

Upcoming Deadlines

May 16, 2008

Council of the Federation
Literacy Award 2008
Nomination Deadline

May 23, 2008

2008 Canada Post
Community Literacy
Awards Nomination
Deadline

June 15, 2008

Tomorrow's Masters of
Digital Media Application
Deadline

Notable & Upcoming

May 21 – 23, 2008

BC Association of School
Business Officials AGM –
[Details](#)

May 21 – 24, 2008

Canadian Library
Association 2008 National
Conference – [Details](#)

Council of the Federation Literacy Award 2008 - Final Call for Nominations

In July of 2004, Canada's premiers created an annual award to recognize achievements in literacy across the country. The Council of the Federation (COF) Literacy Award acknowledges outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy.



The award covers the entire spectrum of the field, including early childhood, family, Aboriginal, health, workplace and community literacy. Thirteen COF literacy medallions will be awarded this year, one for each province and territory.

The first B.C. award was presented in 2005 to the Columbia Basin Alliance for its outstanding achievement in displaying leadership and excellence in literacy. The 2006 and 2007 recipients were Linda Mitchell and Joan Acosta respectively.

The 2008 Council of the Federation Literacy Award nomination campaign is underway in British Columbia. You are encouraged to nominate an individual,

group or project that has made a significant contribution to literacy in the province. This is your last chance to make a nomination. The deadline for nominations is tomorrow, May 16, 2008.

For more information and a nomination form, visit the [Ministry of Education's literacy website](#).

English 12 First Peoples IRP and Examination: Curriculum Update May 2008

The new English 12 First Peoples (EFP 12) Integrated Resource Package (IRP) has been approved and signed off by the Minister of Education, Honourable Shirley Bond. The final approved IRP has now been posted to the [Ministry of Education website](#).

Distribution of hard copies of the EFP 12 IRP to the B.C. K-12 education system, post-secondary educational institutions and education stakeholders has begun in preparation for implementation in September 2008.

The final versions of the exam specifications, sample questions, and sample exam for EFP 12 are now available on the [Provincial Examinations website](#).

English 12 and English 12 First Peoples both meet the same rigorous graduation requirements. Students may choose to take one or both of these courses and they may use results from one or both provincial examinations towards provincial scholarships. It is intended that students who earn credit for English 12 First Peoples will qualify for entry into post-secondary educational institutions and programs on the same basis as those who earn credit for English 12. Accordingly, the final EFP 12 IRP has been forwarded to British Columbia post-secondary institutions for their review and approval for entrance requirements.

New Immunization Program for Grade 6 and Grade 9 girls

The ministries of Health and Education are pleased to offer a new cancer prevention immunization program to enhance student health. The B.C. government supports this cancer prevention initiative as an effective strategy to protect girls and young women from cervical cancer.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine will be offered free to all girls in grades 6 and 9 starting in the 2008/2009 school year. This vaccine will be provided in addition to existing immunization programs such as Hepatitis B, Meningococcal C and Chickenpox in grade 6 and Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis in grade 9.

The HPV vaccine protects against two types of Human Papillomavirus that cause 70% of all cases of cancer of the cervix. HPV vaccine programs have already started in several provinces in Canada, and more provinces will be starting programs this fall. The vaccine was approved for use in Canada in 2006 and is highly effective.

The vaccine will be provided to girls in B.C. in grades 6 and 9 because:

- Girls and women are best protected when they get the HPV vaccine **before** they become sexually active.
- The vaccine prevents HPV infection but does not get rid of it once the infection occurs.
- The lining of the reproductive tract in teenage girls is still developing which makes it easier for them to get infected with HPV.
- HPV is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Three out of four sexually active women will get HPV at some point in their lives. Every year in B.C.:
 - 150 women get cervical cancer.
 - 40 women die from the disease.
 - 6,000 women develop high risk changes to the cervix which are precancerous.
 - 10,000 women need invasive procedures to stop cancer of the cervix from developing.
- Public Health Nurses will be contacting schools shortly to discuss implementation logistics.

More information about HPV can be found at www.immunizebc.ca.

B.C. Teacher One of Two Canadians to Win Prestigious Amgen Award

Amgen Canada recently announced that Greg Mitchell, a teacher at Timberline Secondary in Campbell River, won an Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence. Both Mitchell and Timberline Secondary were awarded cash prizes of \$5000.

This is the first time that Canadian teachers have been eligible to win the Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence. The award recognizes and honours extraordinary science teachers at the K-12 level who have demonstrated an outstanding ability to inspire their students and who have produced results in science learning.

BCLA and BCLTA Conference

The British Columbia Library Annual Conference and British Columbia Library Trustees' Association



Dawn Stoppard at the Ministry of Education's Public Library Services booth at the BCLA/BCLTA Conference

Annual Conference were held April 17 - 19 in Richmond. The conference was attended by 560 people representing public and academic library staff and public library trustees.

Fred Kent, the keynote speaker, discussed libraries as public spaces, while Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum shared stories about their comic strip about libraries (www.unshelved.com).

Staff at the Ministry of Education's Public Library Services Branch participated in the conference - as speakers and convenors of sessions.

Sessions included: 'BC SITKA - implementation of the Evergreen open ILS in BC libraries'; 'Library 2020 - future of library collaboration in BC'; 'BiblioCommons - social software and discover layer for ILS'; 'Libraries without Walls - Update on provincial strategies in BC public libraries'; and 'ReadNow BC literacy initiatives.'

2008 VSS Annual Spring Conference

The 2008 Virtual School Society Annual Spring Conference took place this past April 22 - 24 in Vancouver.

The conference featured pre-conference sessions, including a seminar on 'Student-Centred Learning: Quality Practices', which provided teachers and administrators the opportunity to share experiences and expertise. An online workshop using the Elluminate Live! tool entitled 'Research to Practice: 7 Proven Instructional Methods You Can Use Today' provided three, 90 minute practical and hands-on sessions for educators.

Assistant Deputy Minister Renate Butterfield opened the conference and was followed by a keynote address from author and educator Ian Jukes on 'Living on the Future Edge: Thinking About Tomorrow Today'.

Six rounds of concurrent presentations were spread over the following two days, featuring a variety of topics ranging from how to use Elluminate Live! to a Spotlight Presentation on Cyber Safety by TV celebrity Steve Dotto.

The conference also featured three additional keynote speakers. Rena Palloff and Keith Pratt led a discussion on 'How To Engage In Using Emerging Tools And Build Communities'. Ruth Colvin Clark presented on 'Leveraging the new Virtual Classroom'. The conference concluded with a keynote address by well-known author and educator David Warlick entitled 'Our Students, Our Worlds'.

Please visit the [LearnNowBC website](http://LearnNowBC.com) to view images and streaming video from the conference, or to learn more about the services provided by LearnNowBC.

Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians (CAFP) School Visits

Teachers and administrators, if you are looking for a way to bring civics, history, or social studies to life, you may want to invite a former Member of Parliament or Senator to speak to your class.

The CAFP runs a schools program that brings former parliamentarians and their wealth of information on democracy and government in Canada directly to students. To find out more, please visit the [CAFP website](#).

Students That Care Society of British Columbia

The students of Westview Secondary in Maple Ridge have formed the “Students That Care Society of British Columbia” (STCSBC). The society’s vision is to encourage high school students across B.C. to participate in all areas of social responsibility.



Students That Care at Westview Secondary before a walk to raise funds for orphans in northern Uganda.

STCSBC would like to offer their experiences at Westview school to help other students across the province in their efforts to aid those people around the globe who suffer from social injustices.

Schools that register with STCSBC will receive their own page on the STCSBC website which could be used to promote events, publish multi-media

material, and compete for “Students That Care” awards.

EdInfo encourages other interested schools to visit the [STCSBC website](#) to find out more.

Aboriginal Canada Portal

The [Aboriginal Canada Portal](#) (ACP) is a window to First Nations, Inuit and Métis on-line resources, contacts, information, and government programs and services in Canada.

ACP provides information that may be useful to Aboriginal students, parents, teachers and communities. Information is presented by topic, region, and audience. In the [education](#) section, there is useful information on financial assistance, education and training, and resources for teachers.

ACP is a partnership between federal government departments and the Aboriginal community.

2008 Canada Post Community Literacy Awards

The nomination deadline for the 2008 Canada Post Community Literacy Awards is midnight (Eastern Time) May 23. There are two categories of awards: Individual Achievement Awards (\$300 prize) and Educator Awards (\$500 prize). For more information, please see the [Canada Post website](#).

Tomorrow’s Masters of Digital Media Summer ‘Boot Camp’

The Tomorrow’s Masters of Digital Media (TMDM) Program is a 3 week intensive summer ‘boot camp’ created and taught by the faculty of the Masters of Digital Media (MDM) Program with support from Electronic Arts (EA).

TMDM's mission is to expose youth to both educational and career opportunities in Vancouver's vibrant digital media industry.

The digital boot camp is for students entering grades 10 and 11. It is an intensive, immersive experience geared to students with artistic and/or technical interests.

TMDM runs from July 7 – 25, 2008 with space for 20 students. Tuition, including day-long instruction for three weeks, all software and hardware, all field trips, and meals, is \$2,100. Full and partial scholarships are available for students for whom this fee would present a barrier.

The application deadline is June 15, 2008. To learn more about this opportunity or to apply, please visit the [TMDM website](#).



**TOMORROW'S MASTERS OF DIGITAL MEDIA PROGRAM
SUMMER BOOT CAMP | JULY 7TH-25TH, 2008**

Join us at the Centre for Digital Media in Vancouver from July 7th-25th and unleash your creative potential. Calling for students with artistic, technical, or theatrical backgrounds to apply for our SUMMER BOOT CAMP. Learn with world-class faculty and play with state-of-the-art technology. Explore your future in this youth-driven, dynamic industry. Apply Today!

THE TMDM IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY ELECTRONIC ARTS.

LEARN MORE: <http://mdm.gnwc.ca/bootcamp>

QUESTIONS? EMAIL US AT bootcamp@gnwc.ca

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TMDM Poster promoting their July 7th – 25th 2008 Summer Boot Camp

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