

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*A Monthly Report to the Eastern School Board*

*June 2008*

## **Trustee Dibbon Appointed Dean of Education**

Congratulations are extended to Trustee Dibbon on his recent appointment as Dean of Education, Memorial University. We wish David every success in his new leadership position.

## **Staffing**

We are now engaged in the most intensive staffing period for our District. Administrative hiring is now underway and to date we have filled 11 administrative (Principal and Assistant Principal) positions.

During the redundancy/reassignment process there were 44 teacher reassignments; all but five were accepted. Currently there are five teachers in the "layoff" pool but it is expected that all teachers will have positions.

Approximately 300 positions were advertised internally in the transfer round. These positions will create opportunities for other permanent teachers who may wish to transfer throughout the District.

We are also actively recruiting for a new Director of Financial Services/Comptroller. We received a good response to our recruitment ad and hope to begin the interview process in the second week of June.

## **Leadership Training**

The Human Resources and Leadership Division has completed another year of leadership development training with over 100 potential administrators. These individuals are all tenured teachers. In addition to this training, these candidates have completed apprenticeship training with their current school administrators. We are pleased with the program and anticipate many of these candidates will be formal leaders next year.

## **Capital Update**

We have been advised by the Department of Education that contracts have been awarded for roof repairs/maintenance for Catalina Elementary and Donald C. Jamieson Academy. A tender has also been called for roof repairs for St. Paul's Junior High.

## **Teacher Recruitment Fairs**

Once again this year, our district was represented at the annual Teacher Recruitment Fairs held in Corner Brook and St. John's. Both fairs were well attended and provided us with an opportunity to speak to prospective teachers.

## **Collective Bargaining**

Negotiations are continuing with NAPE for the Student Assistants collective agreement and the NAPE support staff. Meetings are scheduled in early June for Student Assistants, and it is anticipated that it will be late summer before we meet again with the support staff group to continue discussions.

The ratification vote for the new collective agreements with CUPE Locals 1560 and 2033 has been completed. After months of hard work by both Union and Management representatives, these agreements have been accepted by an overwhelming majority by the bargaining units. Congratulations to all who participated in this very important process.

## **Inclusion Program**

Our Inclusion Program received \$6,000 in funding from the Department of Education to purchase resources. These resources will enhance the professional development that Itinerants and Program Specialists can offer in the areas of differentiated instruction, universal design, and inclusion. Inclusion will now appear under Programs Division on the District web-site which will feature the monthly Inclusion newsletter and the "Achievement for All" Program. This will serve to build capacity and understanding, as well as highlight the importance of Inclusion initiatives in our District.

## **CAP Conference**

In May, the Canadian Association of Principals (CAP) held their annual conference in St. John's. Over 250 principals attended from outside the province with a contingent of over 300 attending from throughout the province.

The local School Administrators Council (SAC), led by administrators Lyn Moore and Bill Tucker, and a core planning group of administrators, retired principals and program specialists from our district formed the conference planning committee. By all accounts, it was a very successful national conference.

### **Roots of Empathy Celebration**

A special ceremony was held last month to celebrate the babies who participate in the Roots of Empathy Program in our schools. This is a wonderful initiative under our Safe and Caring Schools program. Babies and their mothers visit partner schools on a monthly basis, and through the participation of the moms and their babies, children learn values such as empathy, respect and inclusion.

We currently have 39 programs running in our schools and each year, participation continues to grow.

### **Provincial High School Theatre Arts Festival**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Theatre Arts Festival was hosted by our District on May 8-10 in Carbonear. Supported by a partnership between ESD, the College of the North Atlantic (CNA), the Town of Carbonear and the Department of Education, approximately 150 high school students participated in English and French theatrical productions at the NaGeira Theatre.

In addition to adjudications by Amy House and Jannette Planchat, troupes attended workshops on movement, puppet-making, pottery making, stand-up comedy, warm-ups, scene reading and story-telling. Special thanks are extended to the Western region office staff for their leadership on this successful event.

### **Choral Connections 2008**

This year, we were pleased to host our annual *Choral Connections* in all four regions of our District. The feedback from our students, teachers and community has been quite positive and rewarding! Close to 3000 Grades 1-9 students and teachers participated in sessions that focused on choral singing, traditional music and dance, Irish dancing and instrumental performance.

Students had the opportunity to perform and learn from each other in a non-competitive setting. There was a wide range of student work that highlighted the strong focus on music education at their school. A special thanks to our host schools in each region as well as our co-sponsor - Memorial University School of Music.

### **District Public Speaking Events:**

The annual Senior High Public Speaking Competition was held on May 22 at Baccalieu Collegiate. Six high schools from the district were represented: Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity, Baccalieu Collegiate, Gonzaga, St. Michaels', and Bishops College. The winner was Evan AuCoin of Baccalieu Collegiate for the second year in a row.

The Junior High Public Speaking Showcase was held in St. John's on May 27. Participating schools included Brother Rice, I.J. Samson, St. Peter's, St. Michael's, Baccalieu Collegiate, Holy Trinity, and Frank Roberts. This event is non-competitive and is an opportunity for students to showcase their best work in public speaking.

### **ESD Students to Represent Province at the National Historica Fair**

Six elementary students will represent our District at the National Historica Fair being held this July in Lethbridge, Alberta. Students from the eight regional fairs in our province will join together with winners from all Canadian provinces and territories.

Regional winners from our District include:

- Blake Newman, All Hallow's Elementary, "*Root Cellars*"
- Elliott Halliday, St. Peter's Elementary, Mt. Pearl, "*Coastal Boats of Newfoundland & Labrador*"
- Micailyn Pitt, Anthony Paddon Elementary, "*A Woman's Work Was Never Done*"
- Justin Spurrell, Clarendville Middle School, "*Newfoundland Lobster Fishery*"
- Jordon Lambert, Holy Name of Mary Academy, "*Ann Harvey*"
- Bailey Fitzgerald, Pearce Junior High, "*Demasduit*". Bailey is unable to attend the Fair; therefore alternate Megan Keeping, John Burke High, will attend in his place.

### **Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence**

Four of our teachers will receive the distinguished Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in recognition of their exemplary teaching practices.

The following teachers have each earned a Certificate of Achievement:

- **James Duffet**, Queen Elizabeth High School (Biology);
- **Jeanne O'Brien**, Holy Heart of Mary (English);
- **Jennifer Scurlock**, Holy Heart of Mary (Art); and
- **Todd Sharpe**, Holy Heart of Mary (Mathematics).

### Students Win Medals at National Skills Competition

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Canadian Skills Competition was held in Calgary recently and students from our District won a number of awards. It was also the first time an intermediate student from our district won a national award. Congratulations to the following students:

- **Andrew Power**, Queen Elizabeth High School, Graphic Design and Best of Region Award;
- **Jessica McErlean**, Prepared Speech, I. J. Samson Junior High School; and
- **Jennifer Shears**, Holy Spirit High School, Job Skill Demonstration.

### Applause

*ESD offers congratulations to the following teachers and students on their recent awards and accomplishments:*

- **Ms. Carol Wadden**, English Teacher and Department Head at O'Donel High School, Mount Pearl on recently winning the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Work Arts Educator Award.
- **Gerianne Rowe**, St. Francis School, who earned the first place title in her division (Late French Immersion A) at the Canadian Parents for French (CPF) Provincial Speak-off in Grand Falls recently.
- **Kyran Dwyer**, Principal, St. Matthew's Elementary on being named Administrator of the Year and **Deanna Hatcher**, teacher, Brother Rice Junior High, who was named Teacher of the Year by the Canadian Parents for French.
- **Jo-Ann Baggs**, teacher, Cowan Heights Elementary, on receiving the Council for

Exceptional Children Outstanding Achievement Award 2007.

- **Nicole Pitcher**, fine arts teacher, O'Donel High School, who recently won the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts and Letters Competition in the senior category of Fine Arts.
- **Gonzaga** Choir Director, **Jacinta Mackay**, Band Director, **Doug Vaughn** and **80 students** on their recent successful performances in New York. The choir and jazz band won first place, the concert band won silver and the Spirit of the Festival award. Student **Liam Tobin** won an individual award for his solo and the school won the Festival Sweepstakes Award for highest overall average for the competition. Congratulations to everyone involved!
- **Balbo Senior Choir** travelled to Ottawa for National MusicFest. The choir, which consists of 33 members from grades five to eight, was invited to National MusicFest based on their Gold performance at the St. John's Rotary MusicFest in May 2007.
- **Rosie Stanoev**, Grade 6, Cowan Heights Elementary, who was named the Atlantic Regional Champion at the Grande Finale Internationale de La Dictée in Quebec City where over 100 finalists participated in the International round.



Reading a book in Ms. Sharpe's grade three class at the annual Literacy Day Celebration at Hazelwood Elementary.