

March 14, 2008

Volume 7, No. 12

Upcoming Deadlines

March 24, 2008

2008 Canada Post
Literacy Awards

March 26, 2008

/EDU School Showcase of
class projects created in
the Olympic spirit

April 4, 2008

Visa Olympics of the
Imagination children's art
competition

Notable & Upcoming

March 20, 2008

BladeRunners AGM,
<http://www.bladerunners.info>

March 31, 2008

Winners of the Education
Month EdFacts Contest
announced

April 4, 2008

2008 Student Congress
<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/asc/>

April 13-15, 2008

Pan-Canadian Interactive
Literacy Forum
<http://www.cmec.ca/literacy/forum.en.stm>

New Appeal Process Introduced for Parents and Students

Education Minister Shirley Bond recently announced the creation of a new appeal process, providing another avenue of support for parents and students who have concerns about decisions made by board of education employees.

The new process allows for appeals on matters dealing with:

- Expulsions and suspensions, or disciplinary actions that require a student to complete all or part of their education using distributed learning (DL);
- Some issues involving students with special needs, including decisions about individual education plans (IEPs);
- Complaints about weapons or other violence, including bullying and harassment;
- Excluding students from school because of medical conditions; and
- Decisions related to a board of education's financial hardship policy.

The new process offers parents and students the opportunity to have an independent review of a board of education employee's decision. Many of these types of disputes can be resolved through mediation or adjudication.

The appeal process was part of Bill 20, the School (Student Achievement Enabling) Amendment Act 2007, which was passed in spring 2007. It fulfils a throne speech commitment to introduce reforms that focus on improving quality, choice and accountability in education.

For more information please see the [Student Appeals Branch website](#).

Our Hidden Heroes Program

Our Hidden Heroes Program is a six to eight week integrated unit of study for grades 1, 3, 5 and 7 that was created to help meet the ministry's Social Responsibility Performance Standards as well as learning outcomes in Language Arts, Social Studies and Personal Planning. The program was developed in BC, by teachers, for teachers.



The program is designed to motivate students to empower the best in themselves and each other and to put their positive ideas into action.

Although the word "bullying" is never used, teachers like Mimi Simone are

Our Hidden Heroes Program (Cont.)

also seeing it as a “valuable proactive tool against bullying.” Grade 7 teacher, Jodi Crawford, says, “the program is an excellent example of anti-bullying. It empowers students by giving them the tools necessary to be more aware of their actions and words.” Grade 5/6 teacher, Donna Gannon, says that within a few weeks of starting the program, she found that her students became more empathetic. Specifically, the bullying of one particular Grade 5 boy stopped.

You’ll find sample lesson plans and more on the [Our Hidden Heroes website](#). High school programs should be available by the fall of 2009.

Virtual Voices Village - Helping Students with Disabilities Realize Olympic and Paralympic Dreams



2010 Legacies Now, SET-BC and 3M are teaming up to provide opportunities for secondary school students with disabilities to participate in the

excitement of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The new program, Virtual Voices Village, will provide opportunities for students with a range of disabilities to develop writing and journalism skills and to post their work online. After completing the program, which will include interviewing and writing about athletes and other successful role models, and mentorship with local journalists, students may be selected to be reporters for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.



Currently, the Virtual Voices Village website is a unique online community where students with disabilities communicate with their friends

around the province and share ideas by publishing stories, poems and multi-media work. Many contributors take on the role of reporter, attending local sport and cultural events, and interviewing inspirational athletes, students and professionals.



Leading up to 2010, student reporters will be contributing content regularly on a variety of topics, such as major sport events, the Cultural Olympiad, and the Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays. 3M has supplied funding for Virtual Voices Village, as well as touch screen computer monitors, technology which will enable more students with disabilities to access the website and post their work.

Please visit www.vvillage.org to learn more about the program and see the students’ work.

/EDU: the Canadian school portal for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games needs sample school projects

/EDU at www.vancouver2010.com/edu is a bilingual e-magazine and portal created by the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Organizing Committee. It’s designed as a site where teachers and students can connect to the Olympic and Paralympic movement.

With the support of the BC Ministry of Education, /EDU is including a *School Showcase* highlighting class projects created in the Olympic spirit – “improving ourselves, our communities and our world.” To assist teachers who may wish to submit projects to the site and to get the ball rolling with classroom content to /EDU, VANOC is asking for sample classroom projects that fall within the categories of sport, culture,

/EDU (Cont.)

sustainability, Vancouver 2010, and the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

VANOC is looking for elementary and secondary level projects on a range of categories in either English or French. These projects may be documented with photos, audio samples, or video.



VANOC can offer hands-on assistance to help

document class projects for teachers in the lower mainland and provide telephone and email support to teachers elsewhere in BC.

If you have documented a project or if you have one coming up that you would like to put online, please contact VANOC by Wednesday March 26th. Please provide a short description of the project, grade level, the kind of documentation you can provide, and your contact information. This is a great opportunity for your students to share in the Olympic and Paralympic spirit.

To participate, contact: Megan Frazer, Project Manager T: 778.782.5283:

E: megan@7thfloormedia.com

For information on VANOC Education Programs, contact: Christina Adams, T: 778.328.4024

E: christina_adams@vancouver2010.com

Free Computers for Schools!

[Computers for Schools](#) is moving warehouses and has 200 Pentium 3 computers available for interested schools. Brands are assorted but it guarantees: 1.0 GHz, 256 MB RAM, 10 GB HD, Win 2000. The only cost to the school is shipping.

Interested? please contact: Mary-Em Waddington, Computers for Schools, at 604-250-9936 or mwaddington@cfsbc.ca

BC Law and Citizenship Curriculum Assessment Project

The Law Courts Education Society of BC is reviewing the grade 7 to 12 curriculum in BC to find out what students are learning about law and citizenship. A recent Social Studies Needs Assessment conducted by the Ministry of Education found that the majority of educators favour changes to the curriculum to increase student exposure to civics.



The purpose of this project is to undertake this curriculum assessment in Social Studies (including Civic Studies 11, Social Justice 12, and Law 12) to promote active citizenship by ensuring that, upon secondary school graduation, students have a good understanding of Canadian legal structures, processes of the justice system, their legal rights and responsibilities, and an appreciation of the rule of law.

The project which runs from December 2007 to December 2009 is guided by an Advisory Committee (the BC Ministry of Education; BC Ministry of Community Services; BC Ministry of Attorney General; BC Teachers' Federation; BC Social Studies Teachers' Association; Provincial Court of BC; Canadian Bar Association; SFU Centre for Education, Law, and Society; BC Civil Liberties Association; and District of West Vancouver).

For more information, contact the Project Manager: annemarie.goodfellow@lawcourtsed.ca.

Local Government Act and School Act Changes

Amendments to *Local Government Act* and the *School Act* were introduced into the BC Legislature on Tuesday March 4th as part of [Bill 7, the *Local Government Statute Amendments Act*](#). These changes will apply to the November elections for boards of education.

These amendments include amendments to nominations, non-resident elector provisions, campaign financing disclosure and voting opportunities. For more information please see the following news release.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008CS0045-000299.htm

Social Studies Resource: The Samuel de Champlain Portal

The [Samuel de Champlain Portal](#) is an open collaborative wiki set up to mark the 400th anniversary of the founding of Québec and celebrating the life and career of the founder of New France.

The portal contains a growing slate of supporting textual and image resources and activities that can be used for student projects and book reports. The material in this portal can be used for non-profit educational use. The portal will be setting up an open area to feature uploaded student work.

The Samuel de Champlain Portal is hosted as a public service by the Civics Channel and Northern Blue Publishing. You may also be interested to know that there is a [John A. Macdonald Portal](#) and another portal is in production on the bicentennial of New Caledonia (Simon Fraser in 1808) and the naming of British Columbia by Queen Victoria 150 years ago in 1858.

The 2008 Canada Post Community Literacy Awards

Nominations for the 2008 Canada Post Community Literacy Awards open March 24, 2008.

Visit the [website](#) to learn more about nominating a deserving adult learner and/or educator from your community for a prestigious award that recognizes personal achievement.

Visa Olympics of the Imagination

Attention teachers of students aged 10 – 14: the credit card company Visa is holding an international children's art competition. Four talented Grand Prize winners from Canada will be flown to Beijing, China (along with a parent or legal guardian) to visit the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games this August. The deadline for entries is April 4, 2008 and winners will be notified by April 30. Full information on the contest can be found at www.visa.ca/voi.

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