

Student Services Newsletter Vol. 1 Issue 1

Miles to go...work in progress

As the end of year provides opportunities to reflect, I looked back on my weekly Twitter posts from September to December of 2020. Some themes that stood out for me reflect our values and our shared priorities: learning, partnerships, enhancing access for all learners, quality assessment practices, gratitude, and celebrating all the great work happening at NLESD to support students. Looking forward to all that 2021 has to offer, I will continue to learn alongside NLESD educators as we build capacity and create networks to support educators, families, and students. I invite you to share the joy created in engaging classrooms in NLESD schools every day.

~ Assistant Director of Education -Student Services, G. Lake

What is Deep Learning?

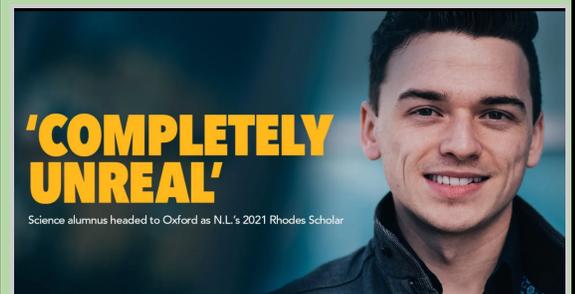
Through a Different Lens

Through A Different Lens is a teacher led project sponsored by the Vancouver Foundation. This project involves teachers from K-12 who are focusing on alternative methods of instruction and assessment to help all students succeed.

Student Spotlight

Jevon Marsh is heading to Oxford University as Newfoundland and Labrador's 2021 Rhodes Scholar! He is a former student of Matthew Elementary and Discovery Collegiate (Bonavista, NL). Jevon earned a joint B.Sc.(Hons.) in Biochemistry and Chemistry from MUN, as well as a masters in synthetic chemistry and supramolecular chemistry from Queen's. His PhD work at Oxford will involve researching rare pediatric cancers. Jevon has also been involved in mental health advocacy and is a certified yoga instructor, as well as much more.

[Memorial Gazette - Click Here](#)



Upcoming Student Services Events:

- Feb 3 - 7: National School Counseling Week
- Feb 5: Provincial Guidance Counsellor Collaboration Day
- Feb 24: Pink Shirt Day (Wear Pink)
- March 1: Zero Discrimination Day
- March 8: International Women's Day
- March 12: Provincial Student Services Collaboration Day
- March 16: Provincial Guidance Counsellor Collaboration Day
- March 21 -27: Multiculturalism Week
- March 21: World Down Syndrome Day (Rock Your Socks)
- March 26: Epilepsy Day (Wear Purple)
- April 2: World Autism Day

School Spotlight

Holy Heart Chamber Choir is one of 6 choirs at Holy Heart High School in St. John's, NL. This year, under the direction of Mr. Robert Colbourne, the choir decided to arrange and perform "Sing You Home" by Newfoundland's own (and Holy Heart alumni), The Ennis Sisters.

Wanting to be inclusive of all 3 of Canada's official languages (English, French, and American Sign Language), the choir translated part of the song into French and reached out to the NL Deaf Choir who provided support, mentorship and education in this inclusive collaboration. A very special thank-you to Paula Coggins, Renee Phair Healey and Leigh Ann Ryan.

This video was filmed following public health guidelines for singing in Newfoundland and Labrador including singing outside and maintaining two metres of physical distancing.

["Sing You Home" - Holy Heart Chamber Choir](#)

(Source: CBC Music Class <http://cbcmusic.ca/musicclass>)

Learning Partnerships



Sharing our Cultures is sponsoring a Poster Contest (Grades 4-12) in May focusing on Anti Racism. Keep a look out for this. More to come.

The **Association for New Canadians** is partnering with NLESD to offer Professional Learning on how to be an Anti- Racist and Ally . The session will be posted in the PL calendar.



NLESD is pleased to announce that there is a new District Anti-Racism Advisory Committee working with our Indigenous and Multicultural programs. We will update in our next newsletter.

CDLI PASS:

This year CDLI has hired a ½ time PASS teacher for the first time. The PASS teacher is working with several different students over various courses in credit rescue and credit recovery. The program has been a huge success thus far. One student in particular had for the most part, given up on school, but through a learning partnership with us, the parents and the school admin, the student had been actively engaged in recovering a single HS course. The student enjoys the learning environment so much that he has requested, and subsequently enrolled in 2 additional CDLI PASS courses for recovery. The student is coming to school, is enjoying learning again and has met with success for the first time in many months. This is truly an example of where learning partnerships, differing learning environments and leveraging digital is helping students succeed.

Embedding Indigenous Voices in Teaching and Learning

The National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education (NCCIE), Memorial University's School of Arctic and Subarctic Studies and **NLESD** have partnered to offer a full-day, Virtual Professional Learning opportunity for all educators throughout NLESD on Thursday, February 18th, 2021.

This collaborative session, ***Embedding Indigenous Voices in Teaching and Learning***, will introduce educators to the variety of educational resources hosted on nccie.ca. The day will feature resources developed within Newfoundland and Labrador's Indigenous communities and explore how Indigenous languages, traditions, histories and stories are shaped by place.

In addition to sharing resources and tools to support Indigenous Education in Newfoundland and Labrador, this Professional Learning opportunity celebrates Indigenous voices and acknowledges those who have graciously contributed their knowledge, guidance, time and expertise to this work.

Deadline to Register is Monday, February 15th, 2021

NLESD Employees can register on the Professional Development calendar in Members Services. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me at shanewelcher@nlesd.ca. It is through collaboration, sharing and engaging in deep listening that we will move forward along our journey.

Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA):

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District has had a longstanding partnership with the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA). APSEA “is an interprovincial cooperative agency established in 1975 by joint agreement among the Ministers of Education of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The agreement provided for the creation of the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority and authorized it to provide educational services, programs, and opportunities for persons from birth to 21 years of age with low incidence sensory impairments. This includes children and youth who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, blind, or visually impaired who are residents of Atlantic Canada.” (see www.apsea.ca for additional information).

APSEA Virtual Learning Series :

“In response to the restrictions and shifts in education resulting from the global pandemic, APSEA has developed a model for accessible online learning. The APSEA Virtual Learning Series offers online programming to target the nine areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum for students who are Blind or Visually Impaired. APSEA’s Virtual Learning programming is offered for school aged students from across the Atlantic Provinces and is delivered synchronously through the Zoom Health platform. Enrollment in programs is a collaborative planning process involving input from students, parents, school teams, itinerant teachers, and APSEA staff members, with new intakes happening regularly throughout the school year. Programs run weekly and are scheduled in 4, 6, and 12 week increments (program length varies according to topics being covered). To date, the Virtual Learning Series has proven to be a wonderful addition to compliment field-based programming. In addition to providing accessible Expanded Core Curriculum based content, these programs have had the added benefit of connecting students with their peers across the four provinces. It has also shown to be an excellent forum for professional collaboration and capacity building amongst field based itinerants and APSEA staff members.”

APSEA CONNECTS:

“APSEA Connects is a staff-led virtual program intended to offer sessions to families, other members of the student’s school team and community partners.” We encourage you to visit the APSEA website, view the Upcoming Events to learn more about the sessions, and register based upon your interests.

White Cane Awareness: February 9th, 2021 (12:00pm) & February 10th, 2021 (6:30pm)

“White Cane Week takes place each year during the first full week of February. The purpose of the week is to raise public awareness of the challenges facing Canadians living with vision loss, with a focus on ability and not disability. White Cane Week is sponsored by the *Canadian Council of the Blind* and this year takes place February 7-13. Join APSEA Orientation & Mobility Specialist Peter Parsons and a

guest panel to learn more about the different types of white canes and guide dogs. The panelists will talk about their experiences using their white canes and/or guide dogs. After each panelist speaks, you will have a chance to ask questions."

Physical Literacy and the Expanded Core Curriculum- it begins at birth: February 16th, 2021 (10:00am & 7:00pm)

"Physical Literacy: What's it all about? Physical literacy starts at birth whether one has a disability or not and is relevant for all of life. How can it connect to the expanded core curriculum? The IEP? Family and social life? Join us to learn and begin a discussion on this valuable topic."

Coming Together! An opportunity for APSEA Families: February 17th, 2021 (10:00am & 6:30pm)

"An opportunity for parents and adult family members to come together, and learn from each other as they explore life and the needed supports for their child. Sessions will provide strategies to support active engagement in life and community through self-advocacy and self-determination. Join Lisa and Brian from Counselling Services in these virtual conversations." (Sessions will take place once a month from January until June.)"

Autism NS: February 23rd, 2021 (10:00am & 6:30pm)

"Autism NS strives to build community capacity to enhance understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of families and individuals with ASD across the province". Come join in this presentation offered by the Autism NS team. We look forward to seeing you!"

Learning Environments



Special Circumstance Students:

CDLI provides learning at home, course support and equipment to over 33 special circumstance students representing several courses and learning environments across the province. Special circumstance students can be exchange students, those on sport scholarships or those whose health prevents them from attending school. They are able to learn alongside other students at the same time and at the same pace. They are completing the same courses as face to face students and achieve the same credits/diplomas etc. Students have formed lasting relationships with their teachers and peers and many have went on to find success at the post-secondary level. Something they would not otherwise been able to do if not for CDLI. Truly an example of leveraging digital and learning environments to foster learning for students!

Leveraging Digital



Remote Learners:

CDLI currently has an enrollment of 17 Remote Learners (Students who cannot attend school due to COVID-19, immunocompromised etc) from 13 different schools taking 32 different high school courses. Students from Happy Valley Goose Bay to St. John's are enrolled in the courses. Most, if not all, these students are engaging in remote learning/learning from home/learning in a digital environment for the first time. While experiencing schooling in a different environment they are also experiencing success – achieving in courses, making new friends, experiencing learning in a different way, etc.

Multicultural Education:

A teaching and learning resource including a Slide Deck and Teachers Guide will also be available in February to help you start these sometimes difficult conversations in your classroom. Here is a youtube video that addresses [“I’m only joking”](#)

Why wouldn't Jake finish the Joke?



Personal and Professional Learning:

Don't Call Me Resilient - A New Podcast from the Conversation Listen to the trailer below. The first episode of Don't Call Me Resilient goes live on Feb. 3. You can listen or subscribe on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify or wherever you listen to your favourite podcasts.

To access the Don't Call Me Resilient Podcast

[Click HERE](#)

CDLI Course Development – PASS and otherwise:

CDLI has several online resources and courses designed to support students as they learn and make their way through highschool. We have developed several asynchronous courses, primarily designed to work with the PASS program, over the past year or so and are happy to report that we continue to expand our online course repertoire. We are currently working on the development of Social Studies 3202 and Writing 2203. Once complete, these courses will be made available to the province as a whole to help support student learning and achievement.

Assistive Technology:

We have staff members positioned across the province to support both teachers and students. Google meet is a platform allowing our team to improve access in the delivery of professional learning.

During the month of January we offered eight Read and Write professional learning sessions. We had over 150 people participate in this learning opportunity. We also welcomed members from the Learning Disabilities Association of Newfoundland and Labrador into this virtual learning space. Our goal continues to build capacity in our system and with our partners so we can support all students.



ConnectEd:

ConnectEd is a K-12 school in the Newfoundland and Labrador English School district offering remote learning to students who are unable to attend school in-person as a result of Covid-19. Students are grouped with other students from across the school district and receive daily instruction from dedicated remote learning teachers.

At ConnectED, we are leveraging digital everyday in multiple ways. We have a focus on building strong relationships with students and families using the Google Platform. Wellness and social/emotional learning (SEL) are embedded into our daily teaching, learning and assessment practices. Teachers integrate SEL activities like “Light up the City” which prioritizes student well-being, creating safe ways for them to express themselves, while also teaching them digital literacy skills.



We are also leveraging digital to design and implement activities that meet individual student needs. Our lessons amplify learning by engaging student-voice and providing choices. This helps students take ownership of their learning while also providing them with the opportunity to build self-confidence and resilience. This Google Jamboard activity was the starting point for a high school Social Studies project that is taking students on a virtual vacation. Students have the autonomy to design a virtual vacation, collaborating with each other, all while meeting outcomes from across multiple subject areas.



Our assessment practices are grounded in ongoing feedback and allow students the opportunity to engage in dialogue with their teachers. This helps students learn where they are in relation to a learning goal and provides them with an opportunity to reflect on their learning in order to plan next steps. Teachers leverage digital by using Google Slides to create digital portfolios to document student learning. Students choose a method of their choice to demonstrate their understanding of a learning goal and upload it into their portfolio. In the example below, a student uses Flipgrid to demonstrate her understanding of a learning goal. She adds this to her digital portfolio and reflects on her learning, adding her self-assessment to the success scale.

My Grade 5 Math Learning Goals Scrapbook (LGS)
Unit 4: Data Relationships

LG 1: I can explain the difference between first-hand and second-hand data.

Self-Assessment Scale:

I don't understand this - yet.	I am beginning to understand this - with help.	I understand this and I can do this by myself.	I understand this and I can teach someone else.
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ConnectED is a new school and we are embracing this unique opportunity to explore what effective deep learning practices will look like in a remote learning environment. We have been leveraging digital to connect with students and families, to amplify learning by designing authentic learning opportunities and to provide real time assessment and feedback. We are looking forward to exploring more ways to effectively leverage digital as we continue our journey this school year!

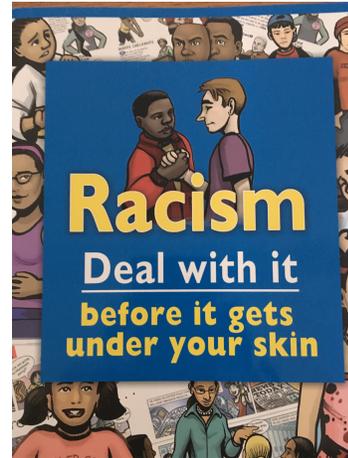
Pedagogical Practices



Racism and Anti -Racism:

Interest in and awareness of Racism and Anti -Racism in our classrooms continues to grow within our District. Our Multicultural Office is responding to support our students and staff. Here are some upcoming initiatives:

We have two (2) class sets of (20) to share with any interested Administrator /Teacher; “Racism - Deal with it - before it gets under your skin”. Are you an interested teacher (Grades 7-9) who would pilot this resource with their class(es) and share their learning and recommendations? .



Intermediate Course Offerings:

CDLI has developed an asynchronous course for Mathematics Grade 9 (Course Review Support – Grade 9 Mathematics) that contains activities, practice evaluation and video lessons to assist teachers and students. The course is currently available online through our website, www.cdli.ca and is designed so that teachers and students can work their way through the course. As more courses are developed they will be placed online for student/teacher use. This is another example of using various pedagogical practice, alternate learning environments and leveraging digital to deliver a rich learning experience for students and teachers.

Essentially, we want to enable all students to be “good at learning and good at life.”

~ NPDL Global