



## SACS Highlights

Following are just some of the ATA's Safe and Caring Schools (SACS) Project's highlights from the 2000-2001 school year!

- On October 19, 2000, the ATA's Safe and Caring Schools Project hosted CARE 2000 (Communities Acting Responsibly and Ethically for Children and Youth). Over 100 delegates representing over 70 community agencies attended. A catalogue that outlines resources developed by Alberta organizations involved in violence prevention was developed. It is titled *Violence-Prevention Catalogue of Alberta Agencies' Resources*.
- The SACS Conference, November 23–25, was attended by over 1,000 delegates. A draft constitution was reviewed by conference delegates interested in establishing a national organization. The official name of the organization is Safe and Caring Schools and Communities of Canada. The next SACS conference will take place in British Columbia in February 2002.
- *An Action Handbook: A Guide to Implementation* was developed for the community workshop series. Community workshops complement the SACS school programs.
- The Muttart Foundation undertook an evaluation research project to identify the factors that contribute to successful implementation of the ATA's SACS resources in elementary schools.



The Project entered into a partnership with Alberta Justice to promote justice issues for inclusion in the new social studies curriculum for junior high.

- Two more videos for the Toward a Safe and Caring Community program were developed, *Dealing with Bullying* (workshop 4B) and *Resolving Conflict Peacefully* (workshop 5). This completes the video series for the five workshop topics. The ATA's SACS Project is grateful for financial support from the Lions Clubs of Alberta, which facilitated the development of the five videos. We are also grateful to Dr Joe Norris, Mirror Theatre and St Vladimir and Eastglen Schools for their participation in the video productions. The videos provide a valuable opportunity for participants to practise skills in a safe environment.
  - This year, community workshop 4 was divided into two workshops. Each will be two hours in length. Workshop 4A will be titled "Managing Anger" and Workshop 4B will be titled "Dealing with Bullying."
  - To promote the integration of safe and caring topics and instructional strategies into the secondary curriculum in a variety of subject areas, an exemplar of lesson and unit plans was produced by a team of secondary teachers from across the province. The exemplar will be available at workshops for secondary teachers and an application has been made to obtain funding for a website posting titled *Toward a Safe and Caring Secondary Curriculum— Teachers Promising Practices*.
  - A series of micro-workshops for secondary teachers was developed as a follow-up to the "Approaches to
- Highlights, cont'd on page 2**

---

## Letter to the editor

# 85% Success Rate on TV Turn-Off Challenge!

Thanks for sending the monthly *Niska News* via e-mail! I just wanted to let you know that in response to the April newsletter, we tried something neat in our school. During Education Week, we had a school TV Turn-Off Challenge (24 hours). Our school is Grades 1–12 and we had an 85 percent success rate (did NOT turn on the TV for a whole day!) Our Grades 1 and 2 class won the Pizza Party (the prize we offered) for having the highest success rate, which was 93 percent. Well, we had so much fun with this challenge, we challenged the Enchant School (our neighbors to the Southeast) to a Turn-Off the following week. They were good sports and met the challenge, and they ended up with an 89 percent success rate, and we had an 86 percent. What made the second time even more challenging was that no Internet, Gameboys, Nintendo and so on were allowed. Our Grades 7 and 8 class had an amazing 100 percent success rate, so they will be treated to an Orange Float Party tomorrow afternoon. I was really proud of the effort our students and their families put into these two challenges, and many sent notes to our school telling us how much they enjoyed the night without television. They proceeded to tell me about some of the quality activities they were engaged in instead. It turned out to be a great experience for us,

and next year, we plan to challenge the entire Horizon School Division!

As we approach the final six weeks of school for this year, thanks for your hard work and support of teachers! It has been a fun year of teaching for me (this is only my third year of teaching).

Anyway, we thought you'd enjoy hearing about what we are doing in rural southern Alberta. Another neat thing we tried in our school during Education Week was involving each class in a Safe and Caring Project. For instance, I took my Grades 3 and 4 music class down to the Seniors Centre one afternoon. We had a wonderful discussion about what school was like for them! We asked questions, such as "What was your favorite subject?", "What do you remember most about school?" and "How did your schooling affect your life or career choices?" We had about 25 seniors present that day and they invited us back next month. They enjoyed having the young people come visit as much as we enjoyed spending a couple of hours with them. It was very rewarding for me to see the connections our experienced Lomond citizens made with our less-experienced citizens!

Brenda Schlaht, Lomond Community School, AB

---

## Highlights, cont'd from page 1

- Integration" workshop for secondary teachers.
- The number of facilitators who have successfully completed the training to present the "Toward a Safe and Caring Secondary Curriculum: Approaches to Integration" workshop has been brought up to 100.
- On May 1, the SACS resources and promotional materials (except for workshop materials) were transferred to the Alberta Learning Resources Centre.
- The writing of the Kindergarten-level topics for *Toward a Safe and Caring Curriculum—ATA Resources for Integration* was completed this year. All topics have been distributed to schools (except K–Topic 4, which will be distributed over the summer months).



Over 100 presentations were made across North America.

- A video titled *Safe and Caring Schools in Alberta* was produced. It provides an overview of the SACS initiative. A brochure and a script with overheads to accompany the video will be available this summer.
- As part of the new series on diversity, a booklet has been developed to help teachers address issues of sexual identity and gender orientation with students.
- With funding from Health Canada, staff worked with Alberta Learning, Calgary Learning Centre, Learning Through Health, and Alberta Health and Wellness to complete the final phase of a school assessment program based on the SACS common attributes and other school wellness indicators.

## Feathers

By Heather Dechant, Stony Plain Central School

As part of their ethics class, the Grade 8 students at Stony Plain Central School were asked to develop a service project to highlight the SACS Project.



One group opted to make the giant Niska and the other group created a feather activity for our elementary students. The Grade 8 students toured the primary classrooms with Niska and a feather activity followed. Every elementary student was given a feather and asked to write about or draw what he or she thought a safe and caring school should look, sound or feel like. The feathers and the giant Niska are now prominently displayed in our main hallway.

## Safe and Caring Works!

“The overview video (*Safe and Caring Schools in Alberta*) was a big hit. Several people would like it shown to students in Grades 5 to 9. And a bit more good news . . . I encouraged a school council to apply for funding for their set of Toward a Safe and Caring Community (TSCC) workshops and they got it! There’s more and more support for TSCC as the word gets out.”

—*Debby Steacy, Toward a Safe and Caring Community (TSCC) workshop facilitator*

After studying Managing Anger and Dealing with Bullying, my Grade 6 students said they’d learned to identify their own bullying behaviors and to recognize the need for change, not only in others, but in themselves.”

—*Valerie Quarin, Jack Stuart School, Camrose, AB*

*If you have any comments about the SACS Project you would like to share, please let us know. We can be reached by e-mail at [sacs@teachers.ab.ca](mailto:sacs@teachers.ab.ca) or by mail at The ATA’s SACS Project, 11010-142 Street, Edmonton, AB T5N 2R1.*

## ATA partner in Public Education and Diversity: Opportunities and Challenges A Summer Institute July 9–13, 2001 University of Alberta, Faculty of Education

A unique opportunity for teachers, graduate students, researchers and community members to share and develop meaningful responses to diversity, equity and human rights issues in Alberta’s schools.

**Keynote Speakers:** Stephen Lewis, John Willinsky, Myrna Kostash, Dennis Sumara and Terry Fortin.

**Workshops:** Gender and Teachers’ Work, Anti-Racism Education, The Legal Context of Human Rights and Education in Alberta, Gay and Lesbian Youth, Global Citizenship, Immigrant Youth, Diversity and Organizational Climate, Cross Cultural Work in Schools, Educational Leadership and Equity, and The Digital Divide.

**Registration fee:** \$150

**Graduate credit course available:** July 9–20, 2001

Participants may receive graduate credits by enrolling in one or two of the following credit courses:

- First Nations Students and Teaching
- Race, Culture and Teaching
- Sexual Identities in Education
- Social Class and Education

The Institute is incorporated into the course content. Courses continue during the week of July 16–20.

**For further information,** contact the Learning Network in Edmonton at 492-0234 or toll free elsewhere in Alberta 1-888-945-5500.

---

# SACS School and Community Update

## Fiches d'activité disponibles en français pour le Projet des Écoles Sécuritaires et Bienveillantes

En septembre des “Fiches de l'enseignant” pour accompagner *Vers un programme d'études pour des écoles sécuritaires et bienveillantes—Ressources de l'ATA pour l'intégration: 1<sup>ère</sup> à 6<sup>e</sup> année* seront disponibles en français. Les fiches seront envoyées gratuitement aux écoles qui ont déjà acheté cette ressource. Placez votre commande à [sacs@teachers.ab.ca](mailto:sacs@teachers.ab.ca) ou composez le 1-800-232-7208. On demande aux écoles qui achètent cette ressource auprès du LRC de réclamer ces fiches au moment de la commande.

## The ATA's Safe and Caring Schools Project's Teacher Resource Sheets are Now Available in French

In September, teacher resource sheets for student activities in French will be available for *Toward a Safe and Caring Curriculum—ATA Resources for Integration: K to 6*. The sheets are available free of charge to schools that have already purchased this resource. For a copy, e-mail [sacs@teachers.ab.ca](mailto:sacs@teachers.ab.ca) or call 1-800-232-7208. Schools placing new orders with the LRC are asked to request French resource sheets at the time of purchase.

## Niska Award of Merit

Niska congratulates Grande Prairie & Area Safe Communities for promoting, funding and sponsoring the ATA's Safe and Caring Schools Project programs. This organization exemplifies a community-based approach that effectively implements violence-prevention initiatives. Special thanks to Dauna Grant, Angie Dixon and Kim Fenton for providing leadership in implementing the Toward a Safe and Caring Community workshop series.



## Grande Prairie & Area Safe Communities By Dauna Grant

Grande Prairie & Area Safe Communities hosted a successful training session on May 5 for people interested in facilitating the ATA's Toward a Safe and Caring Community workshop series. There were 18 participants in attendance from Grande Prairie and the surrounding region plus one person from Chetwynd, B.C. Increasing demand for the workshops and a desire to address violence prevention prompted this training session. We wish to ensure that an adequate number of facilitators are available throughout the region. Now more community residents will be able to benefit from what they learned about how adults can create safe and caring environments in the home, school and community.

### Niska News: Peace Edition

The ATA's Safe and Caring Schools Project would like to dedicate an issue of *Niska News* to the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World.

We are requesting that teachers and members of the community submit

- ideas that exemplify ways to build peaceful classrooms, schools and communities;
- work created by children and youth in Alberta that reflects nonviolence, peace, compassion or caring (poetry, short stories, journal entries or graphic art work); and/or
- notification of special events that celebrate and promote peace this year.

Please send your submissions to Barb Maheu, Program Manager, the ATA's Safe and Caring Schools Project, 11010 142 Street, Edmonton, AB T5N 2R1 on or before June 15, 2001.

If possible, send written submissions by e-mail to [bmaheu@teachers.ab.ca](mailto:bmaheu@teachers.ab.ca). For more information, phone (780) 447-9484 or 1-800-232-7208, or fax (780) 455-6481.

**Please note:** If we have an overwhelming response, we will only be able to print a limited number of submissions. Thank you.

---

*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. The newsletter is available online through the SACS Project website at <[www.teachers.ab.ca/safe/index.html](http://www.teachers.ab.ca/safe/index.html)>.*

---