

June 25, 2008

Volume 7 Issue 17

## Notable & Upcoming

**June 5, 2008**

**McTavish Elementary School in North Saanich, B.C. won grand prize in Quantum Shift TV's eco video contest**

**June 27, 2008**

**Last day of school**

**July 4, 2008**

**2008 Solicitor General Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards Nomination**

**May- July 28, 2008**

**Cowichan 2008 Spirit Pole Tour throughout the province of B.C.**

Visit the EdInfo site at:

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/edinfo/>

If you wish to add or remove your name from the EdInfo distribution list please go to: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/edinfo/sub.htm>

Comments, Questions, Submissions:  
[EDINFO.EDUC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EDINFO.EDUC@gov.bc.ca)

**SPREAD THE NEWS:** Please help us get the word out about EdInfo. Send this newsletter on to a teacher, a parent, a student or someone else you know who's interested in public education news.

**NOTICE:** EdInfo is a comprehensive digest of education-related news from a wide range of sources. The inclusion of information from external sources, with links to non-ministry websites, in no way constitutes any endorsement by the BC Ministry of Education of the contents of those sites. To read the rest of the fine print about copyright and other matters, visit: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/com/copy>

## Schools Gearing Up for Daily Physical Activity



Photo used with permission of DPA

School districts across the province came together in Richmond on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to share information on the best ways to prepare for implementing the provincial requirement for daily physical activity in their schools this fall.

Over 140 educators, principals and vice-principals, district and ministry staff attended the all day planning session. The session was opened by Dr. Art Hister, who motivated the group by reminding them of the benefits of a more active lifestyle and the important role schools and teachers can have in helping students become more active.

“Schools are the perfect places to start this type of initiative,” Hister said. “They are the centre of our communities, and by helping our students learn the benefits of increasing their daily physical activity, we will end up with kids that are not only healthier, but are also more focused and better able to learn.”

The open space format of the day enabled participants to raise the challenges they were facing with trying to increase their students' daily physical activity and brainstorm solutions to these challenges with their colleagues. Some of the concerns the group addressed included space, scheduling and tracking student progress. Representatives from 13 leader schools that had piloted the new program were also available to share their ideas and solutions with the group as well.

Participant evaluations of the day were overwhelmingly positive. Most of those in attendance left the meeting armed with new ideas for making DPA a success in their schools and districts come September.

More information on the session and the leader schools' experience will be posted on the new DPA website at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/dpa/>.

## More Help for Visually Impaired Children in Schools

Children in British Columbia who are visually impaired will be paired with mentors through the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB).

The \$125,000 grant from the Province will support the new Smooth Transitions program to help children with significant vision problems become accustomed to new

environments in their communities and, most importantly, their schools.

“Ensuring that all children have the chance to fully feel comfortable and safe is important to this government,” says Education Minister Shirley Bond. “Investing in this project will enable children with vision loss to participate more fully in their schools.”

Mentors will be paired with a child living with vision loss to show them around a new school or a new extracurricular activity. The child will be oriented to new routes so they are safe and comfortable in their new surroundings.

The program is administered by and offered through the CNIB School districts identify visually impaired students and work to provide an appropriate education program. “We are proud to work with the Ministry of Education on this project,” said Brad Waghorn, regional manager of the CNIB in Northern B.C. and Yukon. “This is a partnership that improves the lives of children living with vision loss.”

The project will help the Province meet its goal of building the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities. The CNIB is the primary source of support and information for all Canadians affected by vision loss. The CNIB works to help people who are experiencing vision loss enjoy a good quality of life.

## BC Early Learning Framework



Photo used with permission of BC Early Framework

The Early Learning Framework is live on the Ministry of Education’s website and close to 10,000 hard copies are being distributed to early years and early learning partners, including school districts and elementary principals.

The British Columbia Early Learning Framework describes the vision, pedagogical principles, and

key areas of learning for children birth to five years (before school entry).

The framework was developed in partnership with the Ministries of Children and Family Development, Health and Education.

The document was designed to be applicable to all early learning environments, including child care, StrongStart BC programs, and any other pre-school and early childhood development or child health program. The framework helps programs build on their strengths and encourages in depth reflection on their practices and the development of children. Broadly speaking, the intended purpose of the framework is to:

- Support dialogue and reflection on the critical importance of development and learning of young children.
- Serve as a tool for reflecting on and guiding early learning programs and activities.
- Support discussion with and between families about their children’s early learning.
- Guide professional development activities and investments.
- Serve as a basis for discussion among community partners with respect to the early years.
- Create a shared image of the child that can guide efforts to promote early learning at the local and provincial levels.

The framework complements and builds on the BC Program Standards for Early Childhood Settings and the Child Care Licensing Regulations that requires child care facilities to provide a comprehensive program of activities that address all areas of child development

To access the [Early Learning Framework](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/early_learning/early_learning_framework.htm), please visit [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/early\\_learning/early\\_learning\\_framework.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/early_learning/early_learning_framework.htm). Please contact the Early Learning Branch at (250) 356-2337 if you have any questions.

## Share Your Feedback on All-Day Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten Programs

In the 2008 Throne Speech, the BC government committed to studying the feasibility of providing full day kindergarten for five year olds, plus offering parents the choice of day-long pre-kindergarten for four year olds by 2010 and for three year olds by 2012.

As part of the feasibility study the government commissioned the Early Childhood Learning Agency (ECLA) to seek views and opinions from groups and individuals as well as to review available research and analyze all cost implications relating to the expansion of early learning in British Columbia.

This week, the ECLA released its consultation paper, [Expanding Early Learning in British Columbia For Children Aged Three to Five](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/ecla/topics/consultation_paper08.pdf) available at [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/ecla/topics/consultation\\_paper08.pdf](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/ecla/topics/consultation_paper08.pdf). The paper provides a current snapshot of kindergarten and pre-kindergarten programs in BC and touches upon research findings from other countries that have expanded early learning initiatives.

The current consultation process invites input from individuals as well as groups. The British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) encourages you to [provide feedback](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/ecla/) (<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/ecla/>) directly to the ECLA prior to the deadline on July 18, 2008.



Photo used with permission of content provider

## Vancouver 2010 Olympics & Paralympics Education Program: Something New is Coming to /EDU this Fall!



Photo used with permission of the Canadian Paralympic Committee

The BC Ministry of Education has been working with Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC) on the development of /EDU, the Canadian School Portal for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. /EDU has been providing teachers with access to information and resources related to the Vancouver 2010 Games since last September. But something new is coming to /EDU this Fall!

Starting in September 2008, teachers will be able to show the world some of the innovative and inspiring programs and projects happening in classrooms across Canada.

Using the on-line tools available on /EDU, teachers will be able to “show-and-tell” projects they are doing in the classroom; share resources and classroom activities with the teaching community; and discuss projects and ideas with their peers across Canada.

To kick things off, /EDU will feature a number of exciting school projects and lesson plans commissioned by the BC Ministry of Education and developed by teachers in BC.

/EDU will also include many new programs and activities for teachers and students related to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter

Games and the three pillars of sport, culture and sustainability, including new resources from the Canadian Olympic Committee.

Want to showcase your school projects, access and share resources, or get more information about Vancouver 2010? Visit the new and improved /EDU this Fall, or better yet, go to <http://www.vancouver2010.com/EDU> and subscribe now.



Photo used with permission of the Canadian Paralympic Committee

For more information, you can also contact Pierre Gilbert at the Ministry of Education ([Pierre.Gilbert@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Pierre.Gilbert@gov.bc.ca))



### B.C. Social Studies Teachers' Association Fall Conference

The B.C. Social Studies Teachers' Association (BCSSTA) will be holding the 2008 Fall Conference, "Teachers are Agents of Change"

on Friday, October 24, 2008. The conference will be held at Riverside Secondary School in Coquitlam.

The conference includes a variety of workshops and will feature keynote speaker, Dr. Alan Sears, who has written extensively about social education and citizenship education.

For more information on the BCSSTA Fall Conference, please visit the [BCSSTA website](http://www.bctf.ca/bcssta) at [www.bctf.ca/bcssta](http://www.bctf.ca/bcssta).

## Enhancement Agreements to Support Aboriginal Student Success



Photo above: School district #78 Fraser-Cascade Education Enhancement Agreement signing with local First Nations communities and Ministry of Education.

As of June 21, a total of 41 enhancement agreements have been signed throughout the Province of British Columbia, School District #8 (Kootenay Lake) being the latest school district to join this initiative.

Stronger connections to the school community and to their unique backgrounds are important contributors to building Aboriginal student success. To help First Nations students achieve their best in classrooms, the Ministry of Education, school districts and local Aboriginal communities have created Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements.

### What is an Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (EA)?

An EA is a commitment made by each school district, involving all local Aboriginal communities and the Ministry of Education, to work together to improve the success of all Aboriginal students. The agreements are based on mutual respect and trust and represent a five-year vision of success for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students in each school district.

### Who is involved in the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement?

All Aboriginal communities represented in the

student population work together with the school district to develop and implement the agreement.

The EA is a collaborative process based on open and meaningful dialogue. An Aboriginal Education Committee is set up in each school district, and the committee works to ensure that all Aboriginal communities are involved in the process.

The Aboriginal Education Enhancements Branch works closely with communities to assist in developing their EA. Each school district's Aboriginal Education Committee works to ensure that all local Aboriginal communities are engaged in the process. School districts are responsible for ensuring the continued involvement of communities in implementing the agreement.

### How do they help Aboriginal students?

Agreements are developed locally by each school district and its Aboriginal communities. The goals focus on student success, and agreements are designed to highlight the importance of academic performance as well as other areas of success important to Aboriginal communities.

### How is success measured?

Assessment is continuous and includes all forms of information and input. District, school and ministry data, as well as information from community surveys and other forms of assessment play an essential role in helping to determine goals and track progress.

School districts report annually on the progress of EA goals, and share these results with Aboriginal communities and the Ministry.

For more information on the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreements, please visit the [Aboriginal Education Enhancements Branch](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/welcome.htm) website at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/welcome.htm>



Artist: Chris Paul  
Logo used with permission of Ministry of Education-  
Aboriginal Education Enhancements

*Inyę dòòch'i?*

(Northern Tutchone)

"How are you?"

*Dànitē?* (Tagish)

Please visit [Aboriginal Education](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/welcome.htm) website at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/welcome.htm> for a detailed logo description