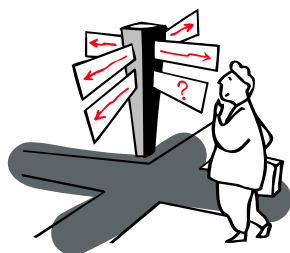




**April 2007**

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## ESSB Newsletter Returns...

**By Stephen Kohner, editor**

ESSB is pleased to launch its first edition of its newsletter showcasing board-wide Professional Improvement opportunities, school events and activities.

Each newsletter will feature a number of articles, contributed by staff of ESSB and other educational partners. The newsletter will be available as a downloadable document from the ESSB web site, and two colour copies will be printed for each school/centre.

As editor, I invite you to read the newsletter and follow-up on those initiatives and ideas that interest you.

## RSEC 2007:

### An Autumn PD Conference

**by Mike Clarke, D.E.S.**

On the eve of the implementation of the new curriculum at the Secondary 3 level the need has been expressed for another Rural Schools Educational Conference (RSEC). Jennifer Roy and the team at Gaspé Elementary School have kindly agreed to host this event scheduled on October 25 and 26.

Already a steering committee consisting of yours truly, Lavergne Fequet (QEHS), Stephen Kohner (RÉCIT), Jennifer Roy (GES), Pamela Patterson (GES), Lisa Mosher (ESSB) and Ken Ward (Adult Ed ESSB) are busy planning travel, accommodations, meals and the like, not to mention workshops suitable for all our elementary, secondary and adult and vocational education teachers.

This year we are very fortunate indeed to have two coordinators from the Professional Development Committee (LEARN) available to us. Both John Ryan and Barbara Komoroski are very busy enlisting service providers from around the province. These service providers will attempt to provide us with a condensed version of the "Formation Disciplinaire" offers of service that have taken place over this past year.

Understandably, many or most of our teachers cannot attend these sessions in Montreal or Quebec. For this reason, the focus of RSEC this year will be to provide our teachers with training in the different subject domains so as to better enable them to become familiar with new subject material as well as with alternate teaching strategies. As well, our adult and voc ed teachers will benefit from training in the new core curriculum.

I look forward to seeing you in Gaspé.

**Conference dates:**

**AAESQ**

May 10-12

**RSEC**

October 25 and 26

**QPAT**

November 29 and 30

## Celebrating "Livre en fête" at Grosse Ile School

by Natscha Joncas, Principal

On Thursday, April 26th, 2007, the author of *"Doggie in the Window"* and *"Le grand spectacle de Passepoil"* visited Grosse Ile School.

Mrs Elaine Arsenault was greeted by the students of Pre-K, K, and Cycle One. They really enjoyed her reading to them and then had to make a little doggie like the one in the story using all kinds of glittery objects.



## Community Learning Centre at Metis Beach

Our school is going through some remarkable changes, one of which is the process of becoming a Community Learning Centre. We have already signed on several partners, including Heritage Lower Saint Lawrence and CACI de la Mitis and hired our Coordinator, Miss Lynn Fournier. We have initiated several after-school POP courses in English and in French and have begun the process of beautifying our school rink with the help of a local artist. We have also worked on a project with Reford Gardens, where our students were interviewed and will take part in the development of an exhibition there. In return, a landscape architect will visit the school to discuss careers and help design and create some gardens in and around the school. We have also initiated an English homework assistance centre on the weekends in association with the UQAR (Rimouski University) for our students in that region.



We are currently in the process of conducting a needs assessment with the CLC, including the staff, parents and community, but already, space has been a major concern for all involved. We therefore have some huge projects in the wings, including the construction of an extension to the school, hopefully including a multi-purpose gymnasium and the building of some new playground structures. We are hoping to revitalize the community, with Metis Beach School being the centre of English activities for the English community between Matane and Rimouski.



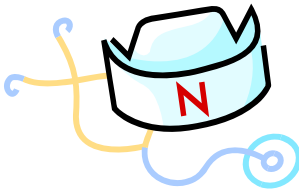
On Thursday, April 26th, our students performed for their parents and the community through the joint venture with L'Envol, our neighbouring French Elementary School. Each week, our students travel to their school to partake in the music classes and the enriched English program. It all culminates into a show featuring music, English plays and a variety of other performances, always enjoyed by everyone. This project is funded through both school boards, along with local contributions.

So, lots of things happening in our school... if ever you're in the area, please feel free to drop in. I assure you will be made to feel welcome.

# Health Assistance and Nursing Care Graduation

by the Staff from the Hopetown Adult and Vocational Education Center

On April 21, 2007, the third group of "Health Assistance and Nursing Care" students from the Hopetown Adult and Vocational Education Center celebrated their graduation. The ceremonies were held at New Carlisle High School and friends and family of the graduates came in great numbers to celebrate the accomplishments of these 10 women. These women started their journey in the Fall of 2005, into a Vocational program which would last 2 years to end in April of 2007. We are very proud of them... they have demonstrated the level of professionalism which is expected in their trade, have shown great compassion to all patients they came in contact with during their stage and have earned praise from the staff of both regional hospitals as well as the nursing homes. Two of these students have registered to further their studies in the Nursing Technical program with the CÉGEP de la Gaspésie et des Îles in Carleton. Bridges between the vocational and the technical programs encourage students to continue learning. Congratulations to all the



graduates and best of plans! We will miss



**From left to right:** Renée Roussy, Rosa Lee Major, Joyce Leblanc, Marie-Josée Lapointe, Kellie Imhoff, Marie-Josée Grenier, Dana Fraser, Hollie Ann Billingsley, Lyne Beauchamps.



luck with your future you!



## PD On-Line

by Daryl C. Beebe, Principal, NCHS

I have just completed my first experience with online professional development or educational upgrading. Thanks to people like our Director General, Ms. Donna Bisson, and McGill Universities' educators such as Ms. Lynn Butler-Kisber, this initiative allows people like myself to take post-graduate level courses. Geographical distance was the main obstacle but with LEARN and modern technology this is no longer a problem.

Dr. Ken Robertson, professor, did a superb job of guiding us through the initial glitches of working on-line. He proved to be a mentor to us all and I am now very much more prepared to guide and work with the NCHS team to continue in the development of our "Living Document" or strategic plan.



## PDIG – The “Healthy” Way To Go

by Jennifer Roy, Gaspé Elementary School

Healthy Schools is an approach to education which is being put into place through the collaborative efforts of MELS and MSSS. With healthy schools the concern is with the idea of the holistic child - focusing on four levels: the child, the school, the family, and the community. It takes into consideration the following key factors: self-esteem, social skills, healthy living habits, safe and healthy behaviour, favourable environments, and prevention services.

In order to facilitate our transition into becoming a Healthy School we decided to apply for a PDIG (Professional Development Innovation Grant). With the acquisition of this grant two teachers from GES and a partner teacher from Belle Anse School were able to be released from their teaching duties one day per month which they have spent developing activities related to the promotion of a healthier lifestyle for our students and creating a bank of lesson plans based on the QEP and healthy living choices.

These days have proven to be extremely beneficial in our implementation of the Healthy Schools Approach. They have provided much-needed release time for these teachers to concentrate on what it means to be a Healthy School. Uninterrupted, precious time for these teachers to come up with ways to provide information to the children, the school, the family, and the community on the key factors involved in the Healthy Schools Approach.



## Snowshoeing at Queen Elizabeth

by Michela Cox & Rosey Feger, Teachers

On February 23rd, 2007, the Secondary 3 and 4 classes of Queen Elizabeth High School accompanied by Ms. Michela Cox, Mr. Victor Joly and Ms. Rosemary Feger went out on an all-day snowshoeing adventure at Club de Ski Rapido. One could say that this was a "reform" project; albeit the students just saw it as a "day off from classes". They researched, sketched, created PowerPoint presentations and assembled a scrapbook that reflected a multitude of benefits be it physical, social and pedagogical.

The students even managed to connive one of their teachers into climbing the summit of Mount Rapido! That undertaking proved to be both challenging and daring. The students rose to that challenge and helped each scale the 90 degree face without too much frustration and anxiety. Clearly, this is an activity that is proving to be an enjoyable tradition at Queenie.



# “JUST FOR THE HEALTH OF IT”

by Mr Lavergne Fequet, Principal, QEHS

This year we have adopted a theme for our school entitled, “Just for the Health of It”. We have taken the MELS “Ecoles en Sante” initiative and are attempting to tailor it to address some of the needs of our school population.



Our focus is to have our students and staff live healthier lives, by addressing nutritional, cognitive, and emotional issues, and encouraging great participation in physical activity. Through classroom and extra-curricular activities, students and staff will have the opportunity to part-take in learning situations that dealt with the well being of the whole person. We are providing healthier snacks in the student canteen; our PPO will attempt to provide a healthy hot lunch at least once a month; we have sessions on “bullying” for our students in Secondary Cycle I and a session on “Intimidation” for students in Secondary

Cycle II .

Staff and students have participated in extra-curricular outings such as ski day, snowshoeing excursions. Other planned activities include a hiking excursion for staff and students on Ile Grand Basque in June and a day of canoeing on Lac Rapid. All of these activities have a direct correlation to classroom learning situations.



One objective of our “JUST FOR THE HEALTH OF IT” theme is to create awareness of community, national and global social issues. With this in mind, at Christmas, our students opted to bring in a gift for a less fortunate child in our community, rather than have their own Christmas gift exchange at school. Each grade has been issued a specific age group for which they can provide a gift. A gift at a cost of \$10 as a limit was suggested. Ninety percent of our students participated in this activity. The gifts we donated to a local organization ( L’envol Maison de la Famille) to be given to the less fortunate in our community.

A “30 Famine” activity is planned for sometime in May. The funds we raise from this activity will go toward creating

## Five Minutes a Day

by Stephen Kohner, Baie-Comeau



Teachers at BCHS taught/supervised an extra five minutes per day this year. Big deal, you say? This allowed for almost seven 2-hour professional afternoon sessions scheduled throughout the year. Workshop topics and work sessions were recommended by School Council and approved by the principal. Following that, one afternoon was selected and parents/students were advised that regular classes would not be held on a particular afternoon.

Teachers benefited from elementary and secondary team meetings, planning sessions, IEP sessions, a workshop on rubrics, and time for individual work.

This initiative is in place in a number of Quebec Schools where teachers have expressed a need for local professional development time and opportunities. The amount of allotted time varies from one school to another. The response