



In Touch

March - April 2011

The Newsletter of the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Working Together for Students

Education Week 2011: Innovative Teaching in the 21st Century

April 11 to 16, 2011 was Education Week in Nova Scotia. Three AVRSB teachers received Education Week Teacher Awards, and Dave Jones, Director of Programs and Services, received an Education Week Award from the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators. All were recognized for their leadership in areas related to this year's theme, *Innovative Teaching in the 21st Century*.

Meet our Education Week award recipients:

Glenda Fisher, Falmouth District School: Throughout her 38-year teaching career, Glenda Fisher has always kept abreast of new technologies. She has embraced technology with the use of an interactive white board, and spends hours after school developing lessons for this new tool. Glenda shares innovative ideas with her peers, and she is committed to equipping student teachers with technical knowledge and skills needed to teach in the 21st century. Glenda is open to any new initiative, and always looks for ways to make it teacher and student-friendly.

Pamela Langille, Aldershot Elementary School: Pamela Langille has worked hard to bring innovative teaching and technology to the classroom. As the school's unofficial "techie", she demonstrates ways to enhance programs through technology. Pamela has ensured her students experience the most current technology available; in her teaching she uses an interactive white board and projector, document camera, interactive handheld response systems, wireless slates and a laptop computer. Pamela is always researching ways to complement curriculum with technology. Pamela's students are very fortunate to experience this animated, energetic teacher.

Allister Wadden, Annapolis West Education Centre: Allister Wadden's enthusiasm for technology and learning is apparent in his classroom. He has provided professional development in new technology for teachers across the province, and has incorporated numerous interactive technologies and leading edge software in his classroom to engage students and enhance learning. By using technology, Allister has practically eliminated absenteeism in his class, and he has been able to complete outcomes while providing rigorous higher order thinking questions for all students. Allister's students work with interactive handheld devices to solve problems and work through daily outcome sets. Allister's use of technology has improved the view and value of mathematics for his students.

Dave Jones, Director of Programs and Services: Dave Jones is well-known for his enthusiastic approach to integrating technology in curriculum to enhance learning. His belief in equity of access for students is the foundation of his work. He was instrumental in establishing virtual Advanced Placement courses in AVRSB, enabling students to experience these courses regardless of school size or location. He advocates for equitable distribution of technology in schools, and ensures that teachers receive support to become comfortable with new technology. Dave has mentored many colleagues in the use of technology with an approach that helps the learner to feel capable and successful. Dave continues to make a positive difference as a leader in innovation and improving student learning.



Left to right: Superintendent Margo Tait, teachers Glenda Fisher, Pamela Langille and Allister Wadden, Dave Jones, Director of Programs and Services, and Board Chair Lavinia Parrish Zwicker.

Non-Union Employee Recognition of Service Awards

In March, AVRSB hosted a special reception to present Non-Union Employee Recognition of Service Awards to employees with five, 10, 20, 35, 40 and even 45 years of service.

Yvonne Best (SMES) was honoured for her 45 years of dedicated service. SMES Principal Sarah Tessier noted that many students call Yvonne, "The lady who owns the school!" Hazel McEwan (WKDHS) was celebrated for her 40 years of service; Hazel has worked in the office at West Kings since the school opened. Linus Hannam (Middleton Bus Garage) and Marion Holleman (CKRHS) received awards for 35 years of service, and Prudy Fox (Wolfville School) and Pam McCaul (CES) received awards for their 20 years of service.



Dedication for 35, 40 and 45 years!



Ten Year Award Recipients

Shirley Collins (PRMS and MRHS), Jacqueline Rhynard (NKEC), James Sabeau (AVHS), Jackie Sowards (NKEC), Sharon Spicer (PRMS) and Michelle Tupper (EMS) were honoured for ten years of service.

Brian Chase (NKEC), Jason Cohen (Operations Centre), Kim Grimard (Regional Office), Laurie Hardacker (Operations Centre), Valerie Kenne (Regional Office), Gloria Langille (Regional Office), Jacqueline Langille (AVRSB Satellite Office), Dave MacLeod (CKRHS), Deanna Matheson (HEC), Fay Mounce (KES), Dwayne Poole (Operations Centre) Terri-Lynn Sabeau (CRMS), Karen Sotvedt (Regional Office) and Caroline Whitby (Regional Office) all received awards for five years of service.



Five Year Award Recipients.

We want to hear from you! Send your news or announcements to communications@avrsb.ca for the next issue of In Touch.

Note: Written permission from AVRSB required to reproduce any newsletter contents through print, electronic or other means.

Regular Board Meeting Highlights

March 2011—15 years since Board amalgamation!

Educational Presentation—iNSchool: Ryan Hainstock, Coordinator of Educational Technology and Student Data, discussed iNSchool, the new provincial student information system. It will provide more consistent, accurate student data while saving time, allowing staff to focus on curriculum delivery.
Budget: The Superintendent expressed the Board's dismay regarding the provincial directive to reduce consultant positions by 50 per cent, noting that consultants provide vital support to teachers and students.

KCA Move-In: To minimize disruption to students, the Board decided upon a September 2011 move to the new Kings County Academy, provided nearby propane tanks are relocated by then.

School Closure Review Processes: Based on recommendations approved May 2010, the Board approved that formal school closure review processes be initiated for Annapolis Royal Regional Academy and Newport Station District School. Details posted at www.avrsb.ca.

NSSBA Resolution: This year's resolution asks that "the NSSBA request the Department of Education to collaborate with school boards to develop and implement a clear provincial vision and plan for 21st century learning before any further reductions to public education are considered." The resolution will be put to a vote at the NSSBA Annual General Meeting in May.

April 2011

Successful Schools for Successful Students: The Board approved guidelines for a long-range planning process for West Kings District High School and Central Kings Rural High School and their families of schools. The process will involve structured public consultations. See www.avrsb.ca for details.

Educational Presentation – Comprehensive Support Model

Cindy Giffen, Coordinator of Student Services, presented the Comprehensive Support Model to the Board. The presentation may be viewed at www.avrsb.ca under School Board and Board meetings.

Requests to Change Easements-Dwight Ross Elementary School

The Board approved the request for the relinquishment of the Dwight Ross Elementary School road easement, on the condition that it become a public road maintained by the County of Kings, and the request for drainage easement for the County of Kings.

Nova Scotia School Board Association

Board member Vic Fleury was nominated for NSSBA President. Members appointed Board member Sue Ritchie to represent AVRSB on the NSSBA Board of Directors as NSSBA Director and Pat Parker as NSSBA Alternate Director. Ms. Ritchie was also nominated for the School Board Member of the Year Award. The Executive for the NSSBA Board of Directors will be elected; the new Board of Directors will be sworn in; and the recipient of the School Board Member of the Year Award will be honoured at the NSSBA AGM on May 26-28.

Next AVRSB Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room, Second Floor, AVRSB Regional Office, 121 Orchard Street, Berwick. **Members of the public are always welcome** and a public forum is held at the close of each meeting.

For Board meeting agendas, minutes and highlights, visit www.avrsb.ca/content/meeting-information

LEC Snowshoe Challenge

Molly Kakonyi, a grade 12 student at Lawrencetown Education Centre, reports that the LEC snowshoe challenge was a huge success. The event was organized as part of Girls' Healthy Active Living Week in February. All LEC students helped run this challenging four kilometer hike, which had 16 participants from LEC, BRHS, AWEC and MRHS. Thanks go to all participants and volunteers for their positive energy, and to the Annapolis County Club 400 for its support. LEC students and staff plan to make this an annual event.



Glooscap Students Meet Canada Games Artists

Grade four and five students at Glooscap Elementary School have created their own one-of-a-kind collector's items: personal trading cards featuring the students' own photos and drawings, and "stats" about themselves, their interests and hobbies. Even better, the first "collectors" of these cards were the dynamic young artists participating in the Canada Games National Artists Program!

With help from Ross Creek Centre for the Arts staff, students created six cards each to trade with the young artists. Students also took part in dance, drama and music sessions led by the artists, and learned about the artists' home provinces and creative influences.



Math On!

The first AVRSB Math On Olympiad took place in March at Acadia University. Teams from six AVRSB schools participated in this fast-paced math competition for the chance to compete at provincial championships in May. The competition requires teams to solve a series of problems; teams must provide the most correct answers in the shortest amount of time, and the school with the best combined scores wins a banner to display in the school. Several student volunteers also participated as "checkers" to verify answers.

"This event gives a nice, upbeat perception of math," says Math On organizer and math consultant Lois Boudreau. "It's fun problem solving, with questions based on real-life situations." She adds that the students and teachers involved are already planning for next year. "They all want to start practicing earlier, they want to get other schools involved, and they have ideas on how to make it even better next year." Boudreau thanked AVRSB staff and Acadia University faculty and students for their support of this event.

Wolfville School took home the banner for the best combined scores, and top teams were:

Grade 7—Jamie Corkum and Serena Dolan, Coldbrook and District School

Grade 8—Ena Brennan and Mira Tan, Wolfville School

Grade 9—Kayoung Heo and Kallie Roberts, West Hants Middle School



Art Fair 2011: Explorations

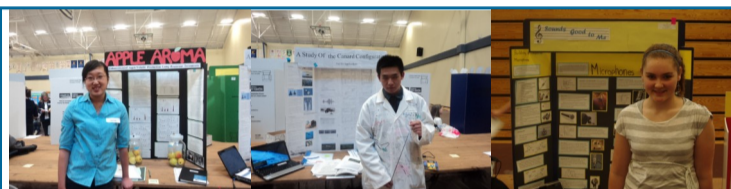
April is Art Month in the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board. Building on a tremendous record of over 100 venues in 2010, visitors and residents of the Annapolis Valley once again found student art displayed in businesses and public spaces throughout the region.

Under the leadership of teacher and arts consultant Paul Syme, strong partnerships between local venues and neighbourhood schools have been formed to build a cultural and community identity in the Annapolis Valley. These partnerships celebrate the passion, energy, intelligence and creativity embodied in student art.

Student art was displayed throughout April at numerous venues, including County Fair Mall, Greenwood Mall, Meadowbrook Farm Market, Wheatons, Berwick Museum window, Grandview Manor, Berwick Save Easy, 14 Wing Greenwood, Annapolis Royal Town Hall, Jack's Gallery, the Box of Delights and the Western Kings Memorial Health Centre. On Tuesday, April 19, Horton High School students welcomed community members at an opening reception for their Art Fair exhibit at the County Fair Mall, New Minas.

Syme has received much positive feedback from community members on the art displays. He reports that visitors to the Western Kings Memorial Health Centre in Berwick have been impressed by the extensive student art display, and also that residents of Grandview Manor in Berwick have thoroughly enjoyed viewing student art. Grandview Manor staff shared their thanks for the positive influence of the display.

For a complete list of venues that displayed student art, visit www.artfair.ca.



Annapolis Valley Regional Science Fair

The next generation of researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs displayed their talents at the Annapolis Valley Regional Science Fair from March 31 to April 1 at King's Edgehill School. Students from grades primary to 12 participated, exploring topics in every area of science.

Four students in grades seven to 12 were selected to compete with students from across Canada in the 2011 Canada-Wide Science Fair in Toronto this May. Ellen Song (Horton High School), Prathana Nathan (King's-Edgehill School), Elizabeth Furniss (Berwick and District School) and Zhi (Zorro) Li (Horton High School) will go on to the Canada-Wide Science Fair, while numerous other students were selected to receive divisional and special awards. For complete lists of divisional and special award winners, please visit <http://scifair.ednet.ns.ca/AVRSF/>.

Concours D'Art Oratoire

Students in Grades 5-12 showcased their language, research, writing and presentation skills at the Concours d'Art Oratoire, held on April 5 at Berwick and District School. Both French Immersion and Core French students participate. Students must prepare and deliver an original speech and answer questions from judges--in French, of course!

Winners of the AVRSB Concours will advance to a provincial competition at Mount St. Vincent University. Winners at the provincial level will go on to a national championship in Ottawa, ON at the end of May. Concours d'Art Oratoire competitions across Nova Scotia are sponsored by Canadian Parents for French – Nova Scotia.

Results of the AVRSB Concours d'Art Oratoire:

5/6 Français de base: 1. Rowen Domingo, Cambridge and District Elementary School; 2. Douah Shakshuki, Wolfville School; 3. Lydia Zamlynny, Wolfville School.

5/6 Immersion précoce: 1. Nathan McNally, Kings County Academy; 2. Adrie Cameron, Berwick and District School; 3. Tristan Kimball, Evangeline Middle School.

5/6 Francophone: Madeleine MacDonald, Berwick and District School

7/8 Intégré: 1. Grace Marshall; 1. Makayla Sider; 2. Cole Orde, Annapolis Royal Regional Academy; (All Annapolis Royal Regional Academy).

7/8 Immersion tardive: 1. Mya Gagnon; 2. Holly Tullock; 3. Christy Thomson; (All Pine Ridge Middle School).

7/8 Immersion précoce: 1. R. Paige Gullison, Pine Ridge Middle School; 2. Donovan Cassidy-Nolan, Evangeline Middle School; 3. Jessica Perry, Berwick and District School.

7/8 Francophone: 1. Ben MacDonald, Berwick and District School.

9/10 Immersion précoce: 1. Rachel McNally, Northeast Kings Education Centre.

11/12 Intégré: 1. Carsten MacLean; 2. Leah Stultz; (All Bridgetown Regional High School).

11/12 Immersion précoce: 1. Konner Russell, Central Kings Rural High School

Socks for Japan

A student group at West Kings District High School is reaching out to bring a small measure of comfort to the survivors of the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The school's *Students for Social Change* group has initiated a local "Socks for Japan" campaign.

Their efforts are part of an international campaign initiated by Jason Kelly, an American living near the earthquake-stricken area, who is working with regional governments in Japan to supply donated socks.

On his website (<http://jasonkelly.com/helpjapan/>), Kelly explains why socks matter after a disaster: "All human beings are comforted by a fresh, clean pair of socks. Other advantages socks offer this operation: they're light, their sizes are easy, they don't break, people need lots of them in disastrous times away from home, and people can keep them forever to remember that somebody from far away cared."

Every day at lunch, *Students for Social Change* group members have set up a table to receive donations of new socks. Each pair of socks is packaged with a personal note from the students, translated from English to Japanese by an international exchange student from Japan currently attending West Kings. The socks are then shipped to Kelly for distribution.

