

Toronto District School Board Invests in School Libraries

Toronto District School Board (TDSB) recently invested \$4.8 million to add 65 full-time elementary teacher-librarian positions to their staffing complement.

TDSB currently employs 265 elementary teacher-librarians and all high schools are staffed by teacher-librarians. TDSB members have expressed confidence that the Ontario government's commitment to literacy will lead to support for their decision.

Beyond Words: Creating Racism-free Schools for Aboriginal Learners

Fully catalogued and processed copies of *Beyond Words: Creating Racism-free Schools for Aboriginal Learners* have been donated by Library Media Services to all WSD school libraries as part of the 2004/05 Aboriginal Education PD program.

Written to assist teachers and other staff in creating racism-free schools for Aboriginal learners, this resource includes many useful ideas and strategies for co-operative efforts to improve educational opportunities in public schools for Aboriginal students.

Library Media Services Newsletter is published the first Tuesday of each month from September to June. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the policy or opinions of The Winnipeg School Division.
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LifeQuest: An Interdisciplinary Adventure

The Quest Network has announced the launch of LifeQuest, the latest in a series of highly interactive, standards-driven, online learning expeditions! Partners include National Institute on Aging, National Institute of Neurological Disorders, NIH Department of Science Education, University of Minnesota, and University of Washington.

LifeQuest allows students to direct

Dan Buettner and a team of experts to uncover the secret of longevity. At a time when childhood obesity has reached epidemic proportions, LifeQuest will educate schoolchildren on key

behaviours contributing to a long, vital life and motivate them to adopt physically, nutritionally, emotionally sound lifestyles.

Beginning 2 May, the one-week LifeQuest Expedition will visit Nova Scotia to interact with the world's oldest people and scientists who study them. Students will track evidence and articulate the "ingredients" of the "formula for longevity". Longer 3-week Quests

will follow in Fall in Italy and Spring 2006 in Japan.

LifeQuest consists of 3 components:

- Live Quest - A website to provide teachers with daily content to meet national Science, Health, and Language Arts standards, including written reports, photos, videos, and interactive features.

- Health Tracker - A tool to help students track key behaviours that contribute to childhood obesity and a shortened lifespan.
- The BRIDGE Study - Students will use the Big6™ to identify and interview "super seniors" in their communities and

to gather data for entry into a national database available to both scientists and schoolchildren.

To participate in LifeQuest, visit the Quest Network web page at <http://www.thequestnetwork.com> and click on "sign-up".

Information may also be obtained from the March issue of the *Big6 eNewsletter* at <http://www.big6.com>.

"Metacognition describes the personal awareness of individuals to choose, monitor, and adjust the thinking strategies they use to learn and solve problems. In other words, students select and control their mental processes so that they can think efficiently and effectively."

Tom Sherman and Barbara Kurshan. "Teaching for Understanding." *Learning & Leading with Technology*, Vol. 32 No. 4, December/January 2005-05, p. 9.

CFUW Advocates for School Libraries

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), adopted the following as policy at its national Annual General Meeting in Regina, Saskatchewan, July, 2004:

School Libraries and Achieving Information Literacy:

Resolved: That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the federal, provincial, territorial and local governments:

1. To promote the importance of information literacy in today's society, and
2. To promote the fundamental role of school libraries at all grade levels in fostering and teaching information literacy skills; and

Resolved: That CFUW urge the provincial, territorial and local governments:

1. To fund, support and maintain school libraries at all grade levels, staffed by qualified teacher-librarians, and
2. To adopt policies and standards for school libraries and teacher-librarians by working with professional organizations such as the Canadian Association for School Libraries.

CFUW, a national voluntary, non-partisan, non-profit, self-funded, bilingual organization of 10,000 women university graduates affiliated with the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), works to raise the social, economic, education and legal status of women and girls.

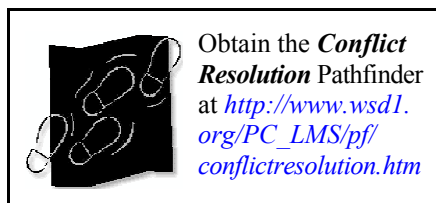
Cataloguing Status Reports

Cataloguing status reports as at 31 March 2005 should arrive in schools in early April.

Copyright Matters! Update

Please note that the tariffs payable to the Educational Rights Collective of Canada for use of television programs copied off air have been confirmed as listed on page 12 of *Copyright Matters! (2005)*.

With regard to digital copyright, the Minister of Heritage has deferred the decision concerning educational use of the Internet until June when proposed copyright legislation will be addressed.



News from MEC&Y

The following documents were recently delivered to all schools in mailings from Instructional Resources Unit, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth:

- *Human Sexuality: A Resource for Senior 1 and Senior 2 Physical Education/Health Education.* Access online at <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/cur/physlth/index.html>.
- *Manitoba Pupil Files Guidelines (Revised).* Access online at <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/docs/policy/mbpupil/index.html>.

Websites for Administrators

- 📄 **Carrots or Sticks? Alfie Kohn on Rewards and Punishment**
http://www.educationworld.com/a_issues/chat/chat031.shtml
- 📄 **“What Can We Do to Curb Student Cheating?”**
http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/admin/admin375.shtml
- 📄 **Commercialism in Education Research [pdf]**
<http://www.asu.edu/educ/eps/ceru.htm>
- 📄 **Education Next [pdf]**
<http://www.educationnext.org/>
- 📄 **ESRB Video Game Ratings**
<http://www.esrb.org/esrbratings.asp>
- 📄 **ICON: Innovation Curriculum Online Network**
<http://icontechlit.org>
- 📄 **“In-School Suspension: A Learning Tool”**
http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/admin/admin329.shtml
- 📄 **“Recess Before Lunch Can Mean Happier, Healthier Kids”**
http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/admin/admin389.shtml
- 📄 **“Stealing the Goose: Copyright and Learning” (IRRODL, November 2004)**
<http://www.irrodl.org/content/v5.3/mcgreal.html>
- 📄 **“Student-Led Conferences Successful in Elementary, Middle Grades”**
http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/admin/admin326.shtml
- 📄 **“Study shows some teens not as Web-savvy as parents”**
http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/technology/2005-01-30-teens-usat_x.htm
- 📄 **“Variation in Literacy Skills among Canadian Provinces”**
<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/040714/d040714b.htm>