

November 19, 2008

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Notable & Upcoming

November 20- 21, 2008
BC College of
Teachers Conference
2008, Vancouver

November 21, 2008
[Premier's Awards for
Teaching Excellence](#)
nomination deadline

November 27-28, 2008
BC School
Superintendents
Association Fall
Conference, Victoria

November 27-29, 2008
Provincial Conference
on Aboriginal Education,
Vancouver

November 28, 2008
3rd Annual Teacher's
Congress, Vancouver

February 20, 2009
Sharing the Dream
webcast, Vancouver

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B.C. Proclaims Paralympic School Week



The first Pan-Canadian Paralympic School Week was launched on November 3 at James McKinney Elementary. Education Minister Shirley Bond, VANOC executive vice-president of celebrations and partnerships David Guscott, and Canadian Paralympic Committee board president Carla Qualtrough joined gold-medallist Paralympic athlete Todd Nicholson, Vancouver 2010 Paralympic mascot Sumi, students and school staff at the launch.

Paralympic School Week, Nov. 3-9, was part of an innovative program that brings the spirit and the values of the Paralympic Movement to classrooms across Canada. Developed by the Ministry of Education in partnership with the Canadian Paralympic Committee and VANOC, it is flexible and designed to fit the curriculum in any school at any time.

An online educator guide offers ideas for school-wide activities, including:

- Inviting a Paralympian or person with a disability to visit the school and speak to the students;
- Adopting a school-wide theme for the week;
- Running a Mini-Paralympic Games;
- Engaging students in creative projects as individuals or in groups; and
- Having daily announcements that complement the Paralympic focus.

For more information on the Program, please visit the [Vancouver 2010 website](http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/culture-and-education/education/-/33970/1qaa2ey/index.html) at <http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/culture-and-education/education/-/33970/1qaa2ey/index.html>.

Make a Video & Win a Great Cash Prize!



The Province of B.C. is launching a youth video contest in

celebration of BC150. All grade 12 students in B.C. are invited to submit a three-minute video based on the theme of "What B.C. Means to Me" for a chance to win a fabulous cash prize!

A total of five \$2,500 prizes will be awarded to winners of best entries. Each winner's school will also receive a \$2,000 prize. In addition, all participating schools will be entered in a draw for a chance to win one of the five \$1,500 prizes. All submissions must be postmarked by January 9th, 2009 to be eligible.

Check out the Youth Video Contest poster on the [BC150 website](http://www.bc150.ca/bc150.aspx?page=programs_artsculture) for more details: www.bc150.ca/bc150.aspx?page=programs_artsculture. Please print and distribute the poster at your school!



Get Moving with Daily Physical Activity

If you visit Bert Ambrose Elementary School in Fort St. John you might see their students having a good time doing Daily Physical Activity (DPA) in the hallways. There are 340 grades K-7 students currently enrolled and once a month the whole school gets out in the halls to get active. So far everyone has done the Macarena and the Chicken Dance-- a fun way to get moving.

A committee took on the challenge of incorporating DPA into the school after the DPA conference and a school-wide discussion. Many of the staff and some students have had Action Schools training.

Teachers schedule their own DPA activities in classrooms, from taking 15 minute walk-run at the start of the day to choosing time at recess or after lunch. Every morning the gym is available for the first half hour for teachers to use and to share with other classes. The school is also looking at freeing up another room for more indoor activities space.

The staff has embraced the concept of DPA and is seeing kids coming to classes more refreshed, energized and ready to work than before.

Bring the Vancouver 2010 Olympics to Classrooms

vancouver2010.com



With a little more than a year until the start of the 2010 Olympic and

Paralympic Games. To help get in the spirit, visit www.vancouver2010.com/edu to access a number of different programs and teaching resources.

/EDU's Featured Programs section is designed to be a portal to all available Olympic and Paralympic education resources. You can also register on /EDU to receive updates whenever a program is added or updated.

Classes that are working on an interesting project related to the Olympic and Paralympic Movements and themes, including global citizenship, sport, culture and sustainability can take pictures or video and write up a description for the /EDU Project Showcase. With millions of people expected to visit the website prior to the Games, this is a great opportunity to show off the great things being done in classrooms.

Lesson Starters

The Ministry of Education has also produced a Lesson Starters webpage featuring a number of Olympic-themed activities developed by B.C. teachers for others to use in their classroom.

The Lesson Starters provide teachers with a short, 1-2 page lesson idea that they can use or modify to best suit their individual needs. All activities are available in English and French and new activities will be added periodically. The Lesson Starters can be found on the [Sharing the Dream](http://www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca) website, at www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca.

New Climate Change Resources for Teachers



WildBC

The Ministry of Education has partnered with the Ministry of Environment and Wild BC to provide new teaching resources on climate change and green house gases.

A short Climate Change Primer and detailed lesson plan activities for the Grades 4 and 7 curriculum are now available from Wild BC. Additional lesson plan activities for the new Science 10 and the Social Studies 11 curriculum will be available in the near future. These two courses have specific learning outcomes related to climate change and global warming.

All of these lesson plans provide engaging activities that explore the science, impacts and adaptations of climate change. They can be downloaded from the [Wild BC website](http://www.wildbc.org/programs-workshops/climate-change-program.php) at www.wildbc.org/programs-workshops/climate-change-program.php.

BC Hydro Energy Ambassadors Work Experience Program

BC Hydro is inviting Grades 10-12 students and school districts in B.C. to take part in the *Energy Ambassadors* work experience and mentorship program. Students will team up with a school district facilities mentor, a sponsor teacher and a BC Hydro program manager to review energy usage in school district buildings and identify ways to save energy.

Developed and implemented in partnership with school districts, the program provides training, materials and ongoing support for participating students and school districts. Last school year an Energy Ambassadors team in the Qualicum School District came up with a plan that sparked a \$200,000 energy-efficient lighting upgrade for the district.

For more information about the program visit the [BC Hydro website](http://www.bchydro.com/community/youth_education/energy_reviews.html) at www.bchydro.com/community/youth_education/energy_reviews.html

Amgen Science Teaching Excellence Award



Amgen Canada is inviting B.C. science teachers to apply to the Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence (AASTE). This is an annual program which recognizes science teachers in the grades K-12 level who have demonstrated outstanding ability to inspire students. A total of three awards will be given, one to a teacher in each province of B.C., Alberta, Ontario and Quebec.

Applicants must submit an innovative lesson plan that they have successfully incorporated into their classroom. A panel of independent judges from the education community will select the winners based on: creativity of teaching methods; innovative lesson plan; effectiveness in the classroom and the plan for the use of grant money to improve science education resources in their schools.

Applications must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2009. Winners will be notified in May 2009. To apply or for more information visit the [Amgen website](http://www.amgen.com/citizen-ship/aaste.html) at www.amgen.com/citizen-ship/aaste.html. If you have any questions please contact Tara Knight at (416) 413-4774.

Provincial Exam Item-Level Reports and Foundation Skills Assessment

The 2008 Item-Level Response Reports are now available to educators on the [Edudata Canada website](http://edudata.educ.ubc.ca/index.html) at <http://edudata.educ.ubc.ca/index.html>. The following assessments are available free of charge at the school, district and provincial levels:

- Science 10
Years available: 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
- Principles of Mathematics 10
Years available: 2006, 2007, 2008
- English 10
Years available: 2007, 2008
- English 12 *NEW*
Year available: 2008
- Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA):
Years available: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008

These reports provide information on how to interpret and understand the students' incorrect responses on FSA and provincial exams. The FSA, English 10, and English 12 reports also provide general comments on students' performance.

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