



# Chalk Talk

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

### Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers,

*"Film is one of the three universal languages, the other two: mathematics and music."*

— Frank Capra, American Director

In the Oscar winning film, **Cinema Paradiso**, director Giuseppe Tornatore takes a nostalgic look at the influences that inspire a poor boy from a remote Sicilian village to dream of growing up to be a film-maker. Young 'Toto' takes refuge in the local movie theatre to escape the reality of war, poverty and the loss of a father. It is there, amid the flickering images projected in a darkened room, that he learns about the power of film to create virtual worlds that can illuminate and define our own. Toto comes to understand love, discovers his vocation and ultimately, finds himself.



This week's **Chalk Talk** features information on the new educational resources and remarkable film catalogue of Canada's celebrated National Film Board. In addition to classroom resources, we've included information on two exciting contests sponsored by the NFB that are open to amateur filmmakers and animators.



CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers

by providing classroom resources on a range of topics. We invite you to visit our website at [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca) to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

As always, your feedback is important to us.

[Let us know your thoughts.](#)

Mary Kovack

### NFB—Connecting Film to Curriculum



Since 1939, the [National Film Board of Canada \(NFB\)](#) has been a federal cultural agency within the portfolio of the Canadian Heritage Department, whose mandate it is "to produce and distribute and to promote the production and distribution of films designed to interpret Canada to Canadians and to other nations."

Defining our nation and telling our stories is what the NFB does best. Always innovative, creative and socially relevant, the NFB has become one of the most respected and award-winning public producers of many of the world's best documentaries, animated features and short films.



For decades the NFB has offered wonderful classroom resources for students of all ages. For ages, 3 to 12, [NFBKids.ca](#) is the portal for fun, safe entertainment and educational activities including online animation lessons.

Since the first team of animators were brought together in 1942, the NFB has a tradition of inventing



iconic Canadian animation techniques that have won awards around

the world. NFB's [Focus on Animation](#) offers teachers access to a variety of Canadian animated classics that will stimulate their students' imaginations.



Educators interested in incorporating important Aboriginal heritage and

culture into their classrooms will want to check out the lesson plans written by experienced Aboriginal teachers offered in NFB's [Aboriginal Perspectives](#).

To order your free 2006-2007 NFB Learning Resources catalogue, go to [www.nfb.ca/store](http://www.nfb.ca/store).

[\[Source: National Film Board of Canada online\]](#)

**THE JOY OF TECHNOLOGY :(**

**Quote of the Week**

## THE JOY OF TECHNOLOGY :(

*We regret that last week's issue of Chalk Talk was delayed due to unavoidable technical difficulties caused by construction work that affected our internet provider. We appreciate your patience and hope that this issue reaches you without incident. — M. Kovack*

## Quote of the Week

*"No form of art goes beyond ordinary consciousness as film does, straight to our emotions, deep into the twilight of the soul."*

— Ingrid Bergman, actress

# Calling young aspiring filmmakers and animators — NFB offers 2 new contests!



## MAKE THE PIXELS DANCE! CONTEST

If you are between the ages of 9 and 20, the NFB invites you to grab a camera or a cell phone and demonstrate your talent as a budding filmmaker. Create a film of 3 minutes or less in the style and to the music of legendary master animator [Norman McLaren](#).

Prizes include Sony Handycams and digital cameras. You could win a prize just for registering before November 30, 2006!

If you don't know how to get started, go to the contest page where you will find instructions and illustrative examples. Need inspiration? Check out [Focus on Animation](#) to discover a world of award-winning animators, techniques and films.

The deadline for submitting your film is January 15, 2007. For full contest details, go to [Make the Pixels Dance!](#) You could become Canada's next ground-breaking animator!

[Source: NFB online — [Make the Pixels Dance Contest](#)]



If you haven't had a chance to visit the fascinating world of [Aboriginal Perspectives](#), now's a great time. Until January 31st, Canadian High School Students are invited to enter the **One Drum, Many Hearts** contest.

All you need to do is answer four simple questions, one mini-essay on what's special about your community. [NOTE: For complete contest details, check out the contest page to be launched November 21, 2007.]

Students can win a new computer, iPod, or trip to Edmonton for the Aboriginal Achievement Awards and Gala Presentation, March 16, 2007.

Contest deadline is January 31, 2007. Prizes will be awarded to the 10 best works in two age categories — 15 and under and 16 and over.

[Source: NFB online — [One Drum, Many Hearts Contest](#)]

## Facts & Figures — The NFB — An Animated History



- 2006 marks 65 years of Animation at the NFB.
- Led by animation pioneer, Norman McLaren, the NFB put together a team of young animators who could craft films using conventional methods.
- McLaren's personality and philosophy are inseparable from the direction animation took at the NFB. A tireless innovator, he perceived animation filmmakers as artisans who, much like artists in their studios, control every step of the production of their films.
- Gradually, a uniquely Canadian animation style developed that has been characterized as playful, humorous, and quirky.
- Canadian animation has taken often hilarious looks at everyday situations as well as tackled sometimes controversial social issues.
- A variety of animation techniques have been honed by Canadian animators including the *Animation stand*, *Animated drawings*, *Paper cut-outs*, *Rotoscope*, *Drawing and etching on film*, *Object animation*, *Pixillation*, *Pinscreen*, and *Computer*.

[Source: [National Film Board online](#)]

## Education News

[School uses native culture to keep kids in class](#) — Michelle MacAfee (CP), *The Vancouver Sun*, August 27,

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“High school principal Don Revel is busy these days gearing up for the start of another academic year, and for the roller-coaster of challenges, struggles and excitement his students will ride in the first few weeks. All of the 170 students who will attend Southeast Collegiate next month are preparing to leave their First Nations reserves across Manitoba for the boarding school and a chance at a high school education most can't get at home because there are no schools near their reserves. While aboriginal students from across Canada often must travel to go to an off-reserve public school that offers classes beyond Grade 8 or 9, Southeast Collegiate offers a uniquely aboriginal experience because it is owned and operated by the Southeast Tribal Council. Revel says the school's attention to native culture, history, language, and counselling - as well as academics - is keeping students from dropping out while preparing many for college or university.”

[Help get a handle on homework; Volunteer tutors take stress out of learning](#) – Cindy Stephen, ‘For Neighbours’, *Calgary Herald*, August 25, 2006

“It's difficult to help your children with their homework when you don't understand the assignment yourself, and it's twice as hard to help when they won't even listen to you. That's what Sandy Davison discovered when her daughters, now entering Grade 5 and Grade 6 at Nellie McClung Elementary, brought home difficult homework.”

[Funny stories, universal truths: Evening celebrates an Afghan folk hero; Money raised will buy books for kids](#) – Nicholas Keung, Immigration/Diversity Reporter, *The Toronto Star*, Nov. 17, 2006

“Co-founder Aubrey Davis, a children's author, is fascinated by the richness of storytelling in multicultural Toronto, but also dumbfounded by how few of those tales are found in schools and bookstores. He and other storytellers figured they could help foster understanding between cultures by sharing each other's stories — and at the same time boost literacy among children living in poverty who have limited access to high-quality books.”

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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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