

Student Support Services Division

Department of Education



and

Early Childhood Development

February 2017



SSS Staffing Update

We are happy to welcome Christine Sheppard to Student Support Services Division. Christine is replacing Anna Powell who is currently on leave from EECD. Christine assumes responsibilities for Alternate Format Materials. She may be contacted at christinesheppard@gov.nl.ca



Differentiated Instruction Strategies

A regular feature of this newsletter has been strategies for differentiating instruction. Those presented, as well as many others, are now available for teachers as a *Newly Released* feature at www.k12pl.nl.ca/. CDLI credentials are required for entry. If you do not have a user name and password, you can request them on the opening page.

Gifted and Talented: Suggested Websites

Teachers may be interested in materials on the K12 PL site related to teaching students who are gifted and talented. Visit www.k12pl.nl.ca/studentss/english.html and choose *Teaching the Gifted and Talented*.

Suggestions for enrichment are available for Math 4 and Math 5. Visit www.k12pl.nl.ca/curr/k-6/math.html and choose either Grade 4 or 5 and then the unit you wish.

Other sites which might be useful to extend the learning of student with particular interests include:

Music

Your musical students may be interested in Sheet Music Archive.

www.sheetmusicarchive.net/. This is a collection of classical music scores for solo instruments as well as ensembles, orchestra and choirs. There is a ten day free trial period after which there is a \$3.99 USD monthly fee for unlimited downloads.

IMSLP Petrucci Music Library is another source of public domain music in both audio and print versions. Many compositions are available as free downloads. Visit <https://imslp.org/>

Science and Technology

For students who are interested in extending their learning in Science and Technology, www.exploreCuriocity.org provides suggestions for individual explorations for students in Grades 7 to 12. Videos, articles and career options are available based on student interest areas. Teacher resources are also available.

How Stuff Works

www.howstuffworks.com

This site is great for the curious student. There is information on transportation, science, health, entertainment, culture, travel, technology, home and garden, money, and more. Check out the how-to articles, guides and tips. Recent questions include what if cows didn't exist? And what if the average human life span was 100 years?



Assistive Technology (AT)

EECD has introduced an Evergreening Policy for assistive technology. If a device obtained through an application process to EECD is more than 5 years old and no longer meets the learning needs of the student to whom it was issued, it may be eligible for replacement. www.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/studentsupportservice/s/evergreening.html provides details and applications.

Please note that applications for tablets for Grade 7 students and iPads as communication devices must now include a copy of *Assistive Technology Responsibilities* signed by the student, parent, and administrator. This replaces the previous *Acceptable Use Agreement* and may be found at www.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/studentsupportservice/s/assistive_tech.html.

Teachers are reminded to visit the website when preparing an AT application in order to ensure they are using the current forms. There are also samples available on the website to illustrate the type of information and the level of detail which will be helpful to the reviewer. Teachers should keep in mind that applications are student specific and must reflect details of the individual student's strengths and trial usage. The trial use summary, in particular, should describe what the technology permits a student to do [easier, better, with less frustration] that he or she could not do without the technology.

Please refer to the AT brochure available at www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/forms/studentsupport/AT_Brochure_2016.pdf which also lists websites of common assistive software and highlights benefits of its use.

A poster and article describing the partnership between Assistive Technology (AT) and Alternate Format Materials (AFM) will soon be available at www.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/studentsupportservice/s/index.html

Watch for print copies being distributed to your school in the near future.



Graduating Student Awards

The Safe and Caring Schools Graduating Student Awards aim to promote student awareness of the Safe and Caring Schools Policy and acknowledge the contributions of youth in establishing and maintaining safe, caring and inclusive schools and communities.

Specifically, the goals are to:

- Recognize the leadership of youth across the province in completing projects and activities aimed at enhancing the safety and well-being of others in their schools and communities;
- Help students recognize that they can make a difference in the lives of others;
- Encourage students to become involved in future initiatives.

The Department will award 14 tuition vouchers of \$500 each for deserving graduates across the province.

Applications are available through your regional school board office as well as the EECD website.

www.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/graduating_student_awards_application.pdf

Deadline for applications is April 28, 2017.



Safe and Caring Project Awards Promote Effective Actions to Create Safe and Positive School Climates

Pink Shirt Day in schools in Newfoundland and Labrador is February 22, 2017. As part of Violence Awareness Week, the goal is to raise awareness around all forms of bullying and other forms of violence, and how they can be prevented.

To help support and establish safe, caring and inclusive learning environments for all students, the EECD is awarding grants of \$500-\$700 to 38 schools across the province. These grants will be used to support specific projects that are student focused, and provide leadership in the area of safe and caring schools. These projects support the establishment and maintenance of safe, caring and inclusive learning environments, promoting effective actions to create positive school climates, and sustaining safe and caring communities.

Congratulations are extended to:

NLES'D - Labrador Region

Menihek High School	Mental Health Day
Queen of Peace Middle School	A Winter Carnival for Everyone!
A.P. Low Primary	The Key to Happiness is Kindness
J.R. Smallwood	School-Wide PBS Reward System

NLES - Western Region

St. Peter's Academy, Benoit's Cove	Get Real Workshop for Students
Cloud River Academy	Get Real Workshop for Students
Long Range Academy	Get Real Workshop for Students
E.A. Butler	Get Real Presentation
Appalachia High School	Promoting Safe & Caring Schools and PBIS Launch
Pasadena Academy	Random Acts of Kindness
Our Lady of the Cape	Backyard Gardening
C.C. Loughlin	One Community
Dorset Collegiate	Learning Commons/Get Real Workshop for Students
Canon Richards Memorial Academy	Dinner Hour ERP
French Shore Academy	PBS Carnival
Indian River High School	Wellness Day
Gros Morne Academy	Get Real Workshop for Students
Bonne Bay Academy	Yoga for Youth
Belanger Memorial	Get Real Workshop for Students
Stephenville Elementary	PBS Code of Conduct Banner
17. Corner Brook Intermediate	Cool Behaviour Supports Auctions

Smallwood Academy	PAWsitive Power of Pink
St. Joseph's All Grade	Building Character @ SJAG
Bay d'Espoir Academy	Mental Health Day
Jane Collins Academy and William Mercer Academy	Mental Health and Awareness Presentation
Lewisporte Academy	WITS/LEADS
John Watkins Academy	Peer Helper/Safe Space
Pearson Academy	Get Real Project Presentation and Creative Tactile Wall
Gander Academy	Mind Up Curriculum

NLES - Eastern Region

Ascension Collegiate	GSA Provincial Conference (StandOut3)
Amalgamated Academy	Pride Week



NLES - Central Region

Woodland Primary	"You Are An Everyday Hero!"
Conrad Fitzgerald Academy	The Gathering Place
King Academy	King Academy's GSA Safe Space
J. M. Olds Collegiate	Wellness Café and Safe Space
Fogo Island Central Academy	Get Real Movement Mental Wellness Day/PBS Program
Botwood Collegiate	From Shadows to Spotlight: Unmasking What Matters
Lake Academy/John Burke High School	Kindness Week

Bridge the gAPP, BreathingRoom™ and Strongest Families

Bridge the gAPP, BreathingRoom™ and Strongest Families programs are great resources for promoting mental health. They are on-line and easily accessible.

Here are some ways to help promote these resources.

- Post the Bridge the gAPP and BreathingRoom™ URLs to your school website – make a shortcut for easy access.

Bridge the gAPP Portals
Main: www.bridgethegapp.ca
Youth: www.youth.bridgethegapp.ca
Adults: www.adult.bridgethegapp.ca

BreathingRoom™
<http://breathingroom.me>

- Consider incorporating *Bridge the gAPP* and *Breathing Room* as complements to curriculum or guidance services.
- Order posters and tear off sheets and place in your office or throughout the school. Email: bridgethegapp@gov.nl.ca to place your order.

The *Safe and Caring Schools Policy* recognizes that it is the culture of a school that enables students to build healthy relationships, create strong and supportive social networks and develop emotional well-being. It is not enough to simply say we value positive relationships and interactions; it must be a school-wide practice that is seamlessly integrated into the classroom and the curriculum.

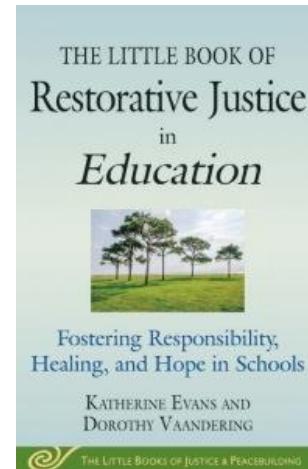
Restorative practices are not intended to replace current initiatives and evidence-based approaches such as Positive Behaviour Supports (PBS). Restorative practices, such as positive interactions and relationships, enhance a school's culture, and supports the implementation of PBS.



Restorative Corner A Focus on Relationships First in Building Positive School Cultures

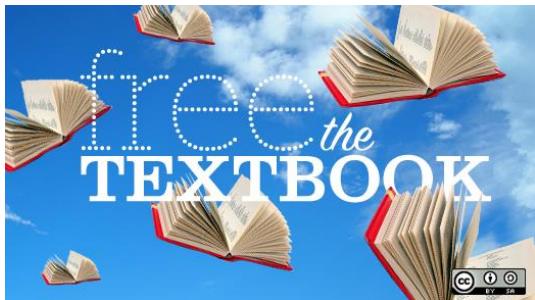
The role of restorative practices in establishing safe, caring and inclusive school cultures has not always been clearly understood. The focus has often been on addressing individual behaviour and/or discipline. Restorative Justice in Education is more than addressing individual student behaviour; it is about intentionally practicing and modelling positive interactions with fellow staff, parents and students. When understood and practiced consistently, this restorative practice can create a positive school culture that:

- values just and equitable learning environments.
- nurtures healthy relationships.
- repairs harm and transforms conflict.



If schools are interested in learning more about Restorative Justice, **The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education** is a valuable reference.

Please contact your Safe or Caring Schools Itinerant or the Inclusive Education Itinerant for further information regarding school based restorative practices and Restorative Justice in Education.



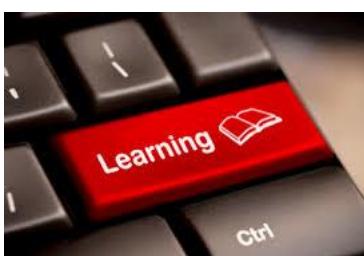
Obtaining Alternate Format Materials is Easier than Ever!

Obtaining resources from the AFM library is now easier than ever. This is because teachers can now access the digital resources required by their students. These teachers are AFM Advisors.

There is no limit to the number of teachers in a school that can register to access online resources. These teachers can:

- access a list of students in their school approved for AFM
- access the individual profiles of these students
- reset passwords for themselves and for students
- add the resources students need

It is important to note that the provision of AFM is a team effort. All teachers are responsible for assisting students with the use of AFM as an accommodation to the curriculum. Contact teachers are responsible for making application to AFM-NL for student access and for ordering AFM not available in a digital format through the AFM library.



To become an AFM Advisor, teachers complete 15 minutes of on-line professional

learning and fill out a registration form. The professional learning is outlined below. It is divided into short segments so that teachers can revisit the information as needed. For example, if an AFM Advisor forgets their password to the digital repository, they can review the short video (1'30") on how to reset it.

On-line PL

http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/studentsupportservices/resource_center/index.html

- Important Information for AFM Advisors:
Frequently Asked Questions
- Initial AFM Advisor Login
- Resetting an AFM Advisor Password
- Resetting a Student Password and Adding Resources to a Student's Profile
- Removing Resources from a Student's Profile
- Adding Additional ELA Novels

There are currently 175 schools with teachers accessing online resources for students with perceptual disabilities. Every school which has students requiring AFM needs to have at least 1 teacher with this responsibility. Larger schools often have more than 1 AFM Advisor accessing online resources. Please contact Christine Sheppard or Tina Loveless for more information.



Feedback

Please share your thoughts regarding this newsletter including any suggestions for future articles. Our hope is to facilitate better communication with all teachers throughout the province.

Send feedback to sewhalen@gov.nl.ca.