



RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY, & ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES

2011-2012

Northern Canadian Centre for Research in Education
& the Arts (NORCCREA) at Nipissing University

TITLE: 2011/12 Season of Near North Voices -- Nipissing University's Community Choir

ARTIST-RESEARCHER: Adam Adler, Ph.D.

SUMMARY: To celebrate Near North Voices' 5th year as a choral organization, we will be undertaking a season of choral collaboration, service and hosting of fellow choirs from across Canada and the USA, in partnership with Nipissing University, St. Andrew's United Church, and St. John's Anglican Church. Performances will include:

The Elmer Iseler Singers -- Canada's Premiere Professional Choir,
Lydia Adams, Conductor
with Near North Voices
Sunday, October 30, 2011. 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrew's United Church, North Bay

The Elmer Iseler Singers -- Schools Concert
Monday, October 31, 2011. Time TBA.
Nipissing University Theatre, North Bay

Near North Voices Chamber Choir
Choral Evensong at St. John's Anglican
Church, North Bay
Sunday, November 6, 2011. Time TBA.
Thursday, February 2, 2012. Time TBA.

Boni Pueri -- The Czech Boys' Choir
Jakub Martinec, Conductor
Saturday, November 19, 2011, 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrew's United Church, North Bay

Cor Ceiltach Ottawa (The Ottawa Celtic Choir)
Dr. Ellen MacIsaac, Conductor
with Near North Voices Chamber Choir
Date TBA. (Late January, 2012) St. John's Anglican Church, North Bay

Chamber Choir of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota,
Dr. Patrick O'Shea, Conductor
with Near North Voices
Date TBA (Late March, 2012). St. Andrew's United Church, North Bay



TITLE: Kenyan International Teaching Practicum: Wait Until You See Their Smiles

RESEARCHERS: Glenda Black, Ed.D. and Roger Bernardes, Ph.D. (cand.)

SUMMARY: International teaching placements are expensive. The assumption is that the cost of the international placement is offset by the opportunity for transformative learning experiences compared to a local classroom practicum experience. Another assumption is that an international practicum is a catalyst for participants in their understanding of the world in a more global and cross-cultural context. The purpose of this mixed methods study was to explore and identify the transformative experiences, personal and professional, of 22 Canadian pre-service teachers who participated in a three week practicum in Kenya, Africa. The pre-service teachers participated in semi-structured individual pre and post practicum interviews. The same group was invited to complete a pre and post practicum web based Global Mindedness.



TITLE: School Administrator as Pedagogical and Servant Leader

RESEARCHER: Glenda Black, Ed.D.

SUMMARY: The school administrators in this study are clearly agents of change in challenging circumstances. Although the students in their school communities face economic, social, and emotional challenges their academic achievement continues to improve. As instructional leader, the principal is to create an authentic learning environment and to encourage the development of teachers and others in the school community as leaders (Beattie, 2002). Although instructional leadership is an effective model to meet the Ministry’s goals for achieving specific standards it “stifles teachers’ creativity and constrains innovation” (Web, 2005). The purpose of this mixed methods study was to explore and identify the salient issues or factors that were instrumental to the ongoing success in improving student outcomes of schools despite facing demographic challenges. Data was collected from four schools from four different school boards in Northern Ontario. The principals, vice principals, teachers, and members of the School Advisory Councils participated in interviews and focus groups to gain an in-depth understanding of the school improvement practices from multiple perspectives. All teachers and administrators from the four schools were invited to complete the school characteristics online survey.



TITLE: Best Literacy Practices for the Teaching & Learning of Boys and Girls in Single-Sex Settings

ARTIST-RESEARCHER: Douglas Gosse, Ph.D.

SUMMARY: Boys consistently score less well than girls on many areas of standardized testing, have greater literacy problems, voice disenfranchisement with school, drop out of school in greater numbers, account for most suspensions, are more often victims of assault, and commit suicide in far greater numbers than girls. Furthermore, young men’s enrolment in university, and graduation from university is steadily declining. I will contact teachers in the TDSB, who are currently teaching in single gender classrooms. With graduate research assistants, I intend to interview, and observe these teachers to ascertain their perspectives on best teaching practices in single gender settings. The TDSB has a Steering Committee on Boys’ Education, and this is also a part of Director Christopher Spence’s “Vision of Hope.” Therefore, the resulting research will be of use for many educators, administrators, parents-guardians, and students, who are exploring single-sex options in the TDSB. This research supported by Schulich Family Literacies and the Toronto District School Board.



TITLE: Teaching and learning through heART: Exploring elementary pre-service teachers’ prior and emerging experiences of art, art education, (their) creativity and creative processes through art

ARTIST-RESEARCHER: Kathy Mantas, Ph.D.

SUMMARY: Pre-service teachers’ prior and emerging experiences of art and creativity play an important role in helping to shape their beliefs and attitudes towards art, art education, (their) creativity and creative processes as well as inform their approach to students, curriculum and instruction; therefore, they are worthy of further exploration. By exploring elementary pre-service teachers’ prior and emerging experiences of art, art education, (their) creativity and creative processes through art, I hope to gain a better understanding, encourage best practices, and contribute to ongoing discussions of teacher education in an effort to enhance the learning of elementary pre-service teachers in art education.

