



NWTU UNION NEWS

JUNE 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sarah Wethered

Traditionally in June, we take time to celebrate those students who are leaving our schools and those colleagues who are retiring. I was happy to hear that most schools found some way of recognizing their students who were graduating, and I was very proud that we were able to recognize our retirees through a virtual Spring Retirement Celebration. This event was well attended, and while it was just not the same as an in-person event (I demand to know why I didn't have any lemon squares or cream puffs next to me), I have received nothing but positive feedback from our current retirees and are returning ones. Thank you to our office staff, Meg Chabot, Sue Gough, Taryn Townsend, and Yvonne Pepper for making this year's event possible. I look forward to an in-person event next year.

As you read the last paragraph, you may have noticed the four names of our office staff. It has been an unusual year, in that Taryn was on maternity leave, and Meg and Sue job shared Taryn's leave. We welcomed Taryn back on June 7, and she was immediately thrown into helping with the retirement celebration and all the chaos this event caused in the office. I would like to thank our office staff for their hard work and dedication. They have truly been a wonderful support for me as president and I look forward to working with them in the upcoming school year.

Thank you must also go to our NWTU table officers and staff reps that form our executive committee who attend meetings and do the work of the union on your behalf. Special thanks to Kristie and D'Alice for their constant support this year, Eric Young and Glenn Bullard for providing trusted counsel, and Rome Lavrencic for providing exemplary leadership as we worked through our budget process. I would also like to thank those table officers who have stepped down – Mary-Jo Hunt, Darryl Nakashima, Dragana Sacco, and Carmen Woo. Thank you for your service to the members.

I wish all of you a safe and restful summer break. You deserve it.

~ Sarah

IMPORTANT DATES

June 29 - Last day of School for students

June 30 - Administration Day

Sept. 7 - First Day of School for 2021/2022

Sept. 14 - Executive Committee Meeting

Sept. 21 - Tentative - Elementary Collaboration Day (Half-Day)

Sept. 27 - Tentative - Non Instructional Day

TRAVELLING THE CPR

by Kristie Oxley

Kim Zimmerman's Grade 5 class at Lord Kelvin Elementary have been exploring the big idea, 'Natural resources continue to shape the economy and identity of different regions in Canada,' this year in Social Studies. As a final project, students worked in small groups to research a specific resource, including the geographic region in which the resource is found, its importance to the Canadian economy and the extent to which the use of this resource is sustainable. With the support of their teacher-librarian, Larissa Kaminsky, students then designed 3D images of the various resources they studied using the online design program, Tinkercad, and printed out copies of the resources. Ms. Zimmerman's husband, an engineer of the CPR, then designed and built a model of Canada, complete with a miniature Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), to display the resources and convey the importance of the CPR in connecting Canada's east and west coasts.



Here is what two students had to say of their project:

All photos provided by D'Alice Marsh.

"I think the train table is pretty cool because of all the details, such as the mountains and bridge. There's even a station where the train can stop and the land. The colours are cool with green, yellow, red and grey. I was excited to learn how to make models." - Francisco

"The train layout in our classroom is so cool and I really like that you can drive the train. I loved working on it in class". - Vienna

FRIDAY WAS SCIENCE DAY AT QMS!

by Kristie Oxley

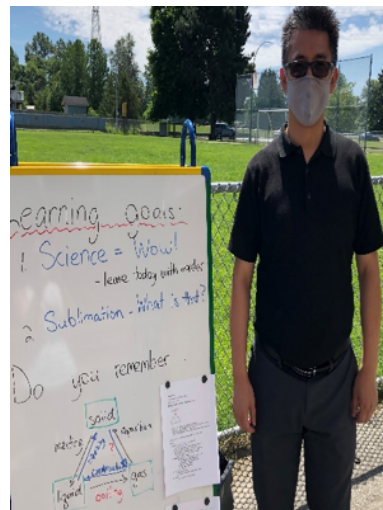
Inspired by mentor and Science enthusiast, Darren Ng, early career teachers Samantha Dowdell, Astrid Hin Wong and Raymond Jang created an afternoon of experiments for their students.



Samantha Dowdell



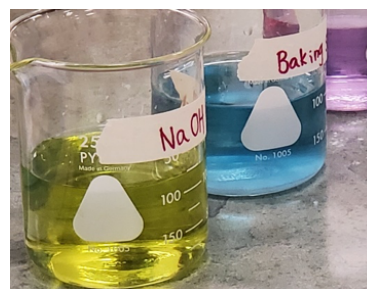
Astrid Hin Wong



Raymond Jang

Classes rotated through three experiments tied to science concepts explored this term.

In 'Ocean Potion,' Astrid and the students used cabbage juice as a universal indicator that allowed them to determine if items were acids or bases. They applied this understanding to the phenomenon of coral reef bleaching, as a result of climate change.



In 'Sublimation Station,' Raymond and the students used dry ice and dish soap to create bubbles. In this experiment, sublimation, the act of a substance changing quickly from a solid to gaseous state without first becoming liquid, is illustrated as the gas fills the soap bubbles.



Finally, in 'Electric Playdough,' Samantha and the students learned how to create circuits using batteries, wires and homemade playdough. The students explored the conductivity of organic substances.



Students were undeniably excited and engaged throughout the three stations. Such a great way to spend a sunny Friday!

Photos provided by Kristie Oxley and Patricia Pain.

WE HAVE A WINNER!

by Patricia Pain

New Westminster School District's, Darren Ng, is the recipient of the 2021 Gordon Gore Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching! This prize was awarded by the British Columbia Association of Physics Teachers to educators who:

- Incorporate hands-on Science activities and demonstrations
- Inspires students in Science
- Brings Humour and creativity to Science teaching
- Shares their love of Science with students
- Is involved in Science outreach
- Shares resources with their colleagues

The letters in support of Darren's nomination consistently mentioned Darren's love of science, sense of humour, energy he brings to teaching, and his generosity to and support of students, colleagues and community.

Anyone that has worked with Darren, would recognize each criterion that Darren possesses as a recipient of this award. Darren's passion extends to his students, his colleagues, and to his community.

Darren's most recent impact was his work as a Mentor for New Westminster. What began with an after school session speaking to 'keeping the wonder alive', grew into bi-weekly mentoring sessions on his own time after school, which then led to inspiring a group of mentees, which then led to a group of mentees replicating their learning and replaying Darren's words of wisdom, which then led to students feeling the wonder with which Darren inspired his colleagues at that first session, months prior. All of this, off the side of Darren's desk.



Photo provided by Brent Foster.

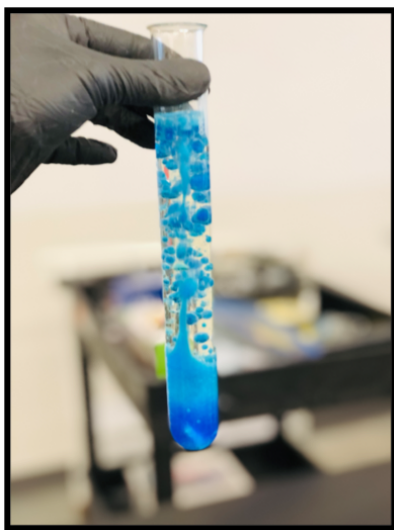


Photo provided by Patricia Pain.



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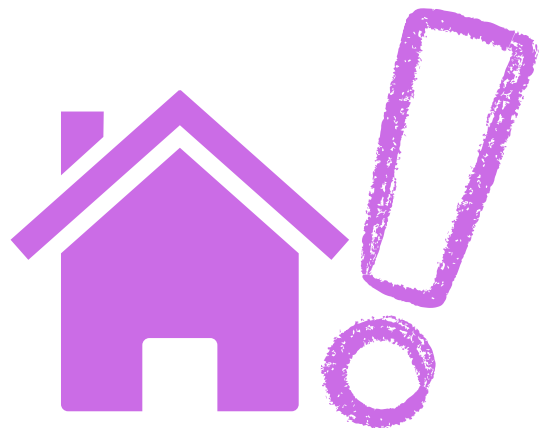
Everybody needs to be taught and inspired by a Mr. Ng! His passion for Science awakens your inner child and leaves you asking for more.

Congratulations Darren Ng!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you find yourself living at a new address, please take the time to update the following:

- **BCTF:** Update through [MyBCTF: Member Portal](http://bit.ly/MyBCTFMemberPortal) <http://bit.ly/MyBCTFMemberPortal>
- **New West School District:** Update through Gordana Ballarin (Manager of HR, Teacher/Admin), gballarin@sd40.bc.ca.
- **NWTU:** Update through Office Manager, Yvonne, nwtuadmin@telus.net.



REMINDER

REMEDY FUNDS

A decision was made by the Executive Committee, during the EC Meeting held on June 18, 2020. The motions state:

- **2018/2019 Remedy Funds:**
 - "That 2018/19 unused remedy funds transferred to the NWTU by School District 40 shall be held in trust by the NWTU to be spent in a way to be decided in the future by the executive committee."
- **2019/2020 Remedy Funds:**
 - That 2019/20 unused remedy funds transferred to the NWTU by School District 40 shall be held in trust for **individuals affected members to be used by December 17, 2021** at which time they will be transferred to the NWTU to be spent in a way to be decided in proportional representative ad hoc committee and they will report to the executive committee with their suggestions.
- **2020/2021 Remedy Funds:**
 - That 2020/21 unused remedy funds transferred to the NWTU by School District 40, as per the Local Letter of Understanding – Remedy 2020/2021, shall be held in trust for **individual affected members to use for professional development, until June 30, 2022.**

An update of of funds will be provided to individual affected members in the Fall, after the District has transferred the 2020/2021 remedy funds to the NWTU's trust.

Reimbursement Claim Form for Unused Remedy Funds

Should be sent to the NWTU Office for approval to receive a timely reimbursement.. If you have any questions regarding remedy funds from the above years, please contact Yvonne, at nwtuadmin@telus.net.

SITE STAFF REP ELECTIONS

According to the [Constitutions and By-Laws of the NWTU](#) elections of staff representatives should occur in May or June (or early in the new school year).

3.E. Staff representatives shall be elected in school-based elections by active members at the school in May or June (or early in the new school year) for a one-year term from July 1 until June 30.

STAY UP TO DATE

NWTU Email List

http://bit.ly/NWTU_email_list



NWTU Facebook Page

http://bit.ly/NWTU_Facebook



New Teacher & TTOC Email List

http://bit.ly/NWTU_NT-TTOC_Email

