science.dal.ca/p12

Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada

The Atlantic Canada edition of the Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada (SBCC) will be held in Moncton in late March and BioNova, Nova Scotia's life sciences association is looking for high school students to take on the challenge of "how will you change the world?"

The Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada gives high school students from across Canada the chance to pour their creativity, curiosity and scientific skills into cutting-edge research projects that tackle some of the day's toughest challenges—from cancer and Alzheimer's disease to crops and the environment.

Up to eight Nova Scotia students are eligible to participate in this year's competition that pairs participants with professional researchers who act as mentors to complete a biotechnology project.

The role of the science teacher in this process is important:

- Promote the program to students.
- Talk to students about project ideas.
- Challenge students to research topics in scientific journals or on the Internet to find out what has been accomplished in a subject area.
- Encourage students to prepare a research proposal based on criteria listed on the SBCC website and to submit by the deadline.
- Review and sign off on their proposal before it is submitted to the SBCC.
- Once the proposal has been accepted, assist the students to contact the suggested mentor.
- Encourage students throughout the project term.

There will be a mailing about all of this to all high schools from Sanofi BioGENEius.

The deadline for proposal submission will be November 23. In the meantime, if you need additional information visit sanofibioгенеiuschallenge.ca or contact Marli MacNeil at mmacneil@bionova.ca

A promotional poster for the Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada. At the top, it reads "Janelle used tree nano-particles to formulate a powerful anti-aging compound" in blue and black text. Below this is a photograph of a young woman, Janelle, smiling, with a molecular structure graphic overlaid on the right side. The text "How will you change the world?" is prominently displayed. Below that, it says "Start by entering the Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada" and "Propose your own research and explore what you're passionate about while working with real scientists in real labs. Your project's results can earn you the chance to win cash prizes, scholarships and more." It includes the website "Enter today: www.sanofibiogeneiuschallenge.ca" and a QR code. At the bottom, it says "Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada" and "Celebrating 20 years of inspiring young scientists". Logos for Sanofi, Sanofi Pasteur, and Genzyme are at the very bottom, along with text about national sponsors and partners.

social studies

Social Studies Updates

A provincial workshop for
Atlantic Canada Social Studies 5: Investigating Past Societies will be held March 25–26, 2013.

Holocaust Education Week October 28 - November 9, 2012

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://theajc.ns.ca/category/holocaust-education>

Holocaust Education Resources

As a part of our ongoing commitment to actively supporting schools, the Department of Education will provide resources to support learning Holocaust Education in the Canadian History 11 and Global History 12/Advanced Global History 12 courses in conjunction with Holocaust Education Week, 2012.

The resources are compliments of The Azrieli Foundation's Survivor's Memoir Program. For more information on The Azrieli Foundation, please see the website at www.azrielifoundation.org

Cape Breton Events - Holocaust Education Week 2012 Symposium: Remember the Past, Work for Peace, November 14, 2012

The keynote speaker for this year's symposium is Carson Phillips, Head of Education with the Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre in Toronto. Mr. Phillips is recognized as an expert in the field of Holocaust education.

For information on the agenda for Holocaust Education Week Symposium, go to holocausteducationweek.tumblr.com



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 10 and 11 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 www.ns.legion.ca/youth.html

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



Canadian War Museum

The Canadian War Museum has an extensive online educational resource for students and teachers interested in Canada's rich legacy of diplomacy, combat, and peacekeeping activities. For information on the museum and its resources and programs, please see the website at www.warmuseum.ca/home Students may also be interested in learning about Operation Veteran at the museum, information on this program can be found at www.warmuseum.ca/about-us/get-involved/support/operation-veteran

Diamond Jubilee Moodle

A Diamond Jubilee moodle has been designed to provide background information on the Diamond Jubilee and the role of the Queen in the Canadian government and as an active citizen.



A series of learning activities for grades 2–11 has been designed to support learning outcomes aligned with governance and citizenship.

Teachers can use the moodle to access information on the Diamond Jubilee and a range of learning activities that support outcomes aligned to governance and active citizenship. Teachers also are able to share ideas, resources, and the work of their students in relation to the governance and active citizenship learning outcomes and the Diamond Jubilee. The moodle can be found on the Nova Scotia Virtual School at nsvs.ednet.ns.ca/m19/course/view.php?id=1962

Diamond Jubilee Scholarship

Sixty commemorative scholarships, one for each year of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's reign, were awarded to graduating grade 12 students who demonstrated leadership and made significant contributions to their communities and the province.

Please see the website diamondjubilee.ednet.ns.ca for the names and biographies of the Diamond Jubilee Scholarship recipients.

Global Entrepreneurship Week

For the second year, the Canadian Youth Business Foundation will run YOU Innovate Canada tournament during Global Entrepreneurship Week Canada. This exciting initiative provides an opportunity for students over the age of 16 to engage and value entrepreneurship in their lives. YOU Innovate Canada participants will use an everyday object to create a new innovation, define its value and submit a brief video. The everyday object for this year's tournament is an egg-carton. For more information, please go to the Canadian Youth Business Foundation website at www.cybf.ca

The Nova Scotia Virtual School

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

2012 Heritage Fair

On May 24, 2012, over 70 students from grades 4 to 9 participated in the 14th annual Provincial Heritage Fair. The fair was a tremendous success with a range of diverse and in-depth projects.



Parade of Communities singing O Canada during the opening ceremony of the 2012 Heritage Fair.

This year, Canada's History offered a new, online national competition which replaced the traditional National Heritage Fair Showcase. Two hundred students, nationwide, including 16 from Nova Scotia (two from each participating school board) were chosen to participate. Each student was awarded a video camera from Canada's History to turn their heritage fair project into a video, which was published online.

Three Nova Scotia students have progressed to the finals of the competition. To view these videos, please visit www.canadashistory.ca

A New Logo for the Nova Scotia Heritage Fair Society

To complete the new look of Nova Scotia Heritage Fairs, a provincial competition for grade 10–12 students was held in which they were asked to design a logo to represent the society. Many entries were received and after a challenging selection process, the design submitted by Jordan Williams, from Sackville High School, was chosen. Jordan was awarded an internship that aligned with his passion for music production. Jamie Foulds at Sound Park Studios in Cape Breton offered Jordan the opportunity to experience the industry.



Student Services **studentservices.ednet.ns.ca**

Autism Spectrum Disorders

Three very successful summer institutes were held in August which focused on supporting students with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Autism and the Elementary Years, Autism at the Secondary Level and Supporting Students with ASD: The ABLLS (The Assessment of Basic Language Learning Skills, From Assessment to Outcomes).

Student Services will be launching its latest guide *Developing and Implementing Programming for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder* this fall. This guide is intended as a resource for program planning teams and starting off point for staff professional development.

Program planning for students with ASD is explained within the context of the Special Education Policy. Assessment tools to guide programming are discussed. Sections One and Two in the guide define Autism Spectrum Disorders, outline characteristics of ASD and the implication for learning. Sections Three, Four and Five provide a framework for supporting student with ASD in school settings with an emphasis on strategies and teaching methodologies to address curriculum and challenging behavior. Section Six of the guide looks specifically at Asperger's Syndrome and the unique challenges faced by this group of students. It is sometimes difficult for schools and families to appreciate the programming needs for students with Asperger's Syndrome or high functioning Autism when they appear to be verbally proficient and do well academically. Finally, Section seven provides information on the critically important transition planning that is important for students with ASD as they progress through school and plan for a future in the larger community.

Current information on evidence based practice, Asperger's Syndrome and girls, social skills intervention and proposed changes to the DSM V have been included in the guide

Several Appendices have been added that provide various forms which can be used for student planning as well as an exhaustive list of resources.

Along with the guide, a new fact sheet, Autism Spectrum Disorder, will be added to the Supporting Student Success Fact Sheet Series.

Anti-bullying and Nova Scotia Youth Advisory Council Coordinator Announced

On October 1, 2012 the Student Services Division welcomed Kathleen Richard to the Department. Kathleen joins the Division as the Anti-bullying and Nova Scotia Youth Advisory Council Coordinator.



Minister Ramona Jennex announcing the appointment of Kathleen Richard as the Anti-bullying and Nova Scotia Youth Advisory Council Coordinator.

Kathleen will oversee the collaborative, cross-governmental development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Anti-bullying and Anti-cyberbullying Action Plan, as well as facilitate the activities of the Nova Scotia Youth Advisory Council as it works to provide advice to government from a youth perspective.

Kathleen comes to us from the Halifax Regional School Board where she served as the board's Safe Schools Consultant.

She may be reached at 424-4947 or richarkz@gov.ns.ca

Kathleen's appointment is one of a number of actions addressing bullying and cyberbullying of children in youth in Nova Scotia. Other actions to date include amendments to the Education Act related to data creation and reporting as well as the launch of a public awareness campaign that captures the voices of youth in speaking out against bullying.

The Department has also been addressing issues of bullying for a number of years through implementation of SchoolsPlus in all eight school boards, enhanced use of Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling, implementation of Positive and Effective Behaviour Supports (PEBS), growing use of Restorative Approaches, implementation of Mental Health Identification Navigation training, training in cultural proficiency, and creation of Healthy Living curriculum with a focus on social and emotional development.

October is Autism Awareness Month

English Language Arts Updates

Upcoming Literacy Distributions in 2012-2013!!

Project X

Teachers of grade 4, including those teaching French Immersion, will be delighted with this resource that will especially appeal to boys and will be inclusive of those students who require a higher level of support! It is called Project X. They will be receiving Set 3 Starter Pack which includes 21 titles. Four of those titles will come in 6-packs for small group instruction. The characters in Project X can be found engaging in action-packed, exciting adventures. The books are leveled and are thematically linked fiction and



nonfiction titles that promote guided and independent reading experiences with powerful possibilities for all learners. It will be available in the coming months.



Building Fluency through Reader's Theatre: World Myths

Schools that house grades 5–8 students will receive this resource that includes eight colourful play scripts, a performance CD, and a Teacher's Guide written specifically for Nova Scotia. Reader's Theatre provides an opportunity for students to become fluent in reading through authentic rehearsal to prepare for performance. This resource will also assist students in thinking personally and critically as they de-construct issues related to the myths. This can be used within a classroom or across grade levels through Reader's Theatre or Drama clubs. It will be available in the new year.

Literacy Summer Institute

Many teachers enjoyed participating in summer learning opportunities in literacy this past July at the Old Orchard Inn in the Annapolis Valley. In the early part of the month, teachers of grades Primary–3 worked with Lori Jamison Rog, author most recently of *Guiding Readers: Making the Most of the 18 Minute Guided Reading Lesson* and *Read, Write, Play, Learn: Literacy Instruction in Today's Kindergarten*. One day was spent focusing on the role of small group instruction with young learners and the second day was spent looking at the valuable role play has as an avenue for meeting curriculum outcomes.

Later in the month teachers of students ranging from grades Primary–12 spent one day with Ellin Oliver Keene, author of *To Understand: New Horizons in Reading Comprehension* and *Talk About Understanding: Rethinking Classroom Talk to Enhance Comprehension*. The day was spent looking at what exactly constitutes understanding in reading and the role that underlying supports play in successful meaning making. Unfortunately because of flight delays, this workshop was reduced from two days to one so Ms. Keene was not able to address rethinking classroom talk to enhance comprehension but promised to return to address this very important area.



Upcoming featured speakers at next year Summer Institutes 2013 include Anne Burke, author of *Play to Learn: Building Literacy Experiences in Young Learners* (July 4–5), as well as Sharon Taberski, author of *Comprehension from the Ground Up: Simplified, Sensible Instruction for the K-3 Reading Workshop*, and Jim Burke, author most recently of *What's the Big Idea? Question-Driven Units to Motivate Reading, Writing, and Thinking*. (July 23–24)



Nova Scotia Provincial Library

Supports for Teachers

Public libraries across Nova Scotia offer teachers, students, and parents access to a range of resources, information services and programming to support learning and education.

There are nine regional library systems in Nova Scotia. Contact your local public library and talk to your librarian or library staff to find out how they can help you with your class projects, put together a resource list, organize a school visit, tell you about library programs, or how you can get library cards for your students.

For more information about how the public library can support you and your students, contact your local branch: publiclibraries.ns.ca



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

eBooks and Audiobooks

Nova Scotia public libraries provide a wide collection of eBooks and eAudiobooks. It's easy to borrow, all you need is your library card. Download books to your computer, eBook reader, or mobile device. Check out the wide selection of fiction and non-fiction covering a wide range of topics..... perfect for your classroom or school book club!

Downloadable eBooks and audiobooks can be found:
in HRM:

digitalmedia.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca

the rest of Nova Scotia:

digitalmedia.library.ns.ca

One Book Nova Scotia

One Book Nova Scotia is a province-wide community reading event for adults. To celebrate a culture of reading, Nova Scotians are invited to read/listen to, discuss, and get excited about the same book.

The Book & Author: *Twenty-Six* by Leo McKay Jr.

Twenty-Six is set in a small Nova Scotia town, where a family is changed forever after a devastating mining accident claims the lives of twenty-six men. Leo McKay, Jr is a writer and teacher. He was born and raised in Stellarton, Nova Scotia and now lives in Truro.

One Book Nova Scotia, organized by Libraries Nova Scotia, runs from September 21 until November 9. Events with the author, such as readings, will take place in libraries across the province.

Twenty-Six is available to borrow at libraries across the province, in both eBook and traditional formats. An audio version is also available. The book can also be purchased at your local bookstore or online. More information about One Book Nova Scotia can be found at lbns.ca



Hackmatack

It's the beginning of the new year for the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award Program, and registration packages, including colourful Hackmatack posters, will soon arrive in schools all over Atlantic Canada.

Every fall, the Department of Education provides elementary schools in Nova Scotia with two sets of the English titles selected for the 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 in all four Atlantic Provinces from now until April 1 when students will cast their ballots for their favourite books. Author tours are scheduled for May 6 to 9, 2013 with the awards ceremony happening in Halifax at Pier 21 on Friday, May 10.

Please visit www.hackmatack.ca for more information about this fun-filled program that introduces children in grades 4, 5 and 6 to some great Canadian books and authors.

October is Canadian Library Month!

The Canadian Library Association / Association canadienne des bibliothèques (CLA/ACB) is pleased to announce that October has been designated Canadian Library Month! A month dedicated to help raise public awareness of the valuable role that libraries play in the lives of Canadians.

For more information, visit www.cla.ca/clm12



October is Canadian Library Month

Learning Resources & Technology Services

www.lrt.ednet.ns.ca

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>



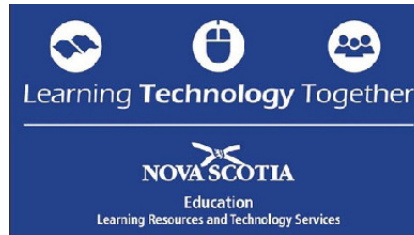
Media Literacy Week - Nov 5-9, 2012

Young people today spend large amounts of time sharing parts of their personal lives online playing games, “checking in” with geolocation apps and posting photos and catching up with friends on social media sites. Despite this openness, young people’s privacy does indeed matter to them, especially as their online actions become increasingly monitored by parents, educators, and corporations.

Under the theme Privacy Matters, Media Literacy Week (November 5–9, 2012) encourages parents, teachers and community leaders across Canada to join together to help youth develop the knowledge and skills they need to better manage their personal information online.

Since 2006, the Canadian Teachers’ Federation (CTF) and MediaSmarts have been hosting Media Literacy Week to promote media and digital literacy as key components in the education of young people. While the theme may change each year, the goal remains the same – to help young people develop the critical thinking skills necessary for active and informed engagement with media.

Visit the Media Literacy Week Web site for more information and how to get involved: www.medialiteracyweek.ca



ICT Summer Institute 2012

The 2012 ICT Integration Summer Institute was held in Truro from August 1–3, 2012. More than 70 teachers and facilitators from all English school boards



joined together for informative and hands on sessions covering a range of software, digital resources, including ideas and information about integrating technology to enhance teaching and student learning. Sessions included podcasting, using SMARTboards to engage students, using Moodle for blended learning, creating websites with Drupal, animation in the classroom, science probeware, digital citizenship, GPS, math software, and so much more!



It was a wonderful learning experience, the feedback was overwhelming, a good time was had by all! 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.

Free WEBINARS for NS Educators

October 2012 - January 2013

- **Using the P-3 mobile technology centres to support student literacy—**

October 16 - Stephen Jamieson, developer of the Integrating Technology to Support P-3 professional learning Moodle, will showcase how to use the P-3 mobile technology centres in your classroom effectively to support student achievement in literacy. Stephen will be joined at this session by DOE Consultants: Barry Wilson, and Susan Martin O'Brien.

- **Creating Classroom webpages using DOE Drupal templates—October 23 -**

Eric Therrien, ICT Consultant will take you through the steps of developing your own classroom website using this new tool.

- **Création d'une page web à l'aide de Drupal le 24 octobre—Eric Therrien,**

consultant TIC vous accompagnera à travers le développement de votre site pour votre salle de classe tout en utilisant l'interface Drupal.

- **Using the Edu-Portal to access DOE websites and resources from one**

location—Nov. 8 - Find out how you can use the Edu-Portal to access the resources and websites you need. Peter Oldreive and Eric Therrien, ICT Consultants will guide you through the process.

- **Getting the most from the Online Video Library—Nov. 26** - Ray Fernandes,

Media Librarian. Over 9,000 titles are now available for you to stream or download. Learn how to download resources, set up your own play lists and find NS curriculum related content in English and in French.

- **Using the EdNet Cloud—January 8** - Peter Oldreive and Eric Therrien, ICT

Consultants will show you how to use this Nova Scotia cloud technology in your classroom.

All workshops will take place from 3:30-4:30.

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

Sign up today <http://tinyurl.com/doewebinars>



Education Media Library - Check out our New Website!!

Visit the Education Media Library at our new website - medialibrary.ednet.ns.ca

The Media Library is the place to go for all your multimedia curriculum resource needs! We have a collection of over 5,000 educational videos and DVDs, and provide you with access to over 9,000 online videos that support grades P-12 in all subject areas of the Nova Scotia curriculum.



- We provide
- evaluated videos to borrow or buy
 - online videos at your fingertips
 - access to EBSCO and other digital resources
 - answers to your copyright questions

The Media Library is part of the Learning Resources & Technology Services (LRTS) division of the Public Schools Branch. LRTS works in partnership with other divisions and schools boards towards integrating technology into the classroom, and distributing digital learning resources for teachers and students. Visit our website, search our catalogue, and contact us!

EduPortal - Resources and Links you need in one location

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

The Edu-Portal is your gateway to access a variety of different digital resources and services offered by the Department of Education specifically for teachers.

The EduPortal offers you

- easy access to the tools you need
- a single sign-on to these range of resources

Teacher accounts have been set up, all you need to do is visit the site and complete the registration process to access the Edu-Portal. School support staff who wish to get EduPortal accounts can contact the LRTS Media Library (medialibrary.ednet.ns.ca) who will assist you.

There will be a webinar on November 8, 2012 from 3:30-4:30 on the how to get the most from the portal and is free for Nova Scotia educators. To register for the webinar please go to <http://tinyurl.com/doewebinars>

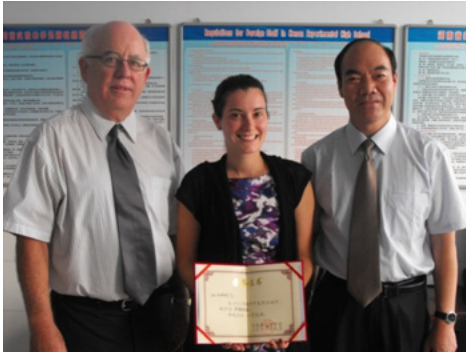
This is your employee number as found on your payroll information.

The screenshot shows the 'Identification' page of the Nova Scotia Education Portal. At the top is the 'NOVA SCOTIA CANADA' logo. Below it, the page is titled 'Education Portal' with a 'français' link. The main heading is 'Identification', followed by the instruction: 'To access the Education Portal, enter your Employee ID and the password you created when you previously registered on this site.' There are two input fields: 'Employee ID:' and 'Password:'. To the right of these fields are links: 'Don't have an account? Create one here.' and 'Forgot your password? Click here.' A blue 'Submit' button is centered below the fields. The footer includes the 'NOVA SCOTIA' logo and a small copyright notice: 'Privacy Terms Cookies Crown copyright © 2012, Province of Nova Scotia. Updated: 2012-01-12'. A red line from the text box above points to the 'Employee ID' field.

Nova Scotia International Programs

Teacher at Henan Experimental High School Recipient of 'Excellent Teacher' Award

Each year Henan Experimental High School, one of 18 schools in China offering the Nova Scotia Public School Program (Grades 10-12), presents "Excellent Teacher Awards" to teachers who demonstrate exemplary teaching practice. This year, for the first time, a teacher in the Nova Scotia Program was the recipient of this prestigious award presented to only 14 of Henan's more than 800 teachers.



Bernie MacDonald, Nova Scotia Principal,
Henan Experimental High School, Julie
MacDonald, Niu Binghua (Ox), Director of
International Department, Henan Experimental
High School

Julie MacDonald, a Biology teacher in the Nova Scotia Program, was distinguished with the Excellent Teacher Award for her energy and enthusiasm, her varied instruction, and her ability to inspire students. She was also recognized for her engagement in school life outside the classroom. Julie is always willing to lend a helping hand where needed to support students and colleagues.

Julie is from Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and is in her third year of teaching at Henan Experimental High School in Zhengzhou, China. She came to China after graduating with her Bachelor of Education degree from Acadia University. "The prospect of starting my teaching career with full-time experience was very enticing," says Julie. "I am able to gain valuable experience in a multi-cultural setting and develop my planning and classroom management skills at the same time that I am learning about a society and culture that is so different from home! As bonus, with the low cost of living, I am able to pay off my student loans and save for the future." Congratulations Julie!

In 2003 Henan Experimental High School began offering the Nova Scotia Program to its inaugural cohort of 23 students. Student enrollment in the Nova Scotia Program at Henan Experimental High School is now over 600 students. For more information on Nova Scotia's international programs, please visit our website at: internationalprograms.ednet.ns.ca

Math



Nova Scotia Adopts the WNCP Mathematics Curriculum

Changes are coming in Nova Scotia's math curriculum. Starting next year, the province will adopt the Western and Northern Canadian Protocol (WNCP) already used in 10 other provinces and territories in Canada.

The revised curriculum stresses a solid foundation in math. Students will be introduced to fewer concepts each year, but they will have more opportunity to grasp them in greater depth. It is also a very hands-on curriculum where students can learn through objects and electronic resources as well as text.

The Department of Education and school boards are working together this year to prepare teachers for the curriculum's introduction in grades Primary to 3 and Grade 10 in 2013. It will be fully introduced over three years, with Grades 4-6 and 11 taking place in 2014, and Grades 7-9 and 12 in 2015.

Mathematics Moodle for Grades 7-9

Grade 7-9 math teachers have a new resource to support their mathematics program. A Moodle has been developed and can be accessed through the Nova Scotia Virtual School. To access the moodle, please refer to the directions below.

Steps to get access to the Mathematics Learning Commons 7-9 Moodle

1. Log into Moodle nsvs.ednet.ns.ca If you have never accessed Moodle before, you will need your staff.ednet.ns.ca username and password. If you do not have a staff.ednet.ns.ca email, please contact your school board online coordinator (see the list below).
2. Go to the top menu and click on Educators. From the drop down menu, please select Professional Learning.
3. In Search Courses at the bottom, please type in Mathematics Learning and click Go.
4. Click on the title: Mathematics Learning Commons 7-9
5. The enrollment key is 'math789'

NS Math Circles

Want NS Math Circles to visit your classroom? NS Math Circles travels to high schools in NS to give their interactive presentations in classrooms...free of charge!

For details visit www.nsmathcircles.com

NS School Athletic Federation

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



The Ron O'Flaherty Scholar-Athletes 2011–12

The Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation believes that school sport is an extension of the classroom and that students who choose to participate in athletic competition better themselves in mind, body and spirit.

The NSSAF presents The Ron O'Flaherty Scholar-Athlete Awards to recognize the top male and female student-athletes throughout the province. The scholarship is named for the long-serving Executive Director, Mr. Ron O'Flaherty, who retired in 2005.

There are approximately 66,000 eligible students, and each member school has the opportunity to nominate one male and one female for the award. Applicants are required to have a minimum academic average of 85 per cent and to have represented their school in athletic competition. In recognition of outstanding ability to combine excellence in academics with excellence in athletics, we are pleased to present the following NSSAF Ron O'Flaherty Scholar-Athletes for 2011–2012.

Recipients of \$750 Scholarship (Senior High)

Savannah LeBlanc, CB Highlands Ed Ctr/Acad.

Sarah Myers, North Nova Ed. Centre

Alyssa MacDonald, Avon View High

Ashley Duggan, Halifax West High

Matt Oldfield, Dartmouth High

Andrew Synder, Bridgewater Jr/Sr High

Luke MacLean, Cobequid Ed. Centre

Mitchell Hanna, Riverview Rural High

Recipients of Scholar-Athlete Plaques (Junior High/Middle School)

Jacqueline Stevens, Central Kings Rural High

Meriel Fitzgerald, Cunard Junior High

Mikaila Borgal, Pugwash District High

Nicole Downing, East Richmond Ed. Centre

Jordan Breen, Oceanview Ed. Centre

Andrew Linton, New Glasgow Jr. High

Dylan Wile, Bridgewater Jr/Sr High

Tom Gillis, Oxford School



**KIDS'
RUN
CLUB**

Kids Run Club

The Kids' Run Club is now in its ninth year.

The 2011–12 Kids' Run Club had record numbers with 16,300 kids lacing up their sneakers to participate. Interest grew across the province with more than 225 schools signing up to offer their students the opportunity to be active through running.

To register your school in the Kids' Run Club, or for help implementing the program, contact: =

Kerry Copeland

Kids' Run Club coordinator

Tel: (902) 468-8935 ext. 278

kerry.copeland@doctorsns.com

www.doctorsns.com/en/home/healtheducation/kidsrunclub

October is Healthy Literacy Month

CLASS II



Children's Lifestyle And School-performance Study

CLASS

The Children's Lifestyle and School-performance Study (CLASS) is a province-wide research project that looks at the relationships between nutrition, physical activity, mental wellbeing, school performance and children's overall health in Nova Scotia. Over the past decade, there have been many changes in Nova

Scotia schools through increased investment in health promotion policies and initiatives. CLASS is helping to understand how these changes have influenced children's health and school performance. The CLASS team visited schools across the province in 2003 and 2011 collecting information from over 12,000 Grade 5 students and their families.

CLASS is currently sharing information and preliminary results from the 2011 results (CLASS II). Participating schools were given school specific results compared to provincial averages. Each school report identified areas of strength and included recommendations for improvement. In May, the CLASS research team held the first release of research findings to policy makers, school board members, health professionals, principals, teachers and the Nova Scotia community. In the coming months, we will be sharing additional results in many different ways.



To learn more about CLASS and to view a summary of the preliminary results, please visit www.nsclass.ca. Our website will continually be updated with research, news, resources for school staff, and evidence of best practices. Check back frequently for new information and contact us to chat about how we can work together to strengthen and improve the school health environment.

For more information please email the Project Coordinator at Kimberley.hernandez@dal.ca

Healthy Living Challenge

The Healthy Living Challenge (HLC) was first introduced as part Doctors Nova Scotia's free, school-based running club to assist coaches in addressing healthy lifestyles.

The five-day challenge encourages participants to be active, eat well, and reduce screen time.

In response to requests from teachers, the HLC has been made available for use in the classroom. The HLC has been approved by the Nova Scotia Department of Education for teachers to use to support active healthy living curriculum. Although the HLC can be used with learners of all ages, it may be most suitable for middle-senior elementary students (Grades 2–6).

The HLC includes a teacher's guide, which contains suggestions on how to introduce and implement the program, basic information about healthy eating, physical activity and screen time and exercises to enhance learning. A list of resources related to active healthy living is also provided and includes teaching tools such as handouts, PowerPoint presentations, website and interactive online tools for students. Visit www.doctorsns.com/en/home/healtheducation/kidsrunclub/healthylivingchallenge.aspx

HEALTHY LIVING CHALLENGE					
	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
1 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY Challenge to one hour for every 10 minutes of activity you do. Here's a chance to give it a try. Your goal is to get 90 minutes of physical activity, replace an unhealthy food or drink with something healthy and spend at least 1 hour less in front of a screen everyday for five days. Encourage your family to take on the Challenge with you. Plan a fun family event like going bowling or for a hike to celebrate having completed the Challenge. ASSOCIATION MEDICAL CANADAIENNE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION Doctors Nova Scotia	My favourite activity 	My favourite activity 	My favourite activity 	My favourite activity 	My favourite activity
	Today I ate/drank (something healthy) Instead of (something unhealthy)	Today I ate/drank (something healthy) Instead of (something unhealthy)	Today I ate/drank (something healthy) Instead of (something unhealthy)	Today I ate/drank (something healthy) Instead of (something unhealthy)	Today I ate/drank (something healthy) Instead of (something unhealthy)
	I reduced my screen time by 1 hour today What I did instead:	I reduced my screen time by 1 hour today What I did instead:	I reduced my screen time by 1 hour today What I did instead:	I reduced my screen time by 1 hour today What I did instead:	I reduced my screen time by 1 hour today What I did instead:

VISIT HEALTHCANADA.CC.CA AND DOCTORSNS.COM FOR MORE INFO ABOUT HEALTHY LIVING

Active & Safe Routes to Schools

Making Tracks gets children active and teaches active transportation safety skills

What do 1,500 children and youth across the province have in common? They can all bike, walk, in-line skate, or skateboard skilfully and safely, thanks to the Making Tracks program offered through their school or local recreation department. This past spring, Terry Melloy, Physical Education Teacher at Bridgewater Elementary School, led 160 grade 5 and 6 students through the Making Tracks Cycling safety and skills program. Both Terry and the students loved the experience and plans are in



Making Tracks SkatePass Skateboarding program

the works to continue offering the program every year to the grade 5 class. Much more than the typical one hour bicycle rodeo, children learned how to identify bicycle parts, what they and their bikes should be wearing to be safe, bicycle maintenance skills, proper riding safety and skills, safe route mapping and road rules and responsibility. All Making Tracks program modes provide participants lots of time to practice and gain confidence in their skill building, all in a fun, hands on and supportive atmosphere! In the spring of 2011, Michael Terauds, Physical Education teacher at Elizabeth Sutherland School, led 63 students through the Making Tracks SkatePass Skateboarding program. Terauds stated he appreciates the ability of the program to reach students not regularly engaged in physical education class and the safety and skills the program teaches.

Making Tracks is approved by the Dept. of Education and meets multiple curriculum outcomes. The recently launched provincial strategy *Thrive! A Plan for a Healthier Nova Scotia* also highlights the importance of active transportation and teaching children the skills they need to actively travel safely. Making Tracks can easily fit into school, recreation, or other community organization programming. Training can be arranged for any school, recreation, or community group. As the program grows, more expert trainers are being sought to lead training sessions around the province. If you want to arrange for Making Tracks to come to your school or community, or become a trainer, contact your regional representative.

Jennifer McGowan

Making Tracks Program Coordinator, Active & Safe Routes to School (NS Mainland)

Ecology Action Centre

walk@ecologyaction.ca | 902.442.5055

Ellen Polegato

Making Tracks Program Coordinator, Active & Safe Routes to School (Cape Breton and Highland Region)

Ecology Action Centre

stp-cb@ecologyaction.ca | 902.371.6002

Check out the Making Tracks website for more information

saferoutesns.ca/index.php/special/making-tracks

To learn more about *Thrive! A Plan for a Healthier Nova Scotia* visit: thrive.novascotia.ca

Our website is www.saferoutesns.ca (click the Making Tracks icon)



Making Tracks Cycling Program at Bridgewater Elementary School



Ecology Action Centre

National School Safety Week Oct 17-23

NOVA SCOTIA

SchoolsPlus

A COLLABORATIVE INTERAGENCY APPROACH TO
SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD AND FAMILY

SchoolsPlus

SchoolsPlus is now available in more than 95 schools across the province. Within each group of schools, a SchoolsPlus facilitator and a community outreach worker will liaise between the school and community to advocate, coordinate and expand services for students and families. Our vision is that schools are the hubs of their

communities offering convenient and welcoming places for services to be delivered to students and families. For more information contact Tara Moore, SchoolsPlus Coordinator, 424-7308, website www.ednet.ns.ca/schoolsplus



Sydney summer drama camp at Sherwood Park Education Centre in Sydney

TumbleBugs AVRSB



Go Girls AVRSB

Amherst
SchoolsPlus
PEI trip,
walking on
the beach



Digby Quest for Knowledge
summer program



South Shore
SchoolsPlus
weekend
retreat



HRSB SchoolsPlus, IWK Big School Here I Come!
program held at Joseph Howe School



Science Camp Canso

Futureseekers.ca

Each high school has received a portable Career Kiosk, consisting of a large screen television, computer, DVD player, wireless keyboard and mouse, on a wheeled cart. During the 2012–2013 school year, Career Kiosks will be provided to schools with grade 9 students if they have not yet received one.

Signage will be mounted on the cart to make it easily identifiable as resource dedicated to career research and planning through the futureseekers.ca website. Each school can identify the most appropriate locations for their Career Kiosk.

The Career Kiosk will serve as a resource for all teachers when students are working towards career-related curriculum outcomes.

Futureseekers.ca is a vibrant, visual, engaging starting point for career exploration and planning, providing education, labour market, and career-related information from a range of sources, including the careers.novascotia.ca website. Students will also be introduced to online resources the Department has purchased for school use, including Career Cruising, Jobs People Do, and annotated EBSCO resources. Futureseekers.ca will be refreshed regularly with featured careers and career videos, and career planning tools for students and for teachers. School will be notified when the website goes live later this fall.

futureseekers

Parents as Career Coaches

Parents as Career Coaches

Families are the single greatest influence on a child's education and career decisions. Parents as Career Coaches is a free program for parents and guardians of Nova Scotia students. The

program supports families in helping their children make informed education and career decisions. The program recognizes that career development is a lifelong process. Families will learn what young people need to know to find their place in a world of work that is constantly changing. The senior high version is six hours over two evenings, the junior high version is three hours over one evening.

For more information and to view a list of scheduled programs, visit www.parentscareercoaches.ca. Families can enroll online. Schools who wish to organize a program can contact Peter Smith, Coordinator of Youth Pathways and Transitions, at 424-7123 or smithps@gov.ns.ca

CEED

Hands On Learning is a Hands Down Success with CEED -- www.ceed.ca

CEED's Entrepreneurship Education Team has delivered award-winning 'entrepreneurship' workshops for more than 15 years in the HRSB, at all grade levels. However, our most recent and rewarding success has been our hands-on learning engagements with Elementary students. Children learn by doing and love to work with their hands, and that's just what the CEED Workshops will bring to your classroom!

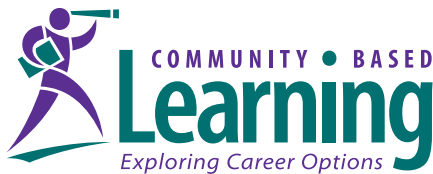
In consultation with Elementary educators, we have tailored our Entrepreneurship Workshops to be an effective learning activity for your students. If you are searching for new and innovative ways of instilling the importance of entrepreneurship in your students or simply looking for ways to motivate and inspire further learning, CEED's "Learn by Doing" workshops are for you! Students increase their capacity and skills in areas such as

- Creativity
- Communication
- Entrepreneurial and Financial Literacy
- Cooperation in a Group Setting
- Problem Solving

From "Tower of Power," in which student teams construct towers from craft supplies, to "Out of the Box Factory," in which student teams build a product prototype, the learning is fun, purposeful, and hands on.

Contact CEED today to see what our Education Team can do for your students. tvassallo@ceed.ca





Summer Co-op in Action

Pierre-Luc Labadie spent his summer getting a jump on his potential future career, earning school credits, and making some money too.

Through a summer co-op placement, the Ecole du Carrefour student earned three credits while doing electrical work at the Halifax Shipyard with contractor Black & McDonald.

"We ran pipe, pulled wire, connected junction boxes... it was really fun," says Pierre-Luc. "What I liked most is that I wasn't treated like a student. I was treated like an employee."

Students from 45 schools earned more than 400 co-op credits this summer, gaining work experience in fields such as tourism, health care, construction, engineering, and rescuing endangered animals with Hope for Wildlife.

Summer co-op succeeds with the support of the province, school boards, businesses, and teachers who give up some summer hours to make it work.

"I decided a long time ago when I became a teacher that I was going to give kids every chance possible to succeed," says Venessa Maillet, who teaches at École Secondaire du Sommet in Bedford.

"This is a great life learning experience for them. It opens a lot of eyes and a lot of doors."

Doing co-op in summer gives students and businesses more flexibility, says École du Carrefour teacher Pierre Malenfant. "It might fit better with the student's schedule, and with the employers schedule. It's a win-win."

The province continues to expand programs like co-op that give students valuable experience in the workforce, helping to prepare them for good jobs and citizenship in their communities.

Pierre-Luc is enrolled in the Options and Opportunities program at Carrefour and plans to take electrical courses at Nova Scotia Community College next year. His summer co-op placement convinced him he's on the right track.

"I had a general idea this is what I want to do, but spending the whole summer with those guys made me see it's definitely what I want to do," he says. "I would definitely recommend it for anyone. It's a good experience."

To find out more on co-op visit www.ednet.ns.ca/coop



Health, Safety and Injury Prevention has a New Moodle!

WORK SAFE. FOR LIFE.
WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA

Over the last six years young worker injury has steadily declined in Nova Scotia, and we know high school teachers have played an important role

in this improvement. Continuing to provide health and safety curriculum supports, we are pleased to launch our second workplace safety moodle "Workplace Health and Safety 10-12".

This resource Moodle has eight full content folders with teacher prep information and classroom activities, over 20 videos, dozens of links to best practice workplace health and safety agencies and safety associations, and direct links to free First Aid training and online WHMIS for all students in grades 10-12.

While designed to directly support the outcomes of Co-Op, Career Development, and Workplace Health and Safety, this moodle can also be accessed for any course where students are engaged in lab work, independent community-based learning activities, or where

work and career are discussed. Regardless of what you teach, there is something in here for you!

The enrolment key for *Workplace Health & Safety 10-12* is '10-12safety'. If you teach Healthy Living 9, the safety module can be found under our very first moodle, *HL 9: Workplace Safety* with enrolment key 'hl9safety'.



Junior Achievement

JA proud to introduce Personal Development Credit for Company Program students

Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia is happy to be



Junior Achievement®

partnering with the Department of Education to offer a Personal Development Credit for high school students who participate in one year of Company Program. JA's Company Program encourages high school students to form their own companies, select and produce a product or service, and operate the company through to liquidation while guided by a team of business advisors from the community.

Connor Miller is an example of a student who had great success in Company Program.

At this year's Junior Achievement Awards Gala in April, Connor was selected to attend Junior Achievement's International Conference - Next Generation Leaders (NGL) held in Halifax, August 12-18. The 42nd annual conference was hosted by the Sobey School of Business at Saint Mary's University and brought together 135 international JA participants from across the globe.



Connor was chosen based on his exceptional success in JA's Company Program. In his graduating year of high school, Connor was the VP of Finance for J.L. Ilsley's company - Texttens. Their product - Texttens - are re-purposed mittens where the material covering the thumb folds back with the aid of Velcro, allowing the thumbs to be free to text. Connor was one of four team members chosen to present their product at a provincial JA competition Pitch It! Connor and his team won first prize after pitching their product to a panel of four judges and more than 500 Nova Scotia business leaders at the World Trade and Convention Centre.

Thanks to the Personal Development Credit option students like Connor will have even more opportunities to excel in business and in their future careers. For more information on Junior Achievement programs available in your community visit www.janovascotia.org or give us a call at (902) 454-4564.

NSCC

Innovative, energy-efficient learning tool offers NSCC students green lens on learning

Pilikan House, an innovative learning tool equipped with the latest in energy-efficient technologies, was officially opened at the Annapolis Valley Campus of NSCC on September 18, 2012. The house gives NSCC students a hands-on source of information to help them improve the world around them.

nscc



Pilikan serves as a demonstration site on the Campus for the latest generation of residential construction professionals to learn, first-hand,

about the changing methods in the industry and how professionals are able to incorporate sustainability into the way they do things. The name, Pilikan (Bill-ee-gun), arose from the Mi'kmaq words for "new house". The name was chosen to describe the modern, "green" learning technologies incorporated into the building.

"Pilikan House arose from a vision of the College to support students of the unique Energy Sustainability Engineering Technology (ESET) program by tangibly demonstrating current best practices in residential construction," NSCC President Don Bureaux told those who gathered at the home's opening. "This is another example of the innovative and practical methods used by the College to prepare our students for the real world and real jobs."

For more information, visit the College website at nscc.ca/about_nscc/cbe/pilikanhouse.asp

Correspondence Studies

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

For more information, visit our website at

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

or call (902) 424-4054

Skills Can-NS

**Cape Breton
Highlands
Student Bakes**

Her Way to Success

Skills Canada-Nova Scotia helps support youth in finding their passion and making informed career decisions; just ask Peyton Carmichael.

From a family of seven kids, Peyton had no difficulties finding a willing soul to taste her creations when her passion for baking began at the age of 8. "I have always loved baking, especially for my family. I made my first loaf of banana bread when I was nine, and when I was eleven I got a pasta machine for Christmas," she recalls.



Growing up, Peyton always considered baking a hobby. That all changed when she attended the NS Skills Competition to watch a friend compete. "It gave me a feel of the competition and I decided I wanted to compete in baking," says Peyton. When the 2012 Skills Competition rolled around, that's just what she did. With the help of her teacher from

Cape Breton Highlands Academy, Peyton practiced and competed. "I loved the provincial competition; it gave me the initiative to improve my baking skills. When it came time to compete, I was confident in all my products and the judges were extremely welcoming," Peyton's natural talent shined and she won the gold medal in the secondary baking competition, giving her the opportunity to compete at the 2012 Skills Canada National Competition in Edmonton, Alberta.

"I was both excited and nervous to compete in Edmonton. I found myself baking every day in preparation. It gave me a reason to work really hard!" Peyton's hard work paid off when she won a silver medal at the national competition.

While still in high school and only 16, Peyton has found a way to put her skills and passion to good use. She's working in her hometown of Margaree Valley as a baker at the Normaway Inn where she bakes bread, granola, oatcakes and plenty of desserts.

Peyton will continue to take advantage of the opportunities the NS Skills Competition provides. "I'm very excited to improve my skills and hopefully earn the opportunity to compete at the 2013 Skills Canada National Competition in Vancouver" in June.

Skills Canada-Nova Scotia is a not-for-profit organization that promotes skilled trades and technologies to Nova Scotia youth through a variety of programs and events. For more information on how your students can become involved, visit skillsns.ca



Building Futures Success Story!

At the start of grade 11 Brendan MacDonald was pretty sure he wanted to pursue a career as an electrician; however after the following summer spent in the Building Futures for Youth program there was no doubt.

"It helped confirm for me that I wanted to be an electrician... by the time I finished the summer 2011 placement, I knew for sure that Industrial Electrician would be my career choice."

Through the program Brendan attended two weeks of industry specific safety training at NSCC, was registered as a construction trades pre-apprentice and spent the summer working for Black & McDonald Limited. He even received co-op credits towards his grade 12.

"For me it was a great experience. I worked for a great company, received important training, earned apprenticeship hours and worked with good people."

Over the summer Brendan worked closely with his mentor, and certified journeyman electrician, Wade Pickrem.

"I learned a lot about different types of electrical panels, how to wire things and how to fix the service on a 20 unit air conditioner."

More importantly, Brendan learned some very important work lessons, the most important being that safety always comes first.

"I learned how important it is to always do the best job possible, be respectful and always work safe!"

This past June, Brendan graduated from Millwood High School and received 1 of 3 CANS Building Futures for Youth Award Scholarships to NSCC. He is enrolled at the NSCC Waterfront Campus in the Electrical Construction & Industrial – Certificate program.

Brendan's future goals include registering as an apprentice, hopefully getting hired by Black & McDonald and becoming a certified journeyman industrial electrician (just like his Building Futures mentor Wade). Brendan is well on his way to a career in the skilled trades. He credits his experience in Building Futures for Youth for helping him get there.

For more information about the Building Futures for Youth program please contact Alain Lefebvre, Coordinator – Building Futures for Youth at alefebvre@cans.ns.ca or check out our website at www.buildingfutures.ca



Technology Education



Technology Education 9 Launch

After much anticipation, Technology Education 9 was successfully launched in May of 2012. Over 100 Technology Education teachers participated in hands-on, minds-on technology challenges (see photos) in the following module categories: Inventions and Innovations; Communications Technology; Energy Engineering; and Production Technology. The Department of Education provided all participating schools with resources necessary to implement the new program.

New Junior High Curriculum

A new outcomes framework is in place for Technology Education 7–9. Schools offering Technology Education must ensure students are registered in the following courses for teachers to access the new outcomes: TEC7Y11, TEC8Y11, and TEC9Y11.

Dust Collection Update

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. Construction has been ongoing in several schools. 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.

Summer Institutes

Technology Education summer institutes were a great success during EduFest at NSCC Waterfront campus. Teachers participated in hands-on learning activities in digital photography, screen printing, and stop-time animation (see photos). Be sure to save the dates next year and be first in line to take part in EduFest week—the third week of August.

EDUFest Kids

Families who participated in EduFest Kids had an opportunity to bring their children to the summer institutes at EduFest. The program is the first of its kind and was a tremendous success (see photos). Children ages five thru twelve were engaged in their own mini Olympics, structures challenges, rocketry, visual arts, and explorations while their parents were involved in other institutes. Space is limited, so plan ahead for next summer.



EduFest Kids participating in balloon rocket challenge



Edufest Kids enjoying a break together at NSCC Waterfront campus



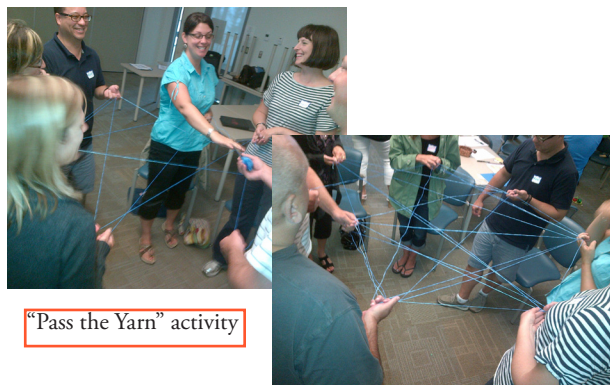
Teacher participates in Digital Photography summer institute at EduFest



Teacher participating in Technology Education 9 design challenge for Communications Technology module

Summer Institutes

A Restorative Approach in Schools



Inclusive and Engaging Meeting Facilitation



Professional Development Program in Family Studies

Acadia University is pleased to announce its "Professional Development Program in Family Studies," approved by the NS Department of Education for eligibility for a certification increase. Teachers considering an application to the program are advised to contact the Teacher Certification division of the Department of Education to confirm their eligibility for an increase in their license. While there will be continuous intake into the program, for those who would like to begin Summer 2013, it is recommended that applications be submitted by February 15, 2013.

Contact Open Acadia for more information:
openacadia@acadiau.ca

New Videos for Child Studies 9

Schools that offer Child Studies 9 should have received two new DVD's this fall, purchased by the Department of Education to support the new curriculum. The DVDs are: *Child Development Basics* and *When Babies Cry*.

Nova Scotia Virtual School Moodle for Family Studies

This fall two new moodles are being added to NSVS website: Health and Human Services 12 and Child Studies 11. Teachers wishing to access the Family Studies Moodles need to log into NSVS website (nsvs.ednet.ns.ca/m19), and then email Sheila Munro: munrosm@gov.ns.ca

Family Studies



New Resources on the ALR

We will be replacing *Nutrition Concepts and Controversies*, edition with a new Canadian resource: *Nutrition Science and Applications*

Other new resources are

The International Collection: Home Cooked Meals from Around the World

The Lowdown on Denim

50 Underwear Questions

Clueless in the Kitchen

Real Care Baby III

(Real Care Baby currently listed on the ALR is now into a third generation. The new RCB III software that comes with the new Real Care Baby is totally compatible with Real Care Baby II that was distributed to grade 9 schools last year. RCBIII comes with new software that identifies two more care activities in the new babies.)

Food Safety Education

Congratulations to the seventeen educators who completed their Advanced Food Safety Training with the NS Department of Agriculture on August 15 and 16. Teachers who attended this workshop and who are offering the FoodSafe Level I program to their students will be receiving teaching and classroom resources this fall. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education continue to partner on this initiative as we provide Food Safety Education in schools.

Personal Development Credits

Young people's lives are full of learning, both in and outside of our schools. High quality learning experiences in many settings contribute to students' personal and intellectual development. Nova Scotia's new Personal Development Credits, a Kids and Learning First project, will offer students an opportunity to gain a high school elective credit for pursuing their interests and developing their talents through a variety of approved courses that are different from the courses they take at school.



Beginning in September 2012, students who have successfully completed a course or program approved by the Department of Education will be eligible for a personal development credit. The credit will be entered on a student's high school transcript and may count toward one of the five elective credits required for graduation. A Personal Development Credit will be awarded as a grade 10, 11, or 12 credit and depending on the time required to complete a course or program, may qualify as a half- or full credit. Students, parents/guardians, providers and schools will find information on this year's pilot program on the Department of Education's website in October 2012.

The Department of Education will recognize personal development credits in three learning areas:

- The Arts—successful completion of music, dance, visual and/or performing arts credentials that are not part of the high school curriculum.
- Languages—proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and cultural awareness of languages other than current credits in the Public School Program (English, French, Gaelic, Mi'kmaq, Spanish, German, or Latin).
- Leadership—achievements in community leadership, entrepreneurship, sport leadership, environmental and agricultural stewardship courses or programs.

During 2012, the personal development pilot program includes courses in Arts and Leadership. Please see page 2 for a list of approved courses and their providers for the 2012–2013 school year.

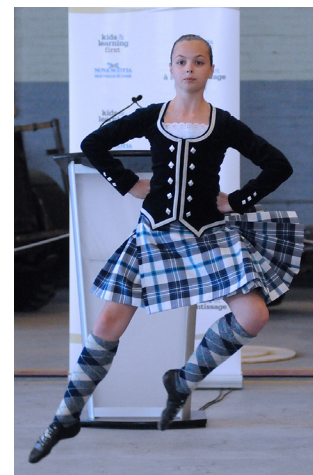
To ensure that students' personal accomplishments in high quality learning programs are recognized, the Department of Education has developed a detailed set of criteria for approving external providers. Courses should, be provincially, nationally or internationally recognized and contribute to student's experience of the Atlantic Province's Essential Graduation Learnings. Later this year, the Department of Education will issue a call for Expressions of Interest from course or program providers who meet set criteria.

For further information, please contact:

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

Personal Development Credits - Approved Provider and Course List 2012

Provider	Course Title	
Nova Scotia 4-H Program	Gold Level	
Junior Achievement	The Company Program	
Dance Nova Scotia	Highland Dance	
	Ballet	
Cadets	Air Rifle Marksmanship Instructor	Advanced Aerospace
	Drill and Ceremonial Instructor	Advanced Aviation Technology—Airport Maintenance
	Fitness and Sports Instructor	Advanced Aviation Technology—Airport Operations
	Intermediate Sail	Boatswain's Mate
	Leadership and Ceremonial Instructor	Military Band—Advanced Musician Course
	Military Band—Intermediate Musician Course	Pipe Band—Advanced Musician Course
	Pipe Band—Intermediate Musician Course	Sail Coach
	Ship's Boat Operator	Glider Pilot Scholarship
	Survival Instructor Course	Power Pilot Scholarship



Student Contests

Contests to engage students.

CRRF National Video Competition

www.crr.ca

Deadline: February 28, 2013

Open to youth from 16–25 yrs of age, the competition encourages youth to discuss issues of identity, values, competing belief systems and human rights. The goal is to produce a creative 30 second video that enhances interfaith relations and/or deepens one's sense of belonging. This contest is organized by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.

Young Writers Poetry Contest

www.youngwritersofcanada.ca

Deadline: November 30, 2012

Now accepting entries for children ages 7–12 years of age, and youths ages 13 to 18 years of age. No entry fee, both students and schools can participate, an anthology is published at the end of the contest. The aim is to encourage the writing of English poetry amongst young Canadians, by publishing examples of the best work received each year.

Hackmatack

www.hackmatack.ca

Deadline for registrations: December 31, 2012

An Atlantic Canadian book award that allows children to choose their favourite Canadian and Atlantic Canadian books. Children will read from a selection of forty books divided into four categories: English fiction, English non-fiction, French fiction, and French non-fiction, chosen for their literary, cultural and enjoyment factors, and published within two or three years of selection.

Geography Challenge

www.geochallenge.ca

Deadline for registration: February 28, 2013

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

National Youth Challenge 2012

www.democracy-democratie.ca

Deadline: November 30, 2012

Open to Canadian residents between ages 14 to 30. Students are asked to share what they are doing for democracy with an image, words, a video or a tweet. Resources, rules and entry form available on Democracy Week website, delivered by Elections Canada.

Beaver Computing Challenge

www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/bcc.html

Designed to get students, grades 9 or 10, with little or no previous experience excited about computing. Registration deadline: October 29, 2012

Canadian Sr & Intermediate Mathematics Contests

www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/csimc.html

Two contests designed to give students the opportunity to have fun and to develop their mathematical problem solving ability. Registration deadline: November 8, 2012

Public Schools Branch consists of the following Divisions:

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

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