



Northern Ontario Education Leaders NOELights

News & Views



Issue 3
May/June 2009

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MISA

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Mary-Catherine Kelly, NOEL Chair

Director of Education
The Northwest Catholic District School Board

As Chair of NOEL, it is my pleasure to share a few words with all of our friends in education, particularly the school boards in Northwestern Ontario. As we gear up for the many year-end school events that celebrate the work of our students and staff, we as leaders are busy simultaneously preparing our strategic plans and setting budgets for the next school year. This makes spring a very busy time in all of our school boards in Ontario.

Our NOEL partnership has much to celebrate because of the great work of our NOEL staff, Directors, Principals and Vice Principals, Superintendents, Program staff and Teachers across the region of Northwestern Ontario. The regional school boards with First Nations communities, Lakehead University, Confederation College and the Ministry of Education, Thunder Bay Regional Office and our work with the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat offer outstanding professional development opportunities for all of our schools. In turn, NOEL has been able to support many initiatives that support student achievement across the region.

A few highlights:

The NOEL Oral Language Project with the research by Carmel Crevola and Peter Hill, which has supported teacher training and focused attention on oral language instruction for students, has been highly successful. These teaching strategies support student learning while using data to help educators assess oral language acquisition for our students from JK to Grade 2. This breakthrough research has had a positive impact on our teachers and students. We look forward to sharing this research with educators across the province. We are hopeful that continued funding will allow NOEL to extend the project through to Grade 3 students. Thanks to all the Boards for participating in this intensive project. It is through your efforts and dedication that we provide excellent learning opportunities for all our students.

E-Learning continues to grow and NOEL is at the forefront in supporting student and teacher learning across the North.

A successful Leadership conference was helpful in the fall by bringing together all of the Northwestern Ontario leaders and prospective leaders.

The Frontline Conference that supports our administrative assistants and school secretaries offered our school boards a great professional development opportunity for these outstanding support staff.

MISA and COGNOS data is supported by our NOEL data warehouse that is viewed as being a cutting edge project that houses our student data across the region. This information warehouse continues to grow and provide all NOEL Boards and now Partner Boards with student achievement data that supports our NOEL Boards in their work to target improving instruction for students.

NOEL Directors have met three times this year to coordinate our NOEL projects that maximize Ministry of Education funding to support all of the students and staff in Northwestern Ontario schools.

As Chair of NOEL, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the NOEL staff for their hard work by ensuring the NOEL projects have been successful. This unique partnership provides a great service to our educators in Northwestern Ontario, but most importantly, our students benefit from the initiatives that support learning in the classroom. Thanks to our NOEL Partners for making these collaborative projects a great success!



**...in the North,
by the North,
to meet the needs of
Northern Educators!**





Marie Clarke

Managing Information for Student Achievement

The mandate of the MISA initiative ...

is to increase both provincial and local capacity among educators to work with data and information to support improved student outcomes. An important part of the Local Capacity Building portion of the initiative includes supporting seven MISA Professional Network Centres (PNCs) across the province; six regional and one French-language centre.

MISA Professional Network Centres ...

function as linked professional learning communities and complement the efforts of individual boards and schools. The centres assist in building local capacity to work with data in support of evidence-informed decision making and undertake a broad range of local research in this area.

Research activities

will continue to be supported by the regional PNC. Action research is encouraged and financially subsidized through project grants, and includes assistance from Lakehead University research specialists. A new round of grants focusing on MISA core capacity topics will soon be announced. For more information, contact your Board's MISA Lead.

Privacy and Information Management Taskforce

has been a joint initiative of MISA and OASBO. The goal of the taskforce is to help school boards and authorities to develop an information culture that respects privacy, mitigates risk, and enhances public trust and confidence in public education. With the support of all 72 school boards in the province, a PIM toolkit of practical suggestions for records maintenance and privacy issues was created, and a website at www.pimedu.org was launched this spring.

YRDSB and NOEL – Collaboration to Support the MISA Initiative

COGNOS, the robust data analysis and reporting tool that brought together the York Region DSB and the NOEL school boards and authorities, is the most sophisticated data warehouse in the province. Access to data is the first step to embedding the use of data in school and system improvement planning and, most importantly, in classroom use of evidence informed instruction. With Project Lead Diane Findlay and data base administrator Ling Meng, the NOEL data warehouse provides a large bank of data to engage staff in evidence-based dialogue related to student achievement strategies.

Thunder Bay Region

Your Board representative who sits on the MISA Regional Committee can be contacted for more information:

KPDSB	Steven Roffe	KCDSB	Mary Cunningham
LDSB	Marie Clarke	RRDSB	Chris Denby
SGDSB	Colleen Kappell	SNCD SB	Kim Asmussen
TNCDSB	Mike Belluz	TBCDSB	Ivan Strachan
NSRA	Bill Ulrich		

1. MISA Core Capacity Continuum

- Data Management
- Technology
- Capacity Building

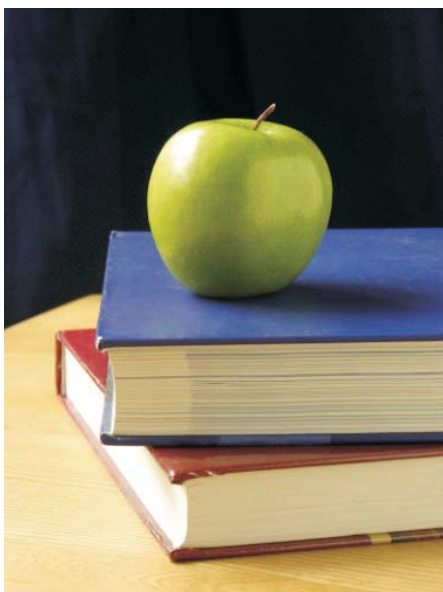
2.

MISA promotes regional capacity building in the areas of technology, data management, and data use.

3.

“We want to move our school efforts from random acts of improvement to focused improvement that centers on our ultimate purpose improved learning for all students.”

Using Data to Improve Student Learning,
Victoria L. Bernhardt, Ph.D. (2003)





Keewatin-Patricia
District School Board



Kenora Catholic
District School Board



Superior North Catholic
District School Board



The Northwest Catholic
District School Board



Thunder Bay Catholic
District School Board

Lakehead
UNIVERSITY



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NOEL Conference Information



Frontline Conference TIME FOR CHANGE REPORT

Thursday, April 30, 2009 &
Friday, May 1, 2009 Valhalla Inn

Our Frontline Conference had a slightly different organisation this year with participants choosing from one of three workshops. The following articles will give you some insight into these sessions.

This series of workshops was followed by Dinner and a Keynote Address by Coach and Positive Psychologist: Caroline Miller. Caroline continued to develop her thoughts on goal setting and happiness in her workshop on Friday morning.

Bullying

Michael Reist

Michael Reist has spoken to a number of groups throughout the region.

As a result his workshop, entitled *Bullying, Why It Happens and What Adults and Kids Can Do About It*, was anxiously anticipated and true to his previous visits, he did not disappoint.

Participants came away with a deeper understanding of the psychology behind bullying, that it's important to give the bully kindness and compassion, that kids bully because they are seeking attention in negative ways, and that girls and boys will bully in very different ways.

It was a gift to have the opportunity to listen to Michael Reist speak on any topic related to children or teenagers. One participant left the NOEL Frontline Conference thinking about her own children, how she could better parent them, aspects of her parenting that she wanted to change and how she could get them ready to enter the school system. There is a fundamental truth to Michael Reist's insights on children and teenagers that resonated long after the conference had ended.

Trina Henley

Executive Assistant to the Director of Education
Kenora Catholic District School Board

"The Teenage Brain....And What You Need to Know to Stay Ahead of It!"

Vicki Shannon

Principal, Lakehead District School Board

Vicki Shannon explained how the brain functions and then highlighted how the teenage brain differs from that of adults. She offered us insight and tools for coping with our teenagers and maintaining our sanity through our kids' teen years. Vicki was informative as well as entertaining...those of you with teenagers know how important it is to sustain a sense of humour!

Aesthetically Perfect Being the Best You

Erika Maki

Erika Maki, Director of "A Spa for You", had a rapt audience as she shared her tips for maximizing ourselves. Using participants as models, Erika shared make-up, hair style and grooming suggestions, as well as recommendations for making the most of your current wardrobe and new fashions. The abundant laughter flowing from this workshop would indicate that it was an entertaining introduction to the conference.

Creating Your Best Life

Caroline Miller

Our recent Frontline Conference featured Caroline Miller, MAPP and recent author of "Creating Your Best Life". Prior to the conference participants knew a little about Caroline's work and were looking forward to her continuing the journey into Positive Thinking that had begun with the "FISH" workshop and extended with Chris Rush and the Resiliency Network. No one was prepared for the overwhelming impact that Caroline and her work had on the group of participants, both individually and as a group. Her unique marriage of goal setting with positive psychology resonated with many of the participants as they worked through several activities that led them to identify their dreams and how to set goals for attaining them. Caroline's approach was realistic, yet inspirational. If you wish to learn more about her work, you can check out her latest publication "Creating Your Best Life: The Ultimate Life List Guide" or her website at

www.carolinemillercoaching.com.

Thank you to NOEL Frontline Planning Committee members, Jocelyne Sherif (TBCDSB) and Trina Henley (KCDSB) for their assistance in planning and ensuring that the conference ran smoothly. We welcome Darlene Mayo, Lakehead District School Board to our next planning meeting as we review this year and begin planning for next.

Congratulations to our winner of the Evaluation Draw: Andrée MacGillvray, SGDSB. She will enjoy free admission to the conference next year.





LITERACY KALEIDOSCOPE: ENRICHING OUR PRACTICE

Monday, August 24
Tuesday, August 25
Travelodge Airline

As the 2008-09 school year winds down with the myriad year end activities, it is hard to think about August and getting ready for 2009/10. Nevertheless, the brochure for the NOEL Summer Literacy Conference is out and you will not want to miss this exciting line up.

We continue to share “**The Gift of Reading**” with **David Bouchard** and to enhance our knowledge of basic literacies with **Steve** and **Mary Reid's** work in the area of **writing**. We will also look at ways of extending these literacies through technology and the Arts in order to engage a broader group of students.

Those of you who have stated time and time again that you feel we are ready to move on to Math will be pleased to see that, not only will you have the opportunity to work with MaryLou Kestell from LNS, but also two local groups of teachers who have agreed to share their Math projects with you.

Those people who are trying to connect with colleagues to improve student learning may be interested in **Tania Sterling's** workshop on “**Learning Connections**” available through the LNS project of the same name.

FSL teachers can continue to hone their AIM with a specialist from Ottawa and all language teachers who are struggling to capture their students oral language will benefit from the **Xpresslab** workshop.

Many of you said that you wanted to know more about **assessment and evaluation**. We think that **Paul Walsh** and **Joannie Causarano** will be able to clear up any questions you may have.

A variety of workshops will focus on Aboriginal culture and language, which will assist all teachers to develop a clearer understanding. In addition, these workshops will offer practical suggestions for ways to infuse culture into classrooms.

We hope you will choose to join us on August 24 and 25 at the Travelodge Airline.

For more information and to register online go to

www.noelonline.ca/

Have a great summer! See you in August!!

Watch for your next issue of NOELights in your mailbox in October! Information will include the Oral Language Project by Jeannie McMaster as well as a report of LITERACY KALEIDOSCOPE: ENRICHING OUR PRACTICE!

Contact

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NOEL Leadership for Literacy Development Coordinator

carolv@noelonline.ca

NOEL offers a wide selection at no cost to educators.

NOEL Courses ONLINE

Visit www.noelonline.ca for a complete list of courses and for more information about online courses.

Aboriginal Series

First Nations Culture and the Environment
First Nations of Canada
First Nations of Canada: Aspects of Culture and Heritage
The Social History of the Algonquian People
Integrating Native Culture with the Curriculum and in the Classroom
First Nations Perspectives in the Classroom
And more!

General Series

Primary Mathematics through Aboriginal Art
Junior Math Comes Alive Through Aboriginal Art
Intermediate Math Comes Alive Through Aboriginal Art
Enhancing Oral Language in the Core French Classroom
Math Strategies to Support Students at Risk 7/8
Math Strategies to Support Students at Risk 9/10
Reading Strategies to Support Students at Risk 7/8
Reading Strategies for Grades 9 and 10
Making Sense of Math Problem Solving
Developing Number Sense in the Primary Grades
Balanced Math
Math Instruction Best Practices
EQAO: Education Quality and Accountability Office
Running Records
Assessment as a Planning Tool:



THE COURAGE TO LEAD

Tuesday, October 13, 2009 (Evening)

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Thursday, October 15, 2009 (a.m.)

Valhalla Inn Thunder Bay

www.leadandlearn.com

This fall NOEL will be hosting the Fall Leadership Conference entitled "Courage to Lead" at the Valhalla Inn. Damian Cooper will kick off our conference with his keynote on Tuesday evening. Wednesday, participants will have an opportunity to hear Dr. Douglas Reeves keynote, in which he will share his most recent research which reflects the ideas that leadership matters and that there is a need for clear and specific blueprints of actions. Furthermore, that hope in troubled times is not a matter of blind faith, but a combination of several factors in the H.O.P.E. matrix: Hope, Optimism, Purpose, and Empathy.

Participants can choose to spend some time with Damian Cooper (Assessment and Evaluation), Elaine Hines and Denis Maika (Setting Direction and Staying the Course), Karen Rowe and Paul Toffanello (Resiliency), or the whole day with Carol Rolheiser (13 Parameters of Literacy).

On Thursday morning, we will have an opportunity to hear from local leaders as they share their practice with us. You will find a description of the following workshops in the soon to be published brochure.

Workshops

- **Building School Community: One relationship at a time**
- **Lessons Learned from the SEF: Instructional Leadership and Moving Forward**
- **Teaching Learning Critical Pathways**
- **Balanced Literacy- Weaving the Thread**
- **Journey through Change - Mapping a Story of School Success**
- **Shifting gears: Moving from School Managers to Instructional Leaders**
- **Urban Aboriginal Project**

Enjoy a safe, healthy and rejuvenating summer!

<http://www.noelonline.ca>



New Additional Qualification Courses Offered This Summer!

EDUC 4743 AA - Native Languages, Part I (Algonquian)
Begins on-campus, Thunder Bay, July 6-24;
plus online Sept-Oct
Fluency in an Algonquian language is a pre-requisite (i.e., Algonquin 1212 or 1232 courses).

EDUC 4667 ADE - Environmental Science, Part I
Brief online component before & after face-to-face, residential program* in Thunder Bay, July 5-11
Open to certified teachers from all divisions.

EDUC 4668 ADE - Environmental Science, Part II
Brief online component before & after face-to-face, residential program* in Thunder Bay, July 19-25
Open to certified teachers from all divisions who have completed Env Sci Part I

Application Deadline: June 15
AQ Tuition: \$875 plus Ancillary Fee (where applicable)
* Additional activity fees apply

EDUC 9505 AA - Principal's Qualification Program, Part I
Begins on-campus, Thunder Bay, June 29-July 10;
plus 5 videconferences Sept-Oct
Pre-requisite: Certification in 3 divisions, including Intermediate, plus 5 years teaching experience, plus 2 Specialist qualifications or a MEd, (or 1 Specialist and half a Masters completed)

Application Deadline: May 29
PQP Tuition: \$850 plus \$100 application fee plus \$50 late fee (where applicable)

New courses in development, to be offered Fall 2009!

EDUC 4700 FDE - Teaching Aboriginal Children
EDUC 4622 FDE - French As A Second Language, Part II

Visit our website for full details and downloadable application forms and brochures.

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Lakehead UNIVERSITY