



BRANCHING OUT



NOVA SCOTIA NEWS FROM
Department of Education PUBLIC SCHOOLS BRANCH

October 2007

<http://ednet.ns.ca>

As the newly appointed Senior Executive Director, Public Schools Branch, I welcome you to the beginning of another school year. My priority is to ensure that each student receives the best educational experiences possible. The hallmarks of education in Nova Scotia have always been and remain excellence and high expectations. With these goals in mind, and working with a model of supporting schools as professional learning communities, I know that teaching and learning will continue to be enriched. I wish you all a successful and satisfying year.

- Alan Lowe, Senior Executive Director, Public Schools Branch

Arts Update



Draft curriculum guides are now available for Advanced Music 11, Advanced Music 12, Advanced Visual Arts 11 and Advanced Visual Arts 12. These exciting new courses provide students with

valuable opportunities for focussed study in their area of interest. The Department is providing opportunities for Community Partnership Grants to enable students to study with a mentor in the community. In addition, resources will be distributed to all schools offering these courses this year.

Guides for Drama 12: Theatre Arts and Visual Arts 12 are now available. Seventeen schools throughout the province are offering Dance 11 this year. Teachers teaching Dance 11 in 2007–08 will be pleased to note that resources supporting the ongoing implementation of this course will be sent to them this fall. Effective September 2008, students will have the choice of selecting Dance 11 as a credit that will meet the fine arts graduation requirement OR the physical education graduation requirement (not both).

A comprehensive study of junior high school arts programs will be initiated this year to examine the role of arts education in grades 7–9 and to inform the development of arts curricula for these grade levels.

LRTS Move Update



Learning Resources and Technology Services has completed Phase I of its move.. For more details, please visit <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca> and click

on the link on the front page beside the moving van.

Going Gaelic!

Six schools in Nova Scotia are offering Gaelic language instruction this year thanks to the recently announced Gaelic Language Program Grants. Schools in CBVRSB, SRSB and HRSB have received grants ranging from \$3,625.00 to \$30,000. A total of \$108,206.00 was allocated to Gaelic language projects scheduled to begin in the fall of 2007.

The Department of Education has targeted a total of \$200,000 for this grant program in 2007–2008. The deadline for the projects beginning in the winter/spring of 2008 is November 1, 2007. For further information, contact Mary Fedorchuk, English Program Services, 902-424-5436, fedorcm@gov.ns.ca.



The Images Project Wants You!

Photographs are a valuable resource for learning. The ImagesProject is a Nova Scotia public school source of photos that are copyright-cleared for use. It is managed by Learning Resources and Technology Services, NS Department of Education.

You are invited to include your photos in the ImagesProject to support learning in all curriculum areas and grade levels by Nova Scotia schools. We'd like to sweeten the pot to encourage you to contribute to the growing collection of photographs for learning!

You can win prizes. For contest details and more information, please go to <http://imagesproject.ednet.ns.ca>. Contest ends February 15, 2008.

BRANCHING OUT is published 3 times yearly in October, February, and May.

Back issues are available at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>

If you wish to receive the newsletter, please send an email to lrt@ednet.ns.ca.

BBC Shakespeare programs available from the Media Library

The Media Library has some VHS copies of BBC Shakespeare programs to give away. Each tape has a public performance license that allows the program to be shown to groups of students in educational settings for non-profit purposes.

Please contact the Media Library at (902)424-2440 or mediacir@ednet.ns.ca for further information. Act quickly; programs will be dispersed on a first come, first served basis.

ELA Summer Institute 2007

This past summer the Department of Education held its annual summer professional development for teachers from grades P–12. Two sessions were held concurrently. Frank Serafini offered a two-day workshop for P–6 teachers and Kelly Gallagher interacted with 7–12 teachers. Both presenters were very well received and provided insightful and inspirational “best practice” information and experiences for all.



Literacy Success 11 Implementation Workshop

The Department is currently implementing Literacy Success 11. A three-day professional development event held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel on October

10–12, 2007 provided teachers with information on the act of reading in English language arts as well as the content areas. Resources for teachers and students are being distributed to classrooms through their boards throughout the fall of 2007.

Teaching in Action Grades 7–9

The third in a series of teaching resources is being launched at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, November 22–23, 2007. *Teaching in Action Grades 7–9: A Teaching Resource* will support junior high and middle level teachers in seeing the English language arts curriculum in action. This new resource will refresh and update current theory and practice. A featured speaker, Jennette McKenzie, will highlight state-of-the-art research in literacy for these grades.

New Resources for Health Education P–6 & Healthy Living 7–9

In October, schools with grades primary to 6 will receive one complete set of *Risk Watch Unintentional Injuries: A National Injury Prevention Program* to support learning and teaching of injury prevention outcomes within health education. Healthy Living 7 and 8 teachers will also receive a copy of the grade 7/8 resource.



New authorized learning resources that address equity, diversity, and social justice have been added to the ALR. Many titles have been cross-listed for English language arts, science, social studies, and arts education. Teachers of combined classrooms grades primary–3 will find many of the new listings useful in addressing outcomes related to emotional health and healthy relationships.

As well, to support learning and teaching in Healthy Living 7–9, the Media Library has added new titles. You can visit the online catalogue at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca> > Media Library > Search Online Catalogue > New Materials.

A number of links to related websites can be found at <http://www.ednet.ns.ca> > Educators > Classroom and Curriculum Resources > Curriculum-related websites > Health/Physical Education.



Teachers Learn to Integrate IT at Summer Institute

For three days in July, 85 educators gathered at the Truro campus of the Nova Scotia Community College to learn about integrating technology into

the public school classroom curriculum.

A wireless online network and the new Nova Scotia Virtual School (<http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca>) supported participants with resources and ideas for the constructive integration of information technology. Participants had a chance to learn about geo-caching, blogging, podcasting, Web 2.0, and some of the online resources offered through the NS Department of Education. While they worked on activities to engage their students in the achievement of learning outcomes.

October is Mi'kmaq History Month

Nova Scotia Department of Education hosts National Institute for Core French Teachers

The Institute, held at the Citadel Inn August 22nd to 24th, was intended for Core French teachers grades 6 to 9 who will receive students who have gone through the Intensive French program. Forty-nine participants, French Second Language teachers, school board consultants and Ministry of Education personnel, represented the Yukon, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador. The session focused on two main areas: the introduction of a three year follow-up working guide for teachers to pilot, and the presentation of literacy strategies to enhance students' French oral language competence and improve their reading and writing abilities.

The French second language workshops provided opportunities for participants to observe various strategies and then demonstrate them before their peers who provided feedback.

Other workshops held this summer included *Stratégies de perfectionnement de la lecture et de l'écriture dans toutes les matières*, *Vers une pédagogie différenciée*, *La Lecture: le Secret de la réussite scolaire*, and *Quoi de neuf en FLS? Beaucoup!*

These workshops provided an opportunity to teachers and board coordinators to reflect on and learn how to apply a variety of teaching strategies and learning theories for the second language classroom.



Nova Scotia Museum Learning Resources Catalogue Now Online!

The *LRC* is an online listing of educational resources tailored to the school curriculum, including school kits for loan,

activities, and programs available at the 27 Nova Scotia Museum sites across the province. It contains information on what each museum site has to offer and provides helpful links to other resources and information. The online catalogue also allows teachers to sign up to receive updates on new programs and resources as they become available throughout the year.

In conjunction with the *LRC* online project, the Department of Education and the Nova Scotia

Museum will soon be launching a pilot project to match grades 7, 8 and 9 social studies curriculum outcomes to Nova Scotia Museum resources. The pilot project will be accessible directly from the LRC web site.

<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/learn>

New Courses from Correspondence Studies

There are two new courses available for the Correspondence Studies program at the Department of Education: **Global Geography 12** and **Mathematics 9**. For more information, please visit <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca> >Correspondence Studies.

External Credentials Discussion Paper and Draft Policy

Later this fall, the Department of Education, English Program Services, will release a consultation document on External Credentials.

The draft external credentials policy proposes recognition of certain credentials obtained outside the public school system for high school credit. The discussion paper provides the background and rationale for offering high school credits for courses and programs that contribute to Essential Graduation Learnings and meet the standards defined in the draft policy proposal.

The discussion paper and draft policy will be available on the Department of Education Web Site at <http://www.ednet.ns.ca>, and will be sent out to education partners for response.

Your feedback is most important! Your responses will assist the Department in refining the draft policy and in identifying implementation issues and challenges. You can respond using the online response form, by downloading and mailing a manually completed form to: External Credentials Review Committee, English Program Services, Nova Scotia Department of Education, PO Box 578, Halifax NS B3J 2S9, or by emailing submissions to Mary Fedorchuk, Program Coordinator P-12, at fedorcmm@gov.ns.ca.

Exploring Technology 10

Technology Education teachers will have an opportunity to pilot new course material with the Exploring Technology 10 curriculum. The draft document will be distributed in February 2008 for teachers interested in piloting the new curriculum. Modules of study include hands-on applications in Green Technology, Exploring Trades and Technology, Media and Design, Engineering Systems, and Control Technology.

October is Mi'kmaq History Month



Attention Grade 4 Teachers!

CEED Centre for

Entrepreneurship Education & Development Inc. is offering a free resource, *Jump Right In: Elementary Enterprise—Grade 4* (available online at http://www.ceed.info/ee/resources_educational_materials), that provides a chance for grade 4 teachers to incorporate enterprise education into their teaching practice and to enrich the learning of all students. This resource, which has been approved by the Department of Education, provides a range of hands-on experiences, directly connected to curriculum outcomes in several subject areas.

One copy of this resource will be delivered to schools this fall. It is expected that the French language version will be available in spring 2008.



Democracy 250

<http://www.democracy250.ca>

The Democracy 250 initiative celebrates the 250th anniversary of the first parliamentary democracy in what is now Canada. The General Assembly met for the first time in Halifax on October 2, 1758.

Learning resources are a key component of Democracy 250. They provide students with an opportunity to interact with primary documents, speeches, statutes, proclamations, newspaper articles, diary entries, advertisements, and election results. Questions guide students through a document study that helps them construct an understanding of the evolution of democracy in Nova Scotia and Canada. The primary documents and corresponding questions are designed to support student learning and understanding in Social Studies 7 and Canadian History 11.

The Provincial Breakfast Program — Feeding Kids’ Success

Schools are an important place to reinforce the connection among nutrition, health, and education. When students eat breakfast their learning improves. Boards report improved behaviour, social benefits, and increased student concentration. School breakfast programs are not intended to replace nourishment at home, rather to support parents/guardians who are the primary providers.

To support *Learning for Life II: Brighter Futures Together*, the Departments of Health Promotion and Protection (HPP) and Education have partnered with Breakfast for Learning to enhance and expand breakfast programs in schools and in community settings that service schools. seven hundred fifty thousand dollars in program funds has been provided to school boards. As well, HPP has also provided resources, tools, workshops, training opportunities, and the services of a consultant to support the implementation of the Provincial Breakfast Program and assist boards and their schools in building capacity.

Provincial standards to ensure quality in breakfast program delivery have been developed collaboratively with input from school boards and district health authorities. These standards will be released later this fall.

Artists in the Schools Program

This exciting program provides opportunities for professional artists to come into schools and work with students in a variety of ways. Brochures have been sent to all schools. Check the Department of Education website (<http://www.ednet.ns.ca>) for further details.

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
Education Quality Services	902-424-0040	crandase@gov.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	
Learning Resources and Technology Services	902-424-2462	lrt@ednet.ns.ca	http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca
Student Services	902-424-7454	studentsvcs@ednet.ns.ca	
Regional Education Services	902-424-5799	(Halifax - SSRSB, HRSB)	902-424-6097 (Halifax - CSAP)
	902-563-2080	(Sydney - CBVRSB)	
	902-893-5890	(Truro - CCRSB, SRSB)	
	902-742-3427	(Yarmouth - TCRSB, AVRSB)	
Senior Executive Director	902-424-5829	lowead@gov.ns.ca	

Nova Scotia Department of Education website: <http://ednet.ns.ca>