



Chalk Talk

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PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers:

Have you ever wondered why athletes and celebrities involve themselves in fundraising events, especially for causes that benefit children? Some of us might say that it is good public relations not only for them personally, but also professionally. It has been my experience, in twenty years of organizing such events, that their involvement has more to do with their interest in being positive role models for kids and their desire to help make our world just a bit better.

I recall an event that I organized years ago for a national charity organization that involved hockey legend, Mario Lemieux. The event which was to take place at **7 a.m.** at a local hockey arena involved a lucky group of kids with their parents all 'suited up' for their opportunity to participate in a hockey clinic and game of scrimmage. The kids who were between 6 and 9 years old were awestruck when bigger than life "Super Mario" [with his skates on he must have been 6' 8" tall]



stepped onto the ice. He promptly took the kids through some stick and puck handling. It was magical — deftly lifting the puck with the tip of the blade of his stick, he gently balanced it high in the air as if it were glued on. His friendly, open, good-humoured style and his obvious sincere interest in the kids resulted in a successful and memorable event.

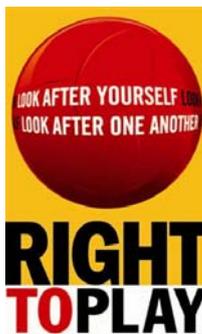
It occurs to me the athletes and celebrities who choose to involve themselves in causes that benefit children have a lot in common with Canada's dedicated educators. This week's issue contains information on **Right To Play's**

Canadian School Program and how your students can take part in a special fundraising event for **Right To Play**, organized in conjunction with four of Canada's NHL teams.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit our website at 4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

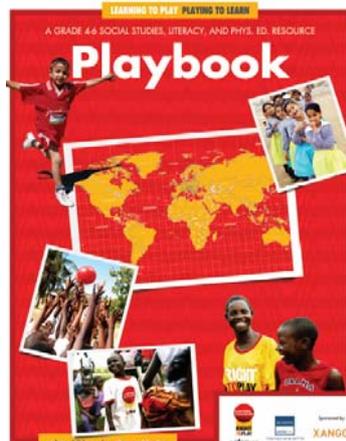
[Let us know what you think.](#)

Bring the Power of Play to your Classroom



The power of *play* can change the lives of kids, whether in Canada or around the world. **Right To Play**, an athlete-driven humanitarian organization that has implemented sports and play programs in 23 of the world's poorest, war-torn countries, believes that youth have the right to learn to play and that play has an essential role in teaching important life lessons

Guided by the philosophy — **Look After Yourself, Look After One Another** — **Right To Play** offers elementary teachers of grades 4 to 6 a free, curriculum-based teacher's kit packed with ideas for creative play and the opportunity to participate in workshops that are being arranged through school boards and at educator conferences across Canada. To order a kit, [click here.](#)



The response to **Right To Play's** Canadian school program — **Learning To Play, Playing To Learn** — promoting educational play and awareness of global issues among Canada's schoolchildren has been fantastic! Almost 2,000 **Playbook** kits are now being used in classrooms across the country.



The teachers' kit contains this colourful poster.

COMING SOON!
Right To Play's Learning To Play, Playing To Learn

at [resources](#) to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

[Let us know what you think.](#)

Mary Kovack

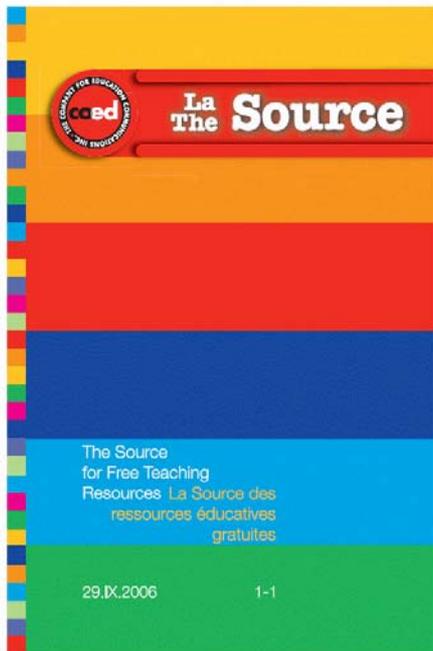
COMING SOON!
Right To Play's *Learning To Play, Playing To Learn* teacher's kit will be available in FRENCH.
Call 1-877-808-PLAY(7529) for details.

SUPPORT A CHILD'S RIGHT TO PLAY

This November, **Right To Play** is launching its signature national fundraising and awareness event — the **Harris Steel Right To Play Skate** — in partnership with Canadian NHL teams. With funds to be raised through participation, pledges, and sponsorship, Canadians of all ages are invited to help bring the power of sport to more children. Proceeds will support local children's charities and Right To Play's Sport For Development programming in the most disadvantaged areas of the world. **Join Right to Play Athlete Ambassadors, hockey heroes and other local celebrities for a fun day of skating in support of a child's right to play.** The *Harris Steel Right To Play Skate* will be held in Vancouver (November 18), Calgary (November 18), Toronto (November 19) and Montreal (November 26). For complete details and to register for the **Skate** event nearest you, click on the NHL Team logo and city below. [Please note that advance registration is highly recommended as skating capacity is limited!] **When Children Play, The World Wins!** [\[Source: Right To Play Canada online\]](#)



Now Available — THE SOURCE FOR FREE TEACHING RESOURCES



Introducing **The Source for Free Teaching Resources** — a new, semi-annual, bilingual, printed reference guide to free, quality, curriculum-based resources for Canadian educators, produced by CoEd Communications, the same people who bring you **Chalk Talk** every week. **Free** copies have been distributed to schools across Canada, so look for it at your school office or library! We hope that this handy guide will make it easier for busy and dedicated educators to identify and order free supplemental classroom resources to assist in the preparation of lesson plans.

A limited number of extra printed copies of **The Source** are now available to **Chalk Talk** subscribers. To order your own copy and to receive future issues, simply go to our newly revamped and easy to use website, [4edu.ca](#), and click on **The Source**, then **Free Subscription**, or email us at info@coedcomm.com. On this website page you will also be able to view a downloadable version of **The Source** online.



Education News

[State of the Teaching Profession 2006: Back in the day... In our annual State of the Teaching Profession poll College members compared learning today to their own experiences as students. Has learning improved? Some of their answers will surprise you.](#) — Brian Jamieson, **Professionally Speaking** Magazine, September 2006

"A cross section of College members think that textbooks, resources and facilities are better today than when they were in school. But educators believe that the public's respect for teaching has spiralled downward. As for students' academic skills? Status quo. We wanted to know members' impressions of change, how satisfied they are in their careers and what they think are the most important factors in student success."

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[Book Review: Teachers Are Professionals](#) – David Flower, *The ATA Magazine*, Volume 86, Number 4, Summer 2006

"I was intrigued, therefore, by the thought of reviewing a series of academic papers collected under the title [Portrait of a Profession—Teaching and Teachers in the 21st Century](#), a book that draws entirely from the American experience. I thought it might be interesting to review at the same time Frank McCourt's latest book, [Teacher Man: A Memoir](#). Is a teacher a professional in the eyes of the general public? Should teaching be classified in the U.S. as a "semi-profession" as described in the chapter "Teacher Preparation—Transition and Turmoil" in [Portrait of a Profession](#)? Or is teaching becoming merely technical training, with those who establish the curriculum attempting, as one of Alberta's former deputy ministers suggested, to ensure that it is teacher-proof?"

[Time for school bus seat belts?](#) – Rob Ferguson, *The Toronto Star*, October 18, 2006

"Ontario is taking a closer look at requiring seat belts on school buses after a tragic weekend crash that left four dead in a minivan that had only seven safety belts for 10 passengers. The move comes a day after Transportation Minister Donna Cansfield introduced legal changes that would require one seat belt for every person in passenger vehicles such as cars and minivans."

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We are the Company for Education Communications. We specialize in developing, producing and evaluating school resources and award programs. Working in conjunction with Departments/Ministries of Education, school district/boards, associations, teachers and subject specialists across the country; we provide free, curriculum-based educational resources to Canadian classrooms.

The opinions, conclusions and other information expressed in the preceding content do not necessarily reflect the views of and are not endorsed by CoEd Communications.

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