

CAT~news

A publication from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada Office of Education
See www.catnet.sdacc.org for more information and resources



Welcome to CAT~news



Welcome to Volume 1, Issue 1 of CAT~news, a newsletter designed to keep Canadian Adventist Teachers (CAT) informed about current educational issues, policy and program changes, and innovative marketing initiatives to keep Adventist education in Canada on the cutting edge.

In this issue, we highlight some recent actions taken by the NAD and SDACC to improve K – 12 program quality and delivery. You will find information on the NAD Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) program, the 2009 Canada-wide teachers' convention, the 2008 Holy Land Tour, recommended name changes for Education Day and Education Secretary, CognitiveGenesis report, a marketing survey to boost enrolment, the development of a system-wide distance education program, two African projects, and a feature article on Mamawi Atosketan Native School.

CAT~news will be published bi-annually in the fall and spring. If you have a news item or a story that is of national interest, we invite you to submit it to CAT~news. We need to get the good news about our school system in the open. And CAT~news provides us with the vehicle to do so.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy and benefit from this issue of CAT~news. We will be willing to take any suggestions from you to improve the quality of this newsletter. Please share your thoughts with us by emailing Brandy at: bperkins@sdacc.org.

On behalf of Betty and Brandy, I want to wish you a safe and happy Christmas and a bright and prosperous new year.

Dennis Marshall
Director of Education



A Brighter Future for Adventist Education



How can we have a brighter future in the face of declining enrolment? Over the past ten years enrolment in our school system has taken a nose dive from 4000 in 1997 to 3,523 in 2007 resulting in a loss of 22 of our schools. Currently, we have 45 schools in our K-12 school system. If we do nothing different, the trend will continue and eventually we may not have much of a school system to talk about. But there is hope, 70% of our school-age children are not attending our schools. Our job is to make our schools such fantastic places to be that there will be a waiting list to get in.

In an attempt to do this, the SDACC Office of Education is undertaking a new national survey to determine our strengths and weaknesses as a school system, and what needs to be done to take advantage of the opportunities for growth now awaiting us. This survey will be sent by mail to all teachers, principals and school board members. It will also be available on our website (www.catnet.sdacc.org). We are asking everyone who receives this survey to thoughtfully complete it by January 31, 2007. The findings of this survey will determine how we move forward to make our schools more competitive.

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Distance Ed . . . Essential & Inescapable



Distance Education is not new; it has been around for more than 150 years, evolving from a method based on print technology and relying on surface mail to a flexible learning model which today incorporates multimedia technology and interactive communication.

It is a field that is very complex, very diverse, and rapidly evolving. And, as we seek to make a quality Seventh-day Adventist education accessible to every Adventist home and student, distance ed is a method of delivery that the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada cannot afford to ignore.

The BC Conference established a distributed learning program in 2006 and currently offers an accredited K-12 program using BC-approved course materials and taught by BC certified teachers. Just this school year, the Alberta Conference has also established a distance education program which currently offers both home schooling and distance ed strands. As a system across Canada, the SDACC Office of Education must build on these two solid programs to make distance education accessible to Adventist families across Canada.

So far, our focus has been on research, both on the theoretical and philosophical foundations for distance ed and on the more practical considerations of what is involved in setting up programs. A list of helpful resources has been posted on CAT-net to assist schools and teachers who are offering or planning to offer such programs. The Distance Learning Committee established by the SDACC Education Council last year will continue to work hard in the next few months to make recommendations for the setup and delivery of SDA distance education Canada-wide.

The Distance Education model of education will never replace face to face classroom instruction, nor should it. But further developing this option will benefit all stakeholders. Families will have greater accessibility to Seventh-day Adventist education, students and small schools will benefit from a wider selection of course offerings, SDA schools can strengthen their existing programs and recruit new students for the future, and as a church, we will be able to reach out to more families.

Betty Bayer
Associate Director of Education

FEATURED SCHOOL

Mamawi Atosketan Native School is located approximately 8 km north of Ponoka, Alberta just a short distance from the Hobbema First Nations Reserve. The school has been in operation since 1984. In January of 2003 the school moved to our current location. There are presently 177 students and the school is bursting at the seams.



As Christmas barrels down upon us, we are swamped at the school with many activities. During the past weekend it was our honor and privilege to host Pastor Jose Rojas from the North American Division. He spoke on the topic of supporting missions in your own back yard. Mamawi is one such place. Pastor Rojas spent a couple of days visiting the Hobbema area and speaking with individuals about the past and present of the youth in the area, and looking for ways to make it a better place. Did you know that if a child can read at proficiency by grade 3, they are 82% less likely to be involved in criminal or gang activity? What a statement! Educate the young and teach them to read and think for themselves. What a blessing the weekend turned into as approximately 220 people from both the First Nations and Adventist communities worshipped together on Sabbath morning.



This week we are offering the students a Shopping Mall experience. Generous individuals of Alberta have donated gently used and new items to the school so that our less fortunate students have the opportunity to "shop" for gifts for their family members. Last year it was very successful. Parents were calling and could not believe the generosity and caring thoughts that allowed them to have a Christmas with presents under their trees. We hope to replicate this outreach and create even more happy families and spread the love of Christ even further.

As we continue to flourish under the guidance and blessings of Christ, we want to let those who support us both financially and with prayers know that we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping us spread the love of Christ through this mission field. Please continue your support as we continue to grow. Merry Christmas and may the new year bring to you God's blessings!

SDACC Office of Education News



Preliminary results indicate that students at all levels of ability, on average, have higher achievement scores than predicted by their ability. Overall achievement (composite) was above the national norm in ALL grades and above average for all subject areas. Achievement was very similar no matter the size of the school, the number of students per grade, the number of students per teacher, or the grade range within the classroom.

The SDACC Office of Education would like to express our gratitude to all the principals, teachers and students involved with CognitiveGenesis. Without you, this study would not be possible.

Farewell to Nour Issa



The SDACC Office of Education has said farewell to a member of its staff. Nour Issa, Registrar, has retired after 14 years of service to the Office of Education. We want to thank her for her dedicated service to

the teachers across Canada.

Welcome Betty Bayer



We welcome Betty Bayer as the Associate Director of Education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. Betty will assume two other roles in this position: certification registrar and coordinator of distance education. Betty comes to us with a wealth of teaching

and administrative experience, having been an English teacher at Kingsway College for eleven years and Vice-Principal of Academics for the past sixteen years. Betty has a lot to offer. We are very happy to have her on the education team.

Name Change

The SDACC K-12 Board voted to accept the recommendation of the Education Council Executive to change the name of Education Day to Adventist Education Sabbath and Education Secretary to Adventist Education Leader. This is to take effect immediately.



SDACC Excellence in Teaching & Excellence in Educational Administration Awards



Nomination forms are available on CAT-net—www.catnet.sdacc.org under the Resources section. If you know of a teacher or administrator that is exceptional, please take the time to complete a nomination form and send it to your superintendent or boarding academy principal before **January 14**.

2009 Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada K-12 Teachers' Convention



Mark your calendars for August 17-20, 2009! The first SDACC K-12 Teachers' Convention is happening in over 30 years. Plans are underway and the SDACC K-12 Board voted to go ahead with a cruise for our convention as this was the most cost effective option that could accommodate all teachers across Canada. So pack your sun screen and swimsuit for a convention on a Western Caribbean Cruise.

We also need suggestions for presenters. Please send your ideas to bperkins@sdacc.org.

Tell Canada



We are having Tell Canada Week again from April 20-26, 2008. A Project Funding Proposal form is available on CAT-net under Resources. Fill out the form and send it back to the SDACC Office of Education by **March 17, 2008**.

The SDACC Office of Education is willing to subsidize your project (if approved) by 50% up to \$750.00. Funds will be distributed after completion of project and receipts are submitted along with a brief report and pictures. This project can be done during Tell Canada Week or anytime throughout the school year.

In the November 2007 issue of the *Messenger* you can read about all the projects that were completed in 2007. We look forward to more schools participating this year and reaching out to the community by 'Proclaiming Christ, Nurturing Believers and Serving Humanity'.

If you have any further questions, please contact Brandy Perkins at 905-433-0011 x2072 or via e-mail at bperkins@sdacc.org.

SDACC Office of Education News



CAT~net
www.catnet.sdacc.org



CAT~net has tons of resources for teachers. We also have a Message Board where you can ask questions and share information with your colleagues across Canada. To access the

Message Board please use the following password—educ8t0r.

If you would like to write an article that could be considered for the Teachers Talk or Technology section please send it in. When we post it you will receive a \$75.00 cheque.



WHAT'S NEW IN CERTIFICATION

⇒ **REPLACEMENT TEACHER EXPERIENCE:** Experience as a replacement teacher (not a substitute teacher) will be counted toward the three years of teaching experience required to upgrade a Basic Certificate to a Standard or Professional Certificate.

⇒ **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY CREDIT:** The Professional Activity Credits form has been revised to include the following activities for credit: developing new courses outside of primary job descriptions and supervision of co-op or work experience students. Please see the revised form for details and maximum hours allowed for some activities.

⇒ **IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:** Because Teaching Certificates are considered legal documents, teachers will be asked to submit a copy of their birth certificate or passport, along with the Application for SDA Teacher Certification, to verify legal name for certification purposes.

⇒ **INTEGRATION OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY:** This requirements has been revised as follows: "Integration of educational technology into the classroom is a tool for teaching and learning rather than the focus of teaching and learning. It is not merely a set of technical skills or competencies but is a constantly growing set of instructional strategies built upon learning principles. Educators must complete one academic course that includes the concepts and the practice of integrating technology into the

classroom and is designed to produce a positive impact on student learning in the classroom."

⇒ **NEW K-12 CERTIFICATION MANUAL:** The Certification Manual has been revised as of September 1, 2007. Please refer to this edition for information on SDA Teaching Certification within the North American Division.

SDACC French Multi-Grade Handbook

The following has been completed:

- French Multi-Grade Handbook,
- 1st year (partial) with 6 themes (correlated to Pathways),
- 2nd year (total) with 6 themes

The 3rd year will be developed in the summer of 2008. This program is now being piloted at Windsor SDA School and South Side Christian School. This program is designed to be cost effective for small schools which can't afford costly published programs designed for large classrooms and big budgets. For more information please contact Frances Schander - fshander@adventistontario.org.



Devotional Corner

In Praise of Children

*Lord, you have made these children
 As varied as the flowers of the garden.
 You have blessed each one uniquely.*

*And each fragile, growing child
 Is infinitely precious in your sight.*

You have trusted me to nurture them.

And blessed me with the joy of seeing them grow.

Lord, I teach in reverence.

Taken from: *Chalkdust, Prayer Meditations for Teachers*, Elsebeth Campbell Murphy, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI, May 1992.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Nelson Mandela

"Do not train children to learning by force and harshness, but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each." Plato

North American Division News

⇒ **REACH MANUAL:** The NAD Inclusion Commission, including Canadian teaching principal Wendy Hutchinson, has produced a manual to help teachers better meet the needs of students who have special learning challenges. This manual is being piloted this year and provides practical resources for teachers who are seeking ways to accommodate special needs children in the classroom. Please contact Betty at bbayer@sdacc.org if you are interested in piloting these resources.

⇒ **PATHWAYS:** Grades 1-2 materials are currently complete, and Grades 3-4 will be completed by the end of this school year. All schools should plan to implement the 1-4 program by September 2008. Grades 5-6 materials are currently in progress, and a committee is being established to write the Grades 7-8 materials this summer.



⇒ **SCIENCE GRADES 5-8:** The new Curriculum Guide for Science Grades K-8 has been completed and will be available shortly. A small committee has been established to make recommendations regarding the revision and supplementary resources for the 5-8 textbooks. Further information will be forthcoming.



⇒ **ECEC REPORT:** The NAD 2007 Early Childhood Task Force has established implementation steps for the effective establishment of an Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) program, six options for leadership of this program across the NAD, and the roles and responsibilities for leadership. Because the ECEC program will now be the responsibility of the NAD Office of Education, each union will be asked to choose a leadership option and allocate funds accordingly.



⇒ **SMALL SCHOOL SELF-STUDY REPORTS:** The NAD self-study report used as part of the evaluation process for small schools has been shortened and simplified for use by small schools. The updated forms will soon be available on the NAD website.



⇒ **HUNTER UPDATE:** All K-12 schools in the NAD will be expected to have all Student Information Systems data electronically deposited in the NAD database by August 2008. Schools not currently using the NAD recommended Hunter program are required



to work with their vendors to migrate their data in a Hunter-approved format.

⇒ **SUMMER COMMITTEES:** NAD summer committees have been set up in the following areas for 2008: Elementary - Pathways (to complete writing for 7/8), Science, Kindergarten; Secondary – Spiritual Resources, Social Studies, Business. We are looking for a Canadian teacher interested in writing for Pathways Grades 7 and 8 during the summer committee which meets for three weeks in June. If you are interested, please contact Betty right away at bbayer@sdacc.org.

⇒ **NAD CURRICULUM TASKFORCE:** This committee has been established to review all past NAD curriculum projects and materials and to forecast future needs and articulate plans for future curriculum development. Your input on any concerns, challenges, and questions you have regarding curriculum is requested. Please email Betty at bbayer@sdacc.org.



TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

⇒ **\$100 BEST PRACTICES AWARD:** For innovative classroom integration January to December 2008. This award is limited to one award per teacher per year. See the TDEC website for more information (www.NADTDEC.org).

⇒ **\$500 AWARD FOR INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY:** Recognition of one teacher per year at secondary and one at elementary for innovative integration of technology in the classroom that affects student learning. Recommendations are to come from Union Associate Directors in April.

⇒ **\$1000 GRANT FOR INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM:** The North American Division Technology and Distance Education Committee is awarding grants to regular full-time denominational classroom teachers for the innovative integration of technology in the classroom. The maximum grant is \$1,000. A portion of the grant may be allocated for the sponsoring teacher. If specialized equipment is required (computer upgrades not eligible) matching funds must be applied. To qualify for the TDEC technology grant the teacher must submit a project proposal according to the guidelines outlined on the TDEC website.

North American Division News

TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS Continued...

⇒ **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ONLINE CLASS:** Available to full-time SDA K-12 teachers to take an online course on integrating technology in education. Further details and application form available on the TDEC website.

North American Division Wide The African Connection

By: Dr. Dennis Marshall

My recent trip to Africa, which was made possible through the sponsorship of Hope for Humanity and the NAD, made me reevaluate my calling as a servant-leader. I can no longer be satisfied by being a good administrator living a life of ease, after looking into the sunken eyes of an HIV/Aids victim on his dying bed, or into the hungry eyes of children who have suddenly become orphans because their parents have succumbed to HIV/Aids, or at the sorry physical condition of one of our elementary schools.



The boy (Sunnyboy) in the middle of this picture is raising his siblings because his parents died of AIDS.

The North American Division Directors of Education (NADOE) have voted to undertake two African projects to address some of the concerns mentioned above. The first one is the feeding of 70 plus orphans on weekends. At the present time, these orphans in the township of Dwarsloop are being fed one meal a day, five days a week. Through our co-operative efforts, we can ensure that these children will have at least one meal a day, seven days a week. The second project is the building of a new elementary school in Maluti that would accommodate about 200 chil-



Dr. Marshall interacting with students.

dren.

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We are asking every school in our K-12 system to participate by engaging in fund-raising activities. This is a good entry level to get our schools to become mission focused and form bonds with the global community. Individual schools can decide on their own projects and inform their district superintendent about them. For further information, please contact Brandy Perkins (bperkins@sdacc.org) or visit the NAD website.



Above is a picture of the Maluti Seventh-day Adventist School in Lesotho. Fundraising will go towards building a new school. The building on the left is a steel storage container with windows and doors cut out.



Three orphans who stole our hearts because of the love they showed for one another.

Fundraising Ideas:

Pennies for Africa—have children bring in their pennies from home and fill a large water bottle that could be displayed for everyone to see. Why not see how many water bottles you can fill?

Loonies or Toonies for Africa—have children bring in a loonie or toonie to donate toward this worthy project. Five loonies or toonies per student will go a long way.

If you have any other great ideas send us an e-mail and we will post it on CAT-net so other schools can use it.

Resources For Teachers



⇒ **KIDSVIEW:** Starting August 2008, KidsView (the kids version of Adventist Review) will be sent to every child in Grades 3-6 in every NAD Adventist school. Upcoming themes will be provided in advance so that teachers can plan to include this resource in their instructional planning.

⇒ **VISIONARY FOR KIDS E-ZINE:** This online magazine is produced by the E.G. White Estates and provides excellent teaching resources on the Spirit of Prophecy for children including games, activities, and student contributions. It is produced four times a year and is available free online at <http://www.whiteestate.org/vez/vez.html>.



⇒ **MULTIGRADE NOTEBOOK FOR PATHWAYS:** This resource for using Pathways in a multigrade classroom is currently available online only on the Pathways website. CDs will soon be available and will be provided by the SDACC to all multigrade teachers.



⇒ **ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA:** The NAD has negotiated a contract will Encyclopedia Britannica for full use of their online service. The online encyclopedia as well as many other online resources for teachers and students will be available. Students would have access both at home and at school, and training is available for teachers. Watch for further information.



⇒ **CREATION HEALTH:** Since we do not currently have an SDA Health textbook, plans are being made to partner with SDA Health/Hospital systems to produce a resource package and/or textbook to address this area. Watch for further information.

⇒ **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN A BOX:** TDEC will be developing a technology kit on the classroom use of digital cameras. The kit will include quality digital cameras. The intent is to provide resources and training for incorporating digital camera use in all subject areas rather than in an isolated photography course. TDEC will pay half the cost for one school per union to pilot digital photography (\$550 school cost). Contact bbayer@sdacc.org if your school is



interested in piloting this project.

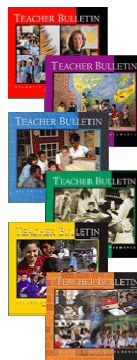
⇒ **ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Beginning in January 2008, inservice opportunities will be provided using GoToMeeting. The inservices will highlight technology use and other topics of professional interest to teachers. Watch for further information to be available on the NAD Education website.

⇒ **COREL:** The NAD will continue to maintain the **COREL**® Corel contract and obtain upgrades. The entire Corel Suite is included. Lesson plans are available. Training videos may be accessed at <http://www.lynda.com/corel/freetraining/>.

⇒ **UNITED STREAMING:** NAD will be renewing this contract and hopes to have the Canadian access issues worked out shortly.



⇒ **ATLANTIC UNION TEACHER BULLETIN:** Provides excellent and practical resources for teachers including supplementary Pathways resources, PK-12 distinctly Adventist classroom resources, a variety of student-led and teacher-directed activities, integrated units in archaeology, geology and human biology, and more. The five themes this year include Spirit of Prophecy, Writing Process, Science, Math, and Classroom Management. Access is free to all NAD teachers at www.teacherbulletin.org (password: nadcic2).



⇒ **CIRCLE** (<http://circle.adventist.org>) CIRCLE currently links to over 4500 publications, online resources, and Adventist teacher-created materials in 320 categories for:

- Pre-school, elementary and secondary teachers serving in Adventist, Christian, private, public or home schools
- Christian principals, superintendents, school board members and other administrators needing easy access to quality administrative tools
- College faculty and teacher educators wishing to link their students to Christian resources in their specialized areas of study



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Holy Land & Jordan – Tour: August 05-17, 2008

Cost: \$3039.00pp, two sharing, single supplement, \$820.00

- * Roundtrip air fare with Air France from Toronto to Tel Aviv via Paris and from Amman to Toronto via Paris.
- * 11 nights hotel accommodations in the following hotels or similar
 - 3 nights Kibbutz Ein Gev on the Sea of Galilee
 - 5 nights Grand Court Hotel, Jerusalem
 - 1 night Petra Panorama Hotel, Petra
 - 2 nights Imperial Palace Hotel, Amman
- * Airport transfer upon arrival and departure
- * Buffet breakfast and dinners daily in the hotels in Israel & Jordan
- * 3 days of sightseeing in Jordan
- * 6 full days of sightseeing in Israel
- * Modern Air-conditioned motor coach in Israel and Jordan
 - * All Entrance Fees to all selected places of interest as per the program.
 - * Services of an English speaking licensed tour guide throughout Israel & Jordan
 - * Portage of 1 piece of luggage per person for the airport and hotels

Not Included:

- * Airport departure taxes and fuel surcharges (subject to change at anytime for the fuel surcharges) of **\$320 per person (subject to change at anytime without notice).**
- * Tips to the guide and driver. (Suggested tipping for the guide \$5 USD per person per day and \$2 USD per person per day).
- * Travel Insurance (optional) highly recommended.

A deposit of \$400 per person. \$200 is refundable up to 90 days before departure and \$200 is non-refundable. Final non-refundable payment to be made 45 days before departure.

If you are interested in this tour please contact the SDACC Office of Education right away as there are only 20 spots available.

SDACC School Evaluations

Algoma Adv. Christian School	November 12, 2007
Cariboo Adventist Academy	April 2, 2008
Chilliwack Adventist Christian School	Feb. 18, 2008
Crawford Adventist Academy	April 27-30, 2008
Curtis-Horne Christian School	May 5, 2008
Deer Lake SDA School	March 10, 2008
North Okanagan Jr. Academy	March 30-31, 2008
Okanagan Adventist Academy	April 29, 2008
Ottawa SDA School	April 22, 2008
Peace Hills Adventist School	April 22-23, 2008
Peel SDA School	Feb. 4, 2008
Perth-Andover Adventist School	May 8, 2008
Red River Valley Jr. Academy	May 7, 2008
SDA Christian School	May 12, 2008
Sth Okanagan Adv. Christian School	Feb. 20, 2008
Spring Creek Adventist School	Feb. 19, 2008
Westbank Adventist School	Feb. 19, 2008
Woodlands Adventist School	April 29-30, 2008
Windsor SDA School	Feb. 25, 2008

Dates of Importance

Education Council Executive	January 30, 2008
CUC Teacher Interviews & Banquet	January 31, 2008
Education Council	February 27-29, 2008
SDACC K-12 Board of Education	March 2, 2008
Alumni Awards Foundation	March 7-9, 2008
Tell Canada Week	April 20-26, 2008
Adventist Education Day	April 26, 2008
PSI Conference	June 8-11, 2008
NAD Summer Workshops	June 9-26, 2008
CUC Summer School	July 3-30, 2008
LSU Summer School	July 7-31, 2008
Holy Land & Jordan Tour	August 5-17, 2008
CTBS/CCAT Testing	September 29-October 10, 2008
Education Council Executive	November 19-21, 2008
SDACC K-12 Board of Ed.	November 23, 2008

