



Exceptional News!

**Student Support Services Division
Department of Education**

Newsletter

February 2013

Staffing Changes



The Department of Education's Student Support Services Division will say farewell to our Director, Dan Goodyear, who retires at the end of February after five years with the department. We wish him well.

At the end of October we were saddened by the sudden death of Laurie Ann Strange, our consultant for assistive technology who also worked with teachers for students who are blind or visually impaired. In the short term, responsibility for assistive technology applications will be handled by Evelyn Lundrigan.

Welcome to Andrea Hawley, who joins our staff as Auditory-Verbal Therapist working mainly with students who have had cochlear implants. She assumes the role from Nora Cahill who moves to Eastern School District, also as Auditory-Verbal Therapist.

iPad Pilot Project



The Division of Student Support Services, Department of Education, recently embarked on an iPad pilot project. Five schools throughout the province are participating in this project. The purpose of the project is to provide instructional resource teachers and classroom teachers enhanced opportunities to access augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) applications via an iPad device to use with students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Selected teachers from each school availed of 4 webinars. The Department of Education contracted Barbara Welsford to lead these webinars. Barbara is the Coordinator of the Assistive Technology Centre and an Assistive Technology Specialist with the South Shore Regional School Board, Nova Scotia. Barbara is also a

certified Proloque2go trainer and a recognized Apple trainer. Each webinar is approximately 90 minutes in length. If you have any questions regarding these webinars, please contact our consultant responsible for Autism, Paulette Jackman (paulettejackman@gov.nl.ca).

Please feel free to view the webinars below:

Webinar 1
An Introduction to the IPAD and Pic Collage

<https://sas.illuminate.com/p.jnlp?psid=2013-01-14.0442.M.423F585F4E67C6016A30E93041B88A.vcr&sid=voffice>

Webinar 2
Apps for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders

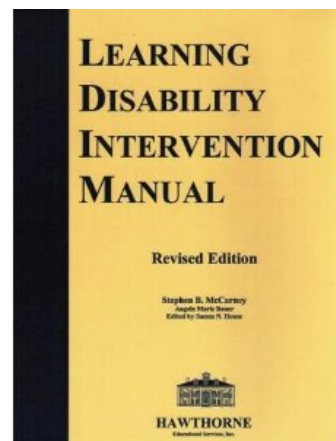
<https://sas.illuminate.com/p.jnlp?psid=2013-01-21.0448.M.423F585F4E67C6016A30E93041B88A.vcr&sid=voffice>

Webinar 3
Apps Specific to Primary Users with Low Incidence Disabilities

<https://sas.illuminate.com/p.jnlp?psid=2013-01-28.0452.M.423F585F4E67C6016A30E93041B88A.vcr&sid=voffice>

Webinar 4
Key AAC Apps: GoTalkNow and Proloquo2Go

<https://sas.illuminate.com/p.jnlp?psid=2013-02-04.0428.M.423F585F4E67C6016A30E93041B88A.vcr&sid=voffice>



Learning Disability Intervention Manual

The Department of Education is providing copies of the “Learning Disability Intervention Manual – Revised 2nd Edition” by Stephen McCarney and Tamara Arthaud to provincial schools. The manual contains sample general learning outcomes (goals), specific learning outcomes (objectives), and teaching strategies. These outcomes and strategies are useful to instructional resource teachers tasked with developing pre-requisite alternate programs. Classroom teachers working with students diagnosed with a reading disorder, disorder of written expression, or mathematics disorder may also find the sample strategies useful.

Individualized programs and specialized services for students diagnosed with learning disabilities must match each student’s unique learning needs. The intent of the “Learning Disability Intervention Manual – Revised 2nd Edition” is to give educators suggestions for skill development. As such, it is not intended that instructional resource teachers be limited to the outcomes outlined in the manual, or that classroom teachers be limited to the strategies presented. The fact that outcomes and strategies come from other sources is not an issue of concern and, in fact, is encouraged. What is important is that the programs and services for the student address the student’s exceptionality, reflect the student’s strengths, and address the student’s needs.

The “Learning Disability Intervention Manual – Revised 2nd Edition” partners well with the “Learning Disability Evaluation Scale: Renormed Second Edition” (LDES-R2). The Department of Education provided this evaluation scale to school-based Service Delivery Teams a few years ago. The scale enables instructional personnel to document performance behaviours most characteristic of learning disabilities. In so doing, individual strengths and needs are clarified. Each item of the evaluation scale matches the pages of the Intervention Manual.

The “Learning Disability Intervention Manual “ should be included in each school’s professional library and made available to educators working with students who are diagnosed with learning disabilities and/or struggling with reading, writing, or mathematics acquisition. The Department is providing multiple manuals to large schools to ensure easy access for staff.



Student Support Database

Principals please note that it is time to update and add your student profiles to the Student

Support Database for the upcoming year 2013-2014 at www.sss.gov.nl.ca Information and support are provided to all schools from district personnel. As a first step, please ensure you are registered on Referral Tracking System (RTS) and that you recall your password. This is the same password you use to access the SSS database. If you have forgotten your password it can be reset from the first RTS screen. This data is updated and submitted annually to the district to be used in allocation of resources to the schools. The profile and accompanying guidelines for electronic submission are provided to all principals from your senior education officer.

Consultations on Student Behaviour and Safe and Caring Schools

The Department of Education has been consulting province-wide regarding student behaviour and revision of the policies and legislation related to Safe and Caring Schools. Representatives from District staff, administrators, teachers, students and school councils have attended sessions. Other partner groups including the Federation of School Councils, NLTA, RNC/RCMP, the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, the Violence Prevention Initiative, community interest groups, and intra and interdepartmental groups have also been consulted. Another avenue for input is the interactive website located at www.gov.nl.ca – click the link for Consultations. This website provides the Goss Gilroy Report from 2012 which reviewed the implementation of the Safe and Caring Schools Policy and listed 29 considerations. It also contains draft documents which arose from the Department of Education’s action plan related to this report. There is also a Discussion Guide which has been used at the provincial consultations sessions. The public is invited to explore this site and to add their comments either in response to particular prompts or in a more general manner. Consultations will be ongoing until March.

Anaphylaxis

An E-Bulletin from Anaphylaxis Canada

At the mid-point of the school year, it's an important time to review your school's policies and procedures for safely managing severe allergies. Anaphylaxis Canada, a leader in allergy-related education, is pleased to provide a quick checklist to ensure you and your staff are well prepared.

Each student at risk of anaphylaxis has:

- An emergency plan
- An in-date epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen®, Twinject® or Allerject™)

School Staff:

- Know how to recognize the symptoms of an allergic reaction
- Be familiar with students' auto-injectors and know how to use them

Please note that a new device, Allerject™, was recently approved by Health Canada, and is now available in some pharmacies across the country.

For online demonstrations and educational resources for the auto-injectors, please visit:

www.epipen.ca

www.twinject.ca

www.allerject.ca (new)

In the near future, a free webinar - **10 tips for managing allergies at school: mid-year reminder** – will be available on the Anaphylaxis Canada website. In the meantime, please visit the website - www.anaphylaxis.ca - where you can find more information.

Changes to the Copyright Act

You may be aware that the Government of Canada recently passed legislation (**Bill C-11**) amending Canada's Copyright Act. There are changes in this legislation that connect to education and copying. A document on copyright designed for teachers -- **Copyright**

Matters! Some Key Questions & Answers for Teachers, 3rd Edition – can be found at this link:

http://cmec.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/291/Copyright_Matters.pdf

The official statement from the Government of Canada website on how education is affected by Bill C-11 is found here:

www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/crp-prda.nsf/eng/h_rp01153.html#amend

Inclusive Education Initiative – Phase 5

Districts have identified the schools which will be part of the fifth phase of the Inclusive Education initiative. Training for the lead team from each school will begin in March with full school sessions planned for fall 2013. The schools for Phase 5 include:

Eastern School District	
Holy Trinity High	Torbay
St. Kevin's Jr. High	Goulds
Brother Rice Jr. High	St. John's
Mary Queen of the World	St. John's
St. Bernard's Elementary	Witless Bay
Cape St. Francis Elementary	Pouch Cove
MacDonald Drive Elementary	St. John's
St. Matthew's Elementary	St. John's
Newtown Elementary	Mount Pearl
Rennie's River Elementary	St. John's
Marystown Central High	Marystown
St. Joseph's All Grade	Terrenceville
All Hollow's Elementary	North River
St. Peter's Elementary	Upper Island Cove
Tricon Elementary	Bay de Verde
Persalvic Elementary	Victoria
Holy Family Elementary	Chapel Arm
St. Anne's Academy	Dunville
Discovery Collegiate	Bonavista
Anthony Paddon Elementary	Musgravetown

Nova Central School District	
Indian River Academy	Springdale
Indian River High	Springdale
Avoca Collegiate	Badger
Cottrell's Cove Academy	Cottrell's Cove
John Watkins Academy	Hermitage
Greenwood Academy	Campbellton
Lakewood Academy	Glenwood
Holy Cross School	Eastport
St. Gabriel's All Grade	St. Brendan's
Western School District	
Grandy's River Collegiate	Burnt Islands
Douglas Academy	LaPoile
Belanger Memorial	Doyles
E.A. Butler Memorial	McKay's
Appalachia High,	St. George's
Our Lady of Mercy	St. George's
Burgeo Academy	Burgeo
St. Simon and St. Jude	Francois
All Saints All Grade	Grey River
St. James Regional High School	Port aux Basques
Le Gallais Memorial	Isle aux Morts
St. Boniface All-Grade	Ramea
Labrador School District	
Menihek High School	Labrador City
Mealy Mountain High School	Happy Valley-Goose Bay

This brings the total number of schools that are part of this initiative to 174.

MyGSA

At the end of 2012, all junior and senior high schools in Newfoundland and Labrador received a resource entitled *MyGSA.ca: Equity and Inclusive Education Resource Kit for Newfoundland and Labrador, Grades 7-12*. This resource is intended to support students, teachers, administrators and

districts as they develop and maintain safe, caring and inclusive learning environments. In particular, its goal is to provide information and answer questions for those initiating a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) in their school. Although the exact function of such clubs varies from school to school, GSAs are generally considered to be any student groups concerned with LGBTQ matters and serve as support groups for LGBTQ students, allies, and youth with LGBTQ parents or other family members.

This resource is available online at www.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/safeandcaring/index.html

Graduating Student Awards

The graduating student awards aim to promote student awareness of the Safe and Caring Schools Policy and acknowledge the contributions of youth in establishing and maintaining safe and caring schools and communities. Specifically, the goals are to:

- Recognize the leadership of youth across the province in completing projects and activities aimed at enhancing the safety and well-being of others in their schools and communities;
- Help students recognize that they can make a difference in the lives of others;
- Encourage and mobilize students to become involved in future initiatives.

The Provincial Advisory Committee for Safe and Caring Schools has 15 awards of \$500 each for deserving graduates across the province.

Applications are available through your district office as well as the Department of Education website www.gov.nl.ca/edu

The deadline for application is April 5, 2013.

Alternate Format Materials Updates



Applications for alternate format materials must be submitted on a yearly basis and should be received by the Department of Education by May 15. Applications received by this date will be processed for September, ensuring students have the alternate format materials they require for the upcoming school year. Applications received after the May 15 deadline are not guaranteed to be ready for September.

Forgotten Passwords



Did you know that your school principal can reset forgotten AFM passwords? This is done using the original password that was assigned when the application was approved by the Department of Education, which should be stored in the student's cumulative file. This password is a complex password which uses both letter and numerals. Your school principal uses the original password to gain access to the AFM system and change the student's password. A new complex password is then assigned. Once the student logs in using this password, he/she will be prompted to set a new password. This new password that the student sets does not have to be a complex password but can be something that will be easily remembered by the student, while at the same time being unique to the student.



A number of new resources have been acquired for the AFM library and will be available for the upcoming school year. Please ensure that you download the latest version of the Grade Level Order Forms when filling out AFM applications. These order forms are updated regularly to reflect new resources that become available. The new resources include:

- Grade 2 Religion
So Much to Share
Tant de choses a partager
PDF & digital audio formats
- Grade 3 Social Studies
Ma Province Nouvelle Écosse
PDF format
- Grade 4 Social Studies
Explorations 4 (French)
PDF format
- Grade 4 English Language Arts
– all in PDF format
The Environmenteers
Saving Cash
Pet Vet
A Dangerous Move
Dog Disaster
Home Plate Heroes
Lost
Jungle Adventure
Nature's Story
Nian's Mountain
A Friend for Mr. Granville
Chocolate River Rescue
Conservation
Endangered Animals
Endangered Sea Animals
In Like a Lion
Make Some New Friends
Music Forever
Music Everywhere

The Beat
The Right Whale
Under a Prairie Sky
Your Song
Alone Across the Arctic
Go Make a Song
Ryan's Well
Surviving in the Wilderness Guide
The Fox Went Out
The Tree Woman
What Kind of Volunteer Are You?

- Grade 5 Social Studies
Investigating Past Societies
PDF format
- Grade 7-9 English Language Arts
Catching Fire
PDF format
- Grade 7-9 English Language Arts
– all in Commercial Audio CD format
The 6 Most Important Decisions You'll
Ever Make
Artemis Fowl
The Crucible
Ender's Game
Half Brother
Harry Potter and the Goblet Fire
I Am the Messenger
Kira Kira
The Northern Light
So B It
When Zachary Beaver Comes to Town
- Grade 7-9 English Language Arts
– in Digital Audio & DAISY formats
The Nine Lives of Travis Keating
The Present Tense of Phinny Murphy
Standing into Danger
Waiting for Time
- Canadian Geography 1202
Encounter Canada Systems &
Interactions (English & French)
PDF format
- Math 2201
Principles of Mathematics 11
PDF format

- Math 2200
Pre-Calculus 11
PDF format
- Math 2202
Math at Work 11
PDF format
- Earth Systems 3209
Earth, Introduction to Physical
Geology
PDF format



Autism Resource Kit (Backpacks)

In May 2010, the Department of Education provided each school in Newfoundland and Labrador with an Autism Resource Kit. This kit consisted of a knapsack filled with various autism resources. The following resources were recently sent to schools as an addition to the kit:

- *1001 Great Ideas for Teaching and Raising Children with Autism or Asperger's*
- *Strategies at Hand: Quick and Handy Strategies for Working with Students on the Autism Spectrum*

We encourage you to review these new resources. If you have any questions specific to these resources, please contact our Autism Consultant, Paulette Jackman (paulettejackman@gov.nl).

Feedback

Please share your thoughts regarding this newsletter including any suggestions for future articles. Our hope is to facilitate better communication with all teachers throughout the province.

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