

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Monthly Report to the Eastern School Board

May 2007

Administrative Appointments

As of June 1st, the Human Resources Division has advertised 63 administrative positions. Interviews are being conducted and positions are being filled on a regular basis. As of June 6th, we have filled 36 administrative positions with others being filled on a weekly basis. Our goal is to have the majority of administrative appointments filled by the end of June. In this regard, we are well ahead of last year's staffing process.

Teacher Staffing

In May we completed a teacher transfer round. This is an annual process to give our teachers an opportunity to be considered for permanent positions before they are made available to non-tenured teachers. This year we posted 184 positions.

The hiring of teachers for the new school year will be ongoing throughout the summer to fill the approximately 342 competitions posted to date. School administrators and board office staff are sharing the interviewing responsibilities and appointments are made as competitions are completed.

Student Assistant Allocation Update

The Department of Education recently announced that school boards now have responsibility for allocating student assistant hours. All schools and parents have been notified of their student assistance allocations for September. The number of hours for student assistants has also been increased by four per cent throughout the province. These improvements should allow for a much smoother transition in September as both parents and student assistants will know the allocated hours before school closes in June.

New Buyback Program for High School Textbooks

In Budget 2007, Government announced its plan to extend its free textbook policy to include high

school students. In September, all schools will receive new books for all Grades 9-12 students. As a result, a one-time used textbook buyback program will take place in schools throughout the province from June 15-22. Books that are in good condition and no more than two years old will be purchased at 25 per cent of the original cost to parents. We feel this program is a very positive move that will be well-received by parents.

Teacher Recruitment Fairs

We attended two NLTA-sponsored teacher recruitment fairs in May: one in St. John's and for the first time, a fair was held in Corner Brook. The fairs were well attended by trained teachers looking either for their first job or exploring options to move into our district. There was a good response to our district display and we feel confident that we are viewed as a positive place to work.

Career Expo

On May 29th, we participated in the first Career Expo hosted by the Public Service Commission of Newfoundland and Labrador. We received expressions of interest from many individuals who were unaware of the variety of occupations that are available at ESD. The event was a great opportunity for us to showcase our non-teaching component and the many talented and dedicated employees who assist daily in support of the District's education mandate.

Capital Update

We have been advised by the Department of Education that a contractor has been selected to conduct a roofing assessment of Clarendville. A tender call has also been advertised for a roof replacement St. Peter's Elementary in Upper Island Cove.

Workplace Safety

On May 11th, representatives from the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission provided an education session on the Early and Safe Return to Work program to representatives of the Human Resources, and Finance and Administration divisions. The Commission is committed to assisting the District in providing early interventions to ensure that injured employees can return to work in a safe and timely manner.

Mathematics

Support for Mathematics resources is encouraging. We will have 11 Numeracy support teachers in the 2007-08 school year. Many schools have Mathematics included as one of their School Development goals and many teachers have made Mathematics a focus in their Professional Growth Plans for the upcoming school year.

Atlantic Place Renovations Completed

Renovations to the 7th floor of Atlantic Place are complete and now house the vast majority of the Programs Division. Program Specialists, Educational Psychologists, Behavioral Management Consultants, Numeracy Support Teachers, Inclusion Specialists, Safe & Caring Schools Itinerant, and School Health Promotion Liaison Consultant are now accommodated under one roof on the 7th floor.

Healthy Food Workshops

We remain quite active in the promotion of healthy and active living for students. Recently, our two School Health Promotion Liaison Consultants traveled throughout the district to conduct workshops for front-line cafeteria staff on the provincial School Food Guidelines and our Nutrition Policy. These workshops were offered regionally and were funded by the Province. A very positive response was received from regions relating to these workshops.

School/Community Visits

In late May I had the pleasure of attending the Teacher Induction Ceremony sponsored by the NLTA and Memorial University. It was a great feeling to watch the new graduates receive their teaching certificates and to recite the Teacher's Affirmation of Professional Responsibility with these new teacher candidates.

Earlier this month I had the pleasure of visiting a special school assembly at St. George's Elementary where the students were captivated by Premier Danny Williams who took time out of his busy schedule to speak to students on the topic of "Books Take You Places."



I also visited Holy Cross Junior High School where Education Minister Joan Burke and I were given a very informative presentation on how teachers use the Newspapers in Education program to enhance the curriculum.

I was also invited to speak at the provincial conference of Recreation Newfoundland and Labrador in Gander last month about our Community Use of Schools policy and the direction our schools are taking to tackle obesity and nutrition issues.

I also attended, and spoke to delegates, at the provincial School Administrators Conference (SAC) which was hosted by the Clarendville region. Hats off to the conference organizing committee on a great job!

Holy Trinity Elementary School held their ArtsSmarts celebration recently. I certainly enjoyed viewing the students' work and congratulate the teachers and visiting local artists who worked with the children to create such wonderful works of art!

The past month has been a busy one for senior staff and trustees. High School graduations and retirement dinners have been keeping us busy travelling throughout the district. Congratulations to all graduates and special thanks are extended to all of our retiring employees for their dedication and service to education.

Teacher Recognition

Congratulations to the following teachers:

- **Frank Crews**, Principal, John Burke High School, on receiving the 2007 NLTA Bancroft Award for outstanding service at the branch level of the NLTA.
- **Pamela Bry**, St. Teresa's, French Teacher of the Year, and **Lillian Squires**, Holy Family School, Teacher Graduate of the Year, as awarded recently by Canadian Parents for French.

Student and School Applause

Congratulations to:

- Burin Peninsula students **Valerie Hodge**, Marystown Central High School, and Jenna Kelly, Sacred Heart Academy, on winning in the 'Newfoundland and Labrador Arts and Letters Competition'.
- **Juliette Dupre**, a Level II student at St. Lawrence Academy has won the 'Lester B. Pearson Canadian Student Scholarship'. She's the only Newfoundlander to receive this award valued at approximately \$66,000.
- **Holy Trinity Senior Concert Band** and **Senior Jazz Band** under the direction of Mr. Douglas Vaughan on receiving Gold awards for their performances at MusicFest Canada 2007 in Richmond, British Columbia.
- **Laval High School** students on winning first prize in a young worker safety ad contest sponsored by the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission. Honorable mention in the contest went to a second entry from Laval High School and Gonzaga High School in St. John's.
- **Anthony Maher**, Holy Heart of Mary High School, on earning a \$60,000 TD Canada Trust Community Scholarship for his environmental stewardship.
- **Evan AuCoin** of Baccalieu Collegiate on winning the annual Eastern School District Speak-Off held recently at Ascension Collegiate.
- **Heritage Collegiate** of Lethbridge and **Carbonear Collegiate** captured top honours

at the Newfoundland and Labrador Regional Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Competition, earning the right to represent the province at the 2007 International MATE ROV Competition to be held in St. John's June 22-24.

- **Amalgamated Academy** on receiving the Peaceful schools designation.
- the following students on successfully demonstrating their french skills in the annual Concours d'art oratoire (public speaking contest) hosted by the Canadian Parents for French: **Rebecca Simms**, O'Donel High; **Kristian Chaytor**, Clarenville High School; **Maggie Burton**, Ascension Collegiate; **Sarah Dinn**, Bishops College; **David Mannion** and **Andrea Moody**, Holy Heart of Mary High School.



Laval High School students proudly pose with their new plasma TV upon winning the radio ad contest sponsored by the Workplace, Health, Safety and Compensation Commission.