



Issue 2
March 2009

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A number of different activities take place under the NOEL umbrella. In an effort to increase connections and interdependence across the NOEL region, we plan to feature one or two aspects of NOEL in each edition. In this edition, we will focus on E-Learning.



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



Mary-Catherine Kelly, NOEL Chair

Director of Education
The Northwest Catholic District School Board

The Northern Ontario Education Leaders (NOEL) appointed, Mary-Catherine Kelly, Director of Education of the Northwest Catholic District School Board, to be the Chair of NOEL for 2008 - 2010. "I am pleased to be able to support all of our partners in the Northwest by facilitating the meetings and supporting the work that serves the needs of all our students in Northwestern Ontario."

The Northern Ontario Educational Leaders (NOEL) membership includes 8 public and Catholic, French and English, District School Boards and 9 School Authorities in Northwestern Ontario. The membership expands to include: Confederation College, Lakehead University Faculty of Education, Northern School Resource Alliance, the Ontario Ministry of Education and First Nations and Métis organizations.

Mary-Catherine is pleased to serve a two year term, NOEL is already planning for future grant applications to support student learning, organizing professional development opportunities for teachers in the area of Aboriginal Education, Literacy and Student Achievement. "It is an honour to serve as Chairperson." "I look forward to increasing our partnerships in the educational community, working with our First Nations and Métis groups, and continuing the great work, professional development and leadership training for which NOEL is so highly regarded, both locally and provincially."

www.noelonline.ca

E-Learning



Cindy Carr

What is E-Learning?

E-Learning is about integrating technology into teaching and learning. It's about all students having the same opportunity to succeed, regardless of their aptitudes, location, and circumstances. Ontario teachers and learners, from Kindergarten to Grade 12, now have access to a wide range of online educational resources and courses. That's e-learning and that's the road to the future!"

Students and Parents

Through e-Learning Ontario, online courses and resources are available to secondary and elementary students, providing them with more opportunities to succeed. E-learning helps them to customize their learning plan to fit their education goals.

As they work towards graduation, high school students can:

- * Select from a wide variety of high-quality online courses through the provincial Learning Management System (LMS).

E-Learning

Carol Volbracht
NOEL Leadership for Literacy Development Coordinator
carolv@noelonline.ca



Benefits to Boards

The provincial e-learning strategy equips school boards to do the following:

- * Access thousands of resources including videos, activities, maps, and interactive multimedia objects in a variety of formats through the Ontario Educational Resource Bank (OERB).
- * Recover course credits they need for graduation.
- * Access course material when they are away or sick.
- * Reduce timetable conflicts.
- * Practise new skills online and prepare for tests and exams.
- * Enhance their knowledge of and comfort with online tools and technology.
- * Gain access to high-quality e-learning credit courses.
- * Gain access to high-quality classroom resources for Kindergarten through Grade 12, linked to the provincial curriculum.
- * Use, at no cost, the provincial Learning Management System and the Ontario Educational Resource Bank.
- * Customize courses to meet their local needs.
- * Serve small, rural, and isolated schools where specialized teachers and resources may not be readily available.
- * Collaborate with other boards to enrol students in their e-learning courses.
- * Receive face-to-face and online professional development for e-learning teachers.
- * Gain access to a site where teachers share experiences with other teachers and administrators, in an evolving professional learning community.

Younger students can also increase their comfort level with technology and improve their oral, reading, writing, and Math skills through the OERB.

Parents have peace of mind knowing that:

- * Courses offered through the LMS are developed and mediated by qualified Ontario teachers.
- * Most resources accessible through the OERB meet Ontario curriculum expectations.
- * Dedicated e-learning teachers interact with their children as often as required online, and consistently monitor their progress. They can support their younger children's learning at home through the OERB.

More information about the provincial E-Learning strategy is available at the E-Learning Ontario web site:

<http://www.elearningontario.com/>

Regional E-Learning Contact (ReLC)

The role of the ReLC is to support the implementation and growth of the provincial e-learning strategy while building board capacity for long term sustainability. The provincial strategy includes the delivery of on-line credit courses delivered through the provincial Learning Management System (LMS) and the sharing and use of materials in the Ontario Educational Resource Bank (OERB) for K-12 classroom use.

In their role, the ReLCs are available to:

- * Assist with organizing e-learning program delivery among boards, consortia and ministry.
- * Promote and increase the use of the provincial Learning Management System (LMS) and the Ontario Resource Educational Resource Bank (OERB) to reach more students, and
- * Provide technical and training support.

ReLCs work with Ontario's provincially funded boards, school authorities, and demonstration schools in their respective regions. Cindy Carr, the Thunder Bay Region E-Learning Contact is available to provide professional development for individual and small groups of teachers.

Thunder Bay Regional E-Learning Contact:

Cindy Carr
Phone: 807-625-1542
E-mail: ccarr@tbcdsb.on.ca

Regional educators who would like to access ReLC support may do this by contacting the Designated E-Learning Contact (DeLC) from their Board:

KPDSB	Lynne Pateman; Al Richards
KCDSB	Garry Schwartz
LDSB	Jennifer Seeley
RRDSB	Chris Denby; Dan Mack
SGDSB	Brian Johnson; Val Newton
SNCD SB	Joanne Hoffman
TNCD SB	Mike Belluz
TBCDSB	Bill Otto
Northern School Resource Alliance	Deborah McCarthy



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

Each year NOEL runs 3 conferences, one for Frontline Staff in the Spring, one for Teachers in August and one for Leaders in October. We are very excited by the wonderful external speakers who have agreed to present at our upcoming conferences. We will give you an update for all three conferences, but you can check online for brochures as they come available



Frontline Conference TIME FOR CHANGE

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



We invite Frontline and Support Staff alike to network and learn new strategies at the Frontline Conference each spring. Sometimes these conferences focus on specific skill development, but more frequently the theme centers on emotional intelligence and positive psychology. This year our conference kicks off on Thursday, April 30 at the Valhalla Inn with a choice of 3 speakers.

Caroline Miller Adam's Keynote Address *Make Your Life List Happen – and Why It Will Make You Happy* will lead into her workshop on Friday morning *Using Your Strengths to Make Your Dream Come True*.

Participants will have the option to choose Michael Reist speaking about Bullying, Vicki Shannon speaking about The Teenage Brain, or Erica Maki speaking about Being the Best You.

For more information checkout the brochure at

www.theconferenceplanner.ca/noelfrontline/PDFS/Brochure.pdf

For a sneak preview of the speakers checkout these websites:

www.michaelreist.ca

www.aspaforyou.ca

www.carolinemiller.com

Would you like to share your work with your colleagues across Northwestern Ontario?
Why not give a workshop at our next Literacy or Leadership Conference?



Contact

Carol Volbracht

NOEL Leadership for Literacy Development Coordinator

carolv@noelonline.ca

to find out more about presenting at workshops!



NOELights
News & Views of Northwestern Ontario Educational Leaders



As we work to plan this year's conference, we will be introducing this new logo.



LITERACY KALEIDOSCOPE: ENRICHING OUR PRACTICE

Monday, August 24
Tuesday, August 25
Travelodge Airline

Summer Literacy Conference

Literacy Kaleidoscope: Enriching our Practice

The Summer Literacy Conference is an opportunity to work with world-renowned researchers and experts as well as local exemplary teachers. Over the last few years we have welcomed everyone from Carmel Crevola and Ruth Culham to Larry Swartz and David Booth. Teachers have many opportunities throughout the 2 days to learn and work with colleagues from across the region. This past conference extended our Literacy focus to include FSL and NSL as well as Aboriginal Studies.



This summer's conference on Monday August 24 and Tuesday August 25 is entitled: Literacy Kaleidoscope: Enriching our Practice,

and will be held at the Travelodge Airline. We are very pleased to announce that David Bouchard will be giving both a keynote and a workshop. Participants will also have an opportunity to hear Marie and Steven Reid, Denis Maika and Elaine Hines, Mary Lou Kestell, Paul Walsh, and Tania Sterling.

We continue to seek local exemplary teachers to share their work with us. See www.theconferenceplanner.ca/noelsummer/speaker/sprkreg.php to apply to give a workshop.

The full brochure for the Summer Conference will be available after March Break. For those who would like a sneak preview of some of the presenters checkout this website:

www.davidbouchard.com


Professional Development Bringing learning into your lifestyle!

Lakehead University's Faculty of Education offers a number of online, blended delivery, and independent study courses designed to help you integrate your professional development into your personal lifestyle.


OUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES OFFER:

- *Flexibility* – Flexible schedules allow you to decide on the best time for you to work on your course.
- *Academic Credit* – All Additional Qualification (AQ) and Additional Basic Qualification (ABQ) courses carry full university credit. Shorter online courses and workshops are recognized on a non-academic university transcript.
- *Professional Recognition* – All of our AQ, ABQ and Principal's Qualification Program courses are accredited by the Ontario College of Teachers.

For information about our offerings, please visit our website. If you cannot find the course you are looking for, please contact us to see how we can help you meet your learning needs.



Department of Lifelong Learning
 Phone: (807) 343-8178
 Fax: (807) 346-7882
 faced.pde@lakeheadu.ca
 http://education.lakeheadu.ca/lifelong



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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

Fall Leadership Conference

Each October, just as principals and superintendents begin to catch their breath, the NOEL Directors host the Fall Leadership Conference. This is an opportunity for leaders from across the region to learn from external experts, local exemplary practitioners and each other.

This year Dr. Douglas Reeves will kick off our conference as we explore the theme: "The Courage to Lead". In addition to Dr. Reeves, leaders will be able to participate in workshops given by Carol Rolheiser (The 13 Parameters of Literacy), Karen Rowe (Building Resiliency) and Elaine Hines and Denis Maika (Critical Pathways), as well as local leaders. We continue to seek out local leaders who are willing to share their insights, demonstrating practices and processes that have allowed them to move their school forward. If you would like to give a workshop, see www.theconferenceplanner.ca/noel to apply.

For a sneak preview of these speakers see:

www.leadandlearn.com

<http://www.noelonline.ca>

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News & Views of Northwestern Ontario Educational Leaders