



Chalk Talk

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PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers:

“Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability.”

— Sam Keen, American Author, Professor, Philosopher

If you're like me, right about now you're looking forward to the joys of summer. Days filled with barbeques, baseball, and beaches, and hopefully, a bit of time to do absolutely nothing. When I was a kid we played all day, flew kites, ate ice cream and drank lemonade. When it got really hot, we'd run through the sprinkler. Summer truly is a gift!

I'd like to thank all of the dedicated teachers, principals, librarians, and board administrators who read our newsletter each week! We've been very pleased this past year to have brought you features, news and links for some of Canada's best free, educational resources, programs and competitive opportunities.

I hope you'll take a close look at this issue of **Chalk Talk** — the last one for the current school year — and share the information with your students and colleagues. You'll note that Canada Post offers a resource that needs to be ordered by the end of June. Others preview opportunities for September that you may wish to bring to the attention of your students before the end of the school year.

We'll be busy this summer, too, working on the September issue of **The Source for Free Teaching Resources** and many new additions to our website 4edu.ca.

Chalk Talk will resume in mid-August. Until then, we welcome your thoughts on the kind of features you'd like to see in **Chalk Talk** and ideas on how we can make the newsletter even better! [Let us know what you think.](#)

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

Mary Kovack

Mary Kovack



A&E Classroom Essay Contest

NEW FOR 2007! A&E's 'BIOGRAPHY® OF THE YEAR ESSAY CONTEST' RENAMED 'LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE' IN 2007

Students in grades 5-12 may enter [A&E Canadian Classroom's](#) 'Lives That Make A Difference' essay contest by writing and submitting an original essay in 300 words or less on who they think made the greatest impact on Canadian society in 2007. Each entry must include the student's name, complete address, postal code, telephone number, age, grade, name of teacher, school, school address, and local cable system (if known). Send entries to: LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ESSAY CONTEST, c/o Temple Scott Associates, 250 The Esplanade, Suite 301, Toronto, Ontario M5A 1J2. Contest begins September 1, 2007 and ends November 1, 2007. Entries must be received no later than November 10, 2007.



Two winners from each grade level — 5th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade — will be selected.

5th-8th Grade level:

GRAND PRIZE (1): Student: \$5,000 Cash Prize

- Department/Classroom of Teacher: \$1,000 Cash (Cdn) for use in the classroom.
- School: A&E Television Networks Video Library. (Includes 25" Colour TV, DVD Player, and 3 Classic DVD Box Sets - Est. Retail Value: \$800 Cdn)

FIRST PRIZE (1): Student: \$2,500 Cash Prize

- Department/Classroom of Teacher: \$1,000 Cash (Cdn) for use in the classroom.
- School: A&E Television Networks Video Library. (Includes 25" Colour TV, DVD Player, and 3 Classic DVD Box Sets - Est. Retail Value: \$800 Cdn)

9th-12th Grade level:

GRAND PRIZE (1): Student: \$5,000 Cash Prize

- Department/Classroom of Teacher: \$1,000 Cash (Cdn) for use in the classroom.
- School: A&E Television Networks Video Library. (Includes 25" Colour TV, DVD Player, and 3 Classic DVD Box Sets - Est. Retail Value: \$800 Cdn)

FIRST PRIZE (1): Student: \$2,500 Cash Prize

- Department/Classroom of Teacher: \$1000 Cash (Cdn) for use in the classroom.
- School: A&E Television Networks Video Library. (Includes 25" Colour TV, DVD Player, and 3 Classic DVD Box Sets - Est. Retail Value: \$800 Cdn)

For complete details and contest rules, go to www.aetv.com/classroom/canadianclass. [Note: Due to Provincial restrictions the contest is void in Quebec.]



2007 Stamp Collecting Month Pack — Order your **free** Educators' Kit today!



Canada Post invites educators across Canada to order a free printed copy of the 2007 Stamp Collecting Month Pack **before** the end of the school year. Stemming from feed-back received from teachers, changes have been made to the kit that that will make it easier for use in the classroom. The 2007 Pack contains ideas on using stamps as part of planned curriculum around a variety of educational themes — history, art, geography, language and the environment. Educators will receive a poster and information for the preparation of 4 different lesson plans related to stamp collecting. There will also be a link to downloadable activity sheets and reference material at www.postalplanet.ca.

 www.postalplanet.ca

If you would like to receive the revised Stamp Collecting Month Pack this year, please contact Elaine David at Elaine.david@canadapost.ca or call 613-734-7284 **before June 29, 2007**.

Quantities are limited, so please order promptly to avoid disappointment. The 2007 Packs will be sent out in September. If you know of other teachers who would be interested in this educational resource, please feel free to pass along this information.



REMINDER — **Big LIVE Events** will not be taking a summer break!

Don't miss the June 8 webcast of the **LIVE Launch of the STS-117 Shuttle to the International Space Station**, and, the June 25 **LIVE Implosion of the Lakeview Power Plant**. As well, look for other LIVE upcoming events this summer, including a Dinosaur Dig with renowned palaeontologist Philip Currie and a LIVE webcast with NASA researchers in the High Arctic, both scheduled for July. On August 12, tune in for the Perseid Meteor Shower LIVE webcast from a Meteor Crater.



Be a part of these fun, interactive and educational experiences produced by **DiscoveryChannel.ca**! To view the complete Big LIVE Events WEBCAST SCHEDULE, go to www.discoverychannel.ca/liveevents.



DIGITAL DIVERSITY COMPETITION

ELECTRONIC MEDIA CREATION COMPETITION ABOUT IMMIGRATION

Pre-register for Radio Canada International's Teen Web Competition!

At the end of September 2007, **RCI viva** will launch the second phase of Digital Diversity, a web-based competition of short films, podcasts (audio files) and photo stories for **all high school students in Canada**. The theme will be intercultural relations, the differences and similarities between young people from diverse communities.

Sign up today to receive contest details - 10 days before the official launch date! In addition, the first 200 pre-entries will be eligible to win 1 of 4 Nikon Coolpix L11 digital cameras.

Enter now and spread the word! Details at www.rcinet.ca/teen. For more information, call 514-597-4877 or contact digitaldiversity@rcinet.ca.



A BRIGHT IDEA — **GREENSTUDENTS.CA**

Sometimes doing a Little can make a Big Difference! Green Students.ca offers a fresh, environmentally-friendly fundraising idea that combines environmental education and responsibility with initiatives that promote energy efficient products. Students can have a real impact on changing consumers' attitudes and actions concerning energy conservation while helping their school raise funds.

The **concept** is simple: **Green Students** supplies students with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) which can be sold in their neighbourhoods at a comparable retail price while generating \$1 from each light bulb sold for their schools. CFLs are longer lasting and cooler burning than incandescent light bulbs, significantly reducing home energy costs and preventing harmful carbon dioxide from being released into

significantly reducing home energy costs and preventing harmful carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. As well, the reduction in energy consumption reduces the demand for energy production from non-renewable sources.

The elementary level program, **Carbon Busters**, provides lesson plans and suggested classroom activities which integrate the program into Science, Social Studies, and Geography.

For more information on how the Green Students program can benefit your school, go to greenstudents.ca.



In the News

[In a green age, a perplexing disconnect: There are plenty of jobs in forestry and agriculture. Where are the students?](#) – Leslie Scrivener, Staff Reporter, TheStar.com, May 20, 2007

“At a time when the colour of the decade is green and Canadians say concern about the environment is their top priority, universities that train the future stewards of the land and forests face a problem: steeply declining enrolments. Part of it is a perception problem, say the deans of Canada's agriculture colleges and faculties of forestry. Mention "agriculture," and many young people see a farmer in a field with a pitchfork. Say "forestry," and at best they envision a plaid-shirted Paul Bunyan type. At worst they conjure up a hillside, clear-cut by a logging company.”

[Sudoku helps hone logic Professors say Sudoku helps players hone logic skills – 'You could call it math by stealth'](#) -- Peter Calamai, Science writer, [TheStar.com](#), June 07, 2007

“Sudoku addicts can now scoff at sourpusses who complain they're wasting time on those often fiendish numbers puzzles. Two Queen's University professors say instead that tackling Sudoku is fostering better math skills among Canadians and providing new challenges for academics who specialize in pure mathematics.”

[Education key factor in choosing spouse: StatsCan](#) -- Shannon Proudfoot, CanWest News Service, [Edmonton Journal](#), May 18, 2007

“Increasing numbers of Canadians are marrying partners with the same level of education, a new Statistics Canada report shows. As of 2001, 54% of couples younger than 35 were married to people with the same education level as themselves, a 12% increase over 30 years earlier. In the United States, 55% of young couples had the same level of education in 2000, compared to 49% in 1970. The report speculates that a general rise in education among all people, but especially women, may have boosted the rates of "educational homogamy," or the tendency of like to marry like. StatsCan notes that in 2001, 24% of wives and 19% of husbands in Canada had completed university, compared to 4% and 10% in 1971. That means educated men may simply have more choice in potential partners who are also educated now.”

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