



NWTTA NEWS

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Dave Roebuck is Retiring after 18 Years of Service to the NWTTA

Adrien Amirault, Executive Director

The NWTTA on behalf of its members want to take this opportunity to wish long time Executive Director Dave Roebuck a happy and healthful retirement.

On June 15, 2017 Dave will end his career with the NWTTA after 18 years. Dave has been a strong and member concerned voice of the Association during his tenure at the NWTTA. He has worked with 6 different Presidents, seen the transfer of members to the new Territory of Nunavut, bargained twenty two contracts, and seen superintendents, principals, and teachers change over the years. He has also developed strong relationships with the extended personnel at YK1, YCS, and the various GNWT departments that support teachers in the NWT.

Dave came to the Association from a background in construction trades. It was an interesting transition to the education system. But he has always been a supporter of teachers in the

Northwest Territories. He is an advocate for teachers that have needed support and he does not know the meaning of quitting time. Teachers in need get timely responses from Dave. I remember the story of a teacher calling just before midnight that needed to talk to a lawyer, and Dave arranging the lawyer for 8:00 am the next morning.

Dave has travelled extensively across the Northwest Territories. He has at one time or another been to almost every community in the NWT. He has also served NWT teachers as a member of the Board of Directors for the Canadian Teachers Federation over his tenure

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STIP Rollout Update
Supporting Educators & Students

Fraser Oliver, President

A lot has happened since the official rollout on January 23, 2017 of the Strengthening Teacher Instructional Practices (STIP). On that day the NWTTA hosted a Media Technical Briefing with the NWT Superintendents' Association, Rita Mueller, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), and myself as NWTTA President. Members of the media attended and were given the opportunity to listen to the presentation and then ask questions, which they did. Then off the media went to write their stories, give updates to their editors and to share with the public what they had heard.

As we all have read, some of the stories/editorials support STIP and truly understand the demands placed on teachers today, including that NWT teachers are working on average 52 hours per week during the school year. This is not healthy or sustainable for our members. Something had to be done. Yet other editorials were seen by some of our members as quite malicious and hurtful, particularly the editorial in the *Yellowknifer* on February 3, 2017 and *News/North NWT* on February 6, 2017, claiming that more qualified teachers should be hired instead of the present less qualified ones which are working in the NWT.

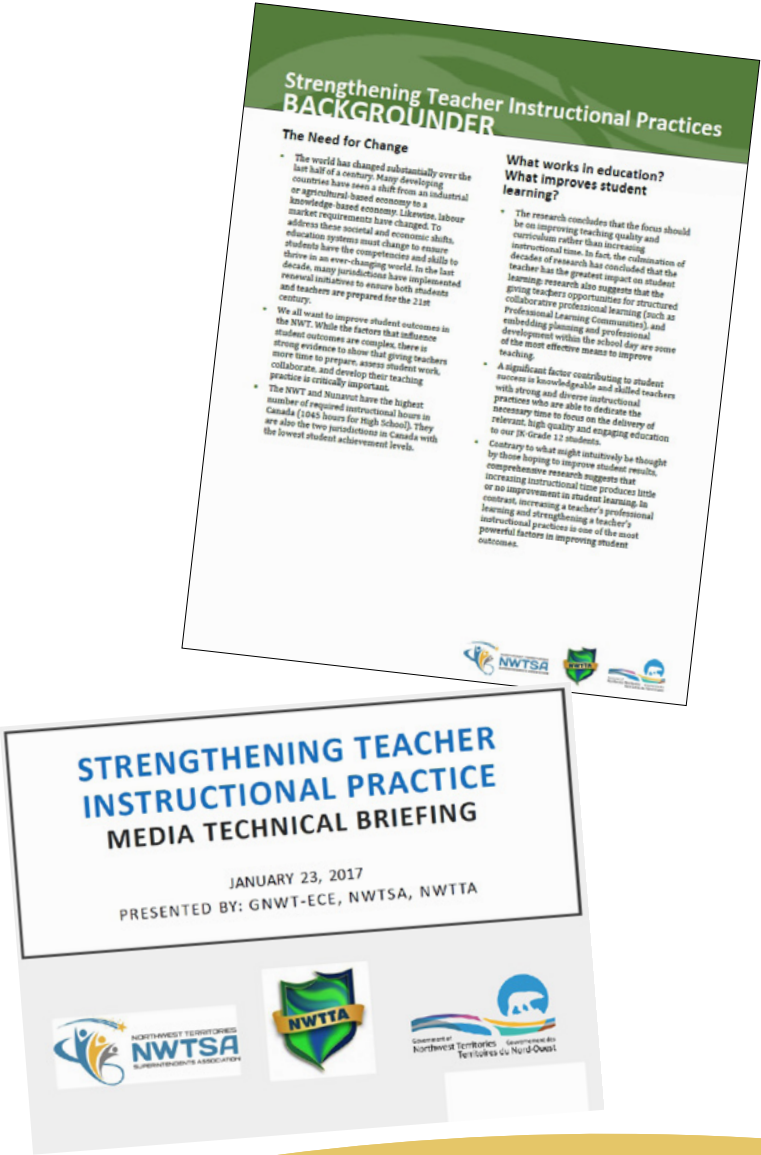
The NWTTA had to make a stand. Reporting the news is one thing, but attacking our members who give so much of their time to students and communities is not acceptable. By taking a stand we are still supporting freedom of the press, but are also supporting responsible journalism. The NWTTA purposefully choose not to engage in a 'battle of words' with our northern newspapers, but rather take the 'high road' and let our teachers' work and dedication to students be the way teachers will be judged by the public.

Since then, there have been several editorials and guest articles that have supported teachers, championing our work with students, encouraging changes that would address teacher workloads and increase teacher wellness. In my presentations to parents, school boards (District Education Councils and District Education Authorities), MLAs and the GNWT Standing Committee of Social Programs, I have heard nothing but support for teachers and I am encouraged that many realize the important connection that



"teacher wellness impacts student learning and achievement".

I am also working with ECE personnel and NWT Superintendents to review the STIP proposals that principals and school staffs have developed for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. These proposals are quite different from one another, some incorporating early dismissal days, others half-days, while some are taking a full day once a month, and some are a combination of two of the mentioned plans. All proposed plans take into consideration 'what is best for students' before the final plan is formalized. This demonstrates the dedication and consideration to "best practices" that NWT educators have when planning for their students.



Northern Lights

Meet
Andrew Austin
from Yellowknife (YK1 region)



Q. Where did you grow up?

I grew up in northeastern Nova Scotia.

Q. What made you decide to become a teacher?

I became a teacher when I realised that, despite all my grumblings as a student, I had actually enjoyed my years in school. So, I felt I wanted to pass on my own love of learning.

Q. What do you teach?

I have spent the past number of years teaching grades 5 and 6. This year I have a straight grade 5 class.

Q. What do you enjoy most about teaching?

My favourite thing is watching a student's face light up when they make a realization or accomplish something for the first time: for example, when a student figures out how a gadget actual works, or they have successfully multiplied by two-digits for the first time, or they've completed their first novel. It is very satisfying when you are a part of a student's quest to reach one of these benchmarks.

Q. How do you engage your students?

My overall message is always to instill a sense of how intelligent they really are. Sometimes we take a hands on approach and I will say "Look what I have, let's play with this and see what we can learn about...". Other times it will be an inquiry approach, "What do you know about...? Do you want to learn more...?" Then, there are the lessons that start with, "Have you ever read or heard about? Well, today we are going to dive in and see what we can learn about...". My students love using the Smartboard, reading aloud, field trips, learning through songs, etc.

Keeping Me Passionate About the Classroom

Over the years I have had a chance to touch the lives of many young students. These students grow up, and I am always deeply touched when they come back to visit, or I meet them on the street and they tell me how much fun they had in my class. Sometimes they'll remind me of some important life lesson they learned during their time with me. When life gets hectic, or teaching becomes frustrating, these are the messages that keep me passionate about the classroom. This is where the real action happens!

Northern Lights

Meet Doug Wilson from Deline (Sahtu region)

Q. Where did you grow up?
I grew up in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Q. What made you decide to become a teacher?
For the longest time I wanted nothing more than a career in Physics. I pursued that goal and during my Master's degree I got a taste of what it meant to be a scientist. What I found, however, was unexpected. While most of my friends and colleagues lived for their research and dreaded their assigned hours as teaching assistant, I was the opposite. The research was interesting, but what I found really rewarding was working with students. So, I made the decision to switch career paths and become a teacher. I haven't looked back since.

Q. What do you teach?
I teach High School Math and Science, though I'm currently also teaching Art and CTS courses.

Q. What do you enjoy most about teaching?
Getting to play a part in that moment when a student finally "gets" something, and connects what they've just learned to themselves and the wider world.

Q. How do you engage your students?
Humour followed by genuine interest in what I'm teaching. I see humour as one of the most fundamental ways we connect as human beings. Once you share a good laugh with someone a certain level of comfort is created. And, once that human connection is made they're willing to trust you a bit more when you say "seriously, this next bit is really interesting."

Makes It All Worthwhile
Teaching is hard and it's never stopped being a challenge for me. But, it's never stopped being one of the most rewarding things I've ever done either. Every time I think I have it figured out some new difficulty comes along, and I struggle with it. Sometimes I overcome the hurdle, and sometimes I don't. But no matter how tough things get there's always, always, a student doing something that makes it all worthwhile. And that's what makes even the most difficult challenges worth facing. After all, I may be dealing with a problem right now, but after school we have MineCraft club, and those kids are going to blow my mind with what they can do together.



Dave Roebuck Retirement continued from cover

at the Association. He has also developed a strong relationship with the Executive Directors from teacher associations across Canada, using them as a support for the teachers in the NWT. He is well respected amongst his peers for his knowledge and experience.

Dave's level of calmness and well thought-out action has always been a hallmark of his work. He is thorough in his tasks, and diligent in working for members. Many members have benefitted from his early or late hours at the office. He was always concerned about service to a member in need of assistance. Dave has also been a supportive supervisor of the staff at Central Office, as well as the Presidents he has served with.

Dave will be moving to Ontario with his wife Carla, who is retiring from a career with Canarctic Graphics in Yellowknife. Their son Daniel is now working in the Northern Mining industry as a driller.

Central Office will miss Dave's knowledge and experience a great deal. We wish him well, and encourage members that have been working with Dave over the years to drop him a line before he retires.



Enjoy your retirement, Dave and Carla!



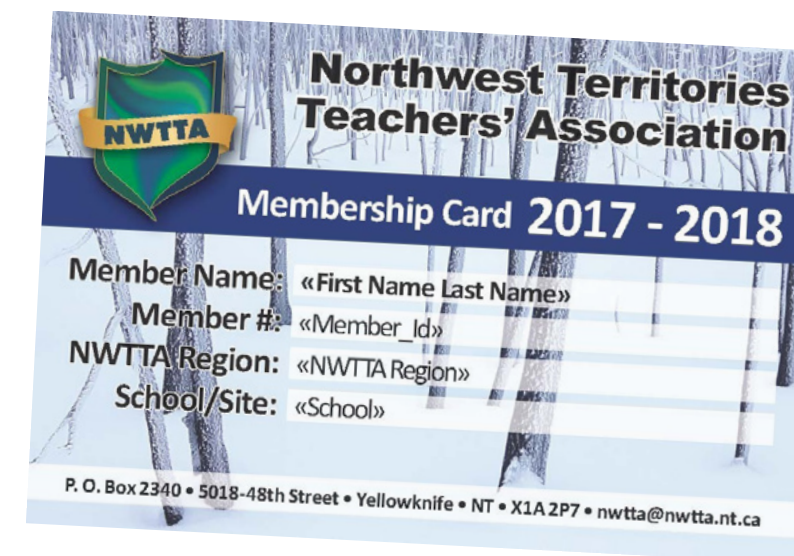
Thank you Dave for your dedication and service to the NWTTA!

Preview of 2017-2018 Membership Card

André Corbeil, Finance & Communications Officer

No photos were submitted for consideration for the 2017-2018 Membership Card, so I sourced a few landscape photos taken in the Northwest Territories by NWTTA members. I am happy to present a preview of next year's NWTTA membership card. Members next year registered in our online membership system by September 30, 2017 will receive a personalized card in approximately October 2017.

Thank you to Maureen Tonge at École Sir John Franklin High School (YK1 region) for allowing use of her photo!



Conference Corner Upcoming Professional Development Conferences to Consider:



Canadian Light Source Professional Development for Science Educators
Saskatoon, SK
August 21-23, 2017
http://www.lightsource.ca/pages/teacher_professional



Achieving Excellence for Indigenous Canadian Learners
Montreal, QC
October 18-19, 2017
<https://goo.gl/kIv0en>



8th International Conference on Human Rights Education Bridges on Diversity
Montreal, QC
November 30-December 3, 2017
<https://goo.gl/TdU5M9>

Northern Lights

Meet Ephraim Warren from Tuktoyaktuk (Beaufort-Delta region)

Q. Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Grey River, Newfoundland, which is a small community on the Southwest Coast.

Q. What made you decide to become a teacher?

I had an interest in becoming a teacher during my high school years when I had some amazing teachers who really engaged me and got me motivated into learning. I also had an opportunity to do a Tutoring for Tuition program, which sparked my interest in teaching more. In my fourth year of University I was sure I wanted to pursue my education further to become a teacher.

Q. What do you teach?

I currently teach Grade 9-11 math and science courses along with CTS courses. I am also the Vice Principal of Mangilaluk School.

Q. What do you enjoy most about teaching?

What I enjoy most about teaching is that "wow" moment you get from students who finally understand. I like teaching students new concepts and being able to try new teaching styles to find what works best.

Q. How do you engage your students?

I often engage my students by linking the curriculum to real life applications or to something that they are familiar with. When students see that what they are learning is meaningful they tend to be more engaged. Many of my students are hands on learners so providing them with hands on activities gets them engaged as well.

Loved Every Experience

My wife and I moved to the North with the assumption that it would be a one year experience. 10 years and two children later we are still here and have loved every experience. One thing that I can say about teaching in the North is that students are more willing to engage with people they know and are familiar with. I have a good working relationship with the students and community and it is a great feeling to hear everyone say "please make sure you come back next year".



China in 2018 NWTTA Travel Club

Fraser Oliver, President

The NWTTA Travel Club planning group has decided that China will be the excursion destination in the summer of 2018. The Travel Club is open to all NWTTA members and their partners/friends who would like to travel as a group in July 2018.

The itinerary will include Beijing, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, The Great Wall of China, Beijing Zoo with panda bears, Terracotta Warriors, City of Xi'an, Shanghai, a river cruise down the Yangtze River and much more.

Cost per person: \$4500.00 (approx. cost to date as the itinerary is not final)

Prices will include: flights to and from China from Vancouver, private tour, most meals, hotels, guide, transportation within China, .

The final details of how and when to sign up for the Travel Club will be forwarded to all members by the end of April 2017. If you have any questions about this adventure please contact NWTTA President Fraser Oliver for more details.

Currently there are 15 people who have expressed interest that are part of the planning group. The maximum capacity of the tour will be about 24.



NWT 2018 Educators' Conference Update

Amanda Mallon, Professional Development Coordinator

Thank you to the 230 NWTTA members who took the time to respond to the 2018 Educators' Conference survey. We received great offers of workshops, suggestions for NWT resources and out-of-NWT resources.

Major themes identified by you are:

- Teacher Wellness,
- specific subject areas,
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Aboriginal Languages and Culture

You confirmed that keeping the focus northern was what you want...

"As much Northern content as possible – let's showcase the amazing work being done in NWT ... Please use local territorial resources, we have some really interesting educators who are presenting at workshops across Canada."

You also told us to...

"...keep it fun and give us time to meet and learn from each other."

Planning the sessions will be the major work of the Conference Committee. There will be Conference information on the NWTTA website in September 2017; this will include registration information for the trade show, accommodation updates, and at least one more call for sessions.

THE CANADIAN FORUM ON PUBLIC EDUCATION
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Northern Lights

Meet Carolyn Matthews from Fort Smith (Fort Smith region)

Q. Where did you grow up?

Near Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario



Q. What made you decide to become a teacher?

Through my younger years, most jobs I had involved teaching in some way, such as working as a swim instructor, guiding exchanges between Quebec and Ontario, and tutoring. Although I was always drawn to teaching, I never specifically planned on being a teacher. Being undecided about our future plans, my husband and I went to South Korea to teach English for a year after finishing university. We both loved it, so we decided to become teachers together!

Q. What do you teach?

This year, I'm teaching French immersion students. I teach junior high math, science, social studies, and health.

Q. What do you enjoy most about teaching?

I love seeing students engaged in learning. It's a great feeling to be that person who facilitates students going from knowing hardly anything about a concept to having a complete understanding of that concept. I try make learning fun, and love when I get to watch a group be genuinely excited about learning.

Q. How do you engage your students?

My goal is to have my students engage in genuine learning. Instead of just telling them how things work, I encourage them to figure things out, ask questions, solve problems, and develop a desire to learn more. I have some high achieving students this year who often want to know about things that go beyond what we're learning in class. Giving them a glimpse into what they'll learn in the future is a good way to motivate them. I also give out a prize if they can catch my mistakes, which helps them pay attention!!

A Teacher All The Time

I am back at work this year after having a baby. In some ways, I feel like my job is to be a teacher all the time! At home I'm teaching my 1 1/2 year old fundamental things like the name for objects in our house or how to get down from the table. Then, I come to school and teach about how electricity works, graphing linear equations, or the structure of Canada's government. It's truly incredible to see how much kids can learn in such little time!

Teaching Outside the Classroom

Career & Technology Studies

*Craig Walsh, Paul W. Kaeser
High School (Fort Smith region)*

Late in the 2015/2016 school year, Paul W. Kaeser High School (PWK) Principal Al Karasiuk put forth a challenge to the PWK Wood Shop – build thirty (or so) garbage bins to give away to elders in our community of Fort Smith. Now, some may say thirty is a lofty goal, others may say nothing to building thirty bins. My thoughts were – how do I do this, tie them all to current Career & Technology Studies (CTS) credits, keep up student (grades 7-12) interest, and still allow the students to build personally relevant projects through the course of each semester! Oh, did I mention we didn't have plans either?! As any proud Newfoundlander would say, "Nothin' to it bye"! (I must be nuts)!

Now, anyone worth their salt knows that plans are of the plenty on the internet but that was not good enough for the grade 12 students earning CTS credits at the time, so we set out to put some of the skills learned in Math class to the test. Funny how the sum of the angles of an octagon now were starting to mean something to students! Together with the teacher, students in class built a prototype bin and then through backward design wrote plans for future students to follow.



It was now starting to look like the lofty thirty-bin project could actually happen!

The 2016/2017 school year started as normal and I introduced each class to the project and our goal. The project fit well with objectives currently being taught at

the various grade levels making easy to spread the manufacturing of the "Ikea like" kits through the classes. Students enjoyed not only crafting the various parts of the bin, but also assembling them. This personal touch made it all the more special when each bin was delivered to a respected



elder. One of the students said on a given day, "My parents are really proud of me for doing this for elders."

As semester one rolled on, it really started to look like we would reach our goal. Some students were eager to do just bins rather than personal projects. Many students gained confidence in the use of many more hand and power tools, and all continued to focus on safety. And others made personal projects just to get a break from the bins. A change is as good as a rest they always say!

Despite a lofty goal, students were never expected or allowed to rush while using tools. We

couldn't stress enough the importance of safety in the woodshop environment and the only one to get so much as a sliver was the teacher. As students' comfort levels rose, they eventually decided to propose a challenge to the teacher. "We can build one quicker than you, Walsh!" I rose to the challenge with them being once again informed of the safety rules. All pieces were cut, accounted for, and stockpiled for each group of participants. The only power tools used were the drill and driver (no saws of any kind). Done this way there would be no chance of injury via saw generated rushing. In an effort

to protect the innocent, I won't say who created the best bins in the shortest amount of time!

January came and the end of the semester quickly came upon our school. Students finished a total of fourteen garbage bins with all being delivered to various elders in Fort Smith! Every one was met with a smile and thank you from the elder with students going away feeling as if they had done something good. This was their way to give back to the community.

Semester two is now upon us and a new group of students have jumped on board to give back to the community. Entering week three, students are already starting their third bin and it looks like the goal of thirty bins by June should easily be reached.



Northern Lights

Meet Mehdi Saghafi from Whati (Tlicho region)



Q. Where did you grow up?

My hometown is Tehran the capital of Iran, but before my first birthday my father was transferred to the northern part of Iran where the magnificent Caspian Sea and limitless old jungles create a unique eye-catching scene. Next year I found myself in a city-Semnaan, where my childhood was spent.

Q. What made you decide to become a teacher?

When I was in grade 5, many teachers and the principal tried different ways to correct me, but none of them worked. One of the youngest teachers came up with a plan, an alternative to physically punishment and all other non-pedagogic methods. He assigned two students to me, and said if they pass math and science you passed, if they fail you fail! I had to study a lot so I can teach the subjects to my tutees. After a while the result was unbelievable, my tutees were doing great so was I.

Q. What do you teach?

I chose science and math as my major and minor respectively. I developed a huge interest toward math and science from my childhood. These were the subjects which I understand so easily and in depth like my mother language! I love the subjects that I started my teaching with.

Q. What do you enjoy most about teaching?

Changing life for better was what my young teacher did as teaching. Teaching has the same meaning to me: changing lives, helping students discover themselves, value themselves, live better lives, see more of the world, expanding their horizon and vision, discovering undiscovered truths about life and existence, finding their talents and having a reasonable relationship with their surrounding all are my purposes for teaching.

Q. How do you engage your students?

I establish a relationship with students, then through this relation I deliver my lessons. Usually I start the lesson with a series of questions and they start to engage automatically. They learn as they answer the questions, then at some point I deliver the outcomes that I already put in my lesson plans. At the end of the day my role as an indoor soccer coach starts, which is in fact the extension of my science and math class. I feel one day younger everyday.

GNWT Education Leaves 2017-2018

Amanda Mallon, Professional Development Coordinator

The Central Professional Development Committee would like to congratulate the following GNWT NWTTA members who were granted Education Leave With Allowances for 2017-2018:

Sharla Greenland (*Inuvik*)
Masters of Counselling, Acadia University

Devin Roberts (*Fort Smith*)
Doctorate of Education in Languages and Literacy Education, University of Calgary

Shawn Feener (*Ulukhaktok*)
Curriculum Studies, focus on Math and Science with Technology/M.Ed, Acadia University

Trent Waterhouse (*Norman Wells*)
Masters of Education Degree: Literacy, Mount Saint Vincent University

GNWT Summer PD Course Funding

Amanda Mallon, Professional Development Coordinator

If you are a GNWT member thinking ahead and considering taking a summer credit and non-credit course, please note the deadline for all summer funding applications is midnight on May 30, 2017.

A reminder that the Summer Credit and Education Leadership Program (ELP) funds are for onsite classes only. You can find the guidelines and applications in the NWTTA Bylaws, Policies and Document green handbook in your school/work site, and links to the application forms below.

For additional information, including paper copies of the application forms, I can be reached by email at amanda.mallon@nwttta.nt.ca or telephone at 1-867-873-5759.

Applicaton Form Hyperlinks:

- Summer Credit Course
- Summer Non-Credit Course
- ELP (contact Amanda Mallon)

Thank You for Making a Difference 2017

André Corbeil, Finance & Communications Officer

2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the Thank You for Making a Difference campaign, which provides students with an opportunity to send messages of appreciation to their teachers across the Northwest Territories.

This year over 3000 messages from students were delivered to NWTTA members during NWT Education Week.

The Grand Finale of this year's campaign was held in Lutselk'e at Lutsel K'e Dene School (South Slave region) on February 24. Thank you to Principal Vivian Harris and staff for hosting the event!

Prize draws were held for two NWT students and their nominated teachers to each win iPad Mini 4s and four NWTTA members to receive flight vouchers.

iPad Mini 4 winners were École St. Joseph School in Yellowknife teacher **Madeleine McCarthy** and student **Isabel**, pictured below, and Joseph B. Tyrrell School in Fort Smith teacher **Shauna Bourke** and student **Chase**. Congratulations and thank you to all NWT educators for making a difference in the lives of your students!

Flight voucher prizes went to GNWT members **Patricia Powell-Sarapnickas** and **Lisandre St-Amant**, and YCS/YK1 members **Shellie Trimble** and **Todd Stewart**. Congratulations!



Northern Lights

Meet Heather Burns from Yellowknife (YCS region)



Q. Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Pictou County, Nova Scotia

Q. What made you decide to become a teacher?

I spent a lot of time babysitting when I was in high school and loved spending time with children. When in university, I studied Mathematics which I also loved. While in university, I worked in a daycare and volunteered at a children's hospital. Teaching was an obvious choice to combine my passions of Mathematics and helping and caring for young people.

Q. What do you teach?

I teach high school mathematics and I have just started offering a course on coding.

Q. What do you enjoy most about teaching?

Because I teach senior high school, I get to see the end result of many years of education. I love seeing students excited about where their learning will take them next, and that I get to be a part of that journey. You can literally see these people grow up in front of your eyes. It is so rewarding to know that you have helped people to reach their potential.

Q. How do you engage your students?

I engage my students by keeping things fresh. I'm always open to new ways of teaching and learning. I bring technology in to my classroom whenever I can. I like to ask my students to complete challenging work that really makes them think. Some students are more likely to engage with material that requires critical thinking and problem solving than they are with material that simply needs to be memorized.

Every Group of Students is Different

Teaching is a profession that never gets boring. No matter how many times I teach a course, it is never the same twice. Every group of students is different and they all have different needs. I am always looking for better ways to do things. If I ever find myself bored in my job, I will know that it is time to move on. But I just can't ever imagine that happening!

Wood you like to learn how to make Snowshoes?

Russel Ives, Secure Custody Teacher in Yellowknife (YK1 region)

Purpose:

I am offering the opportunity, to any educators in the North, to learn how to make snowshoes using the “Bush” ways. The course will be tailor made to allow teachers to instruct students in their home community, thus all of the materials being used will be things that you would be able to find in the woods or general store. No power tools, all hand work.

It will take five full days to learn the basics of snowshoe building, to the point where you will be able to go back to your community, practice on your own, and then start instructing your students.

Instructor:

My name is Russell Ives and I am currently a Secure Custody Teacher at the North Slave Correctional Complex (Youth Unit). I have been teaching in Yellowknife for the past 24 years. I came North for the adventure and a career. I was born along time ago, so long ago that the Toronto Maple Leafs were actually known as Stanley Cup Champions! I have a passion for the Land and animals.

I have only been making snowshoes for a short period of time, but absolutely love it and want to share this passion. This will be the first time that I have offered this course.

Who Can Take the Course:

Any teacher who has basic hand eye coordination (if you can brush your teeth - you can make a pair of snowshoes). We will be out on-the-land a lot, so you have to be in decent physical shape. The most important aspect of learning how to make snowshoes is that you have a passion to learn and to share this knowledge.

I will be offering this course to teachers in a small group setting or one-to-one. This course requires a lot of instruction, so the small group setting is a necessity.

Why:

I am offering this course to teachers who have a passion for the land and want to learn how to travel across it in a quiet, respectful way, who enjoy silence and solitude. I am also presenting this offer with a larger purpose in mind, which is to allow teachers access to snowshoe making knowledge, embrace it and carry it back to their communities and share the knowledge with their students. Snowshoe making is an ancient skill and art form that I think needs to be preserved and taught in the school systems, therefore teachers

need access to the skills and knowledge.

When:

The course will be arranged on a first come basis. My email is russel.ives@yk1.nt.ca. I will do my best to work with your school schedules. Also, I hope to offer the course during next year’s teacher conference.

Where:

The course will take place on-the-land and in a workshop, in Yellowknife.

What do you need?

You will need warm clothes as we will be out on-the-land harvesting the trees. You will need a thermos and snacks and lots of passion! You will also need to get yourself to and from Yellowknife. You will take care of your own accommodations and meals. I will provide all the tools for use during the course.

Course Outline:

Day 1: Go out into the woods and learn how to select the right tree for making snowshoes. (The trees will speak to you if you are listening.) Cut down a tree. Split the tree. Carry it back to the workshop.

Day 2: Shape and make the shoe bows.

Day 3: Finish making the final shape of the shoes. Soak the shoes.

Day 4: Steam and bend the shoes.

Day 5: Practice weaving of the shoes.

The type of shoe that we will be making is called the Ojibwa style. This is the snowshoe that is pointed at the toe and heel. It is known as a fast travel shoe and is typical of the shoes made in this area. It is also the easiest shoe to bend and is very practical for the types of trees and terrain we have in the NWT.

Thank you for your time. See you in the woods...the original classroom!



Northern Lights

Meet Caitlin Blyth

from Fort Simpson (Dehcho region)



Q. Where did you grow up?

Fort Simpson, NT

Q. What made you decide to become a teacher?

I have always enjoyed working with youth and spent several summers working for MACA Sport and Rec and the Mackenzie Recreational Society and completed an internship with MACA Sport and Rec. This time getting to know the youth in my region and around the North made me want to get involved more deeply with the youth so that I could help support them in their growth and in becoming capable Northern People.

Q. What do you teach?

I teach high school students Northern Studies and junior high students Arts, Culture and Explorations. I am also responsible for a Teacher Advisory Group.

Q. What do you enjoy most about teaching?

I enjoy helping my students discover their interests and exploring those interests with them. I love the fact that every day comes with a new set of challenges and successes. The best feeling in the world is when one of my students has breakthrough or a moment of growth. It reminds both my students and me what we are working for and that everyone is capable of success.

Q. How do you engage your students?

I engage my students by working to create a community of learning in my classroom and through working to build relationships with my students and between my students. This is accomplished through classroom routines that involve discussing our likes and dislikes, sharing opinions and taking the time to share accomplishments or special life events. We know and respect each other and that provides us with a safe place to learn, explore and grow. My students see our classroom as a shared space for all of us, not just me and enjoy being in this classroom space. Having a choice of seating options, varied lighting, and our coffee and tea station allow the children to set themselves up in a work environment that works for them.

Helping Grow and Support Our Future

To me, teaching in the north is more than just a job. I’m helping grow and support our future. Everyday I am so honored to step into my classroom in my former high school and work with my students on building a community of which we can be proud. There are some hard days in teaching, but overwhelmingly I feel so lucky to have a job where I get to work on supporting the future leaders of my hometown.

Newsletter Trivia

Send your answers to the trivia questions below to news@nwttta.nt.ca with subject *Trivia*.

Trivia answers are contained within this edition of the newsletter. Newsletter Trivia contests are open to active NWTTA members.

Deadline for entries: May 12, 2017



Win a \$50 Tim Horton’s Gift Card!

1. How many years has Dave Roebuck worked for the NWTTA?
2. Who are the PWK Wood Shop garbage bins given to?
3. How many Thank You for Making a Difference messages from students were delivered to NWTTA members this year?
4. What style of snowshoes does Russel Ives’ course make?

Elaine Weng from Deninu School in Fort Resolution (South Slave region) won the February 2017 Newsletter Trivia!

Newsletter cover photo: Teachers from École Allain St-Cyr (Tlicho region) at the 2016 Santa Claus Parade in Yellowknife.

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