



Superintendent's Message

September 2011

Contents:

Staffing Update	Page 2
Special Recognition	Page 2
APSEA Auxiliary	Page 3
Summer Camps	Page 3
DHH Summer Programs & Training	Page 5
Board News	Page 5
Danny Johnson	Page 6
Itinerant Teachers in HRSB	Page 6
Braille Common Curriculum for Atlantic Canada	Page 7
Database Forms	Page 7
Fall Inservice	Page 7
Looking Ahead	Page 8

Introduction

Welcome back!!

We trust you had a good summer ... despite the less-than-ideal weather in many parts of Atlantic Canada!

Of course, while we all took some vacation, some of you worked through the summer, ensuring the major maintenance projects were done (Greg Wolfe, Peter Bowers and their teams worked very hard in advance of school opening), others ensured that student equipment and resources were prepared and distributed, in time for the start of a new year. Thank you all for making those important contributions!



In the midst of continuing changes, we look ahead, knowing that there will always be ups and downs, but with a confidence and satisfaction that the work we all do is of tremendous value to children, youth and their families.

Staffing Update 2011-2012

The following staff members have been hired or changed position since the last Message in May.

Beth Button – BVI Itinerant Teacher (Saint John, NB)

Shawna MacKay – DHH Itinerant Teacher (Bathurst, NB)

Carol Ann MacMaster – BVI Itinerant Teacher (Strait Regional School Board, NS)

Samantha Neukomm – Library Technician (APSEA Centre)

Lisa Weir – BVI Itinerant Teacher (Saint John East, NB)

Melanie Weir – BVI Itinerant Teacher (Pictou, NS)

Shauna Power – BVI Itinerant Teacher (Hants County/Truro, NS)

Christy Everett – DHH Supervisor of Assessment and Short-Term Programs (APSEA Centre)

Carol DeYoung – DHH STP Teacher (APSEA Centre)

Special Recognition

Barb Tracy, APSEA Chef, has not only been named the Regional Salaried Associate of the Year but has gone on to be named the National Salaried Associate of the Year for Compass Canada Ltd, Chartwells School Dining Division. This honor is based on demonstrated outstanding accomplishments and contributions to her job. She will attend the Compass Canadian Celebration in Ottawa to accept this recognition.

We at APSEA know and value how wonderful Barb is, her professionalism, her dedication to quality ... her accommodation of last-minute requests, (I could go on). Barb does all this with a smile. I don't think any of us are surprised she has received this prestigious award, but we are so proud to have Barb working with us ... and to know that others also recognize her as being the best in the country!



Gabrielle shares her story with the school.

Gabrielle Close, a third grade student at Beaverbank Kinsac Elementary, won first prize in the 2011 CNIB Braille Creative Writing Contest. Gabrielle wrote a wonderful, detailed story about looking for a pot of gold in Caribou Gold Mines. Gabrielle did research and talked to gold miners about what a gold mine was like and put facts and fiction together to create a great story. On October 21, 2011 Gabrielle will travel to Toronto to the CNIB Conference where she will meet author Jean Little to discuss her story. Gabrielle will also read her story in front of all the conference participants.

Congratulations to Gabrielle and we cannot wait to hear all about her trip!

APSEA Auxiliary

The Auxiliary continues to provide tremendous support to children served by APSEA. Under the dynamic leadership of President Verna Munroe, their dedicated efforts have enhanced social, recreational and educational opportunities for countless children and families.

Samantha Neukomm is the new staff liaison for the Auxiliary.

Please note the following **fall deadline dates for submission of funding requests** for the APSEA Auxiliary:

- September 29
- October 27
- November 24

When requesting financial aid for your students' needs, please send an email to Samantha_Neukomm@apsea.ca with the following information:

- Specify BVI or DHH
- Staff Name
- Student Name
- Requested aid (include a short description)
- Total cost (including shipping/taxes if possible)

If you have any questions, contact Samantha at 902/424-5639.

Summer Camps

Two very successful summer camps were held this year. The first was focused on *Visual and Performing Arts* and was held at APSEA during the week of July 3-8, 2011. Thirty-five youth in grades 7-12 participated. Local musicians, instructors and artists were engaged to teach campers aspects of the visual and performing arts and a number of outings took advantage of local offerings.

Campers participated in a number of off-campus activities. They had educational tours of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design; enjoyed an outdoor play - Robin Hood by Shakespeare by the Sea in Point Pleasant Park; made pottery at Clay Café and went swimming at Black Rock beach. Onsite workshops and sessions included Creative Music and Hip Hop, Yoga, Choral, Rock Band, Mixed Media Painting and Mime.



The week was highlighted by a closing Arts Gala on Friday morning where students had a chance to share their productions and talents with parents, visitors, staff and each other. An APSEA camp song was created by the campers which may become an annual part of our camps.



President Verna Munroe of the APSEA Auxiliary accepts a cheque for the proceeds from "Casual Fridays".



The second camp was the DHH APSEA/Elks Deaf Camp which was held at Lake Maguadavic, NB the first week of August. Campers came from across the four Atlantic Provinces and Nunavut and ranged in age from 7 to 15. Junior Counselors were 16 and over. There were 43 campers and 12 junior counselors in total; 25 from NS, 12 from NB, 2 from PEI, 2 from Nunavut and 16 from NL. This is a more traditional summer camp, and some of the activities of the camp are eagerly anticipated by counselors and campers alike – Dunk tank, Scavenger Hunt, Deaf Olympics, Duct Tape/Cardboard Boat Races, Counselor Extreme Makeover, Talent Show, Camp Dance and a trip to a Water Park. We are able to take advantage of the beautiful surroundings and swimming, canoeing, hiking and arts and crafts are daily activities.



Evaluation of the camps by staff showed it was highly valued and they would return in the future. There were not enough camper evaluations returned to utilize the information, so next year we will ask campers to complete evaluations before they leave the camp.

Thanks to Janet MacVicar, Sally Austin, Laura MacEachern and Wanda Nauss, members of the Camp Committee, who put many extra hours into making these camps a reality. Both camps could not take place without the excellent support and participation of APSEA staff, instructors, lifeguards and summer counselors hired for the camps. We are very appreciative of the time and active engagement of our staff in this regard. For the DHH camp in August, the Elks and Royal Purple Society provide the camp site and equipment, food, cooks, the nurse and transportation to the camp. They also transport campers and staff and pay for the trip to the Water Park. We thank them for their ongoing invaluable support. We look forward to a successful 2012 summer camp season.



APSEA/Elks Deaf Campers and Staff 2011

DHH Summer Programs and Training

Twenty-two (22) participants spent the week immersed in ASL during the *11th Annual ASL Immersion Week*, July 15-19. The parents, friends and APSEA staff honed their skills with the help of two skilled ASL instructors.



Sixteen (16) APSEA Educational Interpreters took part in a one-week *Oral Transliterators Training* program. The program, hosted at APSEA, was led by two facilitators from the Clarke Centre for Hearing and Speech in Northampton, MA.

The interpreter staff participated in their annual *APSEA Interpreter Workshop* August 22-24. The workshop included a keynote session, “The Interpreter’s Footprint”, by Paula Bath, several concurrent sessions facilitated by the interpreting staff, and a question/answer panel with an itinerant teacher and two students who use interpreters in school. The program got everyone back into “work mode” after their vacation, so they were ready and excited to begin another year in the schools.



APSEA Interpreter Workshop 2011

Board News

The Board of Directors held its annual meeting on 10 June 2011, with the new Executive Committee being elected:

- Chair – Alexander MacDonald, Deputy Minister, Prince Edward Island
- Vice-Chair – Rosalind Penfound, Deputy Minister, Nova Scotia
- Secretary – Darrin Pike, Deputy Minister, Newfoundland and Labrador
- Treasurer – Wendy McLeod-MacKnight, Deputy Minister, New Brunswick

Glenn Edison (Director, Student Services, PEI) was elected Chair of the Program Advisory Committee and Terry Keefe (Senior Director, Administration and Corporate Services, PEI) becomes Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee.

Our budget for 2011-12 was approved, representing a slight decrease from the previous fiscal year. The APSEA Annual Report for 2009-10 was also accepted. It can be viewed on the website (www.apsea.ca) by going to the Main Page and then clicking “Annual Report”. Two areas of future focus are the strategic plan (the process of review and renewal for the implementation of the next three-year period starting in September 2012) and further changes to legislation.

Danny Johnson “Typing for a Cause”

Taking the opportunity to honor Danny Johnson for his milestones since 1998 is indeed a pleasure. Danny is well known in the community and to APSEA for his typing marathons. He has raised a 12 year total for APSEA of \$123,429; and a 25 year total of \$337,885 which includes funds raised in other provinces.



While working on his personal goal to type out the written form of the numbers between one to one million, Danny found sponsors for an annual type-a-thon. The money raised for children served by APSEA has provided funds which otherwise would not have been available for student-centered programs such as the purchase a new van to support student transportation on educational and recreational outings, participation in Space Camp, purchase of closed-circuit televisions to access print materials, and refurbishing of the playground equipment at the APSEA Centre.



On Saturday, May 21, 2011, Danny typed out “one million”. Now that he has achieved that goal, Danny is intending to move on to a new one: starting at one million and going to one. We congratulate Danny for achieving his personal goal and we send out a heartfelt thank-you for his contributions to the students served by APSEA.

Itinerant Teachers in HRSB

There was a lot of activity at APSEA this summer as the itinerant teachers who work with students in the Halifax Regional School Board prepared to establish new office spaces in various schools within the area. As a support to public schools in the Atlantic Provinces, itinerant teachers are based at schools in close proximity to the school teams and students with whom they work. Additionally, it provides the opportunity for itinerant teachers to be more easily accessible to school teams to ensure the support provided is at its maximum potential. We want to thank the itinerant teachers who had to pack their offices in June and move into new offices, for their cooperation and patience while we continue to work to ensure everything is in place.

Braille Common Curriculum for Atlantic Canada

APSEA is working with the Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training (CAMET) to develop a Braille Common Curriculum for Atlantic Canada. Students who are braille users require the teaching and learning of the braille code in the same way as a sighted child needs the teaching and learning of the print code. While there are many similarities (for example, concepts in literacy learning and the timing of the teaching of these outcomes) there are unique outcomes that necessitate having a scope and sequence for the braille code. This Braille Common Curriculum will align the technical information (outcomes) required to teach braille with the English-Language Arts curriculum outcomes for students who use print. We are obviously excited about the development of the Braille Common Curriculum for Atlantic Canada.



Database Forms

Over the past few months, we have been reviewing the forms currently housed on the database; many of them are quite dated and require revisions. The administrative assistants have been busy re-formatting these forms to ensure they are easily accessible and current. The new forms will be posted on the database over the next few months. You will be notified by email when forms have been replaced, to ensure everyone is aware of the correct revised form to use. Thanks to the administrative assistants for their diligence with this process.

Fall Inservice

DHH - Marc Marschark, Ph.D., is a Professor at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (USA), where he is Director of the Center for Education Research Partnerships. He also is Honorary Professor at the Moray House School of Education at the University of Edinburgh and the School of Psychology at the University of Aberdeen. Founding editor of the *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, he has published over 100 articles and chapters and written or edited over 20 books including *Raising and Educating a Deaf Child* (2007), *Evidence-based Practice in Educating Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students* (2010) with Patricia Spencer and *Educating Deaf Students* (2002) with Harry Lang and John Albertini. His current research focuses on relations of language, cognition, and learning by deaf children and adults in formal and informal educational settings.



Dr. Marschark will address the following three areas:

- Foundations for Learning: What We Know and What We Don't Know
- Deaf Cognition: Deaf Children Are Not Hearing Children
- Learning and Literacy: Why Have We Not Made More Progress?

BVI - Christine Roman-Lantzy, Ph.D., in addition to her role as Special Assistant to the Superintendent of the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children, is also the Director of the Pediatric VIEW (Vision Information and Evaluation at West Penn Hospital) Program in Pittsburgh, and a private consultant for CVI Resources.



A teacher of students who are blind or visually impaired, certified orientation and mobility specialist, and infant developmentalist, Dr. Roman-Lantzy is also a CVI project leader for the American Printing House for the Blind. Dr. Roman-Lantzy was previously the Director and Assistant Professor in the Program in Visual Impairment at Marshall University Graduate College, South Charleston, West Virginia; Research Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh Special Education-Vision Studies Program; and Infant Developmentalist in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Western Pennsylvania Hospital and the Children's Home of Pittsburgh. She also directed Project CRIB at the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children.

She has contributed journal articles and book chapters on orientation and mobility, children with multiple disabilities, and visual assessment for infants and has presented lectures and workshops on cortical visual impairment all around the world.

Dr. Roman-Lantzy is the author of the book, *Cortical Visual Impairment-An Approach to Assessment and Intervention*. She is also the recipient of the prestigious C. Warren Bledsoe Award.

Looking Ahead

With the onset of autumn, we settle in to the “new routines” of our work assignments for 2011-12. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities of the new school year, including our annual inservice in late October, which provides a time for many of us to learn and laugh together!

Have a great year,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bertram Tulk". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bertram Tulk, EdD
Superintendent