



SACS offers facilitator training workshop for secondary schools

The SACS Junior and Senior High School Task Force has met twice to suggest improvements to our two workshops—*Building a Safe and Caring Classroom—Behavioral Strategies for Secondary Schools* and *Toward a Safe and Caring Secondary Curriculum—Approaches to Integration*—and contribute to our “Best Practices” curriculum resource.

A two-day facilitator training workshop will be held during the North Central Teachers’ Convention, February 10 and 11, 2000, at Barnett House, 11010 142 Street, Edmonton. The workshop will run both days from 9 am to 3:30 pm.

Teachers will be prepared to present *Toward a Safe and Caring Secondary Curriculum—Approaches to Integration* to their colleagues. They will also be trained to facilitate follow-up micro workshops. The workshop is designed to

help junior and senior high teachers integrate violence prevention and character education into the existing curriculum.

North Central teachers should preregister online at <www.nctca.ab.ca>. Teachers outside the

North Central Teachers’ Convention Association can preregister by contacting the SACS office at 447-9487 (in Edmonton) or 1-800-232-7208 (from elsewhere in Alberta).

Five new resources for the Toward a Safe and Caring School program are now available. Check

out the SACS order form on the Web site <www.teachers.ab.ca/publications/catalog/catalog05.html>.

• ***Beyond Bullying: A Booklet for Junior High School Students***

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Best practices: A coach's story

A main goal of the ATA's Toward a Safe and Caring Community (TASCC) program is to sensitize adults to the impact of their attitudes and behavior on children and youth. The workshops demonstrate how caring interactions at home, at school and in the community teach children respect, responsibility, tolerance, anger management and conflict resolution skills.

TASCC invites parents, youth leaders, coaches, business people, music teachers and school staffs to examine their own behavior and learn strategies to enhance pro-social behavior and help children build positive social skills.

SACS program manager Barb Maheu was impressed with an anecdote related by Jim Parsons, professor of social studies and religious and moral education in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. Parsons coaches the junior girls' basketball team at Bev Facey Community High School in Sherwood Park. His approach to coaching illustrates an attitude toward working with teens that Maheu feels is worth considering. She asked him to share his story.

"If I knew this would happen, I would've missed."

Sometimes the young women on the junior girls' basketball team I coach at Bev Facey Community High School have a difficult time understanding my coaching. I remember once during a

tournament we had fouled out every player on the other team except four. I asked the refs if they minded if we waived the rule that eliminated players with five fouls from the game—to which one of my disappointed team members responded, "Mr P, can't you ever do anything mean?"



Apparently, I have a few other really odd coaching philosophies that I try hard (hopefully, with some success) to implement—things I have learned from experience. They include

- If you make my team, you play—I try to play everyone equally, win or lose.*
- I think you girls are great, but the girls on the other team are probably just as nice as we are.*
- Basketball is an almost perfect game. It is full of little victories: each one should be celebrated.*
- The goal of every season is to have fun, even if we never win a game.*

• My favorite players are those who have never played before but who, through hard work and effort, have a high learning curve.

Last year's junior girls' team was my favorite in the seven years I have coached—of course, I say that every year. We were tiny, but we beat every team that was our own size, and we played almost every game close. One game against Sturgeon Composite High School was one of

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Volunteers needed for TASCSC manual

Many community organizations are anxious to implement the ATA's Toward a Safe and Caring Community (TASCSC) program but would like some direction. With the assistance of the Alberta Community Development regional office in Stony Plain, we have begun writing a manual that will provide community action committees with processes to implement TASCSC.

We are considering striking a task force of community representatives from across Alberta to help us develop the manual. We are also interested in interviewing individuals who have already launched the program so that we can share your dos and don'ts with others.

If you are interested in serving on the task force or being interviewed about your experiences, please contact Barb Maheu, Program Manager, Safe and Caring Schools Project, The Alberta Teachers' Association, 11010 142 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T5N 2R1, tel: 447-9484 (in Edmonton) or 1-800-232-7208 (from elsewhere in Alberta), fax: (780) 455-6481, e-mail: <bmaheu@teachers.ab.ca>.

National Crime Prevention Centre seeks input

The National Crime Prevention Centre held a series of workshops in Alberta in June and July 1999.

Participants were introduced to the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention and provided with information on how to access funding through the Community Mobilization Program.

The centre wants to continue the relationship begun in those workshops. Albertans are encouraged to alert the centre to "promising" crime prevention practices being developed in their communities. Project ideas and feedback on the strategy are also welcomed.

For more information, please contact Marion Cook, Regional Liaison Consultant, Program Development and Delivery, National Crime Prevention Centre, c/o Department of Justice, 510 606 4 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 1T1, tel: (403) 299-2753, fax: (403) 299-3966.

Funding available for SACS projects

Funding for your local SACS project may be just a phone call away.

The Community Lottery Board (CLB) grant program welcomes funding applications for project-based initiatives in such areas as education, community services and children's services. School boards, community not-for-profit groups and bodies affiliated with community or provincial organizations are among the organizations eligible for funding.

For information on how you can apply for a CLB grant, dial 310-0000 and ask for the Alberta Community Development regional office nearest you: Calgary, (403) 297-8418; Edmonton, (780) 427-9538; Lethbridge, (403) 381-5231; St Paul, (780) 645-6353; or Stony Plain, (780) 963-2281.



• ***Beyond Bullying—What You Can Do to Help: A Handbook for Parents and Teachers of Junior High Students***

• ***Bullying Is Everybody's Problem***—a brochure for senior high school staff and parents

• ***Bullying Is Everybody's Problem—Do You Have the Courage to Stop It?***—a brochure for senior high school students

• ***Havens for the Mind***—offers information on brain research and discusses the impact of stress and violence on brain development.

All of the booklets dealing with bullying provide background information, discuss the implications of bullying behavior and provide strategies for dealing with that behavior. Similar booklets are available for the elementary level.

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those “it was great to see” games where the lead ricocheted back and forth until, with about eight seconds left and the score tied, a young woman from Sturgeon drew a foul and was given two foul shots. The game was hers to win, and it was fun to watch her as she nervously toed the line.

When she missed the first shot, the pressure was even greater. But amid much overt celebration, her second shot bounced around and went in. Pressure changed immediately to jubilation. With little time left, my own team inbounded the ball and miraculously sank a shot from over half court, but clearly after the buzzer.

During the handshakes that followed the game, I could not help but congratulate the young woman who made the pressure-packed free throw, first with words and then with a hug. She looked at me as though I were from another planet. My own team chalks it up to Mr Parsons doing anything for a hug.

As I said, it helps to be old. People expect you to be a little strange.

Notices

The **Media Awareness Network** has created a new Web site to ensure that information technology is used in the public interest to help develop citizens who think critically and have the knowledge and skills to “act as their own filters.” The Web site, located at <www.webawareness.org>, include four on-line workshops for teachers: *Kids for Sale* (on-line marketing to kids and privacy issues), *Safe Passage* (on-line safety and offensive and inappropriate content), *Fact or Folly* (authentication of on-line information) and *Finders Keepers* (copyright and the Internet). The lessons are copyright cleared and can be used freely by teachers.

The **Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations** is pleased to announce that Stephen Lewis will be the keynote speaker at its launch for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The launch will be held at Edmonton City Hall on March 10 from 11:30 am to 1 pm. For more information, please contact Charlene Hay, tel: (780) 497-5381, fax: (780) 497-4656, e-mail: <hayc@admin.gmcc.ab.ca>.

Niska News is a newsletter produced by the ATA's Safe and Caring Schools (SACS) project for school and community members. The goal of the SACS project is to encourage practices that model and reinforce socially responsible and respectful behaviors so that learning and teaching can take place in a safe and caring environment. Achieving this goal requires the involvement of not just parents and teachers but also all the important adults in a young person's life. This newsletter is designed to provide timely, up-to-date information about the project. For more information, contact the SACS office by phoning 447-9487 (in Edmonton) or 1-800-232-7208 (from elsewhere in Alberta). Copying and distributing Niska News is permitted as long as the source is credited.

Attention Secondary School Lead Teachers . . .

The ATA's Safe and Caring Schools Project



INSERVICE LEADER TRAINING for *Toward a Safe and Caring Secondary Curriculum—Approaches to Integration* will be offered by the ATA's Safe and Caring Schools project during the North Central Teachers' Convention, February 10-11, 2000, from 9 am to 3:30 pm, at Barnett House, 11010 142 Street, Edmonton. The session is offered free of charge to secondary teachers in the North Central zone (except a \$16 charge for two lunches to be paid on site). Teachers from outside the North Central zone are invited to attend but will be required to pay a \$65 registration fee (which includes lunch).

This two-day training workshop will prepare teachers to deliver the one-day workshop and follow-up sessions to their secondary colleagues. The workshop focuses on integrating violence prevention and character education into the secondary curriculum. It is designed to provide strategies for junior and senior high school teachers to infuse safe and caring principles with Alberta curriculum outcomes. Research indicates that a successful school violence program integrates safe and caring principles throughout the students' entire school experience and promotes the practice of these principles in the students' homes and communities.

Candidates for this workshop must be experienced, certificated teachers with exceptional teaching skills, an excellent knowledge of the elementary curriculum and proficiency in facilitating adult workshops and demonstrating leadership with their colleagues. A letter of reference from each teacher's principal or superintendent is required.

To register:

If you teach in the North Central zone, register online at <www.nctca.ab.ca>.

If you teach outside the North Central zone, register in any one of the following ways:

Tel: (780) 447-9487 or 1-800-232-7208

Fax: (780) 455-6481

E-mail: <sacs@teachers.ab.ca>

Send your \$65 registration fee to

Sue Sheffield

Safe and Caring Schools Project

The Alberta Teachers' Association

11010 142 Street NW

Edmonton AB

T5N 2R1

Please register by February 1, 2000

Attention Elementary School Lead Teachers . . .

The ATA's Safe and Caring Schools Project

INSERVICE LEADER WORKSHOP for the ATA's *Toward a Safe and Caring Curriculum—ATA Resources for Integration: ECS to Grade 6.*



On April 10-11, 2000, the ATA's Safe and Caring Schools project will offer a two-day **Inservice Leader Workshop** designed to prepare lead teachers to deliver the one-day teacher inservice to their elementary school colleagues. We are recommending that every school jurisdiction that does not have trained inservice leaders send lead teachers to this workshop. The registration fee for the two days is \$150 and covers training, workshop materials, *Toward a Safe and Caring Curriculum—ATA Resources for Integration* (valued at \$49), two lunches and four coffee breaks. Subtract \$49 if you already have the curriculum resource for your grade. Remember to bring it to the training session.

Candidates for this workshop must be experienced, certificated teachers with exceptional teaching skills, an excellent knowledge of the elementary curriculum and proficiency in facilitating adult workshops and demonstrating leadership with their colleagues. A letter of reference from each teacher's principal or superintendent is required.

This workshop will be held from 9 am to 4 pm (both days) at the Black Knight Inn, 2929 50 Avenue, Red Deer. Book your reservations by calling (403) 343-6666. To register for the Inservice Leader Workshop, contact the Central Alberta Regional Consortium (see below).

***Toward a Safe and Caring Curriculum—
ATA Resources for Integration: ECS to Grade 6—Registration Form***

Name: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

School Phone:(_____)_____ School Fax:(_____)_____

Registration fee **\$150** enclosed: _____ (minus \$49 if you already have your own copy of *Toward a Safe and Caring Curriculum—ATA Resources for Integration*)

Register by tel: (403) 357-3626, fax: (403) 357-3642 or
e-mail: <susan.macdonald@rdc.ab.ca>. Follow up by mailing payment to:

Central Alberta Regional Consortium, Box 5005, Red Deer, AB, T4N 5H5

Please register by March 31, 2000