

OPPORTUNITIES:

Non-violent Crisis Intervention Training will be offered on Saturday November 14 2009. at Park View. Limit of 30 participants. Register through Alice Bent ,lakeladies@ns.sympatico.ca

See pg 2 for upcoming PSA In service November 20 at Hebbville Academy

Provincial Teacher Assistant Guidelines have been published,

Program Planning
Consultant
BCochrane
541-3048

PSA

Newsflash

, ISSUE 4



NOVEMBER 2009

Showcase-Good

News story

It has been a busy start of the year for student, Ryan and his PSA, Beth Lawrence. They have both been on the move and learning a lot!

Every morning, Ryan heads to the school cafeteria to get the snack cart prepared for recess. This is a great job for Ryan and he really enjoys getting a PEBS ballot every day for his work. He can then use the ballots to buy items at the PEBS store.

Monday afternoons they attend bowling with other students at the Bridgewater Bowlarama. This is a great opportunity for Ryan to socialize with students from other

schools. Another outing for Ryan and Beth is going grocery shopping at the Super Store where Ryan gets food items he uses to make his lunch when he returns to the school. He is a huge fan of turkey sandwiches.

Also, with the guidance and collaboration of Ryan's programming team, he has started to use an i-touch to assist with communication. Although we are in the preliminary stages of using this device, he has already communicated with his teachers and peers using this new tool. We have an exciting year ahead of us!



Winner of
Tm Hortons
Certificate-
from Sept.
inservice-Annette Wyer
Congratulations!



Student Art
work

Newsletter Call!

Send us your articles to include in the spring PSA Newsflash Edition. This could include a good news story, staff news, upcoming or past attended PD sessions, or anything you think other PSA's would find interesting to read.

PSA In service November 20(Hebville Academy)

Upcoming In service



Bus
evacuation

Bell ringer session 9-10:30(Roles & Responsibilities, New TA guidelines, Protect you Back, Violence in the Workplace).

First aid, NVCi, Assistive Technology, Writing Social Stories 101, Diabetic Education, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Promoting Independence, Visual Structures and Work Systems, Promoting Literacy for Jr/Sr high students .

Information SSRSB website Please register with Diana Knock, fax 541-3049

SEIU Professional Development Funds

The SEIU collective agreement provides financial support for members wishing to attend provincial conferences, additional conferences and attend other personal or professional growth opportunities. The criteria and dollar amounts can be found in Article 17 of the Collective Agreement.

The guidelines are as follows:

Applications will be considered if received prior to March 31.

The Labour Management Committee has agreed that sums of up to \$200 will be paid up front, with the remainder prorated at March 31, divided among the total applications received, up to the balance remaining in the professional development fund.

Hours



Assistive
Technology

Assistive Technology Center News

Staff in the ATC have geared up for another busy school year. We are rolling out Kurzweil Scan and Read to the remaining Elementary schools this week and providing training to PST's at those schools to ensure effective implementation. We have already loaned out over 100 AT devices and/or software products since the first day of school and provided over a dozen training sessions to school based teams supporting specific students. PSA's on those teams always attend trainings. We are also available for follow up sessions at your request and/or support by email, phone, online tutorials etc.

Assistive Technology is now listed as one of the four main pre-service competencies for Program Support Assistants across the province. Let us know if you would like any type of training and we will do our very best to provide it. AT that has been rolled out to some students already this year, in various schools, include Kurzweil (text to speech +); iPod Touches as an AAC device for students who are non verbal; iPod Touches as an alternate writing tool for students with dysgraphia, iPod Touches as an organizing tool; ebooks; Sit n Move cushions; alternate keyboards; mini laptops for one hand typists; alternate mice devices; head switches for alternate access to various devices; Powerlinks; pencil grips; adapted physical education equipment etcetc. Keep in touch for new and exciting information and updates in the world of Assistive Technology. The ATC newsletter will be distributed soon!

NEW AT this month:

Check out Zacobrowser.com (a downloadable free webbrowser for children with autism)

EXCELLENT

Contacts:

Barbara Welsford, M.Ed., ATP, Anita Kingdon, Assistive Technology Facilitator 902-634-2237 or bwelsford@ssrsb.ca (preferred contact mode:)

Contact: Barb Welsford or Anita Kingdon 634-2237

New location :Hebville Academy portal

Insert Catherine

Health and Safety Tips

H1N1 Prevention Reminders:

- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after a sneeze or cough. When soap and water are not handy, alcohol-based hand sanitizer is an alternative.
- Cough and sneeze into elbow or sleeve.
- If using tissues, dispose of them appropriately and wash hands.
- Limit touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Do not share drinking glasses, water bottles, mouth guards, cosmetics or eating utensils.
- If concerned that medical advice or care is needed, contact HealthLink 811. Like any illness, should symptoms worsen, visit a doctor or clinic.



SEIU Members

General Information:

1. As of July 2009 we are now part of Local 2. Our new official name will be SEIU Branch Local 902. Gerard Higgins is still our Business agent and Local 2 has hired a new Organizer. She will be working out of our office in Halifax. Hopefully our Branch will grow to over 2000 members by 2010.
2. Cheryl Robichaud is still our Office manager. Phone and email address has stayed the same seiu.902@ns.aliantzinc.ca, office number 1-800-563-1095

Meetings:

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is being held this year at the Citadel Hill in Halifax. Elections will be held on Saturday October 17 at 1:00pm. Hope to see you there.

LaLabour Management Information:

1. Some information in regards to H1N1 SEIU members with few sick days are asking if sick benefits are available if they are sick or sent home with flu like symptoms.

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS

In the absence of company paid sick benefits or where benefits are exhausted, employees may be entitled to Employment Insurance Act sickness



benefits. Employees who face a reduction in "normal weekly earnings" of at least 40% because of illness, injury or quarantine are eligible for EI sickness benefits, provided that they have accumulated sufficient insurable hours. During the 2003 SARS crisis, the federal government implemented special loss of income relief for affected employees in various circumstances. At this time, it is not known whether the federal government would implement any special loss of income relief in response to an H1N1 virus pandemic

Any items members would like to have addressed at Labour Management can send them to Jackie Swaine -- jdswayne@bwr.eastlink.ca

Request:

Any members who would like to be part of reviewing and revising the Teaching Assistant Evaluation forms/process - please contact Jackie at the above email address. We are hoping to have a working group up and running for the end of November. We have 5 members signed up but would like to have a few more members. Thanks

Safety Lifting Method:

Manual lifting of objects or persons is a common work activity and that often results upper body. There is no single lifting limit, making it very important to assess lift can be performed. In doing this, consider the distances of the lift, travel path, characteristics (such as size, shape, texture and grasp features), and how many required. The lifter's personal characteristics are also important to consider: stamina, and lifting skill. Here are some key points to a safe lift:

- Always utilize lifting assistance and tools whenever possible!
- Get your body as close as possible to the object or person
- Keeping your feet about shoulder width apart for stability
- Bend at the knees and hips, not the waist!
- Maintain a long straight back through the lift, avoid twisting
- Never lift anything beyond your capability
- Minimize the amount of time, distance, or weight as much as possible



in injuries of the whether a safe object or person times the lift is strength, health,

AUTISM CENTRE

We've moved!! The Autism Centre has moved to a new location. We are now housed at Hebbville Academy out back of the 6-9 Building in Portable #1. Public Hours are by appointment only. Please contact Catherine Rahey, Autism Consultant or Liz Corkum, Autism Transition Facilitator by phone at 541-8233 or by e-mail at info@autismcentresocietyss.org to make an appointment to borrow resources, to make materials or just check out our new space. Our website, autismcentresocietyss.org, has a link to sample social stories and a link to Catherine's Picks- websites and resources on Autism. Hope to see you all soon.

****We are providing an Aesop information session at the PSA/Student Services in-service. It will be held in the gymnasium at 12:00-12:30. Lunch will be provided during the session for those who attend.****

