



# CAT~news

A publication from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada  
Office of Education

## GROWING RELATIONSHIPS

*Dennis Marshall, General Vice-President/Director of Education*

In the recently held Summit on Adventist Education that was sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, Dr. Larry Blackmer, North American Division (NAD) Vice President for Education, said that education is about developing trustworthy relationships with our children, and inviting them to develop a personal relationship with Jesus.



Ellen G. White perpetuated the idea that the purpose of Adventist education is to help our children develop a growing relationship with Jesus: "To aid the student in comprehending these principles [truth, obedience, honor, integrity and purity], and in entering into that relation with Christ which will make them a controlling power in the life, should be the teacher's first effort and constant aim. The teacher who accepts this aim is in truth a coworker with Christ, a laborer together with God." (*True Education*, p. 22)

With this concept of education in mind, the focus is shifted from the curriculum to the student. It is the student and not the curriculum who becomes the target of change. Thus, the effective teacher will be careful to develop a respectful, trusting relationship with his/her students in order to bring about the desired change in attitude, behaviour, and Christian practice.

In this issue of CAT~news, you will find reports and information on SDACC and NAD initiatives in education such as the recently held SDACC Adventist Education Summit, the upcoming SDACC Teachers' Cruise Convention, the NAD Encounter Bible Curriculum, the ASDASA conference, and the Physical Genesis project.

All these initiatives are designed to improve the quality of education we offer our children with the overarching purpose of making them disciples of Jesus. Without this overarching purpose, there is no reason

for our schools to exist. As co-labourers, let us work diligently to help our children develop a growing relationship with Jesus.

## NEW TEACHERS

We welcome the following individuals who are new to their positions or new to our Adventist education system in Canada:



- Ashley Bastien, Fraser Valley Adventist Academy, BC
- Daphne Bell, Fraser Valley Adventist Academy, BC
- Landon Blize, Coralwood Adventist Academy, AB
- Venessa Brenya, Curtis-Horne Christian School, SK
- Viktoria Brunets, Sandy Lake Academy, NS
- Susan Densmore, Woodlands Adventist School, AB
- Grace Devoe, Fraser Valley Adventist Academy, BC
- Donovan Diminyatz, Peace Christian School, BC
- Meghann Diminyatz, Peace Christian School, BC
- Lucinda Dixon, Bella Coola Adventist School, BC
- Adelia Duncan, Grandview Adventist Academy, ON
- Afia Franklin, Windsor Adventist Elementary School, ON
- Teresa Heare, Avalon Adventist Jr. Academy, BC
- Bobby Ilapogu, West Coast Adventist Christian School, BC
- Deniece James, Crawford Adventist Academy East, ON
- Shandra Jamieson, Deer Lake SDA School, BC
- Melanie Kibbee, Coralwood Adventist Academy, AB
- Katrina Knopp, Chinook Winds Adventist Academy, AB
- Laura Kozak, Robson Valley Jr. Academy, BC
- Corbin Lamberton, Peace Christian School, BC
- Devon McAfee, Peace Christian School, BC
- Sandra Mendoza, Sartigan Adventist Academy, QC
- Charmaine Mitchell, Red River Valley Jr. Academy, MB
- Adam Pardy, Fraser Valley Adventist Academy, BC
- Melinda Purviance, Parkview Adventist Academy, AB
- Tatiana Racu, Greaves Adventist Academy, QC
- Naomi Rempel, Spring Creek Adventist School, BC
- Sashanna Robinson, Greaves Adventist Academy, QC
- Jelena Sanchez, Red River Valley Jr. Academy, MB
- Amanda Toombs, Avalon Adventist Jr. Academy, BC
- Dorcas Tosi, Kingsway College, ON
- Alvin Waite, Red River Valley Jr. Academy, MB

*Please forgive us and let us know if we forgot anyone.*

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# SDACC/NAD News



## **SDACC 2015 TEACHERS' CONVENTION**

Plans are underway for the SDACC 2015 Teachers' Convention. With the assistance of the SDACC IT Department, we have a website where teachers can go online and review the information we have for them. This site should be up in the beginning of January 2015. An email will be sent out once the site is live. When you receive this email, please log in to this site: <https://convention.adventist.ca> and review your information. Your username will be the email address you put on your registration form. If you do not receive an email from me with your password, you can just click 'Forgot Password' and follow the directions.



## **Passports**

Please make sure to fax a copy of your passport and any guests passports to Brandy at the SDACC (905) 433-0982. It is imperative that you have a valid passport. Passports must be valid for 6 months after the end date of this event. If your passport will be expiring on or before February 16, 2016, you need to renew it right away.



## **Breakout Sessions**

Calling all teachers! If you have an expertise in an area that you think would be beneficial to other teachers please let us know what it is. We are taking names of possible breakout presenters and would like to utilize our teachers as much as possible. If you are interested, please email your proposal to Brandy at [perkins.brandy@adventist.ca](mailto:perkins.brandy@adventist.ca). Teachers approved to do a breakout session will receive an honorarium.



## **Credit Card**

All teachers will need a credit card to set up their SetSail pass. This will be used as your Onboard Expense Account. Anything you purchase on the cruise ship will be charged to this card.

## **Travel**

If you are not making travel arrangements for yourself or your guests, please make sure your employing organization knows. Some teachers have decided to leave early or come back later; this makes booking travel for you a bit more complicated. Please inform us immediately if you fall into this category.

## **Shuttle**

Anyone traveling with the group will be able to use the shuttle service at a fee of \$50 US/person. Shuttle costs for teachers will be covered by the SDACC.

Shuttle costs for guests will be added to your online invoice (from the convention website).

## **Payments**

The SDACC can only receive payments for the cruise as US money order, cash, or a cheque from a US bank account. Payments should be made payable to: Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. Payment for guest flights can be made by credit card directly to Bayview Travel.



## **Payment Schedule:**

November 15, 2014 - \$150.00/guest (US Funds)  
 March 15, 2015 - \$200.00/guest (US Funds)  
 May 15, 2015 - Balance Due (US Funds)

Once we know your cabin assignment, you will be able to pay the full amount if you choose.

## **Cancellation Penalties:**

December 20, 2014 - February 17, 2015 - \$50.00 fee per berth  
 February 18 - April 19, 2015 - \$100 per person  
 April 20 - June 18 - \$200 per person  
 June 19 - July 18 - 50% per person  
 July 19 - August 17 - 100% per person

## **ENCOUNTER BIBLE CURRICULUM**

Eight teachers (4 elementary and 4 secondary) were trained in San Diego, June 9-11, by the writers of the new Adventist Bible curriculum developed in Australia and New Zealand: Kent Rusk (BC, secondary), Rachel Rusk (BC, elementary), Lori MacDonald (AB, secondary), Andrea Saylor (AB elementary), Adam Mohns (KC secondary), Sarah Mora (ON elementary), Norva St. Bryce (QC elementary), Chris Dupuis (MAR secondary). In addition, Andon Boyce (ON secondary) is on the NAD secondary Bible steering committee and is in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of piloting the program. Nina Atcheson will be conducting a "Train the Trainer" workshop for 2 secondary Bible teachers from each union during ASDASA (Association of SDA School Administrators) February 15-18, 2015, in Dallas, Texas. Andon Boyce and Kent Rusk will be representing Canada. Some training for secondary teachers will happen at our SDACC Teachers' Convention in August with implementation of the new curriculum to begin with Gr. 9 in 2015/16 and Gr. 10-12 to follow in the next three years. Elementary *Encounter* implementation is tentatively scheduled for the 2017/18 school year.



# SDACC News



## EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

The Excellence in Education award recognizes the work of exceptional teachers and outstanding school administrators in the SDACC school system. The award consists of a beautiful iron and glass award and a cheque for \$1000.00 for the selected teachers and \$1500.00 for the selected principal. The 2014 Excellence in Education Award winners are: Andon Boyce, Crawford Adventist Academy, ON; Kelly Briere, Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool, AB; J. Scott MacDonald, Kingsway College, ON; Andrea Saylor, Woodlands Adventist School, AB. The administrator recipient was Chris Dupuis, Sandy Lake Academy, NS. We extend our warmest congratulations to our outstanding educators. Nomination forms for the 2015 school year are posted on CAT~net (<http://catnet.adventist.ca>).



## 2015 SCHOOL EVALUATIONS

The following schools have evaluation visits this school year:

### Elementary Schools

Bella Coola Adventist School (Full Evaluation)

College Park Elementary School (Interim Review)

Greaves Adventist Academy (Interim Review)

Higher Ground Christian School (Revisit)

Ottawa SDA School (Revisit)

Peace Hills Adventist School (Full Evaluation)

Pleasant Valley Christian Academy (Full Evaluation)

Rosthern Christian School (Interim Review)

Shuswap SDA School (Full Evaluation)

Woodlands Adventist School (Full Evaluation)

### Senior Academies

Parkview Adventist Academy (Interim Review)

Peace Christian School (Full Evaluation)

## SDACC EDUCATION SUMMIT SUMMARY

On November 23-26, 2014, seventy-three delegates from across Canada including educators, pastors, youth, lay persons, special guests, and officials from the North American Division Office of Education gathered at the Toronto Airport Hilton Garden Hotel to talk about the future of Adventist Education. Mark Johnson, President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, gave the opening prayer and welcome.

The results of a parent survey conducted in September, 2014, showed that 85% of respondents rated our educational system from good to very good. While many positive things were said about our school system, there were some obvious weaknesses that our constituents highlighted. Titled *Adventist Education:*

*The Renewed Vision for Adventist Education in Canada*, the Summit was called to discuss ways and means of improving the quality of Adventist education, and how to make it more accessible to our churches' children.

The Summit centred around six core issues: Spirituality and Character Development, Program Quality and Delivery, Professional Development, Accessibility, Promotion and Growth, and Finance. In addition, there was a special presentation titled *Growing Spiritually in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* that was presented by Grace Mackintosh, legal counsel for the SDACC.

Dr. Larry Blackmer, North American Division Vice President for Education, opened the Summit with his keynote address titled: *Adventist Education: A Church Imperative?* In his address, Dr. Blackmer emphasized the importance of Adventist education as a church imperative, and challenged us to be the best and most efficient private school system in the world.

Six plenary sessions focused on the six core issues mentioned above. After each plenary session, breakout sessions provided opportunities for the delegates to discuss the core issues and make recommendations. On the final day, the facilitator of each group presented a summary of recommendations for each core issue.

These recommendations will be edited and formalized for implementation.

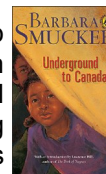
The delegates expressed appreciation for the presentations, the venue, and the opportunity to contribute to this important discussion on Adventist education. But the true value of the Summit will only be realized as we move forward to implement recommendations, and strengthen the work of the Church through the education of its youth.

## SDACC CURRICULUM PROJECTS

The SDACC Office of Education is excited to share the completion of two valuable curriculum resources this summer. A huge thank you to all those involved in these projects! The following committee met at the SDACC for a week this past summer to develop two Canadian

DLG's: Frances Schander (chair), Joan LaPointe, Brandi Mills, Kathleen Mitchell, and Gina Walker. The two Canadian titles are *Underground to Canada* (Gr. 6) and *Blizzard of Glass* (Gr. 8). The DLGs are being piloted during 2014/2015 and will be available to all teachers for the 2015/2016 school year.

The two DLGs developed in the Summer of 2014 are undergoing final edits: *The Little Word Catcher* (Gr. 2) and *When the Cherry Blossoms Fell* (Gr. 5). They will soon be available on the NAD Dashboard.



# NAD News



## ASDASA UPDATE

February 15-18 in Dallas, Texas. This conference is particularly



aimed at Adventist educational leaders: principals, vice-principals, superintendents, directors. It is scheduled once every 6 years. Keynote speakers include Mark Witas, Elizabeth Talbot, Todd Whitaker, and Nina Atcheson. Several breakout options have been scheduled. For further details (and to register), go to: <http://adventisteducation.org/ASDASA2015/>

## MSED OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Offered through Southern Adventist University, this unique master's degree program is designed to teach teachers in every discipline how to use the outdoors to teach. The program is offered as a 3-summer intensive. They also welcome teachers who want to take a few courses for re-certification. For more information, go to: <https://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies/graduate-degrees/Pages/masters-in-outdoor-education.aspx>



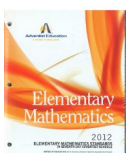
## CREATION HEALTH

This secondary level Adventist health textbook is complete (both eBooks and print formats, iPhone and Android apps), including online assessments. A teacher webpage will be available January 2015, and a student webpage by April 2015. Supplementary school transformation materials (posters, inspirational materials, pocket tips, etc) can also be ordered for schools interested in promoting lifestyle improvement on their campus, for both teachers and students.



## ELEMENTARY STANDARDS

New standards for the following subject areas have been approved and will be posted shortly on the NAD website: Science, Bible, Physical Education. New technology standards are currently being written, and Social Studies standards will be worked on this summer.

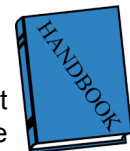


## SECONDARY BIOLOGY TEXTBOOK

The NAD has sponsored the development of a secondary Adventist Biology text which is currently being written. Additional teacher resources (simulations, virtual labs, test bank) will also be purchased or developed. It will be available both as an ebook and hard copy. Targeted completion date is 2017/18.

## SUPERINTENDENT/PRINCIPAL HANDBOOK

This new handbook will be rolled out at ASDASA. It will be available digitally for free access.



## READING A-Z: NEW RESOURCE!

Reading A-Z has added a new project-based learning option on their website, available to those who have subscribed. A



new summer program is also available for those who use Raz-Kids. The NAD is working on providing a webinar in March with further information.



## PHYSICAL GENESIS

This third and final study in the "Mind, Body, Spirit" triad of research studies focused on students in the NAD Education system, is scheduled for March-April 2015. The intent is to help schools assess the fitness levels of their Gr. 5-12 students in an effort to improve their health and wellbeing. The survey portion of this assessment will be conducted online. Schools are encouraged to participate in this important study that will help us to renew our emphasis on the Adventist health message of balance and overall wellness in the lives of our students and staff. Additional information including sample research questions and video resources to assist in the administration of the fitness tests can be found on the NAD Education website and at [www.physicalgenesis.com](http://www.physicalgenesis.com).



## Dates of Importance

ON Conference Workers' Meeting	January 11-12, 2015
AB Virtual Principals' Council	January 22, 2015
Education Council Executive (Lacombe)	January 28, 2015
CUC Teacher Interviews/Banquet	January 29, 2015
CUC Board Meeting	January 30 - February 1, 2015
ASDASA	February 15-18, 2015
NAD UDOEC	February 18-19, 2015
Education Council	March 4-6, 2015
SDACC K-12 Board	March 8, 2015
BC K-12 Board	March 15, 2015
Man-Sask Principals' Council	March 16, 2015
CUC Graduation	April 17-19, 2015
CUC Board	April 17-19, 2015
REACH/Tell Canada Week	April 19-25, 2015
Adventist Education Sabbath	April 25, 2015
Man-Sask K-12 Board	April 26, 2015
ON Principals' Council	April 27, 2015
ON K-12 Board	April 27, 2015
PAA Interim Review	April 28, 2015
Peace Christian School (Full Evaluation)	May 3-6, 2015

Please confirm with your local conference.