



Chalk Talk

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PLEASE SHARE *CHALK TALK* WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers,

Why is it that the same children that you have to remind everyday to brush their teeth, make their beds, and do their homework, will enthusiastically spend hours pursuing their interests, meticulously building a model, playing a musical instrument, or organizing their baseball and *Yu-Gi-Oh* cards? Hobbies begun as a child often stay with you for a lifetime and provide a greater understanding of who you are and what you are passionate about.

Whether it is baseball cards, coins, stamps, books, posters, or music; collecting items that are related to your hobbies can provide a tangible record of the years you've dedicated to an activity. As a kid, my older brother loved reading comic books and by the time he was 15 had collected all the *DC* and *Marvel Comics* of the 50's and 60's. Recently a collection of comic books from the "Golden Age", the 1930's and 40's, was auctioned for over two million dollars. I haven't had the heart to tell my brother about this because his own collection was "accidentally" thrown out by our mother while re-decorating his room.

People collect for fun, to own a piece of history and to learn about the world. For me it has often been a mixture of history and sentimentality. The year my son was born, I bought a set of stamps celebrating *Winnie-the-Pooh*, created by Canadian writer, A.A. Milne.



It is easy to understand how stamp collecting has evolved from the world's oldest to its most popular hobby. Stamps are not only valuable, but they are beautiful works of art, commemorating significant people, places and events. This week's *Chalk Talk* provides information and useful links on the educational aspects of stamps and stamp collecting.

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.

As always, your feedback is important to us.

October is Stamp Month



October is Stamp Month, and there is no better time to show your students how stamps can teach us about the world around us. To mark Stamp Month 2006, Canada Post is issuing the first in a series of three sets of domestic stamps depicting endangered species native to Canada featuring images of land creatures — the Newfoundland Marten, the Swift Fox, the blotched Tiger Salamander, and the Blue Racer snake.



The Newfoundland Marten

[Stamp Month](#) is an important part of Canada Post's commitment to promote reading and letter-writing skills, as well as an understanding of the workings of the postal system among children and teens. Canada Post has developed an array of fascinating [lesson guides and fun activities](#) suitable for classroom use. During the school year, several new lesson guides or copier-ready student activity sheets are posted each month and can be downloaded, copied, and shared.



Stamp Clubs are a popular extra-curricular activity in Canadian Schools and provide an entertaining way to learn and teach almost any subject. For information on how to start a stamp club at school, check out [Postal Planet](#). For teenaged students interested in learning more about stamps and stamp collecting, Canada Post offers a "[Step by Step Collecting Guide](#)". Junior grade students will enjoy the activities and games available through [Stamp Quest](#).

[Source: Canada Post]



to Kindergarten" program. The program features, among other things, a "welcome bag" stocked with early learning resources for kids and practical guidance for parents on how to use them."

[Let's get serious about making education work](#) -- Martin Long, *The Toronto Star*, September 5, 2006

"As children, parents, teachers, support staff and all the other members of the school community gear up for another school year there's good news and bad news. The good news is that, as in years past, amazing things will once again happen in the classroom. Children will discover the power and beauty of language and science. Teachers will seize literally millions of teachable moments to guide their students through personal experiences of discovery and awareness. The truly sublime elements of teaching and learning — human culture at its best — will be everyday, routine events in classrooms across the city. The bad news is that the public education system supporting all of this remains severely under-funded, a fact which is evident in the continued deterioration of facilities, shortages of resources and inadequate programming in everything from English as a Second Language (ESL), to teacher librarians and recreational facilities. As you read this, the Toronto District School Board is facing a budget shortfall of \$84.5 million, which translates into a series of intolerable decisions about which educational services and staff are less essential than others are."

[Education failing most boys](#) -- Randy Burton, *The StarPhoenix*, July 11, 2006

"Kirk Kelln had no idea that boys are having such trouble in school. After struggling all year with his son Noah's disruptive behaviour in Grade 2, he thought the boy was a troublemaker. Then a teacher he knows told him it's not uncommon, and that the structure of contemporary education actually makes it more conducive for girls to learn than boys. Kelln found this rather shocking, so he checked out the statistics. The numbers collected by the provincial Department of Learning clearly show girls are outperforming boys in school by a significant margin."

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