ALL LEVELS—District-Wide Fairs
Please note the dates for District-wide Fairs. Information has been forwarded to schools. Contact Betty-Jean if you have questions.
Science Fair: Sat., April 3, Bayview; gr 6-12
Elementary/Middle Art Fair: Opens Tues., Mar. 23 at 7 pm at the Lunenburg Art Gallery
High School Art Fair: Opens Fri, Mar 26 at 7 pm at the DesBrisay Museum
District Heritage Fair: Fri., May 7 Location TBA

Elementary Level—Chuck McLellan
(902) 541-3044
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(902) 541-3044

Grade Six Elementary Literacy Assessment
The results of the Grade six Elementary Literacy assessment, written in October 2003, are due to be released in mid-March. Workshops under the capable leadership of Sue Taylor-Foley, were held on February 10 and 11 to brief grade six teachers and administrators from those schools impacted upon, about the reporting process and the implications for supporting students in these areas of Language Arts. It is hoped that the assessment results will provide some guidance for on-going program development in context with the overall Language Arts curriculum.

Supporting Literacy Learning
In a recent report to the Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation, the review of literature on supporting struggling readers compiled by Meltzer (2001) noted, "...Research supports the explicit teaching, modeling and practice of literacy skills and strategies in context through much approaches as anticipation guides, KWL, reciprocal teaching, graphic organizers, question generating, directed reading activity think-alouds, sensory imagery, drama, art and structured note-taking. Research also supports the use of a range of assessment strategies: writing and presentation rubrics, self-assessment inventories, cloze passages, individualized reading inventories, teacher-created assessments that help students understand their literacy strengths and areas of challenge." (Support for Adolescent Literacy Learners, October 2003, p.20)

Grant Winners
Congratulations to Judy Lunn, grade four, Dr. J. C. Wickwire Academy and Allan Turner, Principal and grades four and five, Petite Riviere Elementary School. Both were recently awarded $500.00 grants from the Nova Scotia Teachers Association for Literacy and Learning (NSTALL) to pursue new and innovative projects to enhance literacy and learning in the classroom. Once again teachers in our board are providing leadership in curriculum development!

Mathematics Curriculum Development Continues....
Sherene Sharpe, Math Mentor for Grades P-9 and the school math leaders have been working hard to inform on effective math curriculum strategies and support colleagues in the delivery of a quality mathematics program. Sherene is very interested in providing direct and indirect support to Math teachers in the schools.

Visit our school board’s Math Mentor site. Access to this site is through our school board website using the Curriculum link. Sherene outlines the responsibilities of the school-based math leaders, gives up to date news items on curriculum and resources and shares ideas with teachers. If you have any links, math ideas, projects, etc. that you would like to add to the site to share with others, please email Sherene at ssharpe@swrsb.ednet.ns.ca.

Middle Level—Betty-Jean Aucoin
(902) 541-3041

Teacher’s Institute – Unique, Unforgettable PD Opportunity
This is a unique professional development opportunity for teachers of governance and civics education. Every November, about 70 educators from across Canada gather in Ottawa for an intensive, informative, unforgettable week on Parliament Hill.

Launched in 1996, the Institute is coordinated by the Library of Parliament with support from the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons.

Information, including program highlights, goals, eligibility, and selection, as well as application forms are available from the Library of Parliament at 1-866-599-4999 or on-line at http://www.parl.gc.ca (Go to “About Parliament” and follow the links).

Applications must be forwarded electronically or be postmarked no later than April 30, 2004. Nova Scotia is eligible to send 4 or 5 participants. Interested teachers are urged to contact former participant Derek Carter at carterd@staff.ednet.ns.ca or at 464-2503.

PDR In-Service
Grade 7 PDR teachers—stay tuned for an upcoming in-service to take place Friday, April 23rd. Our SSDSB Lead Team is preparing an interactive in-service to the new curriculum guides.

Website of Interest
An interesting website to support teaching and learning in the classroom is http://www.cbc.com
Websites to note
Downloadable teaching materials for 5 Canada Reads novels are available for high school language arts classes at: http://ayr.ednet.ns.ca. Select the link Canada Reads 2004 Kick off for High Schools.

A collection of information on alternative assessment is available at: http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/methods/assessment/as8lk30.htm

A good general reference site for lesson plans, through the Educators Reference Desk (refdesk.com) is: http://eduref.org

Real Game
I have copies of the Real Game and the Get Real Game in my office for schools which require a copy. Please contact Trudy at 541-3042 if interested.

Canadian History
I recently placed the Teachers’ Centre copies of the following resources:
  - Canada and the Great War 1914-18
  - Canada Remembers the Korean War
  - Canadians and the Second World War

Portfolio Launch
Congratulations to students and staff at North Queens Rural High School on their portfolio initiative. On January 31 all students in grades 7 to 12 participated in a full day of workshops on portfolio development. Additional information on portfolio can be found at:

Skills Competition and Career Showcase
The annual Skills Competition is on March 26th and is open to all students in Grades 7-12. Some funding is available to help defray transportation costs and substitutes. Schools that are planning to attend are asked to contact Trudy (541-3042) to coordinate this. For more information, email novaccscotia@skillscanada.com. To register online, visit http://skillsns.ednet.ns.ca

Using Technology Can Improve Student Achievement!
Research shows us that:
- experience with and regular access to word processors leads to improvements in writing quality
- when used in a constructivist context can have a positive impact on student learning in reading, math, and other subject areas
- technology can assist in developing higher order thinking skills
- cooperative learning can be enhanced
- technology is most beneficial when it is used as part of the classroom learning experience and when it is used for a real purpose
- critical support/scaffolding can be provided for writers to help them organize, and complete tasks that learners may not be able to do without the use of a computer
- student writing performance can be enhanced through the use of graphic organizers (e.g. Inspiration, Kidspiration, Draft Builder)

Take a technology course at the Teacher’s Centre and improve your technology abilities. These courses are open to all Educators P-12. Please register for the course of your choice on-line on the South Shore District School Board website. Click on Register for a Technology Course on the Home Page, or on the Curriculum pages choose Register for a Course.

Improving Student Writing through the Use of Graphic Organizers:
- Tuesday, March 30 - 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- Presenting Mini-Lessons Using Power Point- Tuesday, April 13- 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Creating a Classroom Webpage Using Front Page- Tuesday, April 27- 6:00-8:30 p.m.

We are proud to have our teachers and students featured on the Active Readers website hosted by the Department of Education (http://ayr.ednet.ns.ca –then choose Teacher Professional Resources). Stephen Jamieson, our Literacy Mentor and teacher at Newcombville is in three of the on-line videos. In the first one, Stephen discusses Sharon Taberski’s book On Solid Ground. We showed a segment of the second video at the P-6 Inservice Day at Bayview in November. This video shows a complete Guided Reading session with a grade 3/4 group. In this video Stephen puts the ideas from his book talk into action in his classroom. In the third video featuring Stephen, he shows how he has organized his classroom for literacy learning. He shares his classroom management techniques and the visual cues and prompts that assist students. AYR team member and Teaching Principal of Petite Rivière Elementary, Allan Turner discusses the book Non-Fiction Matters and how he has used the strategies from this book in student research. Also, don’t miss South Shore students Jake and Jolene as they share information with teachers and students on Copyright and how to use Inspiration to help with the organization of non-fiction research. We anticipate there will be more South Shore videos available to educators on the site soon!

Great News on additional resources from the Department of Education- all grade 5 and 6 teachers of Language Arts will be receiving the Write Traits Kit this Spring. We are also told that an additional professional text on Supporting Struggling Students will also be sent to schools before the end of the school year.

Free to teachers – Avid has a video program download that looks very good and the price is right! The program and full details are available at http://avid.com/freedv/index.asp

The Free Stuff for Canadian Teachers is always striving to find the best educator freebies. Visit their freebie directory to find out about the latest updates: http://www.thecanadianteacher.com/links/

Although Black History Month is drawing to a close you may still want to view the resources available on Black Pioneers of Nova Scotia at http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/
The History of Rock 'n' Roll

The upcoming event is planned in cooperation with the DesBrisay Museum:

◊ April 17-28  “An Insider’s View of the Legends of Rock ‘n’ Roll”, an exhibition of photographs by Eric Hayes. To accompany this exhibit, a student-centred “coffee house” will showcase student musical talent. The exhibition will display a personal collection of the entire history of Rolling Stone magazine, whose youth-centred coverage of popular music changed entertainment journalism forever. (Date, TBA)

African Heritage Month Awards
Submission deadline: March 8th
Class Trip Prizes Available!
Open to classes, Grades P-12 in the South Shore District
In celebration of African Heritage Month, teachers are asked to submit electronically a short written description of a class assignment that focused on some aspect of African Heritage Month. (This needs to include grade level and curriculum outcomes.)

A visual record of the student's work also needs to be submitted electronically by way of a maximum of 8 digital photos or a 30-second digital video.

Projects should be submitted to Wade at wselig@swrsb.ednet.ns.ca by 3:30 p.m., Monday, March 8, 2004.

Prizes are one of three class trips to Halifax/Dartmouth, free admission to the Black Cultural Centre, free admission to Pier 21, and substitute costs for a classroom teacher. One award will be given in each of the following divisions:

◊ Elementary (P-5)
◊ Middle (6-9)
◊ Senior (10-12)

Diversity Calendars
Diversity Calendars have been purchased through the RCH office for each teacher in the SSDSB. These were produced in Halifax by Touch Base Media and include a variety of useful multicultural resources.

A’tugwet
Multiple school copies of the video, A’tugwet, have been distributed. The video was produced by North Queens co-op tech students in the 2002-2003 school year. Then-student Nick Whynot acted as producer for the video, which explores the culture of the Wildcat community in North Queens. Funding for this purchase was made available through the Zone 9 Native Council (Queens County).

Multiculturalism—Living Together in Peace
As part of a PD Committee-sponsored educational leave, Hebbville Academy teacher Lynette Babin has produced an excellent teacher resource entitled “Multiculturalism—Living Together in Peace”. This very comprehensive unit plan is intended for Middle School Language Arts programs. Copies are available for loan at the Teachers’ Centre.

MANS Public Speaking Contest
The 16th annual Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia (MANS) public speaking contest invites students in Grades 10-12 to address the theme, “Immigration—Who Needs It?”

Prizes for provincial winners include an all expense-paid trip to the Terry Fox Centre in Ottawa, a double pass to Neptune theater, and two tickets to Shakespeare by the Sea.

In the South Shore District, the regional contest will take place Wednesday, April 7 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the DesBrisay Museum in Bridgewater.

The Provincial competition takes place in Halifax on April 16th, beginning at 7:00 pm.

Registration forms and detailed competition information will be sent to schools by March 1st, and are also available from the RCH Office.

Speech criteria have been set in advance. The speech must be prepared for the contest by the participant and must be an original work. Any quoted material must be identified during the presentation. The same speech must be used at all levels of the competition and may be in English, French or both official languages.

As a rule, speeches should last between 4 and 10 minutes in length; but the length is not critical. Judges will base their scoring on the length of time the speaker can hold the interest of the audience, as well as the depth to which the topic is investigated.

School Fundraising Opportunity!
The Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia cooperates with school-based groups in 50/50 fundraising opportunities. Funds raised support the school and the association. For details, call Wade at 541-3072 or reach him by email at wselig@swrsb.ednet.ns.ca.

“Challenge Your Assumptions”
Conference for Socially Concerned Students
The SSDSB, in cooperation with MANS and the Canada Action Fellow Group, will hold a conference for socially concerned junior and senior high school students on March 26th. Organizers are looking for teams of 8 to 12 students per school. Teams will engage in workshops devoted to socially conscious action plans, followed by a closing plenary in which action projects will be identified by individual school groups.

Twenty Ph.D. students nation-wide are involved as Canada Action Fellows, and several will help lead sessions at the conference, to be held in Bridgewater. Schools will be sent registration information through the school principal. For more details, contact Wade at 541-3072.

Knowledge Festival—Student Symposium
“What Makes a Peaceful Community”
Register now through the conference website, at http://knowledgefestival.ednet.ns.ca. Information packets have been sent to school principals. $500 Community Action Awards and $500 University bursaries are available to students in Grades 7-12 who are judged to have made the best presentations.
French Second Language—Yves Rossignol
(902) 541-3058
yrossign@swrsb.ednet.ns.ca

CPF Concours Public Speaking Competition
It is that time of year when many of our teachers and students undertake this exceptional activity. This year all the information and forms can be easily accessed and downloaded from our own SSDSB web page. Simply click on the CPF logo on the bottom right of the home page and you can access all necessary information. Our district competition is scheduled for March 29 from 6:30 to 9:30 at the Hebbville Academy cafeteria. The provincial competition will be held on May 1, 2004 at MSU in Halifax. If you need assistance or more information feel free to contact me at any time.

Les Nouvelles du Café Godbold
Congratulations go out to Mr. Alex Godbold at PVEC for the successful publication of the first issue of this French Immersion student publication. This first 4-page publication includes student articles and opinions on a variety of subjects from Drama and Science programs to French Literature and Music. Interviews of teachers and individual students are also included. Mr. Godbold plans to also share this paper with the immersion students at Centre and Hebbville. I am sure Alex would be willing to share his ideas with any of you so that you could offer this project at your school. It appears that they are already working on the section edition, which will be primarily dedicated to topics related to French music.

Literacy Initiative for Grades 7 and 8 French Immersion
I am pleased to announce that French Program Services in Halifax are arranging for the literacy initiatives to continue on to grades 7 and 8 as is found in English Program Services. On January 29 and 30 Lynette Babin (Hebbville Academy) and Wendy Allen (SQJHS) attended in servicing in Halifax as to how to include literacy activities in the immersion curriculum. We are hoping to share this information with our remaining teachers in the near future. We can also expect kits of French readers to be sent to all grades 7 and 8 immersion classes this spring.

Distribution of resources
During the month of January I have visited all our Middle Schools to distribute readers and immersion atlases. I have also made monies available for teacher directed purchases of materials at all our High Schools along with atlases for immersion Canadian studies classes. I will also have a limited amount of funds available to assist classes, which are undertaking French cultural trips. As indicated in the February 10th fax, which went out to all schools, it is imperative that you make your written request to me by March 1, 2004 for consideration.

Translation of Middle School Science Resources
A big thank you goes out to Tracy Comeau of Centre School who spent 5 days translating a variety of science materials into French. These materials were originally developed by Gary Mason at Centre school and will soon be posted on his web site in both French and English. I strongly recommend immersion science teachers to review these excellent materials. Please contact Tracy or Gary for more details.

Review of French Core 7 to 9 Programs
On February 5 I attended meetings in Halifax to review new kits from Pearson, Nelson and Oxford. These kits are new additions to the Tout Ados, Ça Marche and Communiquête kits that were distributed to teachers who attended the November 27/28 in-service sessions. I am looking for teachers who may wish to pilot these new resources in their classes. This of course means new free kits for you and your students. Also I have a few extra kits left over if you were unable to attend the November 27/28 in-service and wish some kits or you would like to pilot the new materials please contact me ASAP.

Champlain Presentations
During the past 2 months I have made over 15 individual class or school presentations dealing with Samuel de Champlain, the Acadia, and French music and culture. The response has been phenomenal from both French and English teachers and especially students. I am currently booked at another 10 to 15 schools in the next 2 months. Unfortunately, due to this hectic schedule, I must decline any future individual class presentations until after mid May. I personally thank all the teachers who invited me to their schools and classes to give me the opportunity to share my French culture with both you and your students. Also get ready for a mega party and celebration highlighting the 400th Anniversary of Champlain’s arrival on the weekend of May 8, 2004. Stay posted for more information on this topic and possible opportunities for student involvement.

Conference
MSVU Master of Ed. Course in Bridgewater
Evoking the Spirit in Education Part I
This elective course will be offered locally in the spring of 2004. The course is designed to help teachers connect with spirit and reflect on the congruency between their purpose and their practice. As a community of learners, we will inquire into the foundations and methods of practice that allow us, as teachers, to evoke the spirit of education in our classrooms and schools. We will examine ways to nourish our souls and the souls of our students and ways to encourage our students to develop compassion and a sense of belonging and connection in school.

For info, contact:
Julia Macarthur at 543-8668 or by email at nima@eastlink.ca

Student Services — Barbara Cochran
(902) 541-3048
bcochran@swrsb.ednet.ns.ca

Program Support Teachers’ Conference
P.P.T. conference for teachers (People Planning Together: Practical Programming for Teachers) will be held April 6, 2004 at the Wandlyn Inn, Bridgewater. Deadline for PD conference grant forms is March 10. Please apply ASAP.

Support Teachers Meeting
Elementary Program Support Teachers’ meeting April 13, 3:00-4:30
Focus: Math strategies/policy review

Schools Visit
Just a reminder the Student Development team will be visiting schools to review PSA allocation. Please send completed forms ASAP.

Cowriter/Write Out Loud
We are looking for a copy of Cowriter/Write Out Loud. If any one has an extra copy, please let me know.

Accessible Books at ATC
The Assistive Technology Centre will soon have Accessible Books available. Contact B.Welsford (barbara.welsford@nscc.ca) for information. Just a reminder to contact the Assistive Technology Centre for training requests. A fact sheet regarding Adaptations is available.