



# Superintendent's Message

## October 2010

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### Introduction

The colours of fall (and the dropping temperatures) are reminders of our transition towards the colder months and the heart of the school year.

APSEA's year started differently, with our annual inservice being held during the second week of September, rather than the usual October scheduling. Recognizing there are pros and cons associated with any option, Senior Management will re-examine issues surrounding such timing in an effort towards optimal scheduling of future inservice sessions.

### APSEA Year-End Pot Luck Family Picnic

- Nancy Bradley, BVI Itinerant Teacher



On June 26 eight families (33 people in total) joined together to enjoy a year-end pot-luck picnic at Centennial Park in Moncton. Students ranged in age from preschool through to grade ten. The weather was beautiful and the food was plentiful. APSEA families had opportunity to get to know each other better while students had fun chatting and playing at the playground and waterpark.

## **Staffing Update 2010-2011**

The following staff members have been hired or changed position since the last message was sent in June.

Sarah Eddy – DHH Itinerant Teacher (Moncton, NB)

Susan McIntosh – Academic Language Evaluator (DHH Assessment Team)

Shauna Power – BVI Itinerant Teacher (Charlottetown, PE)

Carrie Tompkins – DHH Itinerant Teacher (Truro, NS)

Lisa Weir – DHH Itinerant Teacher (Saint John, NB)

Laura (Nillo) MacEachern – Residence Supervisor

## **APSEA Updates**

### **Strategic Plan**

Implementation of APSEA's strategic plan (SP) has entered its second year. The specific priorities for 2010-11 were noted in the June 2010 Message. The SP Implementation Team met on 6 October, reviewed the status of the SP, its associated committees and next steps. At present, there are vacancies on the following committees:

- Short Term Programs Review (DHH itinerant teacher)
- Wellness
- Website

If you would like to be considered for membership on any of these committees, please submit a Strategic Plan Committee Application form by **27 October**. For further information about the SP committees, please refer to the website.

### **Board News**

#### Autism

Progress continues on this item. The Provincial Directors of Student Services and Autism Consultants met with Senior Management on 23 July and further clarified ways in which APSEA can assist efforts of the four provincial Departments of Education in supporting children with ASD. The matter will be further addressed at upcoming meetings of the Board.

#### Property Sale/ Re-development

The option of selling the residence building and using the proceeds to effect renovations and an extension to the Administration/School Building remains on the Board's agenda. However, the potential sale has been affected by a slow-down in the real estate market.

### Retirement of John Kershaw

John Kershaw, a long-serving member and former chair of the APSEA Board has retired effective 8 October 2010. As Deputy Minister of Education for New Brunswick since 2003, he was a strong proponent of services for children with sensory impairments. We appreciate his support and wish him the very best for the future.

### **Occupational Therapy Project**

*- Ann Power, Director of Resource and Assessment Services and  
Nicole Works, Occupational Therapist (IWK)*

An exciting new project with the IWK is currently underway to explore the area of Occupational Therapy (OT) in relation to the children and youth served by APSEA. While the area of independent living skills is a common term among many teachers and APSEA staff, the term Occupational Therapy may not be as well understood; it can be defined as follows:

*“Occupational Therapy provides the skills for the job of living, to help people lead productive and satisfying lives. Occupational Therapists consider occupation to be everything people do to occupy themselves: Self-care, Leisure, Productivity/Work.*

*Occupational Therapy works to break down the barriers which impede individuals in their everyday activities: Physical, Psychosocial, Community, Environment.*

*Depending on what your issue is, an Occupational Therapist can help you resolve it by:*

- helping you overcome your disability*
- adapting the material/equipment you use*
- recommending changes to your environment”*

(Nova Scotia Society of Occupational Therapists, <http://www.nssot.ca/2.html#What>)

APSEA has developed a project charter and contracted Nicole Works, an Occupational Therapist from the IWK, to carry out the project with a mandate to:

- Develop a framework of OT assessment and programming services for children and youth served by APSEA.
- Carry out a needs assessment of the population served by APSEA to determine OT needs and produce a profile of the population requiring OT services.

The project will identify key stakeholders and service providers involved in the delivery of OT services and:

- Establish, through development or identification of existing curriculum, a life skills curriculum spanning the ages of birth to 21.
- Develop the curriculum in the context of students eligible for APSEA services (see APSEA eligibility criteria)

- Recommend assessment tools, processes and procedures for determining independent life skills strengths and challenges.
- Ensure the assessment and programming framework is aligned with provincial student services policies and procedures.

Finally, key transition points will be considered; the framework is intended to be integrated with the life skills models and approaches of key stakeholders. A survey will be sent to itinerant teachers shortly and Nicole will be interacting with APSEA staff and students as she carries out the mandate of the project. We look forward to receiving the report which is expected in February 2011.

## **A Voice from Our Past**

In “My School Years at APSEA” former student Derryck Bridgemohan reflects on his experiences with APSEA in the 1980s. While Derryck’s stories may be informative to all of us, they should be of special interest to staff and students who were associated with APSEA during that era. To access the article, please visit:

<http://apsea.ca/monthlyupdate/Bridgemohan-article-Oct-2010.pdf>


## **Looking Ahead**

Meetings are scheduled for the APSEA Board (29 October), Executive and Financial Advisory Committees (28 October) and the Program Advisory Committee (14 December).

We are encouraged to support the APSEA Auxiliary and their annual Fall Fair, which takes place between 1 and 3 pm on Saturday 6 November in the Cafeteria. This is the Auxiliary’s major fundraiser, which enables them to provide invaluable opportunities to the children and youth we serve.

As this Message is one forum for our communications, your contributions are encouraged. One possible feature would be to “spotlight” colleagues. This could include a focus on professional activity, volunteer involvement, or some other endeavour which would be of interest to the APSEA community; another way of helping us get to know each other a little better! If you have a friend/colleague who would make for an interesting “exposé”, please contact Pam Edmonds at [Pam Edmonds@apsea.ca](mailto:Pam.Edmonds@apsea.ca)

Best autumn wishes,



Bertram Tulk, EdD  
Superintendent