



E B I T

N E W S L E T T E R

President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

What a busy time of year it is with Halloween, report cards, and major events in the city such as WE day. I hope you have all found a groove that is working for you and that you are managing to keep a balanced life.

EBIT is very proud of this year's SAGE conference. We would like to thank Patrick Connolly and Dawn Hickes at St. James Collegiate for providing a great venue and being professional and fun hosts. Our program was top notch and I have received a lot of positive feedback about the day, including the lunch.

I would like to remind our members, that if you have suggestions for sessions that you would like EBIT to host during the school year, please let us know. We have made a commitment to offer more professional development this year. Please forward your suggestions to ebitmb@gmail.com.

EBIT is also looking into the possibility of starting a mentorship program for students in the joint Red River College/University of Winnipeg Teacher Education for Business and Technology program. If this sounds like something you might be interested in please let me know.

As was mentioned at our AGM, we had no teacher recognition awards to hand out this year. If you feel there is a colleague that you would like to nominate, don't hesitate to complete the form. Even though the deadline isn't for a few months, I will hold on to to all nominations until that time.

I would like to formally congratulate Judy Kachkowski and Connie Glucki on their retirements. Their contribution they made to our field is greatly appreciated.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season!

Regards,

Nicole Belanger

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Canadian Student Leadership Conference

By Nicole Belanger

In September I had the privilege of attending CSLC (Canadian Student Leadership Conference) in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. A fellow Dakota teacher and I took four students to this conference. CSLC is put on by CASAA, the Canadian Association of Student Activity Advisors. CASAA is the national level of an organization that supports educators involved with student council or student leadership activities.

I first learned about CASAA from the previous student council advisor at my school. CASAA provides resources for educators involved with leadership; they also provide learning opportunities for students across Canada. CASAA has provincial level programs. Here in Manitoba, our association is called MASAA. They put on a two-day conference every year in the fall for students at the International Peace Gardens.

At CSLC students spend five days with high school leaders from around Canada. The students hear keynote speakers, attend workshops and take part in community events in the host town or city. This year the keynote speakers were: Justin Boudreau (non-profit retreat owner for leadership), General Rick Hillier (member of Canada's military), Chantal Kreviazuk (singer, song-writer), Herbie Kuhn (voice of the Raptors), Dr. T. A. Loeffler (mountain climber), Ryan Walter (former NHL player and professional speaker), and Danny Williams (former Premiere of Newfoundland).

Students attended sessions such as: Leadership and Institutions, The Power of People, Leadership Matters, Students as Researchers, LGBTQ Issues, and Fearlessly Girl. There were also sessions for the teachers, some of which allowed teachers and students to tour the local university, and tour the M.S. Montreal, a Canadian naval fighting vessel.

The evenings allowed students to take part in Newfoundland culture with kitchen parties and concerts. We saw local acts, including Hey Rosetta, as well as hypnotists, and the Armed Forces band.

I have never been so moved so many times in a week. The keynote speakers had amazing stories of triumph and leadership that often left me in tears. The sessions gave me inspiration and ideas to make my school a better place. Our four students came back with the same inspiration and we have had a very strong student council since coming back.

I would like to encourage anyone reading this article to please pass the names of CASAA, MASSA, and CSLC to their student council advisors. Manitoba has the lowest number of attendees at this conference every year and I am on a personal mission to change that for next year. CSLC 2012 will be in Weyburn, Saskatchewan. A relatively cheap trip compared to Newfoundland. I would love to see you all there, you won't regret it.

IPad Apps for Accounting

Recommended by Susana Hawryshko

Kashoo Accounting

This app is designed for small business owners. It is easier to use than traditional accounting software. It is a free app with no limit on the number of transactions.

Easy Books

Another accounting app for small business owners. The demo is free but is limited to 120 transactions.

Curriculum Corner

By Angela Baraniuk

Business Theory Community—join us today!

I would like to start an EBIT business theory community. If you teach a business theory course and you would like to connect with others who are teaching the same course then you'll want to sign up for this today! We have plans to offer workshops, student competitions and a speaker's list to support business theory courses such as:

- Futures in Business/Start Your Own Business
- Retailing
- Promotions
- Marketing
- Economics
- Accounting
- Management

If you would like to get added to the community and connected with other teachers across the province please email me at abaraniuk@shaw.ca. In your email, indicate your school and what business theory subjects you teach.

Courtprep

By Suzy Martins

Teaching Law 40S and looking for something different to do with your class? If you have access to a computer lab during class, have a look at www.courtprep.ca. This website provides students with an interactive experience in learning about the criminal judicial system in Canada.

There are a number of criminal law topics covered in this site including witness tips, reporting a crime, and victim rights. It covers the entire justice process from the police report to the appeal. The site offers two games and a short multiple-choice quiz that is a useful review tool for when students are done their work. One of my favourite parts of this site is the animated courtroom. Students can enter a simulation of a Provincial courtroom to learn more about all the people involved in a trial. It also includes detailed explanations of the role that each person serves in the courtroom.

Financial Literacy

This year, we are running a new SIC at Dakota Collegiate on Financial Literacy. This was targeted towards the grade 10's but it would work well for 11's and 12's too. Units of study include:

- The Canadian Economy
- Money Management
- Banking
- Debt and Credit
- Taxes and Insurance
- Investing Strategies
- Financial Planning Project

If you are interested in introducing a new course on financial literacy at your school and you'd like more information, please contact me at abaraniuk@shaw.ca.



One of the things I like best about this site is that it is intended for a teenage audience so students are not overwhelmed with legal jargon and unfamiliar vocabulary. The explanations are thorough, yet easy to understand, and the graphics provide helpful visuals for students.

I have found using www.courtprep.ca a welcome change from taking notes or reading from a textbook. If you're tired of the same old lesson in your Law class, give this site a try.



Educators Ought to Buy Season Tickets to Everything

By Dr. Dan Rosin

At one of my workshops for educators on “Taking Care of Yourself,” I learned that more preparation was not the most important pastime that I wanted in the teachers who taught my children. A very burned-out teacher who had been challenging me all day on my sense of humor and stories with a point—at least I thought they had a good point—finally had enough of me when I stated rather flippantly that I believe educators, as well as most caregivers, should buy season tickets to everything. I suggested that if they go to an activity, they have at least created the potential for having fun, since getting them out and away from busy work schedules is the real problem. I added that educators who buy season tickets will go—no matter what—because they are cheap, um, I mean frugal and will want to attend so they won’t be seen—by themselves or anyone else—as wasting their money.

Having taught in schools for 20 years, I thought I could poke fun at myself and others in the profession. However, this teacher took umbrage and blurted out, “If your child were in my class, you would be the first to complain about me not being well prepared and spending my evenings enjoying myself instead of working at lesson preparation.” Interestingly enough, my child was in this teacher’s class and it was clear by his response that he was burned-out and obviously missing a great many such details. So, I responded to his claim about the need to be perfectly prepared: “For the teachers of my children, I really would prefer you to be moderately prepared in your class lessons. However, I insist you be an exciting teacher, and so I ask

just how can a person be an exciting teacher if they are not excited about their own life?” In my practice, I see a great many well-prepared educators who, in fact, are killing themselves to keep their standards up. I believe that educators work themselves into a workaholic lifestyle and eventually lose the ability to be excited about their own lives. It shows in their health and in their classroom attitude.

You need to get out to more fun activities, create a little more variety and spice in your life. See change as a welcome thing, something different that will contribute to the excitement of your own life. Then you will have the ability to pass that excitement on to your students and others in your life.

Your job (teaching) is to give strokes (units of recognition), not get strokes (at the workplace). Your needs get met in your “Real Life.” So, make sure you have one!

One of the biggest stressors in Education today is the lack of cooperation and concern between educators. Judge your success in life by the degree you enjoy good health, happiness, and quality of life.

The above concept comes from Dr. Dan Rosin’s new book “Finding Balance: 101 concepts for taking better care of self”.

Dan can be reached by E-mail: danrosin@drcounseling.com, sign up for his free newsletter on his Web page: www.drcounseling.com, and the book can be purchased at McNally Robinson: info@grant.mcnallyrobinson.ca

Free Notetaking Apps

Recommended by Susana Hawryshko

Evernote

Allows you to create text, photo, and audio notes.
Stores all information in the cloud and allows auto synk to Mac, PC, web, and mobile devices.

InClass

Allows students to organize their schedule and take notes.

PaperPort Notes

Allows you to combine documents, web content, audio, typed text, and hand written notes.

Youth Employment: Benefits and Consequences

By Angela Baraniuk



There are many educational activities your son/daughter may explore outside of the classroom. Examples of such activities could include extra-curricular groups or clubs, volunteer organizations and employment. In each of my classes, I am always interested in finding out what students are doing with their time outside of school hours. Discussion inevitably falls to asking how many of the students are employed; the percentage is generally quite high. If my sample studies are a good indicator of the whole population, I would estimate that at least 75% of the grade 11 and 12 Dakota Collegiate population is employed part time (15 hours a week or more) while attending high school. Employment or “working” is a great educational activity with many desirable consequences; however, in some cases or situations this endeavour could produce undesirable consequences as well. In this article, I will explore the purpose for youth employment and the consequences that could result. When students and parents consider youth employment, the following issues should be discussed so that the youth can attain full benefit from this educational activity. It is also important to have a discussion with your child on the importance of balancing work education and school education as it can be very tempting to a young person to place more emphasis on this new learning experience to the point that it negatively interferes with their schooling.

The purpose or intent of youth employment can vary from individual to individual; however, the main reason is not unlike why most adults seek employment: money and/or benefits. As youth become more independent, there becomes a greater need to be more financially independent, to have the money to pay for discretionary items that parents are unable or unwilling to pay for. As the parent, we are usually just

as happy to see our child take on a little more financial independence and recognize that employment is a great way for them to develop more responsibility.

Youth employment should be viewed as an educational activity that, if right for the youth, could complement their school studies. It is an effective and important way for youth to learn lessons that we are not equipped to teach, and to experience situations and environments that we are not able to replicate in a school setting. Employment opportunities can allow a youth to:

- *Explore Interests/Passions.* In most cases, youth employment is a choice and the youth decides where they would like to work based on their individual interests.
- *Develop Relationship/Communication Skills.* Employment creates a situation where the youth may have co-workers, customers or clients of all ages and backgrounds. In a school setting, students do not typically have this kind of opportunity to develop friendships and share experiences with individuals they might not have associated with otherwise.
- *Explore Independence.* Although independence is a gradual process, youth can have the experience of “dabbling” in the adult world, while in most cases still living at home and not having to worry about surviving on their own. There is a certain sense of accomplishment when one participates in the adult world in the absence of direct parental guidance (even though the safety net may still exist).
- *Develop Responsibility.* Employees are asked to display responsibility in the workplace: there are consequences for being late and not performing up to standard. The expectation is that the individual is responsible for their choices and decisions.



- *Experience/Demonstrate Leadership Skills.* Youth experience what it is like to work for a boss or leader in a situation quite different from that at home or in the school. They may also get the opportunity to develop and demonstrate leadership qualities of their own as they advance.
- *Develop Financial Management Skills.* In many cases this will be the first time a youth will earn the money they receive and they must learn to manage it well. Decisions on what to spend, what to save and the value of a dollar suddenly have a deeper meaning.
- *Potential Dangers in the Workplace.* With this new experience, the youth may encounter issues such as abuse from employers. Some employers take advantage of youth because they are inexperienced in the world of work and do not yet have the knowledge or skills to fight unfair labour practices, or intimidation on their own.
- *The Healthy-Balance Dilemma.* Many youth work their jobs after school and well into the late evenings. This can result in a 16-20 hour day and many do this each and every day of the week. In the adult work of world this would be considered unreasonable. They will need to consider what kind of an impact their work schedule and other responsibilities will have on their health and social life. Should they work during the school week? How many hours a week is reasonable?

The conversation should also include the undesirable consequences of youth employment. It is important to consider these not only as the youth begins a job hunt, but periodically so that the youth can “re-assess” and reflect on their situation.

The following possible consequences should be considered:

- *Interference with other Educational Activities.* The youth must consider how the demands or hours of the job will impact their schedule. As a student, the youth will want to consider what kind of impact this new activity will have on their schooling. Will they have enough time to focus on all of their responsibilities? If not, which educational activity should take priority?

By investing the time in talking to your child about the benefits and consequences of employment you will help to promote a positive learning experience. Nothing, of course, is guaranteed, but should they experience undesirable consequences, they will have the information, tools and support to re-assess the situation and make a well-guided decision about what is best for them. A proper balance between work education and school education should be the overall goal.

IPhone, IPod, and IPad Apps for Students

Recommended by Susana Hawryshko

Evernote Peek

Helps students study for tests by letting them peek under the Ipad cover as a way to practice language or strengthen memory.

Blackboard

Students can use this app to scribble their answers to quick in-class questions.

My Homework

Helps students to keep track of assignments, tests, due dates, and their overall schedule.

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EBIT Newsletter, an official publication of the Educators of Business and Information Technology of Manitoba, is published by the Manitoba Teachers' Society, 191 Harcourt Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 3H2. EBIT is affiliated with The Manitoba Teachers' Society and the Canadian Association of Business Education Teachers. Opinions of the writers are not necessarily those of either the Educators of Business and Information Technology of Manitoba or the Manitoba Teachers' Society.