

Director's Notes

After having one of the rainiest summers in recent memory, we were blessed with a very beautiful Labor Day weekend, a harbinger of school to many of you each year.

NCES has been busy seeking skilled practitioners to fill the needs of your schools. Two new School Psychologists have joined the NCES team. Megan Brotz relocated from Allentown, Pennsylvania and Eric Daffinrud from northern Vermont. We are still seeking to add at least another 0.5 FTE position to fully address school requests. NCES is also in need of either a 1.0 FTE Occupational Therapist or a 1.0 FTE Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, if you should know of a good candidate.

This year we were fortunate to hire Suzanne Tucker as a Speech and Language Pathologist as she and her family relocated to Gorham from Slaty Fork, West Virginia. Robert Lenderman from Alexandria, Virginia has joined NCES as a Teacher of the Deaf working with a deaf-blind student to promote communication. NCES is still seeking to hire another Teacher of the Deaf for a second open position. If you should

know of any viable candidates, please have them contact NCES.

Michael Morgan, now Superintendent in Exeter will be at NCES on Friday, September 5, to begin teaching for Plymouth State University's CAGS course "Transforming the Educational Agenda." It is our sincere hope that our efforts will further promote excellent professional development and career opportunities for you without your need to spend considerable time driving to Plymouth, West Lebanon, or other sites where courses are offered far south of the Notches.

On behalf of everyone affiliated with NCES we wish you all a most personally rewarding and professionally fulfilling academic year throughout 2008 – 2009, and we stand by to assist you in your most important task of all, the nurturing and educational development of this country's most valuable resource and future generation of young people. May you all, "Go for the Gold."

Charles F. Thibodeau, Jr.
Executive Director
Charlie@ncedservices.org



Wellness Activation Kit

New England Dairy & Food Council[®], National Dairy Council[®] and the National Football League[®] are offering schools a free *Wellness Activation Kit* to help students make positive changes in their eating and exercise habits. The *Wellness Activation Kit* includes display pieces that can be used throughout the school featuring kid-centric nutrition and "Play 60" messages. Online tools which support the *Wellness Activation Kit* include items like a student "pledge" to eat healthy and be physically active, success stories, sticker art, and logos. The wellness materials and website can be used to complement the school's wellness programs. This program targets upper elementary and middle school grades—though any school may order a kit.

Order online at
www.SchoolWellnessKit.org

For additional information, visit
www.NewEnglandDairyCouncil.org
or call 888-995-7600.

North Country Professional Development Day Friday, October 10, 2008

The program booklet will be available online beginning September 10, 2008. Online registration will be accepted from Monday, September 15 through Friday, September 26th only. Booklet and registration will be available at www.ncedservices.org. Contact lori@ncedservices.org for more information.

Performance Pathways Users' Support Group

The Local Education Support Center Network will be facilitating Performance Pathways User Groups in all regions of the state. We hope to produce a productive, stimulating and continuing dialog among users via bimonthly video conferenced meetings. Suggested at last year's Performance Pathways User Group Meeting, the purpose of the group is to provide a context for the users to ask questions of each other and to share experiences including tips, tricks and best practices regarding the development and support of the Performance Pathways applications *TechPaths*, *Assessment Builder*, and *Performance Tracker*. LESC�'s role is to merely facilitate the agenda, which is set by our users' input. The user groups will be held at all six centers and will run from 9:00 to 11:30 on the following dates: September 12, November 14, January 9, February 13, April 10, and June 12, 2009.

Since the meeting should take direction from the users, suggestions for the first group meeting on September 12th should be emailed to Lori Collins at lcollins@mansd.org. To attend at the NCES site, contact Becky Ring at 603-466-5437 or becky@ncedservices.org.

Understanding Our Schools through Collaborative Inquiry: Tools for Data Teams

Bruce Wellman joined 140 educators from throughout New Hampshire on July 29 & 30, 2008 at the Grand Summit, Bartlett, NH to engage in the process of developing skills to effectively work with data. The conference focused on the process and tools for teams to use when analyzing student data.



A follow-up session will be held on Friday, September 26 in Bedford, NH. The conference was sponsored by LESC�, New Hampshire's Local Education Support Center Network.

Performance Pathways Assessment Builder

Local assessments are vitally important to gauging learning. With Performance Pathway's *Assessment Builder*, teachers can build and score local benchmark assessments in minutes. Using Content Library, free with *Assessment Builder*, teachers can choose from thousands of pre-built questions already aligned to state standards. Tight integration with *Performance Tracker* allows educators to track local assessment data side-by-side with state assessment data.

The Local Education Support Center Network (LESC�) will be hosting hands-on workshops for Performance Pathway's *Assessment Builder* during the weeks of September 22nd and 29th at no cost to districts. The trainings will be conducted by Performance Pathways and will be approximately six hours in length. One or more district personnel who are tasked with creating local assessment frameworks should attend. It will be a hands-on training. Attendees should have already completed *Performance Tracker* introductory training.

The session for the northern part of the state will be held at NCES, 300 Gorham Hill Road, Gorham, NH 03581 on September 30, 2008 from 9:00 to 3:00. Registration for this site is required by contacting Becky Ring at 603-466-5437. For information on other locations, visit www.lescn.org.



Jeh Kulu Dance & Drum Theater
Friday, September 19, 7:00 PM

Mathias Schmelmer
Master Organist
Friday, September 26, 7:00 PM

Mixed Media Reception
Thursday, September 4, 5:00 PM
Featuring the work of over a dozen local and regional artists.

Visit stkieranarts.org for more information.

Technology Integration Professional Development

Digital Portfolio Showcase

See what others are doing to create quality activities to meet the ICT digital portfolio requirement for students. We will share activities and ideas. You will see one method of saving projects and creating a portfolio using Adobe Acrobat Professional. We will also discuss some logistical elements such as network requirements for a successful portfolio system. For K-12 teachers, technology coordinators and media specialists.

Presenter: Paula Churchill

Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2008 from 3:30 to 5:30

Cost: Member school staff \$5, Associate member school staff, \$10, Others \$15.

Note: This is not a hands-on workshop.

NETS • S

Learn to make sense of the National Educational Technology Standards for Students (NET-S) and see examples of student work that reflect these standards. Each workshop covers the NETS Standards and displays student work with different curriculum, grade level and software content. Participants will learn to identify what standards they already incorporate into student activities and devise ways of tweaking classroom activities to encourage higher order thinking. Participants will be shown various technology integration activities. These include the use of sound and digital imaging, sound editing, movie making, understanding and displaying data, and creating portfolio quality activities from the standard MS Office Suite.

NETS•S with Grade K-3 Student Activities

Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2008 from 3:30 to 5:30

Repeated: Wednesday, November 5, from 3:30 to 5:30

NETS•S with Grade 4-6 Student Activities

Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2008 from 3:30 to 5:30

Repeated: Tuesday, November 18, from 3:30 to 5:30

NETS•S with Grade 7-8 Student Activities

Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2008 from 3:30 to 5:30

Repeated: Tuesday, November 18, from 6:00 to 8:00

NETS•S with Grades 9-12 Student Activities

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2008 from 3:30 to 5:30

Presenter: Paula Churchill

Cost per session: Member school staff \$5, Associate member school staff, \$10, Others \$15.

Note: These are not hands-on workshops.

A Picture Tells a Story

Using a single digital image and simple image editing tools, students can create a movie. After identifying the story elements: characters, setting, plot, students use a cropping tool to create images related to the story elements and sequence the images to tell the story. Soundtracks and narration will finish the project. This project is appropriate for Grades K-4.

Presenter: Paula Churchill

Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2008 from 3:30 to 6:30

Cost: Member school staff \$10, Associate member school staff \$15, Others \$20 (Refreshments provided).

Note: This is a hands-on workshop.

Interview a Famous Person

Using mp3s of famous speeches and Audacity (a free sound editing program) students can interview a famous person. With the text of the speech, students identify key sentences that define the meaning or purpose of the speaker. Students compose and record questions which those sentences would answer. The recorded questions is juxtaposed with the those sentences to create an interview. This project is appropriate for grades 7-12.

Presenter: Paula Churchill

Date: Thursday, December 11, 2008 from 3:30 to 6:30

Cost: Member school staff \$10, Associate member school staff \$15, Others \$20 (Refreshments provided).

Note: This is a hands-on workshop.

Coming this winter and spring...

Animania Learn to make simple animations so that students can explain an abstract idea such as electricity. Students will storyboard the idea, create the images using a simple web camera and use MovieMaker. For teachers grades 4-12.

What's a Wiki?, What's a Blog? See what wikis and blogs can do and learn to evaluate different sites to determine if using one in your classroom would work.

Web 2.0 Tools Google shared applications, customized home pages, blogs, social networking...yikes! Start looking at how these new Internet based features can support classroom activities and engage students in collaborating and learning.

Go Geo with Google Earth Google Earth is a rich tool for the classroom. We will explore the many ways to incorporate this tool in various areas of the curriculum.

Location: These workshops will be held at NCES, 300 Gorham Hill Road, Gorham, NH. These and other technology integration workshops can be made available at your school. Call for pricing and scheduling information.

Registration: Registration is required and payment is expected prior to the workshop to reserve your space. Call Becky Ring at 466-5437 or 800-268-5437 to register or email becky@ncedservices.org.

Arts Alliance of Northern NH

The Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire offers a broad range of arts and humanities programs for North Country schools this year, and is establishing a network of representatives from each school to determine and coordinate programs. This month the Alliance launches a pilot partnership with the New Hampshire Humanities Council, which will bring professional development in the humanities directly to K-12 North Country educators. Interested schools are invited to request and host workshops in history, literature, philosophy, foreign cultures, local heritage studies, comparative religion, anthropology, etc.

The Alliance also continues its tradition of offering outstanding Classroom & Community Concerts and music workshops to school and community groups, after-school and pre-school programs; as well as reading and writing programs, and Arts & Health, Arts & Nature, and Learning Math & Science through the Arts programs. The Alliance works with schools and parents' groups to coordinate and plan, help write grants and raise funds to support programming. Several offerings are grant-supported. Interested educators and administrators are invited to call the Alliance at 323-7302, email info@aannh.org, or visit the website at www.aannh.org.

Dreaming Mountains Exploring the White Mountains through the Arts

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts' Annual Arts in Education Partnership Conference

September 26 to 28, 2008
at the AMC's Highland Center and
Lodge at Crawford Notch

Teachers, artists, environmental educators, parents, school leaders and community arts leaders are invited to come for a day or for the entire weekend. Workshops will focus on incorporating the arts, including dance, oral history, writing, drawing, music and painting, into the classroom; there will also be opportunities to network with artists, educators and arts administrators.

The Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire (AANNH) is the state's coordinating partner, and may have scholarship funds available for local artists to participate. Pre-registration is required. For more information contact Frumie Selchen, AANNH, 323-7302, artsallianceNNH@cs.com.

For workshop descriptions,
registration forms, and
presenters' bios, visit
www.aannh.org

Fall 2008 Online Courses

October 7 to November 25, 2008



- BP-01 Creating and Using Meaningful Rubrics that Assess Student Work
- BP-06 School Policies for 21st Century Learning
- CE-05 Developing Competencies for High School Courses
- LA-03 Differentiating Instruction to Accommodate Learning Styles in Language Arts
- LT-03 Supporting Literacy Development in Upper Elementary Classrooms
- LT-04 Helping Struggling Readers Improve Comprehension
- LT-05 Accommodating ESOL/ESL Students in the Classroom
- MA-04 Using Real Data in the Math Classroom
- SC-01 Inquiry in the Science Classroom Using Internet Based Data Sources
- SC-05 Matter and Energy: Understanding Some Basic Principles of Science Literacy
- SC-10 Understanding Force and Motion
- SS-04 Differentiating Instruction to Accommodate Learning Styles in Social Studies

For details and more information, visit nheon.org for a link to the OpenNH website or contact Stan Freeda at sfreeda@ed.state.nh.us.

Primex³ Supervisor's Academy



NH Public Risk Management Exchange, Primex³ held its Supervisory's Academy at NCES in July. This was the first time this academy was offered in the North Country. Attendees learn about a broad range of leadership topics. Participants were (left-right) : Scott Lancaster, Director of EMS, Town of Gorham; Melissa Hall Ducret, Activities Director, Coos County Nursing Hospital; Betty Dube, Finance Manager, North Country Education Services; Erin Gray, Registered Nurse, Coos County Nursing Hospital; Cathy LaFlamme, Registered Nurse, Coos County Nursing Home; Paul Partenope, School Board Member, SAU # 20; Rick Alpers, Member Services Consultant, Primex³; Joseph Ramsey, Foreman, Town of Gorham-Public Works Department; Heather Mortenson, Office Manager, Town of Gorham-Public Works Department; Jennifer Lemoine, Corporal, Gorham Police Department; Tina Leveille, Cook, Coos County Nursing Home; Dan Belanger, Shop Supervisor, City of Berlin-Public Works Dept.