

JUST IN TIME

News from the Diversity, Equity and Human Rights (DEHR) Committee

Welcome to another year of *Just in Time*, the newsletter of the Diversity, Equity and Human Rights Committee (DEHRC) of the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA).

In case you are wondering about these people working for the world to be just in time, here are their names:

Barb Maheu is an executive assistant in the ATA's Professional Development program area.

Harold Neth, the affable chair of this committee, teaches Grade 12 English and theory of knowledge at Holy Trinity High School in Edmonton.

Miriam Cooley is a professor in the Department of Elementary Education at the University of Alberta.

Dawn Duffy teaches Grades 9–11 at St Joseph Catholic High School in Grande Prairie.

Sean Grainger is a counsellor at Glendale Middle School in Red Deer. He is also an instructor within the ATA's corps of professional development instructors.

Robert Mazzotta is an executive assistant in the ATA's Member Services program area.

Sherry Robbins, an English teacher at Strathcona High School, is also a district representative for Edmonton City.

Lynn Smarsh teaches ELL (English language learners) at St Joseph High School in Edmonton.

Karen Virag, the ATA's supervising editor of publications, is the administrative secretary of the committee and the editor of this newsletter. Please contact her for any information regarding the committee's activities. (karen.virag@ata.ab.ca)

The theme of this issue is the UNESCO Associated School's Project Network. Stifle that yawn, dear reader. This program and the schools involved in it are a thing to behold, and they give us some hope, in these particularly turbulent times, that the world is going to end up in very good hands one day.



Niton Central School has been involved in the ASPnet program since 2003.

UNESCO and the Associated Schools Network

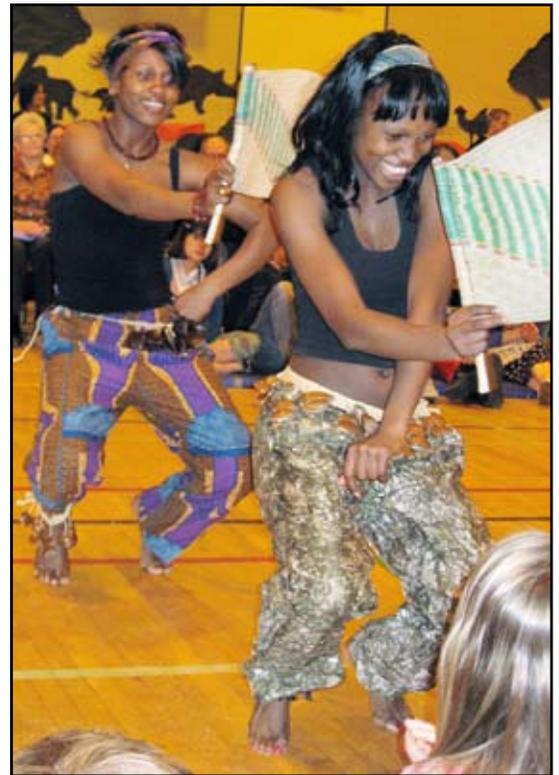
The goal of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which was founded just after World War II, is to contribute to global peace and security by promoting international collaboration through education, science and culture. The belief is that doing so will build universal respect for justice, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. A basic aim has always been to promote peace and international cooperation through education.

Founded in 1953, UNESCO's Associated Schools Project Network, commonly referred to as UNESCO Associated Schools or ASPnet, is a global network of some 8,000 educational institutions (ranging from preschools and primary schools to secondary schools and teacher training institutions) in 177 countries that support quality education in practice.

Associated Schools promote UNESCO ideals by conducting pilot projects to prepare children and young people to deal with a complex, interdependent and sometimes confusing world. The ASPnet strategy and plan of action (2004–2009) reinforce the four pillars of learning for the 21st century (which are learning to know, to do, to be and to live together) and promote quality education. Associated School teachers work together to develop innovative educational approaches, methods and materials at the local and global levels.



Maddy Killen, Grade 6 student at Griffiths-Scott Middle School, mans the Georgette Fund table, collecting donations to help build a school in Ngapagok, Sudan.



The Woezo Dancers

Structure and Plan for a Canadian ASPnet

In the fall of 2001, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCU) began exploring the possibility of establishing an ASPnet in Canada and approached the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) about doing so. The CMEC, in turn, asked each of the provincial and territorial governments to appoint a coordinator to work with the CCU on a national pilot project.

The purpose of the national ASPnet pilot project is to encourage participation from schools across Canada. Each province and territory has been asked to appoint a coordinator and to identify schools that wish to participate in a pilot project in the province or territory. In Alberta, the provincial coordinator is Robert Mazzotta, an executive assistant in the ATA's Professional Development program area.

A school that is first accepted into the program is known as a candidate school. After serving as a candidate school for at least two years, a school may apply to the CCU in Ottawa for national accreditation. A school that is accredited at the national level and operates in this capacity for at least two years may then apply for international accreditation. The ASPnet accreditation body at the international level is the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

Candidate Schools

A school wishing to qualify as an ASPnet candidate school must do the following:

- Operate at the provincial/territorial level.
- Build support and commitment for accreditation from the school administration, the school district administration, the staff, the student body and parents.
- Integrate UNESCO ideals and themes into curricular and extracurricular programs and into school policies and practices.
- Build a school culture that reflects UNESCO ideals.
- Build partnerships in the community to work toward UNESCO ideals. These partnerships may be with postsecondary institutions, NGOs, community service organizations, businesses or government agencies.
- Report annually to the provincial/territorial coordinator.

ASPnet National School Accreditation

Schools wishing to obtain ASPnet national school accreditation must

- provide evidence of demonstrated commitment from the school administration, the school district administration, the staff, the student body and parents;
- provide evidence over a period of two years or more of efforts to integrate UNESCO ideals and themes into curricular and extracurricular programs and school policies and practices;
- provide evidence over a period of two years or more of successful action taken to build a school culture that reflects UNESCO ideals;
- provide evidence over a period of two years or more of collaborating with community

organizations and agencies to realize UNESCO ideals;

- submit, through the provincial/territorial coordinator, an annual report to the national coordinator; and
- have been a candidate school for at least two years.

The CCU bestows national accreditation for a three-year period. Schools wishing to maintain their national accreditation must reapply during the third year of their accreditation.

ASPnet International School Accreditation

Schools wishing to obtain ASPnet international school accreditation must

- provide evidence of sustainable commitment from the school administration, the school district administration, the staff, the student body and parents;
- provide evidence that UNESCO ideals and themes have been integrated into curricular and extracurricular programs and into school policies and practices;
- provide evidence of a sustainable culture within the school that reflects UNESCO ideals;
- provide evidence that the school has collaborated with community organizations and agencies to realize UNESCO ideals;
- have participated a minimum of two years at the national level; and
- submit, through the provincial/territorial coordinator and the national coordinator, an annual report to UNESCO.

National support for ASPnet international school accreditation extends for three years. Schools wishing to maintain their international ASPnet status must reapply during the third year of their current accreditation.



Dignitaries, including Verlyn Olson, MLA, and Blaine Calkins, MP, join in the dancing led by the Woezo Dancers at Griffiths-Scott Middle School's Celebrate Africa! night.

UNESCO ASPnet Update

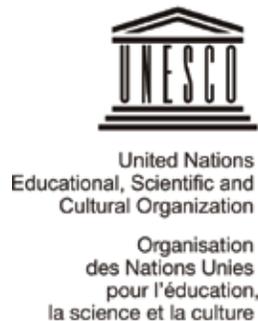
Robert Mazzotta

As the new provincial UNESCO ASPnet coordinator for Alberta, I am very excited about my new role and am looking forward to working with the UNESCO schools in Alberta.

Recently I attended a meeting in Ottawa with Mr Alysouk Lynhiavu, coordinator, National Secretariat, UNESCO Associated Schools Network, and Ms Jacquie Skytt, coordinator, Operational Support, Alberta Teachers' Association. Our hour-long meeting touched on a variety of issues and topics relevant to UNESCO Associated Schools.

To begin, there had been rumours that the name was changing. This is not the case as the name was established over 50 years ago and member nations want the name to remain. However, the logo has changed and is now the logo you see with this article.

I will soon be making a recommendation to Lynhiavu that our nationally accredited schools receive international accreditation as they have met the national criteria for at least two years. This will elevate our schools on the international scene and the schools will be viewed as schools to follow in terms of their leadership and accomplishments. If approved by the UNESCO



office in Paris, our schools will be the first in Canada to receive international accreditation.

Member schools will also be receiving a copy of *First Collection of Good Practices for Quality Education*, a publication that highlights good practices from ASPnet schools at the school level, national level, regional level, interregional level and international level. This resource will assist our candidate schools in developing activities and strategies to move up to national accreditation.

One method to help link schools in the UNESCO family will be a "Made in Canada" website for Canadian schools to link with each other, share ideas, encourage each other and develop a Canadian perspective on what it means to be a UNESCO school. The website should be active in the new year.

You may have heard about the Model UN in New York, where students can learn about the UN and share their perspective with students from around the world. Unfortunately, this year information about the conference was not received until the middle of November, which did not allow sufficient time for students to plan to attend the conference at the beginning of December. We have expressed our concern about the late notification and hope that next year sufficient notice will be given.

Finally, members of the Alberta ASPnet schools met in mid-December to review their activities, offer support and encouragement to candidate schools, and form linkages allowing us to strengthen the ASPnet program in Alberta. If your school is interested in learning more about the UNESCO ASPnet project, visit our website at www.teachers.ab.ca and go to Diversity, Equity and Human Rights (under Issues in Education).

Robert Mazzotta is an executive assistant in the Association's Member Services program area.



Isokan African Drummers and Woezo Dancers

Associated Schools in Action

Celebrate Africa!

Gary Hanson

Griffiths-Scott Middle School's Celebrate Africa! night was designed to build community support and awareness for our UNESCO Associated Schools project. It began with a welcome from principal Frank Heinrichs. The Griffiths-Scott Middle School band played "O Canada." Then two of our students described what UNESCO Associated Schools means to the students of Griffiths-Scott Middle School. They also talked about our partnership with Terry Fox Junior High to build a school in Sudan. The 200–300 people present were then entertained by the Isokan African Drummers and the Woezo Dancers. Greetings were presented by MP Blaine Calkins, MLA Verlyn Olson, school board trustee Glenn Norby, and Legion member Jean Scott. The Walkers for

Darfur (Grant MacEwan students) made a sobering presentation regarding the plight of the Darfur people. They explained the need to raise awareness in the community and among politicians to help these people. Levity returned with the Isokan African Drummers and the Woezo Dancers as they included students in their final dance. The Darfur walkers spent the night at our school and continued on their walk the next day. Some students, parents and staff took the opportunity to join the walkers on the final leg of their journey into downtown Edmonton on Sunday.

The Isokan African Drummers are a traditional West African drumming group that often performs with the Woezo (pronounced "way-zoe") Dancers, a professional dance group of sisters with Nigerian origins based in Edmonton. Their dances are West African in style.

Gary Hanson teaches at Griffiths-Scott Middle School in Millet.



Isokan African Drummers and Woezo Dancers

"This school began a journey back in 2003 to be designated as a UNESCO ASPnet school. ASP stands for Associated Schools Project, and that's a worldwide network of some 7,000 schools in 172 countries. Their focus is on global awareness and appreciation of diversity. This school achieved this status last fall, and in doing so, they became one of only five schools in Canada to be able to fly the UNESCO flag. This past weekend they celebrated these efforts, which have included things like raising money for building a school in Sudan, Holocaust awareness, Aboriginal awareness, environmental responsibility and so on. They also hosted a group of Grant MacEwan students who are walking from Calgary. They all deserve our congratulations."

—Verlyn Olson, Member of the Legislative Assembly (PC-Wetaskiwin–Camrose)

Ainembabazi Children's Project

The Ainembabazi Children's Project works to improve the quality of life and educational opportunities for orphans and vulnerable children in Africa, in particular those affected by the AIDS crisis in southern Uganda. Ainembabazi means "having grace" or "having compassion" in Runyankore, the local language in Mbarara, Uganda. For more information, go to www.ainembabazi.org/.

The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation

The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) is a coalition of Alberta-based voluntary sector organizations that work to achieve sustainable human development, both locally and globally. ACGC is committed to international cooperation that is people-centred, democratic, just, inclusive, and respectful of the environment and indigenous cultures, and that strives to end poverty and achieve a peaceful and healthy world.

The objectives of ACGC are to promote and mobilize greater Albertan participation in assisting international development. ACGC will achieve its objectives by

- reflecting the principal philosophies of the council in all policies, activities and services;
- facilitating member networking and capacity building, both internationally and domestically;
- providing leadership on issues of concern to members;
- providing members with relevant and effective services; and

- advocating for international development concerns on members' behalf to government agencies and the public.

For more information, go to www.acgc.ca/pages.php?section_name=about.

Cause Canada

Founded in 1984, Cause Canada is an international relief and development organization that empowers communities and individuals in disadvantaged regions in West Africa and Central America to overcome poverty and improve their quality of life.

Cause's development priorities are

- education,
- gender-specific development initiatives (women's projects),
- micro-enterprise projects,
- primary health care,
- reforestation, and
- water and sanitation.

For more information, go to www.cause.ca/.

Change for Children

For thirty years, Change for Children has been supporting sustainable, community-led development in the global south and providing an engaging global education program to Canadians.

The mandate of Change for Children is to assist the poor in promoting peace, democracy, human rights and improved living conditions.

For more information, go to www.changeforchildren.org.



Isokan African Drummers and Woezo Dancers

Field Experience Placement in Kenya and China, Campus St Jean, University of Alberta

Le Campus Saint-Jean offre l'occasion aux étudiant(e)s intéressé(e)s à une conception éducative plus globale de suivre un séminaire préparatoire et un stage d'enseignement au Kenya. L'intention d'offrir ces deux cours est de faire prendre conscience aux étudiant(e)s en éducation d'une part des problèmes auxquels certaines

communautés font face, et d'autres parts des actions positives que l'enseignant peut mettre de l'avant pour aider la communauté à se prendre en main pour améliorer sa condition.

Renseignements:

<http://lapratique.csj.ualberta.ca/%C3%89changesinternationaux/tabid/270/Default.aspx>

Food Force

May the Food Force Be with You

Food Force, the first humanitarian video game about global hunger, presented by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), is available as a free Internet download (www.food-force.com).

The resource was developed to teach children (ages 8–13) about world hunger. Students engage in various missions alongside Food Force's emergency aid workers. Players are faced with realistic challenges to feed thousands of people in the fictitious island of Sheylan. The video game features full-screen video and 3-D imagery. The website has a dedicated area for players to post their high scores. A How to Help section provides ideas on fundraising and community involvement. The website also features teacher guides and information on how children can get involved with the work of WFP. The WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency. Each year, the agency delivers food to an average of 90 million poor people to meet their nutritional needs, including 58 million hungry children, in at least 80 of the world's poorest countries.

Global, Environmental and Outdoor Education Council (GEOEC)

The GEOEC, a specialist council of the Alberta Teachers' Association, promotes quality professional development for teachers in the area of global, environmental and outdoor education. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, *Connections*, as well as information about workshops. The council's website contains numerous free lesson plans, links to useful related sites and information about the council's Global Education Initiative.

www.geoec.org/index.html



Teacher Jackie Nicol, parent Helen Hughes, and students Ceri Hughes and Cheyenne Hooker participating in the last 15 kilometres of the Walk for Darfur

Global Learner Program

Canada World Youth (CWY) has more than 35 years' experience in designing international educational programs. CWY works with academic institutions and other youth groups to give young people the opportunity to take part in projects in another country. Representatives from high schools, colleges, universities or youth groups who are interested in organizing projects overseas with the help and expertise of CWY should contact the Global Learner Program Secretariat at 1-888-421-9761; e-mail: gl@cwj-jcm.org; CWY website: www.cwj-jcm.org.

John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights

The John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights advances a culture of peace and human rights through educational programs and activities, community collaboration and relationship building guided by the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Its objectives are to educate the public concerning the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by conducting conferences, meetings, exhibitions and symposia, and summer camps for the study of human rights issues; developing teaching units on human rights; and undertaking or sponsoring research on human rights for distribution to the public.

For more information, go to www.jhcentre.org.

Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations (NAARR)

NAARR's mission has been to work toward an equitable and inclusive society through the elimination of racism and development of intercultural understanding. Wherever people can be found in groups, NAARR works to promote individual, collective and systemic change for working and learning across difference. Its expertise spans workplace development, community building, research and education.

www.naarr.org/

Society for Safe and Caring Schools

The Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities (SACSC) seeks to prevent bullying and violence by supporting the development of positive social, emotional and moral development among children, youth and the adult role models in their lives. Focusing on adult modelling, the SACSC programs prevent negative social behaviour through character education, conflict-management training and building respect for diversity. For information on SACSC vision, mission, history, goals, object and principles, go to www.sacsc.ca.

Students Against Global Apathy (SAGA)

An active University of Alberta group. For more information, go to www.ualberta.ca/~saga/

The United Nations Association in Canada

“We the Peoples ...”

The opening words of the United Nations charter offer hope for a world organization that is not simply a community of nations, but a community of peoples and individuals. The United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada) works to make that vision a reality. UNA-Canada is a national nonprofit organization that promotes UN programs and activities in Canada and offers Canadians a window into the work of the UN and a channel through which to become engaged in important international issues. UNA-Canada helps to create a better UN by creating links between the work of the UN and the lives of Canadians. For information about UNA-Canada and its many programs and resources of interest to teachers, go to www.unac.org.

Educational Leadership Course in the Department of Educational Policy Studies University of Alberta— Summer 2009

**EDPS 501: Educational Leadership and Social Justice Summer Session
July 6–24, 2009**

Co-instructors: Dr Lynette Shultz and Dr Janice Wallace

The purpose of this course is to examine concepts of social justice and their relationship to educational leadership and practices in schools, postsecondary institutions and other educational/organizational settings. Students will be encouraged, through active engagement with scholarly literature, personal reflection and highly interactive group processes, to uncover, understand and change inequitable practices in educational contexts. We will examine the effects of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity and language issues as they are enacted in the everyday practices of educational organizations. The course is intended to build on students' experiences with, and understanding of, contemporary social justice issues in educational settings.

For more information, contact Lynette Shultz lshultz@ualberta.ca or Janice Wallace wallacej@ualberta.ca

NOTICES AND EVENTS

March 2–13: New York. 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Theme: The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS

www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/53sess.htm

May 25–June 12: Geneva. Committee on the Rights of the Child, 51st session

www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/

July 6–8: Paris (UNESCO). The World Conference on Higher Education

Theme: The New Dynamics of Higher Education

http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=40215&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

July 9–12: Quebec City. International Baccalaureate Conference of the Americas: Education for a Better World

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To achieve this goal, the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of

international education and rigorous assessment. Plenary and featured speakers for the 2009 IB conference include authors, artists and humanitarian workers such as

- L Gen The Honourable Roméo A Dallaire, author and former force commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR)
- JoAnn Deak, noted educator and psychologist
- Isabelino Siede, a professor at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina
- Beth Dellaire, noted activist and humanitarian
- Jerry White, founder of Landmine Survivors Network

For more information, go to <http://ibnaconference.org/en/node/543>.

July 30–August 2: Edmonton. Ignite Change Now! Global Youth Assembly

Sponsored by the John Humphrey Centre for Peace Education, the Global Youth Assembly is a social forum for 1,000 Canadian and international youth (16–28 years old) to build projects, create lasting friendships and partnerships, and learn how to become an architect of change in their community and around the world.

www.youthassembly.ca/dnn/

September 14–October 2: Geneva. Committee on the Rights of the Child, 52nd session

www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/



Staff and guests who participated in the UNESCO flag raising at Griffiths-Scott Middle School, Millet, Alberta

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