



District 6 Commufax

January 9, 2008

submit your articles to Sandi.McQuinn@gnb.ca



"School District 6 challenges us to look at change as possibility. Let's see it from a new perspective as an opportunity to grow and learn."

Zoë's Notes

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to all staff and students – we certainly saw more than our share of snow over the holidays, and now it is melting as quickly as it fell. I know many of you hoped that storm closures could be retroactive, but I am afraid not!

Monday's Professional Development Day, with a focus on assessment went very well. This was the third of our four additional PD days added to the school calendar as a pilot for 2007-2008. The final additional PD Day will be on Friday, February 22, 2008 and it will be school based with a focus on your School Improvement Plan and the data used to support the actions in that plan. A huge thank you to our facilitators at the regional sites on Monday:

Catherine Chiasson
Wendy Leger
Ann Marie Dingee
Janet Miller
Dan McKiel

Bob Peters
Celinda VanHorne
Theresa Ketchum-Boudreau
Carmen Meehan
Joe Monahan

This team met with Gary Hall and Julie Kilcollins, an educator from District 14 to plan the morning session and from all reports it was well received. It is great to hear from fellow colleagues and I thank our school leaders for their support!

Thank you also to those teachers who are taking a leadership role with the elementary Prime and First Steps PD training – we had sessions for Sussex Corner and Apohaqui as well as Rothersey Elementary and Fairvale. Thanks to Yvan Pelletier, Sandy Tingley, Laurie Shillington, Jennifer Carhart, Bev Farnham, Neil Martell and Kathy Wallace. This team has been involved in delivering sessions during fall PD sessions as well and their leadership has certainly been appreciated by District 6!

We had the final First Aid session for our drivers on Monday, and another session at Hampton High School for Teacher Assistants, and Intervention Workers.

Again, we welcome Maura Tait to our office – Maura is working part-time in support of the Innovative Learning Fund initiative and as she gets settled, she will begin working with Lisa Jardine and Sheila Murray on some aspects of K-8 numeracy. She can be reached at 848-6687 or through e-mail.

Plans are taking shape for the program information evenings for parents of kindergarten and grade five children. These meetings will begin the last week of January and conclude in mid-February so all students can be registered for either the English or the Immersion program prior to the March Break.

We had limited funds for enrichment grants this school year and are pleased to announce that the following schools have received grants of up to \$1000 – BES (2 grants), DATL, HHS, HRVES, KPES, QMS, RES, RHS (2 grants), RPS (2 grants), SCES, SES (2 grants), SRHS (2 grants). A total of seventeen grants were given and the topics range from a high school book club at RHS, a student staffed writing centre at RPS, an elementary Turnaround Achievement Program at SES, book publishing at BES as well as an art initiative, a community partnership to enhance French at KPS, Chess enrichment at QMS, an art initiative at DATL, the publication of a magazine at SCES and the list goes on! Thank you to Dan Vallis for coordinating this initiative for the schools!

CELEBRATE NOTES:

From Cindi Bursey at DATL – I would like to celebrate Olivia Donovan (HHS) and her elves (grade 11 English students) for once again doing an exceptional job of answering my students' letters to Santa. They certainly did their part to add to the “magic” of Christmas!

From Lisa Jardine, Learning Specialist – I would like to celebrate our dedicated and talented First Steps and Prime facilitators for their wonderful work on January 7. Thanks to them, FES has completed First Steps training and RES has completed Prime training. SCES and AES have started their training in First Steps and LES is ready to begin Prime training in February. Hats off to First Steps trainers – Yvan Pelletier, Laurie Shillington, Jennifer Carhart and Sandy Tingley and to our Prime facilitators, Bev Farnham, Kathy Wallace and Neil Martell.

French Café at HMMS

Congratulations to Mr. Godin's grade 7/8 class on hosting a successful French Café on December 18, 2007. After doing a research project on poverty, students decided to do something about it in hopes of making a difference in someone else's life. The students adopted an eleven year old girl from Senegal through World Vision. In order to raise funds for this venture, the students decided to host a French Café. Students and parents made a variety of desserts and thanks to Tim Horton's we also had coffee, tea and hot chocolate. In total \$485.00 was donated to this cause. At the end of the school year, one of the families will take over the adoption making sure that our little girl continues to get care. Bravo to the students of 7/8 Godin!

Lori Wall, Principal

IT Tip of the Week

Did you know...that in 2007 many positive things happened in District 6 from a technology point of view? Here is the IS Department's top five (alphabetically):

- Average response time for Helpdesk calls has been reduced
- ILF projects bringing more technology to the schools
- SMART Board technology became available in all schools
- Technology mentors continued to assist schools with technology in the classrooms
- The student laptop initiative was continued at both BRHS and HMMS

In 2008, we would like to focus on improving communication between the IS Department and all other departments. Teachers and staff placing Helpdesk calls for all technical issues will help the IS Department achieve this.



Your friendly IT Department

Perfume in the Workplace

The composition of today's fragrances is quite different from that of ancient times. Now, they are a mixture of natural and synthetic chemicals, some of which can cause shortness of breath, headaches, nausea, muscle pain, and cold-like symptoms and asthma and allergies can be adversely affected. One study found that 72% of people with asthma had adverse reactions to perfumes. The following websites provide more information on this topic. Our work spaces are Scent Free but incase you were wondering why, you can find more information on this at:

www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/hsprograms/scent_free.html. - www.safety-council.org/info/OSH/perfume.html

Thelma Messer, PHN

2008 Teaching Excellence Award Nominations (**website & deadline correction**)

The award program is administered by Industry Canada in partnership with Health Canada and Human Resources and Social Development Canada. The deadline for nominations is **Thursday, January 17th**. Nomination forms and additional information may be found at www.pma.gc.ca or, you can access a nomination package at the District Office. **PLEASE NOTE** the deadline for the nominations has been extended. Nominators now have an extra month to complete their packages and send them in.

The Sneaker Campaign

“The Sneaker Campaign” is an initiative beginning on Tuesday, January 8th in a few local family restaurants. It is designed to encourage families to be more physically active as the 2008 year begins. Patrons at local participating family restaurants are invited to submit a “sneaker ballot” indicating ways they stay active or ideas they have for being physically active at home, at school, and in the community. Draws will be made on **Thursday, Feb. 7th**, for 45 minutes of free ice time at the Hampton Community Arena, Kennebecasis Valley Arena and Quispamsis Arena.

The District Health Advisory Committee for School District 6 wants to address the important issue of the physical inactivity epidemic facing New Brunswick children. It recognizes that schools do not have enough resources and certainly can not do it alone. It recognizes, too, that we all need to look for solutions. As families sit down to eat together in our local family restaurants, these ballots will create lively discussions on how active we are and what we can do to increase our daily physical activity together so that we all might get closer to the physical activity recommended to be healthy and strong.

Participating local family restaurants are Vito's Dining Room in Rothesay, Pizza Delight & Angelo's in Quispamsis, Holly's Restaurant in Hampton and Mama George's Restaurant in Springfield.

Greg Leland & Aisha Khedheri
Co-Chairs of the Physical Health Subcommittee

National Inclusive Education Week – February 17 - 23, 2008

The Canadian Association for Community Living will be awarding a group or individual from each province with the National Recognition Certificate. In NB, there will be a minimum of one Francophone certificate and a minimum of one Anglophone certificate awarded. Judging will be done by the Inclusive Education Committee of the New Brunswick Association for Community Living from nominations received by **January 15, 2008, 5:00 pm**.

Criteria and conditions of participation:

- An individual or team of people deemed worthy of the award for making a positive contribution to inclusive education in their province/territory. Ex. Teacher(s), student(s), school committee, principals, post-secondary institution (visit www.nbacl.nb.ca for past winners)
- The recipient(s) will be presented with the National Recognition Certificate at a ceremony (location and time to be announced).
- Special guests and media will be invited to attend.
- Media may ask the recipients to be available for photographs and interviews.
- Provide two letters of reference
- Fill-out the required information page.

- Contact Dany Desjardins at ddesjardins@nbacl.nb.ca or telephone: 506-856-3249 or toll free at 1-866-NBACL-4U or visit the website at http://www.nbacl.nb.ca/reports-docs/inc_ed_nomination_07.pdf

Inclusive education - Inclusive education is about how we develop and design our learning environments -schools, classrooms, programs and activities- so that all students learn and participate together. It is based on the firm belief, and on real experience, that all students have value and can best learn in regular classrooms alongside students their own age. Inclusion also means that our schools help develop positive relationships and mutual respect between all students.

Deferred Salary Leave Forms

Please be advised that application forms for the Deferred Salary Leave Plan are available and may be obtained by calling Gail Ward at 847-6336 or e-mail gail.ward@gnb.ca.

These forms are to be returned to the attention of Gail Ward in the District 6 office no later than **February 28, 2008**.

Andrew Hopper, Director of Education

KidsHealth in the Classroom Resource

A resource for teachers, which although it is American in origin, has some great lesson plans available: KidsHealth in the Classroom is pleased to offer a free email program for teachers of all grades and subject areas. Every other week, subscribers will receive a teacher's guide with discussion questions, activities, and reproducible handouts - all aligned to national standards. Sign up now!

<http://classroom.kidshealth.org/>

PE Resource

In conjunction with Baseball Canada and Major League Baseball, Baseball New Brunswick will again offer the "Winterball" program for 2008. For those that are unfamiliar with the program it is "designed for students in grades 3-6 (ages 8-12), and seeks to introduce the basic fundamentals of baseball in a fun, non-competitive manner, providing a positive learning experience for all participants." (Baseball Canada). The kits are free of charge, are left with the schools physical education teachers to use as part of their daily curriculum.

Last year 26 kits were introduced throughout the province, and many Winterball clinics were organized by regional facilitators and Jason Dickson, Baseball NB technical director. Baseball New Brunswick is again looking to facilitate these sessions and will receive additional kits to give away. If you wish to participate in the Winterball program please supply the following information:

- School Name
- Contact person in the school (address, phone number, and email)
- Name of local association associated with this school (Baseball NB would have this information)
- Contact person for local association (address, phone number, and email) -- (Baseball NB would have this information)

For more Winterball information visit: http://www.baseball.ca/eng_doc.cfm?DocID=69&Related=13

Jason Dickson, Executive Director, tel: 506-451-1329

KidsHealth in the Classroom: Fitness (Grades 3 to 5)

Brrrinnng, brrrinnng! When the bell rings at the end of physical education class, your students' quest for physical fitness has just begun! Knowledge about fitness must be transferred to life outside of school to guarantee an active and healthy future. The discussion questions and activities in this teacher's guide will help your students develop an appreciation for the importance of physical fitness - and get their bodies moving in the process!

Get the Teacher's Guide to Fitness!

<http://classroom.kidshealth.org/classroom/3to5/personal/fitness/fitness.pdf>

Get the "Winning the Contest" Reproducible Handout!

http://classroom.kidshealth.org/classroom/3to5/personal/fitness/fitness_handout1.pdf

Get the Fitness Quiz!

http://classroom.kidshealth.org/classroom/3to5/personal/fitness/fitness_quiz.pdf

Get the Answer Key to the Fitness Quiz!

http://classroom.kidshealth.org/classroom/3to5/personal/fitness/fitness_quiz_answers.pdf

Visit the KidsHealth in the Classroom website!

<http://classroom.kidshealth.org/>

Greg Leland, PE Mentor