

Welcome Back!!

I trust that each of you has enjoyed the summer season and the most pleasant start of autumn. July and August activities involved students (Intervener Program, Autism Camp) Staff (training for educational interpretation, language acquisition facilitators, and a sign language course) and future staff (students in the MSVU programs).

While the school year got off to a smooth start, our usual routine was significantly altered by the earlier-than-usual scheduling of our annual inservice week with Joanne Tompkins (Community Building: Exploring Beneficial Ways of Interacting) and Jean Blaydes-Madigan (Action Based Research). We are convinced that this major event will result in increasing our effectiveness in the coming months and beyond.

Order of Canada

We are delighted to extend congratulations to Dr. P. Ann MacCupsie on her recent appointment to the Order of Canada. The award represents well-deserved recognition for a lifetime contribution to the betterment of lives for the blind and visually impaired, predominately through Ann's exceptional career with APSEA.

Chairman of the APSEA Board, John Kershaw, noted that Dr. MacCupsie's "vision, dedication and commitment to the profession warrant the highest recognition; we applaud and celebrate this esteemed honour."

Way to go, Ann...you continue to make us proud!!

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Board News

The Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Keith Pierce as our newest member. Mr. Pierce, Superintendent of Education for District 10 in New Brunswick, replaces Mr. Alex Dingwall, whose term recently expired.

Meetings of the APSEA Board and Committees have been confirmed. The Program and Financial Advisory Committees will meet on 1-2 November, the Executive Committee on 22 November, and the Board on 29 November.

Kayaking Fun

By Bernadette Sullivan



The sun was shining, the wind rested quietly, the bay in Lower Prospect caressed gently, the keels of four rental kayaks. Four Cooperative Education Students gathered up their life jackets and skirts (yes, two of them were boys). This provided some jovial

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laughter! Some Apprehension, some anticipation, some fear and some excitement moved all forward to a place of pride. The entry provided heightened fear for some. They, settling into the power bow position, the counsellor in the steering stern position behind them, provided the heightened trust for all. Being in nature, while experiencing a new physical challenge and camaraderie was, in their word, "AWESOME!" They liked the BBQ too!! WE all had so much fun!! Fell joy-learn more!! The following Inuit poem encapsulates the experience:

Little Song

And I think over again
 My small adventures
 When with a shore wind I drifted out
 In my kayak
 And I thought I was in danger.
 My fears,
 Those small ones
 That I thought so big
 For all vital things
 I had to get and to reach.
 And yet, there is only
 One great thing:
 To live to see in huts and journeys
 The great day that dawns,
 And the light that fills the world.

<added words>

With such a singular brilliant clarity
 It could only be the reflection of Truth
 That pure force with the power to dispel all

fear

And open my heart to the simple essence of being

That chortles joyous laughter deep within the well of my chest

And strengthens me to paddle on along my route to discovery

The one only a kayaker can know.

Robert Pruden 2002

Cochlear Implant

By Abby MacLean

Hi! My name is Abby MacLean. I am 8 years old. We were at the mall and it has a glass elevator. Cathy was the one who put on my new cochlear implant. It was sooo cool. Cathy had to clap her hands to make sure if it was too loud or okay. Then I had Bionic Buddy and I feel sooo happy all the time because now it won't hurt my back when I'm sitting in the booster seat. When I'm 9 years old, I won't have to be in the booster seat anymore.

When I'm at school, I can hear my teachers and my friends very well. It makes me feel so happy. My new processor is easy because I don't have to have a backpack!! My new implant is blue, green and probably purple.



Abby is among the first children in Nova Scotia to receive the Harmony Hi-Res 120 Ear Level speech processor from Advanced Bionics. She is the daughter of Keith and Brenda Park-MacLean and attends Thornburn Consolidated school in Pictou County, NS.

Retirement Banquet

The 2007 Retirement Banquet honours the following retirees and those with 25 years of service with APSEA:

Retirees

Mary (Austin) Babin
Lynn Cone
Al Gillis
Patsy Newman
John Parsons
Rosalie Walters

25 Years of Service

Mary Jean Bray
Bernie Power
Christine Squires
Betty Strugnell
Debra Sundstrom
Sharon Woyner

CPI

Non violent Crisis Intervention Program

By Christy Everett

Roger Hanrahan and Christy Everett took the CPI Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Instructor Certification Program in late June. Crisis intervention is a small segment of time in which staff members must intervene with another person to address behaviour that may escalate into disruptive or even violent incidents. The goal of staff is to intervene in a way that provides for the *Care, Welfare, Safety and Security* for all who are involved in the crisis situation.

In September, the first of APSEA staff took a two day training program. Residence staff and on-site staff were among the first

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DHH Student Saves Game for Team



On Thursday, 13 September 2007, the Leo Hayes High School JV football team was up by three points in the final seconds of the game against FHS. FHS was advancing to the goal line with 4th down to go when LHHS cornerback (and DHH student), Wade McLaughlin, intercepted a pass at the goal line and saved the game.



Above, DHH student, Wade McLaughlin, intercepts a pass to save the game for the Blue and White.

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group. The training provided staff with the knowledge, procedures and techniques to intervene in a crisis situation. Further follow-up refresher training is scheduled for January 2008. Other APSEA staff will be trained in nonviolent crisis intervention within the coming year as scheduling allows.

APSEA's commitment to training all staff should help secure the *Care, Welfare, Safety and Security* for everyone involved in our programs.

Student Awards



Rilind Dragoshi (with Jennifer Lesperance) received the Ronnie Corbett Guenette Citizenship Award for active involvement in school and extra curricular activities and the Sir Frederick Fraser Award for Academic effort.



Katie Woodman (with Jennifer Lesperance) received the Keyboarding Award.



Corrilyn LeBlanc received the Lowell Legge Award for social interaction/social or organizational skills.

Staff Changes

We want to welcome Susanne Miller as the new P/T Night Aide and Les Furlong who is replacing Marilyn Neal as Assessment Teacher. Roger Hanrahan is filling in for Christa Rodrigues as O&M Instructor and Nancy Bradley is replacing Kathrin Valcarcel-Schott in Moncton as a BVI itinerant.

On Being a Mentor

By Julie Windebank

I remember first being told by Ann MacCupsie that we should be recruiting new employees for APSEA. I sat at the Boardroom table listening to Ann and thinking, now how would I be able to recruit someone when I'm wondering myself why in the world anyone would want this job. Not only are we expected to know and be able to teach everything within every area of child development and the regular school curriculum, we often co-ordinate everyone involved with each student - we all know the

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expanding core curriculum is only a small fraction of the responsibilities of an itinerant teacher! And as I sat there, the following list of woes sprang readily to mind:

- Our cars are devaluing by the mile - any trade-in value is lost before the car is even paid for
- We have to know everything from how to use keystrokes for JAWS and e-text technology to how to get someone to open their hand to hold a spoon
- We have to be professional with the occasionally problematic principal or parent, even when my natural response is not so professional
- We have to know how to negotiate the school board system, health care provider environment, the preschool and daycare environment, teenagers and the transition to being a grown-up environment, manpower, community services, respite, summer programs, tutors...

So that was my state of mind at the time - but it was Ann who was asking us to do this, so I did.

Then, suddenly, you realize what you've done - you're partly, (in fact largely) responsible for the career change of this innocent young teacher, this really nice person who has high ideals, who now thinks that working for APSEA is such a great thing! So then you feel so protective - you look back and see yourself in this young idealist, you remember all too well that first year...

"...you look back and see yourself in this young idealist, you remember all too well that first year..."

although I had been in the field for awhile and had been an itinerant in two

other provinces and had worked for APSEA for seven years, when I came off campus to a new school board I often felt lost, lost, lost...

- The struggle to learn who to go to for what - and while we have a helpful and supportive supervisor, she really didn't know my unique area, my schools or the children - plus she was a little scary because she advised me very firmly to be very careful what I said to people...
- And the forms...
- And oh! the Braille...
- And all the things that change your schedule - teleconferences, planning meetings, committee meetings, O&M consults - so you have to have a schedule that you can hardly ever keep...
- And then the feeling of missing a meeting or a teleconference because you're trying so hard to stick to your schedule you completely forgot that this is a day that is not according to your schedule
- The ASP's
- The forms and the Braille - did I mention that?

On *Being a Mentor* from page 5

- The boxes and boxes and boxes to pick up and drop off at the post office
- The dinky office space with no internet hook-up, no lock, no file cabinet, no phone...and the cranky school secretary
- Then the forms change, the rules change, who to call for what changes, the technology changes
- Getting a box with something in it that you didn't know how to use
- Losing your daybook...

So yes, when they asked me if I wanted to be a mentor, I said yes!

It takes time...

- it takes time to explain what you do now without even thinking about how or why you do it
- it takes time to explain what seems obvious now but wouldn't have when I was new
- it takes time believing that this is the best job going, and you are letting someone else in on this secret - but that they haven't figured this out yet - but if they just tough it out a little bit they are going to be so glad they did
- it is very exciting when the person you are mentoring is telling you about something they are doing that you haven't learned how to do yet
- it is inspiring when they come up with a solution to a problem you would never

have thought of

- it is very sweet when they give you a bottle of wine and a nice note at Christmas
- it is satisfying to realize how much you have learned at this career, and how much there is still to learn, to be challenged

and you definitely get back the support you

Conclusion

In perusing the foregoing items, I marvel at the breadth and scope of the challenges and successes from our collective efforts. Features include student activities and achievements, professional development, training programs, staff recognition and Board updates. Let us continue to focus on children as we progress through the months ahead.

In closing, I welcome questions and comments from you...and, of course, your contributions to future issues of the Monthly Message.

All the best,



Bertram Tulk, EdD
Superintendent