

# Learning Matters!!

## Your Special Interest Council and You!!

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The Primary Elementary Special Interest Council can serve a variety of functions for teachers, but the more obvious role is to support teacher learning. The responsibility for supporting the professional development of our members is shared by many or-

ganizations within education, and the NLTA, through the Primary Elementary Special Interest Council, forms an integral part of this team. We are your voice when organizations look for information on teacher needs, and we are a vehicle of support for

bringing learning opportunities to our membership. As primary and elementary school teachers we work in unique environments and thus have unique needs when it comes to professional development. Your SIC ensures your needs are met!!

## New Executive Elected

At a function held in St. John's last year a new executive was elected to lead our Special Interest Council. A slate of teachers from Matthew Elementary School in Bonavista was successful in its bid to ac-

cept the formal responsibility of leading our group. Daniel O'Brien was elected president, Leigh Ann Ryder was elected Vice President, Ms. Kelly Butler accepted the role of Secretary, and Ms. Shelley Dal-

ton is our new Communications Officer. All of these teachers can be contacted by email through the staff link on the Matthew Elementary web site—[www.matthewelementary.nl.ca](http://www.matthewelementary.nl.ca).

### Special points of interest:

- Mark your calendar for our upcoming PESIC Provincial Conference. April 28-29 at Terra Nova park Lodge.
- Watch for a PESIC sponsored Dinner Meeting coming to an area near you.

### Our Web Site is Under Construction

Thank you to the Webmaster @ Matthew Elementary for hosting our site information while ours is under construction.

# 1st Annual Primary Elementary SIC Provincial Conference

Our first conference will highlight the esteemed Dr. David Booth. Dr. Booth is Professor Emeritus, Scholar in Residence at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) At the University of Toronto; Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Department. His research and writing are now driven by the differences between what and how young people read outside school contrasted with what they read inside the classroom. How can we bridge the two (or more) literacy communities, and support readers who will have the strategies to make the most meaning possible from the different texts they will want to and will need to read? What resources (both

paper and technological) will help teachers deepen and expand student experiences with texts, and how will we recognize literacy progress and competency, while continuing to support and encourage meaningful and satisfying interaction with printed and visual texts? Our theme is Differentiating Literacy Instruction—

the right book, in the right hands, at the right time. You truly do not want to miss this session with Dr. Booth. You can get the registration form through the PESIC link off of our Matthew Elementary web site—  
[www.matthewelementary.nl.ca](http://www.matthewelementary.nl.ca)  
 .or by emailing [leighannryder@esdnl.ca](mailto:leighannryder@esdnl.ca). Go see your administrator now and request the support—this session will

change who you are as a teacher!!

**“Dr. David Booth will change who you are as a teacher.”**

## Strategies Make Cents.....

We know that some of the best learning that occurs in education is the learning that results when teachers share ideas and strategies with each other. Our challenge is finding a medium that we can use to share such strategies in an easy and consistent way.

To that end we offer the Strategies Make Cents portion of our newsletter. And as the heading suggests, we will pay you to share your strategy.

That's right!! If you have a strategy you would like to share with other teachers, please submit it for consideration. If it is published, we will pay you fifty dollars.

You need to type your strategy using Microsoft Word and it should be between 150 and 250 words in New Times Roman number 12 font.

Preference will be given to strategies that focus on Differentiated Instruction and that can be used across grade levels.

We appreciate that some of you are using strategies that you have learned or borrowed from somewhere else, the reality is we all are!!! Do not let the fact that the strategy was not your original idea stop you from submitting.

Submissions should be emailed to [danielobrien@esdnl.ca](mailto:danielobrien@esdnl.ca) with the subject line clearly indicating Strategies Make Cents.

We look forward to your responses—and to our learning!

### **A Good Read**

Check out “Letter’s to Sam”, by Daniel Gottlieb.  
 An inspirational story that challenges us to see the child first!!