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### Superintendent's Message -Lisa Doucet

Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome as well as the support and guidance as I transition into the role of Superintendent. I have been taking some time to become familiar with the organization, as well as getting to know staff and students. It did not take long to recognize that there are so many wonderful things happening through the APSEA interprovincial collaboration and work to support youth and families!

I have visited schools with itinerant teachers as well as visited APSEA Centre-based staff and have had the opportunity to meet students during short-term programs.

As well, our team is currently preparing the goals and initiatives for the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan.

The senior leadership team met with the Directors and Superintendents in New Brunswick in April. I have met some parents as well as members of the APSEA Parent Association.

It was wonderful to meet APSEA staff during the spring in-service. This time also provided opportunities for me to get to know more about the different roles within the organization.

I experienced firsthand how staff and volunteers pull together in order to make events at APSEA a success in all regards! It has been so rich with collaboration and teamwork in all areas of the organization.

Thank you to Board members, committee members, staff, and volunteers for all you do to support our youth and families!

Have a safe and restful summer!





# Goal Ball

—Peter Parsons

Blind Sports Nova Scotia sent their first ever youth team to the Ontario Provincials / Eastern Canadian Goalball Championships in Ottawa on March 25th & 26th. The team consisted of five APSEA students; Tariq Durant, Matthew Gentleman, Griffin Hiltz, Emily Kinnear and Caelin Lloyd. They competed with three other teams from Ontario in the youth division, ages 8 to 14. This was all five of the students first goalball tournaments and one of the students first time on an airplane. With four 11 year old boys and one 13 year old girl, the team competed well and had close, exciting games against some older, more experienced competition. They won their first game 7-6, lost

their second game 6-5 and lost their third game 5-3. In this tournament there were no bronze medal games; however, based on goal differential, the Nova Scotia youth team won the bronze medal. They were all very proud to win these medals which they were excited to see had braille on the back.

This was a great experience for these students to play on a team representing their province. This was a great social opportunity for them to bond as a team

and to meet other blind and visually impaired kids from Ontario. The parents also had a great experience getting to know each other. The group even had a chance to tour the parliament buildings and go to the aviation museum. Next year this tournament will be held in Brantford, ON at the W. Ross MacDonald school for the blind. The kids are already talking about going to next year's tournament. We will continue our Thursday evening practices for this age range for the rest of the school year.

*"Never say  
never  
because  
limits, like  
fears are  
often just an  
illusion."  
-Michael  
Jordan*



From left to right: Peter Parsons, Matthew Gentleman, Caelin Lloyd, Griffin Hiltz, Tariq Durant, Emily Kinnear



## The Fiddle Head Flag - BVI student Taylor Belczewski

If you live for people's acceptance, you will die from their rejection - Lecrae. You would think a girl like me would know that, given my social status. I have a few friends. I used to think I knew my place, an antisocial book-lover, the most introverted anyone could be, now I know otherwise.

We're almost there! When we get there we go through the normal process, people with meds go to the nurse, I get my camp t-shirt and then Ali

the crazy art teacher takes my photo. Next, we walk to my cabin (orange, dragonfly) with my itinerant teacher, Janet and my counsellor, Allie. We're then called to the flagpole field for the beginning of week ceremony for Camp See-Ya, the camp for people who are blind or visually impaired. We put up the Brigadoon flag (six blue and white spirals, almost like fiddle heads). After the ceremony, my parents leave, it's almost time for supper.

At supper we listened to the head counsellor talk at us. It was pretty boring, until ... pursuits! "So, first we have cooking, then performing arts with Ali, and last, shipwrecked a mix between Shipwrecked sounds was great!

That night we had to pick our two favourite pursuits, we would be organized into one and would know which we're in, in the morning. At breakfast Allie tells us that we're doing canoeing for first activity. I wonder what pursuit



**Camp See-Ya  
Brigadoon Village**





I'll be in. The head counsellor comes up to the microphone. Yes! I got in Shipwrecked with my friends!

After canoeing, we go back to the dining hall for pursuit. The first day of pursuit, we do canoeing or kayaking, it's fun, once you get the hang of it. The next day during pursuit we walked down a tiny footpath. We went to the overnight sight, the walked back down the road. The last day of pursuit we went back on the canoes. When we got back to the dock, we flipped the canoe. It

was so cold! Then I had to ride the canoe back to the dock. Brrrrr!

The last night the girls had a big sleepover in the lounge. We started by having a toilet paper fashion show, then we had a toilet paper fight. We then told funny stories about random stuff. And then other counsellors came with popcorn. After that, Trynity, Sidney, Emma and I dragged four mattresses back into my room.

"No! Gabby, you can't go," I yell, jokingly "we have to stay here all summer!" Trynity, Sidney, Emma, Emily

and I were all trying to convince our friend Gabby that we need to stay here all summer.

That sleepover was one of the only times I've really felt completely accepted. Not that my school friends don't like me, it's just that at Brigadoon I'm not always the odd one out. Surprisingly, at Camp See-Ya, I'm one of the campers with the best vision! That's an improvement.



## Health Care Careers Exploration Camp

**-Emma-Neige Rudi**

The Health Care Careers Exploration Camp (HCCEC) is hosted by the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at the Rochester Institute of Technology University

(RIT) for students who are Deaf or hard of hearing. This camp is highly recommended for any Deaf students who are interested in science and want to go to RIT University in the

future. This is an eye-opening experience for qualified Deaf students who may feel isolated due to their interests, skills or geographical location, as it has been for me.





When I first arrived at the campus, I was speechless. Nearly every staff and camper I met could sign smoothly, and those who did not sign were clearly trying to learn sign language. I had barely arrived and already I felt like I belonged. I didn't even have to worry about communicating with my roommate. It felt so nice to be able to have words exchanged in no time with multiple people at once. The outside world is a world where Deaf people have to deal with slow communication and awkward moments; the RIT world is one where there are no communication barriers.

Education is also excellently delivered at the HCCEC; lectures were very good and very

educational. Professionals and professors stepped up to teach us about careers in health care and human body biology. We also got a chance to do some hands-on activities in the laboratory. In the lab we did some bacteria growing,

blood testing, urine analysis, and we even got to see and touch actual organs such as heart, lungs, and arteries. There was also a "professional panel", where Deaf or hard of hearing professionals/students in health care came to speak about their experiences and what barriers they had to go through to be successful in a health care career. We also got a chance to learn and become certified in CPR, and get a tour of the medical school at the University of Rochester.

Fun activities at the HCCEC were well-balanced and well-chosen, we did something different each day—games, movie night, bowling night, and we even went to the RIT's

bookstore and to an amusement park. We had time for socializing too. But what's best about these activities is the constant communication. There's nobody who is left out because of lack of communication. I had a very good time meeting new people and friends. I really liked how they balanced educational and fun activities together so that nobody would get bored.

For anyone who may have strong grades and are interested in a career in science, I highly recommend the HCCEC, and it would also provide a good chance for you to check out RIT and find out more about their services, courses and life at the university where there are many, many Deaf and hard of hearing students together with hearing students. I give the HCCEC two thumbs up!



# Jack's Journey - Aimee MacLean, mom of DHH student Jack; submitted by David MacLean



Jack's 4th  
Birthday

On August 25<sup>th</sup> 1998 at 6:30 p.m. Jack was welcomed into our world; small, loud and mighty. He was a happy baby by all accounts as long as he was in eye contact, or reach.

At approximately six months of age I noticed that he may not be hearing. I can now admit that I was in denial at the time, thinking that he was "fine". Jack's grandmother took him for a hearing test with recently retired Antigonish Audiologist, Mike Williams. Jack slept through the entirety of the testing session and while we had no formal diagnosis of a hearing loss at this juncture, reality was starting to set in. We awaited an appointment in Halifax and when Jack was

nine months old we learned that he was Profoundly Deaf. I progressed through my stages of grief and then I adapted my mindset for what the future would bring for myself and Jack.

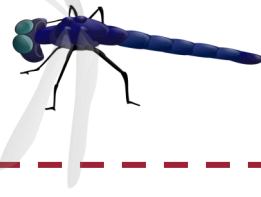
Jack received two hearing aids at the age of one and I was hopeful in anticipation that these two little miracles would allow Jack to be able to hear like everyone else..... wrong! At this point my optimism was really crushed! We adjusted after a few months and noticed that Jack was aware of some sounds but was still not hearing well. After doing some research and investigating we discovered the possibility of a

Cochlear Implant (C.I). After months of appointments to figure out if Jack might be a plausible candidate, the answer was indeed a yes! This surgery was not being performed in Halifax but rather we had the option of either the Children's Hospital in Eastern Ontario, Ottawa, or Sick Kids in Toronto. We chose Ottawa and got Jack's name was placed on a waiting list. Shortly thereafter we received the call



Jack at 6 years with his Papa





and at that time Jack would be the youngest Nova Scotian ever to undergo a Cochlear Implant Surgery.

About three months later, around the middle of July, in the year 2000, we received a call that the C.I Surgery was scheduled for the following week. Thankfully the surgery itself was a success and we just had to wait the six weeks post operation for Jack's head to heal. On the day that Jack's C.I was activated he was scared when he heard the sound of a toilet flushing. The adjustment period for our whole family was a huge learning curve for us all. Jack was busy figuring out what he was hearing and where all of these sounds were coming from. He loved the sounds of big trucks and actually I do believe they were his first words "BIG TRUCK". Jack

wasn't a huge fan of the C.I for the first couple of years. I am not sure whether it was a power struggle or him just being plain stubborn? I've figured out over the last sixteen years that my boy was plain determined and stubborn.

In the summer of 2012 Jack decided that he wanted to play football as he prepared to enter high school. My husband and I were quite apprehensive about Jack playing football with the C.I and neither one of us are what you might consider athletically inclined. We did not hesitate however to move forward in supporting Jack with this endeavour and coach Vandesande was contacted right away. The coach assured us that he would be supportive of us, as a family, in doing

whatever possible for Jack to partake.

Fast forward to the present day – Jack has been accepted into the Business Program at St. F.X University in Antigonish for the 2017-2018 Academic School Year. Jack has received a \$1250.00 Scholarship from St. F.X and has also recently been awarded a \$1000.00 Scholarship from the Interprovincial School Development Association (ISDA). Jack has been fortunate enough to have been invited to be a player on the St. F.X University Football team.



**Jack & his family**





Studying  
business &  
playing  
football



Needless to say he is excited and is very much looking forward to being part of such a great team.

Jack is a big brother of four, he has two sisters; Rachel (13) and Natalie (11) and a younger brother Lachie (9) along with a very large extended family. Being the

oldest of his siblings Jack has had some experience being the babysitter in our home as well as for other families in the area. Jack embraced this opportunity with enthusiasm but I will admit that novelty soon wore off as Jack quickly realized that caring for children was no easy task.

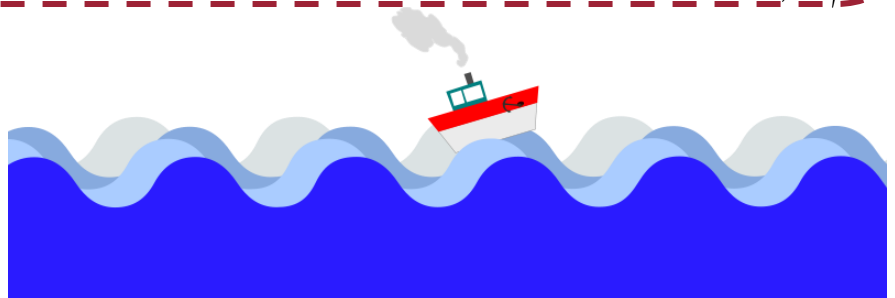
As it has always been; however more so as of late, Jack has been a huge support in helping to care for and support of his papa who was diagnosed with dementia three years ago. Needless to say this in itself shows Jack's commitment and determination.

Jack has always had such a positive attitude and this eagerness has enabled him to succeed both academically as well as personally.

Proud parents is an understatement to say the least. It has not always been easy, however Jack is a prime example of how hard work and dedication, commitment and determination pay off. It is rather difficult to put into words just how proud we are of Jack and how truly blessed we feel for how well Jack has done and how well he continues to do.

*"The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time"*

- Thomas A. Edison







*"Together we  
can do so  
much."*

*- Helen Keller*

# Learning from Coast to Coast Autism in Education (AIE)

- Shelley McLean

The 2016-2017 school year has seen record numbers of participants in APSEA's Autism in Education (AIE) Partnership annual webinar series. Our first webinar of the year, **"From Theory to Practice: Rehearsal Strategies for Anxious Students"** was presented by Marlene Breitenbach, ASD and Behaviour Consultant from Prince Edward Island. More than 600 participants, representing every province from Newfoundland and

Labrador to Manitoba joined the webinar. The second offering in this year's series was a presentation from Dr. Lauren Kenworthy, Director of the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder at Washington's Children's National Health System. Dr. Kenworthy provided an overview of her **"Unstuck & On-Target!"** executive function curriculum. Dr. Jason Travers, Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas, presented the

final webinar of the year, **"Effective Sexuality Education for Learners with ASD and Diverse Needs."** Participants representing eight provinces, from coast to coast, logged in from 200 different sites across the country to take part in the last two webinars of this year's series.

Recordings of all three webinars, along with a number of previous presentations, are available on the AIE website (<http://aie.apsea.ca>) for anytime, anywhere viewing. AIE webinars are open to all who are interested (teachers, parents, partner professionals, and others) on a first-come first-served basis, so keep an eye on the AIE website for more information and announcements about the 2017-18 webinar series.

Looks Like <i>Won't...</i>	Could be <i>Can't</i>
Oppositional, Stubborn	Difficulty shifting
Can do it if he wants to	Avoiding overload
Self Centered	Difficulty shifting
Won't put good ideas on paper	Lack of salience
Sloppy, erratic	Impaired social cognition
Won't control outbursts	Poor self monitoring
Doesn't care what others think	Poor fine motor
	Disorganization
	Poor self monitoring
	Overloaded
	Overloaded
	Disinhibition
	Impaired social cognition
	Poor self monitoring

\* Video Transcript of Unstuck and On Target



## Employee Retirements -Lisa Doucet



Left to right: Lisa Doucet, Cathy Chisolm, Heather Conrad

As with staff in many organizations, APSEA has its share of retirees each year. This year APSEA has four staff who will be retiring this summer. Louise, Britten (DHH Itinerant Teacher – Fredericton) will be retiring the end of June; Cathy

Chisholm (Administrative Assistant for BVI Programs) will be retiring on August 25, 2017; Beryl McPherson (DHH Itinerant Teacher – Sydney) will be retiring at the end of June; and Peter Papoulidis (DHH

Itinerant Teacher – Fredericton) will also retire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. We wish these staff members the very best as they embark on the next major phase of their lives.

*"There is a whole new kind of life ahead, full of experiences just waiting to happen."*

- Betty Sullivan

## Employee 25 Year Recipients -Lisa Doucet

During the Retirement Reception held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017, Lisa Doucet announced that the following staff have reached the milestone of working 25 years with APSEA: Pam

Edmonds, Wendy Morrison and Lynn Seymour-Lalonde. Lynn was present to accept her certificate and noted that it was hard to believe that 25 years had passed. We would like to take the

opportunity to thank these staff members for the 25 years they have given to APSEA.



## Employee Recognition -Lynn Seymour-

### Lalonde

Cindy Millar, Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Consultant at APSEA, was recently honoured by the

Speech Pathology and Audiology Association (SPAA) of Nova Scotia. Cindy was awarded the **SPAA Recognition Award for 2016**, at their annual general

meeting on October 28, 2016.

APSEA colleague, Patrick Daley, Student and Family Counsellor for students who are Deaf

Cindy Millar, AAC Consultant



or Hard of Hearing (NB), submitted a letter of nomination in which he outlined Cindy's role and expertise as a valued member of the APSEA team, fulfilling a unique role for students with sensory deficits. He noted Cindy is often in the forefront of providing best practice service delivery to APSEA's specific population.

As an employee of APSEA since November 1995, Cindy has worked as a speech-language pathologist. Since September 2011, she has enjoyed being a member of the APSEA Assistive Technology team in the role of AAC Consultant. Patrick commended Cindy on her outstanding professional service to students with vision and hearing loss and

complex communication needs. The president of SPAA, Mairi Hunter-Setchell commented that "having worked with Cindy in the past (with an APSEA student), I can personally attest that this award is well deserved."

Congratulations Cindy on being honoured by your professional colleagues and receipt of the SPAA Recognition Award!



## Resource Services News

### Unified English Braille Files –Samantha Neukomm

Titles in this format are embossed on request. This is a more efficient way of managing our collection, instead of embossing copies of material that may or may not be used. We encourage everyone looking for UEB material to search the

database for Unified Braille Files, as well as hardcopy UEB. To search for files use the 'Library Search' tab, select "Unified Braille Files" in the dropdown menu beside 'Format' and click on 'Main Search'.

