



# Seen and Heard

## Superintendent's Corner

The end of the school year seems to have arrived quickly, due in large part to the busy period since our April newsletter.

The strategic plan continues to demand dedicated time and attention, with notable advances in the Assessment priority over the past year. Significant progress was also made in Performance Management, with the development of Guidelines and Procedures, sample evaluation forms, a Guide to Competency-Based Evaluating and a policy for the

Board's consideration. Full implementation of the new process is scheduled for the 2015-16 school year.

The focus of our Accessibility Committee has evolved from its initial focus of eliminating on-campus physical barriers for individuals who are BVI and/or DHH to a broader mandate of helping staff "become more sensitive and skilled in making APSEA a more inclusive community." Toward this end, our 2014 annual inservice included a dialogue on accessibility; the feed-

back from that consultation is being analyzed to help set new priorities and outcomes.

This year-end issue of Seen and Heard reflects our focus on student and staff achievement, recognition and activities. We also feature the support APSEA receives from outside individuals and organizations ... a sampling of "volunteer gifts" which enrich the social, academic and recreational opportunities of the children we serve. Thank you to every one!

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## Congratulations Chartwells Staff!

Congratulations to the Chartwells Team at APSEA on winning the Chartwells Regional Account of the Year!

Barb, Bonnie, Denise and Verna work hard to make sure everyone is well fed at APSEA which is much appreciated!



## Faraway Friends

- submitted by Lesley Anthony (BVI Itinerant Teacher)

Until last spring, grade three student, Alexis, thought she was the only person who was blind. Then she met Haley, a grade one student on my caseload. Arranging for both girls to attend assessments at APSEA during the same week this past fall solidified the friendship. Alexis says, "I am so happy to have a friend who is blind like me." Sleepovers are now a regular occurrence for these girls, despite living some distance apart.

But Alexis now has another friend who is blind like her. In February, Alexis "met" Layla, a grade three student in Newfoundland. The girls met through Skype; an idea that came to me while catching up with my colleague, Jackie Kelly at the Canadian Vision Teachers Conference in Halifax. We discovered we had students with very similar stories. Both braille readers, the girls were reading below grade level, so we brainstormed ways to increase the time they spent reading and ways to make reading more motivating for them. One idea that appealed to us was for them to become reading buddies, and so plans for the following year were put in motion.

Once the technical glitches (there are always technical glitches) were worked out, the girls' curiosity was finally satisfied. After much talk of each other through their itinerant teachers, they met one afternoon for half an hour. Initially shy, introductions were prompted by their teachers. The girls then read a book which had been downloaded from Reading A-Z, and brailled at each girls' level of braille knowledge. They took turns reading and helping if someone got stuck. When saying our goodbyes on that first day, with a promise to do it again, Layla quickly said, "Can we do it tomorrow?" The most recent visit had the girls quizzing each other on braille contractions, an activity that is completely natural for these two braille readers, but not so easy to do with sighted classmates.

Seeing these two girls interact and listening to how they speak of each other as friends, illustrates the impact this reading project has had on another level. In pairing these girls to be reading buddies, we normalize braille as a reading medium, promoting self-acceptance, and positive self-esteem. Meeting someone "just like me" does that.

Jackie and I are hopeful that this budding friendship will grow to include contact outside of the classroom meetings that we arrange. Both girls excitedly speak to their families about their new friend and their mothers, both members of the APSEA Parents Facebook page, have made contact with each other. So until they meet one day at camp, or the Braille Challenge, perhaps, we will keep up the "virtual visits".



## My First Heritage Fair

- submitted by Taylor Belcezwski (grade 5 BVI Student, Fredericton)

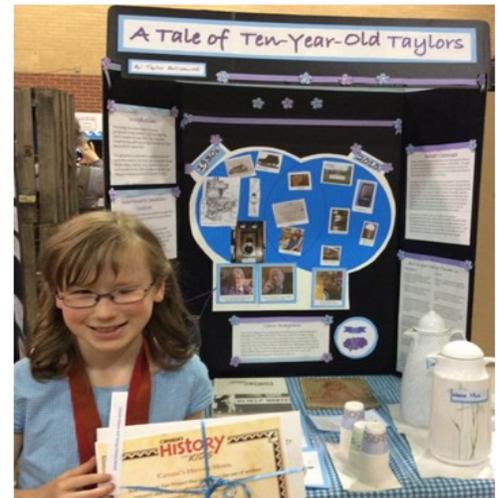
On April 24, 2015 Priestman Street School had its first annual Heritage Fair. I entered with my project about comparing how my great-grandparents lived when they were ten in the 1930s, to how I live now as a ten-year-old in 2015. With this project I won first place for Grade 5, going on to the District Heritage Fair which was held at the Oromocto High School on May 13.

At the District Heritage Fair, I won a participation medal, and also won the 'Young Citizens' award.

This means instead of going to Provincials, I will take a video of how my project came together. There will be a workshop at UNB in Fredericton, June 13 and 14. Some students from UNB will give us video cameras, and show us how to use them.

After the video is finished (it's due June 30), it goes to the National judges and will also be sent to their website so people across Canada can access it, and vote for which video they think is the best. The winners get a free trip to Ottawa with a par-

ent, to present their video at the 'Canada's History Forum', meet other 'Young Citizens', and meet the Governor General, David Johnston, at Rideau Hall.



## Special Mittens

- submitted by Sandra Mihan, NB O&M Consultant



Big thanks to Hazel Swan, an 85 year old grandmother who lives in Oromocto, New Brunswick. Hazel spent the winter knitting special "cane" mittens for our little cane users. All the children were excited to receive their warm mittens and appreciated keeping their fingers warm while travelling outside during this very cold winter.

On April 10, 2015, Hazel was presented flowers and a Certification of Appreciation. Hazel has already ordered more wool so she can make more mittens!



## Volunteer Luncheon at APSEA

- submitted by **Carol DeYoung, Supervisor of Assessment & STP (DHH)**

On June 16, 2015, an Appreciation Luncheon was held at APSEA for all the volunteers who contributed their time, knowledge, experience and skills to support students who are deaf and hard of hearing that attend the Short Term Programs at APSEA.

Some of the programs offered this year at APSEA supported by volunteers included: Self -Advocacy, Career Exploration, Functional Living Skills, Sexual Health and certain themes in Intensive Language. The support of volunteers helps build language communication, background knowledge and self esteem in the students that attend the short-term programs. The students continue to benefit from good role models, making connections in the Deaf community, and experiencing the act of volunteering as well.

The following volunteers attended: Melanie Mills, Richard Martell, James DeYoung, Jim McDermott, Doug Cassibo, Frank O'Sullivan, Cindy Boutilier, Brenda Dorton, and Paige Barnaby. APSEA staff in attendance: Amy Parsons, Sheri Stevens, Wanda Nauss, Carol DeYoung, and Lori Moore.



## Public Speaking

- submitted by **Olivia MacLeod (grade 4 DHH Student, Sydney)**

I smell...the worries in the air  
I see...the audience  
I hear...the applause  
I touch ...the certificate  
I taste...the ice cream treat

Last year, I went to a public speaking event to listen to my sister speak. She was very shy, but she was brave to tell her story about being deaf. She did a wonderful job. After the event, I thought to myself, "Hmm, I think I want to do this next year".

I didn't forget about this special event. When the spring arrived, I decided to write a speech about my hearing loss and my trip to APSEA. I was the only student in my class who wanted to participate in the public speaking event this year.

I practiced my speech a lot. I worked on my expression, my pronunciation of certain words and my eye contact. I felt pretty confident about doing a good job at public speaking.

May 5<sup>th</sup> arrived and I was pretty excited. I got to get all dressed up and I had lots of friends and family to cheer me on. When I walked in the building, there was no one in the hallway. Everyone was inside the auditorium. I got to sit in the front row and my name was second on the list to speak. Before we all got to speak, we went up onto the stage to wave to the audience. There were fourteen of us.

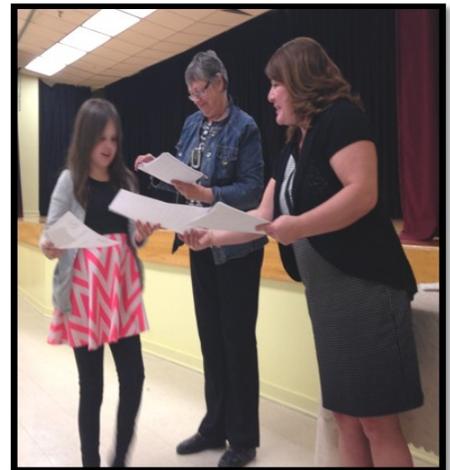
Then, it was my turn. I wasn't afraid at all. I was happy to be there and I did a good job.

I forgot a few lines, but for my first time, I think I did great. I was very happy that the other speakers were able to use my FM system. My sister and I were able to hear everyone's speeches clearly. I was very proud of myself and so were my school and family. When all the speeches were completed, the adjudicator gave each of us a score sheet and a certificate with a coupon for free ice cream. Yummy!

I hope that I can give another speech in grade 5 and grade 6. I better start thinking of some new topics.



Left: Olivia with DHH Itinerant Teachers Susan MacLean and Beryl McPherson.



Above: Olivia accepting her certificate

## NB Staff Meeting

- submitted by **Lisa Weir, Consultant**  
**Students who are Deaf with Additional Challenges**

On May 1, 2015, both the BVI and DHH staff members in NB came together in Fredericton for a combined staff meeting. Over the course of our day, there were two presentations from DOE staff as well as some breakout time where the two groups split up for a short while. The district presentations included one by Kim Korotkov, who spoke about the Response to Intervention (RTI) model. The second presentation by Kim Bower highlighted the new Speaking and Listening Achievement Standards and how they align with the K-2 Literacy curriculum.

During our lunch break, we took the opportunity as a provincial staff to recognize two wonderful careers and send our happiest retirement

wishes (complete with cake of course!) to colleagues Deborah Rippin and Heather Carhart.

As we recognized two of our more seasoned staff, some of our newer APSEA teachers (Amanda W., Janice M., Becca M. and Margaret M.) were doing some friendly jostling for some highly sought-after donated resources.

Due to the fact it is a rare occasion when we are all gathered in one place as a provincial staff, we deemed it photo-worthy!



**Back row (L-R):** Janet MacVicar (BVI, F'ton), Linda Worley-Bell (BVI, Bathurst), Janice MacPhail (DHH - Miramichi), Amanda Weaver (DHH, SJ), Cheryl Perry (DHH, SJ), Nancy Bradley (BVI, Moncton), Valerie Furge (DHH, Perth Andover), Sandra Mihan (O&M, NB), Mary Currie (DHH, SJ), Michelle Taylor (DHH, SJ), Deborah Rippin (DHH - Guidance, NB), Lisa Weir (DHH+ Consultant, NB & NS), Peter Papoulidis (DHH, F'ton), Patrick Daley (DHH, Moncton), Lynn Lalonde (AT, NB & NS)

**Middle row (L-R):** Tracey Biggar (Transition, NB), Becca Morey (DHH, Bathurst), Jacquelyn Cormier (BVI, SJ), Charity Turner (BVI Preschool Consultant, NB), Melissa Rohloff (BVI, Sussex), Lesley Anthony (BVI, Woodstock), Susan Kennecic (DHH, F'ton), Sue Purney (DHH, Moncton), Heather Carhart (DHH, SJ), Margaret MacDougall (DHH, Moncton), Sherryl Eaton (DHH, Moncton), Louise Britten (DHH, F'ton)

**Front Row (kneeling) (L-R):** Fern Bannister (BVI, SJ), Sharon Robertson (DHH Provincial Supervisor), Christine Purcell (BVI Provincial Supervisor)

## Benefits the Whole Class

- submitted by **Christine Purcell, Provincial Supervisor (NB-BVI)**  
and **Melissa Rohloff, BVI Itinerant Teacher**

Jeff Gaunce teaches Physics and Advanced Technology at Sussex Regional High School in NB. In 2013 Emma Coffill, a student with low vision who was unable to view the content displayed on his SMART Board, enrolled in his class. (A SMART Board displays the screen of the teacher's computer where visuals for a lesson have been prepared. The teacher can use a special pen which acts like chalk or a felt marker to write or draw on the electronic board.)

Itinerant teacher, Melissa Rohloff, with the assistance of Lynn Seymour Lalonde, APSEA Assistive Technology Supervisor, set Emma up with a tablet to work in conjunction with Bridgit, an internet video conference

system, licensed through the NB Department of Education & Early Childhood Development. From her desk, Emma was now able to view the distance up-close to learn the material required as she pursues her dream to enter university in an engineering program.

At the beginning of every class, Mr. Gaunce opens a video conference session inviting Emma to join and view the board from the device on her desk where she can see it well.

In the fall of 2014, Emma attended a short-term program at APSEA in Halifax. She was concerned she would miss too much of her Physics 11 class. Fortunately, the same tablet (and the same video conferencing sys-

tem) allowed her to be virtually present with Mr. Gaunce's physics 11 instruction. She joined them daily, but this time with the sound on.

The twist with this story is that once this physics teacher realized the potential of video conferencing, he offered it to all students unable to be in class, to join in from a distance. Thanks to enrolling this student supported by APSEA, the whole class has increased access, from home when recovering from an illness or even when on vacation in Florida!!

Well Mr. Gaunce, we hope they are all thanking you now!



## Staffing Update

While our staffing process continues, the update below notes staff who are new to APSEA and those who are changing location or position for the 2015-16 school year.

**Marilyn Turner** - O&M Specialist (St. John's, NL)

**Beth Button** - BVI Itinerant Teacher (Saint John, NB)

**Jacquelyn Cormier** - BVI Itinerant Teacher (Halifax, NS)

**Rebecca Morey** - DHH Itinerant Teacher (Moncton, NB)

**Amanda Weaver** - DHH Itinerant (Saint John, NB)

**Laura Getson** - DHH Itinerant Teacher (South Shore, NS)

**Lisa Jenkins** - DHH Itinerant Teacher (Truro, NS)

**Heather Limpert** - BVI Itinerant (South Shore, NS)

**Sarah Kilfoil** - BVI Itinerant Teacher (Halifax, NS)

**Sheri Stevens** - DHH Itinerant Teacher (Halifax, NS)

**Brian Yee** - Supervisor of Assessment & STP (BVI)

**Lisa Brett** - Preschool Consultant (BVI) (Nova Scotia)

Special appreciation is extended to our retirees (Sally Austin, Heather Carhart, Karen Creelman, Eva McFadden, David Miller, Deborah Rippin and Jean Rowe) as they embark on a new phase and all that it entails. May your retirement be all that you want and more!

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APSEA

## Looking Ahead!



Our calendar of upcoming events includes: summer camps for BVI (30 June-4 July at Camp Brigadoon) and DHH (2-7 August at the Elks Camp in New Brunswick), BVI and DHH cohorts in the Masters programs at Mount Saint Vincent University in July, the Interpreter Workshop (17-19 August) and the annual Fall Inservice (20-22 October).

While we look forward to the challenges and opportunities of a new school year, let's try and ensure we also afford ourselves a fair measure of rest and relaxation during July and August.

Have a great summer,  
Bert

## Boston Bruins Fan Receives a Surprise!

- submitted by Susan MacLean, DHH Itinerant Teacher

Andrew Campbell is one of the biggest Boston Bruins fans I know. Andrew did a terrific project on the Boston Bruins in the fall outlining a timeline of the team's history and interesting facts. Andrew shared his project with David MacLean, an APSEA itinerant in Antigonish, who is also a huge Bruins fan. David shared his positive feedback on the project, as well as additional facts and details. Andrew was excited to learn more cool facts from a fellow Bruins fan. Nadina Richards, an APSEA teacher in Sydney has a family connection to one of the Bruins' players, Reilly Smith. Nadina sent a copy of Andrew's project to Reilly's mother in the fall of 2014 and she loved it!

On April 1, 2015, Nadina received a package in the mail with an autographed Bruins T-shirt and a Bruins 3-D Zamboni puzzle to give to Andrew. Andrew was very excited to receive these special gifts.

Andrew hoped the Bruins would have made it to the playoffs this year, but sadly they didn't. His dream is to someday go to a Bruins game in Boston. He is anxiously waiting to hear about the possible trades and who will be on the Bruins roster for the upcoming season.

