

President's Agenda April - July

April

- 20 Meeting with Sir John Franklin administration, YK #1
- 22 Meeting with Education, Culture and Employment re: PD updates
- 24 Travel to Norman Wells, NT
- 25 Travel to Tulita, meeting with Tulita staff
- 26 Meeting with all Superintendents re PD updates, Norman Wells
- 27 - 29 Travel to Winnipeg with Aboriginal Educators and Leadership Council Walking in Both Worlds, Aboriginal Educators Conference
- 30 - May 3 Travel to Regina, Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law in Education (Capsle) Conference

May

- 7 Aurora College (Teacher Education) convocation YK campus
- 9 Student Success Initiative review meeting, YK
- 10 Meeting with Don Morrison, ECE re: PD Coordinator job description
- 10 Meeting with Sho Icthie, Japanese photographer and researcher
- 11 Committee on Teacher Education Meeting, YK
- 11 YCS meeting re: negotiations
- 12 Conference call, Tulita
- 13-15 UNESCO summit on Information Society, Winnipeg
- 16 Meeting with YK #1 re: hiring
- 17 Media taping, CJCD
- 18 Voting on GNWT collective agreement, David Murphy assistance
- 19 Meeting with Ken Dropko, YK #1 CEO
- 19 Meeting with YCS conference committee
- 20 Meeting at ECE re PD coordinator
- 20 Meeting re teaching qualifications
- 27 YK #1 Year end celebration
- 30 YCS meeting
- 30/31 Interviews for PD coordinator

Beaufort Delta District Education Council Long Service Awards

I had the opportunity to attend the BDEC Long Service Awards in Inuvik on April 14th.

James Anderson, past Superintendent, was the Master of Ceremonies and kept things moving and entertained the audience with his memories of BDEC staff and their stories over the years. On behalf of the NWTTA, I presented James with a token of appreciation for all his long service in the NWT including many years as a NWTTA member and then more recently as the Superintendent of Schools in BDEC.

Sarah Jerome, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, honoured all the recipients of the awards with a heartfelt speech. In her speech, she acknowledged the sacrifices that teachers make to their schools and communities in serving the students. She told the audience that teachers who came north from southern Canada leave their friends and families to do their jobs. It can be lonely hard work and she wanted teachers to know that it is acknowledged and appreciated by the communities of BDEC.



Back Row-L-R: Dave Reid, 20 years, Meltzer Sydney, 15 years, Gordon Church, 5 years, Heath Israel, 15 years, Shane Brewster, 20 years, Leslie Blake - 10 years, Stephen Mungialuk, 5 years

Middle Row-L-R: Lillian Elias, 10 years, Denise Ritias-Voudrach, 5 years, Lorna Storr, 25 years, Nancy Binette, 15 years, Margo McLeod, 30 years, Mary Ellen Binder, 30 years, Maureen Gowans (standing in for husband Bill), 20 years, Joanne Tetlich, 10 years, Val Robertson, 20 years

Front Row-L-R: Bella Kay, 25 years, Rebecca Jane Dale, 5 years, Judy McLeod, 10 years, Annie Jane Charlie, 5 years, Annie B. Kaye, 5 years.

Tentative June - July schedule

June

- 2 Lesson on Code of Ethics for TEP students, YK campus
- 5 - 8 Teacher organization Presidents' Meeting Whitehorse, YT
- 11 Aboriginal Graduate ceremonies, YK River
- 16/17 Travel to Aklavik for Grad ceremonies and presentation to Velma Illasisak

July

- 13-16 Canadian Teachers' Federation AGM, Saskatoon

NWTTA INFORMATION

🕒 Office Hours:
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08:00 am - 05:30 pm

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NWTTA Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 5
June 2005

From the President's Desk

Endings & Beginnings...

The other day I faxed in an evaluation sheet from the 'Walking in Both Worlds' conference I attended in Winnipeg in April. With horror I realized that the conference, though very recent in my memory, had taken place over FOUR weeks ago. At this rate I'll be retired next week.

I know that most of you are in the process of wrapping up the year, working on report cards, enjoying the last couple of weeks with your students and staff. As a classroom teacher, this was also the time where I would start planning ahead for the next year. I'd review my class lists, start planning my timetable and work on developing resources for any new units I might have to teach.

One of my major goals this year was to review our Professional Development services. The whole process was highly successful, thanks mostly to the professionalism and collegiality of the many participants of regional PD committees and the dedication of members of the Central Professional Development Committee, both NWTTA and DEC representatives.

At the time of this writing we are in the process of hiring a full time PD coordinator for August 2005. In the interests of facilitating NWT PD for all teachers, ECE agreed to support this position through partial funding. This would allow our PD coordinator to work with all NWT regions including both Yellowknife boards. For those regions offering a beginning of the year orientation, you will have an opportunity to meet our new coordinator in the Fall.

One of my major goals for the 2005/06 school year is to promote Safe Schools strategies across our NWT schools. Many teachers and schools have been working to make their schools safe and caring places for their students. Both Effective Behaviour Systems and Restitution programs have been adopted by many schools as a strategy for promoting safe schools, my niece is involved with a very effective student group of Peacemakers at Mildred Hall school here in Yellowknife. The NWTTA will be looking at ways of collecting and sharing 'best practices'.

The association is looking at ways of proactively dealing with some of the issues that keep coming up including parental harassment and school bullying. At our Annual Meeting of Central Councilors, the following motion was passed,



Amanda Mallon with The Honourable Paddy Torsney, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation.

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AND MUCH MUCH MORE!

Contributions, pictures, comments and suggestions are welcome and can be forwarded to:

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" Be it resolved that the NWTTA urge all schools across the NWT to develop, promote and practice lock-down procedures as described in the NWT School Emergency Response Guidelines under Threat of Violence/Emergency Evacuation."

For the Principals' Conference, the NWTTA is cosponsoring Glenda Hanna, from YouthSafe Outdoors. I had the opportunity to hear Glenda's presentation on Field Trips: Feast. Her session focused on the big questions related to risk management of school field trips. Very informative and practical.

The Alberta Teachers' Association has many resources that they are willing to share with us including a program entitled 'Healthy Interactions'. Early in the fall, I will be looking for a region interested in piloting this program that promotes positive interactions between the school and all sections of the community.

As teachers, the summer holidays are the one time where we are truly caught up with our work. Many of you are taking credit courses at various institutions across Canada. Many administrators will be beginning their summer attending the Education Leadership Program offered in Inuvik this summer. For all of you, enjoy your well deserved summer. See you in the fall.

Executive Director

Well folks! Another year is almost in the books. The final stretch lays before you...exams, final projects, report cards not to mention concerts and sports days make it a very hectic finish to your year. I know at this time of year, one can feel the pressure mount. Take time for yourself whenever you can find it. Breathe deeply and relax. The year is almost over!

Central Office will be quite busy too. We will be updating our pocket planner and our By-Laws and Policies Manual for next year (Please, Central And Regional Executive members, if you haven't already done so, send in your addresses, telephone numbers, fax numbers and email addresses). It is also year end for our accounts, so Nicole Ash will be very busy tying up all loose ends as will Amanda Mallon with the Central Professional Improvement Fund.



I am sure Amanda will be very happy to hand over the reins to our new Professional Development Coordinator, once hired.

As I write this set of short articles the GNWT ratification vote on the tentative agreement has been concluded. Your Central Executive and your negotiation team of Chair David Reid, Lenny Hill, Rita Mueller and Gerard Carroll recommended acceptance of this agreement and eighty-five percent of the membership of the bargaining unit have voted to accept the proposed contract. The increase to salary alone as a total figure is 11.8% over three years or \$4.3 million and another \$2 million will be going into Northern Allowances, pension and other benefits. This is a good agreement.

The YCS Negotiations came to a crashing halt on May 9, 2005. The bargain-

ing had been creeping along at a snail's pace though the team of chair Fraser Oliver, Moe Miller, Lorelea Wark and Don Reid felt some very good progress had been achieved in some especially sensitive, non monetary issues, namely professional development and class room visitations. However, the employer decided the lack of progress in the monetary issues precluded a chance of an agreement between the parties at this time and opted to pull out of the negotiations and ask for conciliation. As a result, the NWTTA sent in the necessary paper work to the Federal Minister of Labour, Joseph Fontana, requesting a conciliator be appointed. Ms. Patt Johnson from the Calgary regional office of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service has been named as the conciliator in this dispute. Tentative dates for future meetings are still to be decided. The YCS team is confident a fair and equitable settlement will be the end product of negotiations.

Four members are receiving lifetime memberships in the NWTTA this year. Congratulations and a happy retirement go out to Sister Margaret (Sister Maggie) Beaudette of Chief Sunrise School in Hay River Reserve, Elizabeth (Liz) Buckley and Janet Fahl of Harry Camsell School in Hay River and Mary Pat Short of Aurora College in Fort Smith. Mary Pat was the long time Coordinator of the TEP program and the last NWTTA member at the school. To all retiring members, have a safe, joyous and productive retirement - smell those roses and do have some fun, you all deserve it.

And to all our members, for those returning and for those leaving the NWT, have a great summer filled with good weather, relaxation, and enjoyment. Remember, wherever you end up next year, teachers are the backbone of the education system. Without you, everything we have gained that makes our society function would be lost. All we have to do to see the truth of the above is look around the world. All the best.



And on a lighter note...



Margo McLeod & Lorna Storr at the Beaufort Delta DEC Long Service Awards.

On The Last Day of School

A quiet tension fills the room
on this last day of school.
I expected exuberance and rowdiness,
but that came yesterday
when there was still one day to go.
Today the children are disturbingly subdued.
I am embarrassed at my own emotions;
I cannot look at the children directly.

The room is so blank. Our desks are cleaned out.
The last traces of the party have been swept away.
The charts and posters are down for the summer.

So now we sit quietly,
too wrought even for songs and games,
and we wait for the bus to come.

I expect to see these children again, of course,
but it won't be the same.
They know it, and I know it.

They will come around to see me,
jealous of the new class,
and I will look at a room of little strangers
and miss the familiar faces.

In time the strangers will become friends,
But every class is different and special;
no new group of children will ever take the place
of the one leaving me today!

Lipstick at School

According to a news report, a certain private school in Washington recently was faced with a unique problem. A number of 12-year-old girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick they would press their lips to the mirrors leaving dozens of little lip prints. Every night, the maintenance man would remove them and the next day, the girls would put them back. Finally the principal decided that something had to be done.

She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night.

To demonstrate how difficult it had been to clean the mirrors, she asked the maintenance man to show the girls how much effort was required. He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet bowl, and cleaned the mirror with it.

As you probably can guess, since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirrors.

There are teachers, and then there are educators.



Diane Boudreau, a Yellowknife artist, covered one of the walls of the Yellowknife Inn with murals sponsored by organizations. This is our mural, look for it on your way by.

Summits of Canada

We are reaching out to schools, teachers and students in the Northwest Territories to offer a Canadian adventure as an educational tool in your teaching plans. Over 70 schools across Canada have already registered, as well as schools in the USA, New Zealand and Australia. With no financial cost to participate we hope you can help us reach your teachers and give them a chance to join the Summits of Canada Education Team where we take the students on a trip of a life time right from their classroom.

The Summits of Canada quest is a historic Expedition to climb the highest point of every Province and Territory in Canada. From the top of Canada, on Mount Logan, to the other 12 Provincial and Territorial summits, the Expedition will share with students a real live adventure. To reach the thirteen highpoints, the Expedition will fly and land on two glaciers, fly in and land within 500 miles of the North Pole, drive 12,000 km's across Canada, canoe 400 km's, walk, bike, ski, snow shoe and climb 90,214 vertical feet. That is three times the height of Mount Everest.

The Expedition is being used by educators, K to 12, around the world as an adventure learning opportunity in traditional curriculum areas of science, social studies, geography, international studies, fitness and health, technology, history, art and math. Through the use of our Lesson Plans, Summits for Kids Program, Shared Summits for Schools and our Fitness Challenge, teachers can make learning that much more exciting. By using our printed material, the Internet and Mount Everest proven communication technology we will be able to climb the mountains and share the Expedition with the students.

The Expedition will take place in 2006, starting January 1 with the climbs scheduled March – May then September –October. There is no cost to participate; however there will be a premium program for schools requesting a more specialized and personal relationship between the students and the Expedition. This premium program will be limited in both the total number of schools and districts with space reserved for a minimum of one participating school or district per Province and Territory.

We have over 80 schools all across Canada and from 4 other countries registered and would love to tell them all about NWT. The high point of NWT is referred to as Mount Nirvana, but we are working with the Deh Cho First Nations and the NWT government to have an official name designated, one more in keeping with the culture and heritage of the people. I refuse to call it Nirvana, so we simply call it the "un-named peak" as stated by Stats Canada. Having teachers and students in NWT will help us talk about the First Nations, the 8 languages, the history and the beauty.

To be a part of the Summits of Canada Education Team and this unique and historic adventure, teachers can email education@summitsofcanada.ca to obtain a copy of the Team Information form and email it back to education@summitsofcanada.ca.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to bringing the beauty of Canada and its Provinces and Territories to the teachers and students of the NWT. Let's take your students on one of the world's great adventures from one of the worlds most beautiful countries, Canada.

James Coleridge
Summits of Canada Expedition Leader
Langley, British Columbia, Canada

P.S. Our legacy should not be footprints on the mountains, but the impact on students lives so that our message continues beyond the time we are given.



The secret of education is respecting the pupil. -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

2006 Educators' Conference

The next **Educators' Conference** will be held in Yellowknife on **February 16 & 17, 2006**. This year Yellowknife Catholic Schools is responsible for planning and coordinating this semi-annual conference. Educators from the **NWT, Nunavut and Yukon Territory** are invited to join us for these two days of learning together. The 2006 Educators' Conference Committee is seeking suggestions for presenters on topics such as: cultural awareness, assessment and the use of rubrics, or topics related to educating our northern populations. If you would be interested in presenting a half or full day workshop on one of these topics or any other subject, **please contact Barb de Bastiani, Chairperson, at: B_de_Bastiani@mail.YCS.nt.ca** Please include your contact information and session topic including a brief summary of your workshop.

Congratulations to...

Fraser Oliver, Richard Daitch and all of the Northwest Territories School Athletic Federation on their hard work and success on becoming officially INCORPORATED!! As of April 25th, 2005, you have officially become recognized (SOC 1668), and are now NOT just another number.

Northwest Territories Schools, teachers, parents and more importantly, students have an advocate and voice in the Northwest Territories Sport System.

NWT Delegates to Walking in Both Worlds Winnipeg April 2005

In February, the Aboriginal Educators and Leadership Committee joined together to meet for the first time this year. Darryl Mitchener (Yellowknife) and Chauna MacNeil (Inuvik) joined the committee. Judy MacPherson was weathered in her community and could not attend. All the members in the committee are all newly joined and have new and fresh ideas to contribute.

As a group, we looked over the minutes from the previous meetings and came up with some new ideas about which direction the committee should head. One of the main goals we set as a group was to focus on Aboriginal Education. The group also came up with some excellent ideas about how to celebrate the teachers in our territory.

The committee had a great two days together and plan on working towards our goals for a successful year.

L-R: Amanda Mallon, Darryl Mitchener, Doris Camsell, Joanne Townsend, Barb Cameron, Shirley Desjarlais, Sheila Stewart & Yasemin Heyck.



World Vision Information

World Vision Canada has a number of online education resources that have been produced with teacher assistance for use in the classroom. The free, classroom-ready "Online Resources" include lesson plans, black line masters, and assessment tools. These resources are available at www.worldvision.ca/resources.

Some examples of resources available on this site are:

- * Children's Rights Language unit for Grades 4-6;
- * Global Citizenship unit and video for Grade 10 Civics and World Issues classes;
- * HIV/AIDS toolkit for grades 7-12 Health Sciences and Geography classes;
- * Safe Water for All curriculum resource for elementary teachers.

Additional resources are available at a minimal cost.