



Chalk Talk

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PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers,

In their book, "Our Ecological Footprint, Reducing Human Impact on the Earth", Mathis Wackernagel and William Rees from the University of British Columbia have defined this footprint as a measure of the productive land and water "that would be required to support a person's current lifestyle forever." All that we consume and use, and all the waste resulting from our consumption, is supplied by, and absorbed by nature. Simply stated, the Ecological Footprint is a measure of how much "nature" we need to support ourselves.

It is sobering to think that while, according to environmentalists, the average Canadian lifestyle needs almost 8 hectares of land to support it, studies have shown that there are fewer than 2 hectares of productive land and sea space for each person on the earth. If everyone on earth lived like a Canadian, it would take 4 planets to support us all. To live within the earth's limits, it is crucial that we learn to balance how much we have with how much we need.

In his [Nature Challenge](#), Canada's own Dr. David Suzuki has devised 10 simple ways everyone can make a real difference and reduce our impact on the environment:

- Reduce home energy use by 10%
- Choose an energy-efficient home & appliances
- Don't use pesticides
- Eat meat-free meals one day a week
- Buy locally grown and produced food
- Choose a fuel-efficient vehicle
- Walk, bike, carpool or take transit
- Choose a home close to work or school
- Support alternative transportation
- Learn more and share with others.

In this issue of Chalk Talk, we recognize the important role played by educators in the classroom to raise environmental awareness and to nurture a greater sense of responsibility for our planet. This month's feature looks at some of the free educational resources and

EcoVoyage — Journey to Reducing our Ecological Footprint

**ECOVOYAGEURS**

EcoVoyageurs is an educational resource, designed for intermediate grades, to help students learn how to measure their Ecological Footprint and about ways they can live within the earth's limits.

The teaching materials include a four panel giant poster — 6' by 4' total size — and a 32-page booklet with geography and environmental studies curriculum-based lesson plans and student worksheets that can be photocopied.

The free kit can be ordered online at www.4edu.ca.



More useful information on climate change for teachers and students is available online on the [Government of Canada's Climate Change](#) website.

We also encourage you to check out the [David Suzuki Foundation](#) site which features a variety of excellent educational materials about sustainability, climate change, extreme weather and the impact of extreme events.



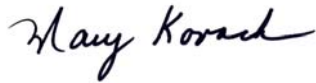
QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Nature is our home. And just as we take care of our house, we also must take care of nature. But nature takes care of us too. Nature cleans our air and water, makes the soil that grows our food and provides the resources to make all our material goods. Unfortunately, with six billion of us now living under one roof, we are gradually eroding

For our planet. This month's feature looks at some of the free educational resources and background that may be of use to you as we lead up to Earth Day.

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.

Your views are important to us. Let us know your thoughts.



Mary Kovack

make all our material goods. Unfortunately, with six billion of us now living under one roof, we are gradually eroding the services nature provides – even though we depend on them for our quality of life and our future."

— Dr. David Suzuki, Canadian Scientist,
Environmentalist and Broadcaster



Have your students commented on the “weird weather”? Tell us about discussions you may have had in your classrooms and you may be featured in an upcoming issue of Chalk Talk! Just email us a description of about 150 words — include a photo if you have one — to maryk@coedcomm.com.

Education News

[Canada a world leader in skills shortfall](#) — Eric Beauschene, Edmonton Journal, February 21, 2006

“Canada has one of the most serious shortages of skilled labour in the industrial world, international survey results released Monday suggest. Two-thirds -- 66 per cent -- of employers in Canada report having difficulty filling positions due to a lack of suitable talent.”

[Canada must demand Olympic performance in education, say premiers](#) — Canadian Press, February 24, 2006

“Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty said it doesn't make sense to demand Canada's hockey players compete against the world's best and not demand the same from universities. He said Canada needs to enhance its productivity by committing to educational funding and the development of a better-skilled workforce.”

[National dialogue to support students at risk being held in Vancouver](#) — The Learning Partnership, News Release, February 27, 2006

“The Dialogue follows from the review of research on students at risk conducted by Ontario Deputy Minister of Education and Dialogue Presenter Dr. Ben Levin, which identifies poverty, lower levels of educational attainment among parents, the lack of community supports, and a child's natural development as key contributors to placing students at risk of not completing high school.”

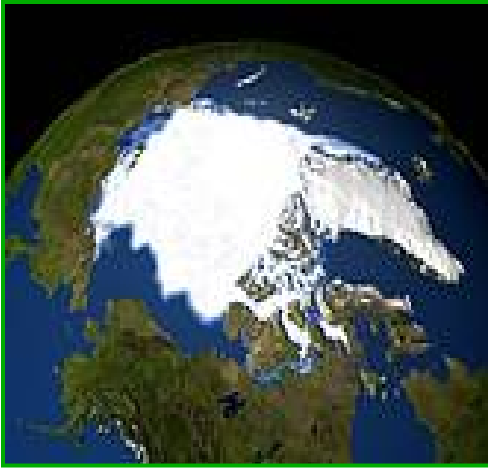
[Premiers get dinner but no dollars from PM](#) — Toronto Star, February 24, 2006

“Premiers used their first formal dinner with Canada's new prime minister to lay out a full menu of their concerns — topped by the need for more education funding — before Stephen Harper.”

Facts & Figures



NASA Watches Arctic Ice



- Ongoing satellite monitoring of the polar ice cap by NASA since 1978 has observed that the Arctic Sea ice continues to decline while Arctic temperatures continue to rise.
- Satellites have made continual observations of Arctic sea ice extent since 1978, recording a general decline throughout that period. Since 2002, satellite records have revealed unusually early onsets of springtime melting in the areas north of Alaska and Siberia. In addition, the 2004-2005 winter season showed a smaller recovery of sea ice extent than any previous winter in the satellite record, and the earliest onset of melt throughout the Arctic.
- On Sept. 21, 2005, sea ice extent dropped to 2.05 million sq. miles, the lowest extent yet recorded in the satellite record. Incorporating the 2005 minimum, with a projection for ice growth in the last few days of this September, brings the estimated decline in Arctic sea ice to 8.5 percent per decade.

[Source: [NASA online](#)]

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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.

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