



MONTHLY MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2006

Welcome back!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Senior Management, I trust that your summer turned out to be what you wanted... and with that “R and R,” you’re ready for and excited about the year ahead!

As we embark on another school year, it is important to look ahead as well as look back. The 2005-06 year was rife with activity, headlined by the APSEA Review, supported by the Broad-Scope Audit and the Space Utilization Study. Making use of the learnings gathered will require continued attention as we move forward in the coming months.

APSEA REVIEW

The intensive period of data gathering and analysis of Review findings culminated in the presentation of recommendations from the Directors’ Committee to the Board of Directors on 6 July 2006. The report received extensive discussion, with particular emphasis placed upon ensuring the recommendations were consistent with the findings and that the proposals were action-oriented. The development of action items for implementation will be the focus of the Program Advisory Committee and the Board during the fall, followed by a press conference/release to detail implementation plans.

APSEA remains committed to the provision of the highest quality of programs and services to our children. At its July meeting, the Board of Directors passed unanimously the following motion:

“That the Board of Directors express our sincere appreciation to our APSEA employees, who continue to show dedication and commitment to provide a valuable, high quality service to our children who are blind and visually impaired and deaf and hard of hearing.”

Executive Committee 2006/07

Chair: Mr. John Kershaw
Deputy Minister, NB

Vice-Chair: Mr. Bruce Hollett
Deputy Minister, NL

Secretary: Mr. Denis Cochrane
Deputy Minister, NS

Treasurer: Mr. Ken MacRae
Acting Deputy Minister, PE

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

The NSTU collective agreement has been ratified by both parties, with the official signing ceremony scheduled for 30 October 2006.

Negotiations continue into the fall with both NBUPPE, while the exchange of opening packages with NSGEU is scheduled for 18 October 2006.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

The following article was featured in the Globe and Mail:

2006 TERRY FOX HUMANITARIAN AWARD - Awarded to former APSEA student - Kristen Barnes

The Terry Fox Humanitarian Award Program has helped over 500 young Canadians achieve their dreams by providing them with the opportunity to gain a post secondary education.

This year, in honour of the program's 25th anniversary, twenty-five new recipients were included into the program. Each student upholds the highest humanitarian ideals, they all share the vision of bettering their communities, their country and their world.

The award reads: "In recognition of having demonstrated the highest ideals and qualities of citizenship and humanitarian service while in pursuit of excellence in academic, amateur sport, fitness, health and voluntary community service endeavours. In so doing has reflected those ideals of courage, humanitarianism, service and compassion which Terry Fox embodied."

Congratulations Kristen!

CNIB BRAILLE CONTEST



Carolyn Naylor

In May 2006, Carolyn Naylor (then in Grade 9 at Brookside Junior High) submitted an entry to the CNIB Creative Writing & Braille Accuracy Competition 2006. This competition required that she write an original composition of at least 1500 words. The entries had to be brailled on a Perkins Braille Writer and were judged on the originality, interest and braille accuracy. Carolyn's story was called "Fight for Survival" and was about two friends being ship-wrecked on an Island. Carolyn worked very hard to produce clean, accurate braille. She wanted her braille to be as accurate as possible. She is learning braille as an older student and has not yet learned all of her contractions, but she was very diligent to make sure to use the contractions she knew.

Carolyn is now in Grade 10 at Halifax West High School and found out on September 18th, that she won first prize in her age group for her entry. She won \$150 and an all expense paid, four-day, trip to Toronto to receive her award at the 2006 CNIB Braille Conference. She and her mom will be travelling to Toronto October 25 to attend the conference on October 26-27.

Congratulations Carolyn!

STAFF RECOGNITION

In a “Call for Papers” by the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness (SERID), Barry Imber, DHH Supervisor for Nova Scotia, submitted a proposal entitled “Service to All Users: a comprehensive service delivery model in an inclusionary climate.” His presentation proposal was subsequently accepted, requiring that he attend the SERID Conference which, “unfortunately,” is held in Tampa, Florida from October 18 - 22 this year.

The goal of the conference is to provide information that will assist rehabilitation professionals, mental health workers, educators and interpreters to better assist their deaf and hard of hearing consumers. The conference will provide information on effective practices and current trends in the field.

Barry will discuss APSEA’s service delivery model, describing its evolution from a residential school for the Deaf to a fully inclusive model and its current challenges.

Congratulations Barry!

INSPIRATION

THE GOOSE STORY

Author Unknown

This fall when you see geese heading south for the winter flying along in a “V” formation, you might be interested in knowing what science has discovered about why they fly that way. It has been learned that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a “V” formation, the whole flock adds at least 70% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

People who share common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the draft and resistance of trying to go it alone, and quickly gets into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are going.

When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point.

It pays to take turn doing hard jobs.

The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

An encouraging word goes a long way.

Finally, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by a gun shot and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow him until he is either able to fly or until he is dead, then they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with the group.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.

Centre Changes

We had a few changes to our cafeteria staff recently. Chef, Greg Dunn, has left to start his own business and Sylvia Lewis retired. Congratulations to both! Greg is replaced by Tanya Smith. Welcome Tanya!

Submissions Encouraged

Forward to Angela Boutilier (ajb@apsea.ca)

Regards,
Bertram R. Tulk, EdD
Superintendent