



NipNews

October 9, 2009

NOTES FROM THE PRACTICUM OFFICE

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much..... Helen Keller

Faculty Advisor Meetings:

PLEASE NOTE: Years 2 & 3 : October 19 . Full details of meeting times and locations on campus will be published asap. In preparation for the Faculty Advisor meetings, Year 2 & 3 placement information will be emailed to Nipissing accounts in the week of October 13, 2009.

Practicum Opportunities:

Year 4 - J1 - Music Quest Technology and Music Initiative

Applications for a unique practicum opportunity exploring the integration of technology and music are now being accepted. As part of the placement, Teacher Candidates will be provided the opportunity to apply the IT skills, and implement a unit of study developed as part of the iTeach and Music Education programs. You might be interested in this placement if:

- Junior / Intermediate teacher candidate
- Interested in doing a placement in Brantford (GEDSB). (If you did not choose this Board on your practicum form, this can be changed)
- Have received prior evaluations of Proficient or higher on practicum placements
- Some background or an interest in technology and/or music.
- Interested in participating in cutting-edge research

Only ONE placement is not yet filled....contact deanneo@nipissingu.ca ASAP!

Strong Start training:

Are you interested in making a difference in the life of a child? If so, then volunteering in the Strong Start® program at a local school may be the volunteer opportunity you are looking for. The Strong Start®: Letters, Sounds and Words program has been created to be used specifically by volunteers. Volunteers spend a minimum of half an hour a week helping a child (ages 5-6) to learn letters, sounds and words. Each new volunteer attends two training sessions (total of 4 hours) and is given a detailed manual. Training is needed only once.

Training sessions will be held at 50 Wellington on: Tuesday, October 13, 2009 in room EC 202 from 7–9 pm

Strong Start® is now available in the various schools in the Grand Erie District School Board and the Brant Haldimand, Norfolk Catholic District School Board. Volunteers work one on one with a child in the school during the school day at a time suitable for the volunteer. Volunteers contribute a minimum of 30 minutes a week for 10 weeks working with one child and must be registered with a school before participation in the Strong Start program.

More information about the program can be found on the website www.strongstart.ca.

If interested, please contact Mieke Schroeder at mschroeder@sympatico.ca or telephone(519) 759-8372.

Statement about iTeach Initiative and update:

Dear Laurier-Nipissing Concurrent Education Students:

The Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union is currently in the process of reviewing the iTeach initiative program fee of the Concurrent Education Program of the Brantford campus with administration at Wilfrid Laurier University and Nipissing University. We hope to find a solution that will be in the best interests of students participating in this program. Further information will be communicated as it becomes available.

Further questions can be directed to dprang@wlu.ca, mburke@wlu.ca or mariaac@nipissingu.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We have had an exciting start to the new year with various student activities, technology workshops and campus events. The iTeach initiative has included valuable learning opportunities for the technology education aspect of our program but the 'fee' is a topic that is being discussed further. Please be reassured that Nipissing tried to be very careful and fair in developing the iTeach initiative and the associated decision-making processes by following available information and direction. Nipissing's goal is to provide quality programming for Brantford students to align with the programming that is provided for education students at our other campuses. The good news is that the issue of student representation is now becoming more clear through the iTeach review so we are very thankful that this matter is being addressed.

At this time of Thanksgiving, I would like to extend sincere appreciation to all Laurier-Nipissing concurrent education students for your commitments to teaching and learning through your participation in classes and practicum placements. You are excellent examples of high quality students and exemplary future educators! May you have a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends!

Maria

P.S. We are looking for a student co-editor of the Nipissing Newsletter so please email sac@nipissingu.ca if interested in making our newsletter even better...that rhymes!

YEAR 1 WORKSHOPS

Year 1 Teacher Candidates- Please mark the upcoming workshops on your calendar.

***Registration is required and sessions are filling quickly. If you have not yet registered, please do so as soon as possible.**

Monday, October 19th: GROUP A ONLY. Group B will have a free day!

Writing and Study Skills Resource Centre Small Group Instruction
9:00-11:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 1:00-3:00 p.m., or 3:00-5:00 p.m.

*Registration is required. Please sign up for one session on the bulletin board in 67 Darling St. by Friday, October 16th.

Monday, October 26th: GROUP B ONLY. Group A will have a free day!

Writing and Study Skills Resource Centre Small Group Instruction
9:00-11:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 1:00-3:00 p.m., or 3:00-5:00 p.m.

*Registration is required. Please sign up for one session on the bulletin board in 67 Darling St. by Friday, October 16th.

***Workshop Groups: Students with a last name beginning with A-K must follow the Group A schedule.**

Students with a last name beginning with L-Z must follow the Group B schedule.

Check the Bulletin Board in the 67 Darling Street building for weekly workshop reminders!

YEAR 2, 3 and 4 WORKSHOPS

A variety of workshops will be scheduled throughout the Fall and Winter terms. Here are some upcoming dates to be aware of:

Friday, October 16: Year 2, 3 and 4: Creating Educational Games

9:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. *Registration Required

Monday, October 19: Year 2 and 3: Faculty Advisor Meeting and Mentorship Workshop (Lecture Theatre, 50 Wellington)

ALUMNI EVENT and WLU HOMECOMING

On Saturday, October 17th, Laurier Brantford will be hosting a 10-year Alumni Homecoming!

To recognize this event we will be hosting tours in our 50 Wellington Street building from 11 am-1pm. If you are interested in participating by providing our past grads with tours of our new facility, please contact Dr. Maria Cantalini-Williams: mariac@nipissingu.ca, or Kelly



CIRCLE K

The next Circle K meeting will be held on

WEDNESDAY, October 14, 4:30-5:30 p.m. We will meet in the 67 Darling Street Building. At this meeting we will be discussing Nipissing Wear, the Santa Claus Parade, and the Laurier-Nipissing Hockey Game. Come with your ideas!

We hope to see you there! All new members are welcome.

Questions? Interested in joining CK but cannot attend this meeting?

E-mail: circlek@nipissingu.ca

STUDENT CLUBS

Student Advisory Committee



The Student Advisory Committee held our second meeting of the year this past Tuesday and we are off to an amazing start. We have decided on the initiatives that we want to pursue to kick off the year. There are many issues that have been discussed and resolved already within these two meetings! Each meeting we are getting more and more students out which is very exciting. Many minds creates even better feedback for our program and anyone is invited! Come out and check it out!

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, October 20, 10:00 - 11:20am in EC301**. We are looking for executive members and a co-editor of the Nipissing Newsletter.

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY WATER BOTTLES

There are still some Nipissing water bottles left for purchase. They are \$15 for one, or two for \$25. Water bottles can be purchased from the Academic Advisor's Office in 67 Darling Street Building.

FREE THE CHILDREN PRESENTATION

Come out and hear all about the Free the Children non-profit organization (which helps educate children around the world) and the FREE educational resources they provide for teachers. A slideshow of previous Kenya teaching placements will also be presented! Presentation will be held in the Wellington Lecture Theatre on Oct. 19 @ 2pm following yr. 2 & 3 Faculty Advisor meetings!

GREETINGS FROM THE iTEACH TEAM

The Junior-Intermediate Year fours participated in the first ever Geocaching assignment at Nipissing Brantford.

This technology focused field study represented a cross-curricular assignment between Dr. Mike McCabe's Math class and Dr. John Vitale's Social Studies class. ITeach Lab Instructor Stephen Tedesco provided the students with the technical aspects of Geocaching -- a high tech scavenger hunt using GPS technology to locate specific waypoints using pinpoint latitude and longitude coordinates all in a hand held device. Despite inclement weather, the JI year fours braved the elements and did a fabulous job locating waypoints. Student feedback was very positive, and the iTeach team looks forward to implementing the Geocaching one more time in the Winter term with the PJ year fours.

Just a reminder that all students should be signing up for optional iTeach workshops with Lab Instructor Stephen Tedesco. The newest workshop to be added is Web 2.0 in the classroom. Please see attached flyer

SIGN LANGUAGE COURSES

We are pleased to be offering American Sign Language courses at the Brantford campus again. The following courses will be offered. Please note that each course is two weekends in length. Additional details including course descriptions and registration information can be found online: <http://nipissingu.ca/aq/signlanguagecourses.asp>

ASL 101

-Session 1: October 16, 17, 18 and October 30, 31 and November 1

-Session 2: February 5, 6, 7 and February 26, 27 28

ASL 102

-November 6, 7, 8 and November 13, 14, 15

ASL 103

-January 8, 9, 10 and January 22, 23, 24

ASL 201

-March 5, 6, 7 and March 12, 13, 14

Registration is now open. If you are interested, please log on to Web Advisor and register as soon as possible!



Big Brothers Big Sisters serving Brant, Brantford, Haldimand & Norfolk

Do You Believe in BIG Dreams??

Join Big Brothers Big Sisters serving Brant, Brantford, Haldimand and Norfolk to be an In School Mentor. One hour a week during the school day is all it takes to make a difference in a child's life!!

Do You Like To...

Make Crafts

Play Sports

Read Stories

Bake Cookies

Play Cards

If you said "Yes" to any of these or just plain like to have fun while making a difference, then the In School Mentor program is for YOU!!

For more information contact Nipissing Instructor Rick Denton at rickd@nipissingu.ca or the In School Mentor Coordinator Diane Corbett at (519) 759-3222 or at diane@bbbshn.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP

Mug-to-Go: Carry

a mug with you wherever you go for take out beverages.

THINK-RECYCLE

Do you have old cartridges or cell phones?

The Student Advisory Committee has implemented a Think-Recycle program at Nipissing University. Think-Recycle bins are in both Nipissing Buildings.

Donate your used cartridges and cell phones for a good cause! Funds raised from items collected will go towards supporting environmental initiatives on campus!

This program has been very successful. Let's keep up the good work!

YEAR 4 MEETING

In order to review the upcoming events of this year, we would like to invite all final year students to an information meeting to be held on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009 and Friday, Oct. 16, 2009. The meeting times are planned from 10:20-11:00 a.m. on Thursday and Friday to accommodate other workshops during the day. We will meet in the lecture theatres in the 50 Wellington Street building. The topics to be discussed are iTeach, Career Services, Master's of Education program applications, Year four workshops, graduation/convocation and awards application processes.

LOCKERS

Lockers are available in the Education Centre (50 Wellington Street).

To purchase a locker tag for \$20.00,

please Irene at the Main Office at 50 Wellington Street.



TUTOR OPPORTUNITY

Do you want to be a tutor?

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board is still seeking tutors. If you are interested in becoming a paid tutor in the classroom, please complete the forms in the Main Office (50 Wellington Street).

All completed applications must be returned to Irene Slack in the Main Office no later than Friday, October 16th. A photo copy of both sides of your Police Check Card must accompany the application.

YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

Are you creative? Are you interested in writing or photography? We are planning to continue the tradition of creating a Yearbook to showcase the memories of the graduating class. If you are interested in being a part of this project for 09-10, please contact Kelly Wilkin at: kellyw@nipissingu.ca

TRIBES

"Tribes" is a community building process – a culture and active learning pedagogy best learned by experiencing it.

You can make the process come alive for your classroom by taking the Tribes training. The purpose of this 24 hour training course is to prepare educators to develop a caring environment and school community. Tribes training will provide strategies to reach and teach students through an active learning approach that promotes student development, motivation and academic achievement. The 24 hour training includes a book and at completion a certificate stating that you have completed the Tribes TLC course. This certificate is helpful when looking for teaching positions. 'Tribes' is used in most school Boards across Ontario.

The book, **Reaching All by Creating Tribes Learning Communities**, blends the fields of group process and cooperative learning, prevention and resiliency, learning theory and school change into a comprehensive, meaningful whole.

The cost of the course is **\$194.25/ person** –and this includes the book.

This Tribes workshop is being offered at the Nipissing Brantford Faculty of Education on different dates to meet your suitability. To register for Tribes, email Tracey Andrus at andrus.home@sympatico.ca. When you email please include your name, contact information, and state that you are from Nipissing University/Brantford campus. I will get back to you a.s.a.p.

Here are some dates for you to consider. You **need** to attend all the dates within your session of choice to receive your Tribes Certificate. You do NOT need to attend all the sessions being offered. You may want to bring a lunch each day.

Session Two

October 22nd 3:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
October 23rd 3:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
October 24th 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
October 25th 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session Three

November 19th 3:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
November 20th 3:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
November 21st 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
November 22nd 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session Four

January 14th 3:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
January 15th 3:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
January 16th 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
January 17th 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

