

ARTS



Alex Motiki, the energetic new anchor for Reach for the Top, offers the program a helpful link to a larger youth audience.

Reach for the Top is a Canadian classic. A new version, to air this fall, revives those smarty-pants high school kids we love to watch

Quiz show retro

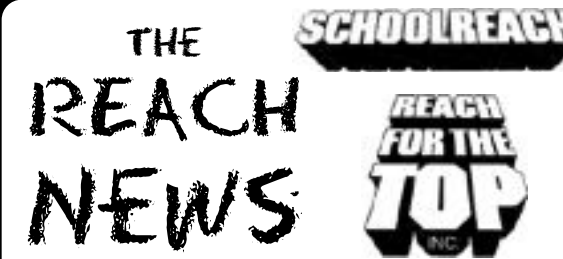
By Grace Chen

Reach quickly for the top, or rather for the buzzer. At a taping of the resurgent high-school quiz show, Reach for the Top, in Scarborough this week, eager Ontarian youths often answered questions before they'd been fully asked. Scarcely had the words "bay" and "island" been uttered than a young man correctly answered, "San Francisco." And this: "In 800, what Frankish king ..." -- "Charlemagne," a contestant responded -- "...was crowned Holy Roman Emperor," quizmaster Joe Motiki finished gamely. The same contestant also scored on a follow-up question that required him to name Charlemagne's nephew who was killed at the Battle of Roncevalles (Roland) but failed to answer a much harder request to name Charlemagne's heir, Louis the Pious -

- aka the Debonair, though Motiki tamely called him just Louis I. Speed didn't always work. "Athena is like another ..." -- buzz! "Minerva!" a response that would have been correct for the name of Athena's Roman equivalent but wrong for the one asked, about what Athena had in common with Ares, for which the answer was that they were both war gods. None of the eight students could answer that one. But when the same goddess (was this Athenian bias?) came up in another question concerning what won Athena the prize for the most useful invention, the correct response -- olive tree -- was swiftly given. In his Essays (1625), Francis Bacon complains, "What is truth asked jesting Pilate, and would not stay for an answer." These boys on the new Reach for the Top have outdone the

former Roman governor of Judaea, not even staying for a complete question. And boys they all were, at least for the hours the National Post was present. In the curious sport that is Reach for the Top, the vast majority of coaches are women teachers, and the vast majority of players are young and male. This has been true since the show began in 1961 until the CBC dropped it in 1984, and through its Dark Ages as it persisted in Canadian high schools, picked up here and there by various educational broadcasters. TVO and Reach for the Top are now engaged in an ambitious re-launch, hoping to overcome the conundrum that caused CBC to drop the program in spite of its famous brand name across the country. The conundrum is that quiz-show watchers are typically over 18 while Reach for the Top's contestants are from 14 to 18 years old. Thus, as a spectator sport, it has never found favour with the very age group it is intended to serve. A man of providence has been sought, and perhaps found, in Reach for the Top's wildly mobile new host, Motiki, formerly of TVO Kids. It could turn out to be a sound career move for him, considering that Alex Trebek, long-time quizmaster of Jeopardy, once presided over Reach for the Top. Motiki is a high-energy person, both on and off screen, he says. Did I accuse him of tameness a few paragraphs ago? A calumny! He offers the program a hopeful link to the larger youth culture, leaping around like an unusually short basketball player, talking with rap-style excitement, delighting the players by addressing them as "brother" and "bro," praising them with "You're the man!" or "You're on the board!" The teenagers were unmistakably charmed. The show's re-branding may work. (The questions and answers revealed far less pop culture than a recent charitable quiz

show designed for Bay Street types, the Battle of the Brains, reported on in these pages by Sharon Dunn and hosted by Trebek.) The Reach for the Top players were consistently good at math, quick with powers of 10 and all that. Surprisingly, they seemed better at old humanistic studies (history, mythology, literature) than at physics and chemistry. Yet there were surprising blind spots. Asked to name the participle in a sentence, they could not. A pair of competing teams drew a blank on Bill Graham, the Foreign Affairs Minister -- though Thérèse Casgrain, a deceased feminist, was immediately recognized. None of these youths could identify Mordecai Richler's first novel, The Acrobats (for which Richler would probably have been glad) -- yet Lord Byron they knew. The contestants' pursuits were not all predictable. Stephen Holt, a freshly bearded student from North Dundas C.I. in Chesterville, Ont., favours cow-tipping; best done when the cow is sleeping, he says. Another had been impeached from the student council (he explained he'd deliberately run afoul of the rules because he'd never wanted to be on it). The other Ontario schools taking part this week in the quarter finals were University of Toronto Schools (UTS) and Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), Fellowes High School, of Pembroke and Kitchener C.I. Motiki pronounced that two of the rounds to be classics.



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DIRECTORS' SUMMARY

The big "Reach" news of 2001-2002 was the addition of televised Ontario Provincial Finals (TVO) and British Columbia Provincial Finals (Knowledge Network) to the expanding television presence of our national game of competing intellects. The Provincial Finals in Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Albert and Ontario are now taped for broadcast. Most will be aired starting in September, culminating with the National Finals which, for the third season, were taped by Canadian Learning Television, in Edmonton.

At the national level, new questions formats were introduced: the Relay and the Shoot-Out. They were welcomed by players from across the country, so look for them this September in your in-school game packs.

Check our website during the coming year for updates from the provincial co-ordinators on the play schedules in each province.

Our thanks to the teacher-coaches in every province who field teams, arrange play dates, ask questions, judge answers and generally make the Schoolreach tournament system work across our vast country.

Thanks also to the provincial co-ordinators who organized and ran the provincial finals and produced uniformly strong teams to represent each province at the Nationals.

Congratulations to everyone involved in "Reach" for a year of successful games and best wishes for a relaxing summer.

Paul Russell *Robert Jeffrey*
Paul Russell and Robert Jeffrey
Directors, Reach For The Top Inc

2001-2002 TRANS-CANADA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to the 2001-2002 Champions

University of Toronto Schools

Team members: Luke Stark, Marc Lizoain, John Mackay, Bronwen Masemann, Rose Mary Masemann, Jean Wan, Julian Tam, Evan Roberts, Jacob Baskin and (Coach) Larry Rice.

NATIONAL FINALS REPORT CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

The continuing support of our sponsors, at the National level, is greatly appreciated. Our Cross-Canada "Reach" thanks to:



NOVA SCOTIA REPORT

By Hans Budgey,
Nova Scotia Provincial Co-ordinator

A successful 2001-2002 season of Reach For The Top – Schoolreach in Nova Scotia culminated in the two-day Provincial Finals, held this year in Truro, at Cobequid Educational Centre and the Eastlink Studio, in Sackville. On Saturday, April 20th, the non-televised round-robin tournament ended with Cobequid Educational Centre in first place overall. The round-robin standings were as follows...

Rank	Team	W	L	PF	PA	Diff.
1	Cobequid Educational Centre	7	0	3050	1760	+1290
2	Prince Andrew High School	5	2	2670	1940	+730
3	Horton High School	4	3	2530	2440	+90
4	Halifax West High School	3	4	2370	2270	+100
5	Sydney Academy	3	4	2210	2360	-150
6	Three Oaks Senior High School	3	4	2210	2500	-290
7	Dartmouth High School	2	5	1710	2720	-1010
8	Parkview Education Centre	1	6	1930	2790	-860

On Sunday, April 21st, the television finals were taped by Eastlink Television, now in their 7th season of Reach For The Top. Using seeding results from Day 1 of the competition, the following playoffs took place:

Quarter Finals

1 Cobequid Ed. Centre	340
8 Parkview Education	260
4 Halifax West H.S.	430
5 Sydney Academy	360
2 Prince Andrew High	430
7 Dartmouth High	110
3 Horton High School	290
6 Three Oaks High	240

Semifinals

Cobequid Ed. Centre	430
Halifax West H.S.	290
Prince Andrew High	340
Horton High School	310

Finals

Cobequid Ed. Centre	450
Prince Andrew High	300

Congratulations to **Cobequid Educational Centre: Tony Alexander, Matthieu Comeau, Ian Mallov, Stephen Tynes, Kelsi Parker** and Coaches **Dianne Powell** and **Marion Retson**.

Thanks to all the co-ordinators, coaches, volunteers and sponsors who made this year of Reach a great success in Nova Scotia.

Please note the address and phone for all Schoolreach- Reach For The Top business:

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BRITISH COLUMBIA REPORT

By Eric Stewart,
British Columbia Provincial Co-ordinator

This school year saw new schools in Burnaby and Vancouver Island join Schoolreach but the ongoing labour dispute took many schools out of competition during the last half of the year. The Intermediate Tournament took place in March and the winners were, St. George's (1st), York House (2nd) and newcomer Burnaby North (3rd).

This year saw Knowledge Network tape the Senior Championships, resulting in a very successful tournament in April. St. George's placed 1st, followed by Maple Ridge and McRoberts.

The broadcast dates will be announced by the end of June and it is expected that this publicity will result in more schools getting involved in September. Many thanks to all of the coaches who gave of their time this year and to Telus rep Jeff Yee for providing buzzer systems to many schools.

Congratulations to **St. George's School** team members: **Alnawaz Jiwa, Aaron Hodgson, Adam Goldenberg, Daniel Morris, Jonathon Wiess, Jonathan Wong, Fred Sheppard,** and **Nicholas Wu.** Coach: **Eric Stewart**

NATIONAL FINALS REPORT

By Chris Zarski, National Finals
Host & Alberta Provincial Co-ordinator

The National Competition was again exciting. It was great to see many of the teams back! This years competition introduced a 9 game round robin competition to seed the teams. As a result, we were unable to spend a great deal of time touring or sight seeing. However, the Sunday evening had a fantastic Gala Dinner with door prizes for virtually all. Thanks to Jeanette and Bill Wison for securing the prizes and to the teams who brought items to give away!

Finals Games 1-5

Holy Trinity (AB)	160
UTS (ON)	600
CHAT (ON)	630
Lindsay Thurber (AB)	140
Fredericton (NB)	350
Cobequid (NS)	450
St. Georges School (BC)	470
Joseph Wolinsky (MB)	350
Ecole Kelvin (MB)	470
Dawson College (QC)	360

Finals Games 6-8 (Quarters)

UTS (ON)	570
Dawson College (QC)	290
CHAT (ON)	580
Cobequid (NS)	250
St. Georges School (BC)	420
Ecole Kelvin (MB)	340

Finals Games 9-10 (Semis)

UTS (ON)	550
Ecole Kelvin (MB)	300
CHAT (ON)	400
St. Georges School (BC)	480

Finals Game 11 (THE FINAL)

UTS (ON)	510
St. Georges School (BC)	400

This was how the teams were seeded and ranked after the round robin tournament:

1. Ontario 1 - UTS
2. Ontario 2 - CHAT
3. British Columbia - St. George's
4. Manitoba 1 - Ecole Kelvin High School
5. New Brunswick - Fredericton High
6. Nova Scotia -Cobequid Educational
7. Quebec - Dawson College
8. Manitoba 2 - Joseph Wolinsky C.I.
9. Alberta 2 - Lindsay Thurber
10. Alberta 1 - Holy Trinity

Congratulations to **University of Toronto Schools: Luke Stark, Marc Lizoain, John Mackay, Bronwen Masemann, Rose Mary Masemann, Jean Wan, Julian Tam, Evan Roberts, Jacob Baskin** and (Coach) **Larry Rice**. We extend our sincere thanks to the **Canadian Learning Channel** for their continued support of the program.

ALBERTA REPORT

By Chris Zarski,
Alberta Provincial Co-ordinator

The Alberta Provincial finals went extremely well this year. This was the second year we hosted a Provincial competition for Junior, Intermediate and Seniors teams.

A BIG Thank You goes out to Gerry Buccini, Sue Lowe and Jamie Krzyzanowski who put together an awesome provincial competition at William D. Cutts Community School on May 3 - 4. There were 10 Junior teams and 10 Intermediate teams present. The finals were very close games which seemed to be a trend that occurred throughout all tournaments in provincials and Nationals as well.

The standings finished as follows:

Junior Level (GR 7/8)	
Rank	Team
1	Elnora
2	W.D.Cutts-St. Albert
3	Sir George Sipson
4	Calmar School

Intermediate Level (GR 9/10)	
Rank	Team
1	Elnora
2	W.D.Cutts-St. Albert
3	Lindsay Thurber
4	Calmar School

Our congratulations to Elnora for their sweep on this years provincials. Special thanks to Bill Wilson from Novonics for again providing the buzzer systems for the tournament.

The Senior Provincials were held right before the Nationals, May 23 - 24. Our special thanks to Len Bonafacio at Holy Trinity for hosting the round robin competition. This year we had 8 teams travel in for the Provincial competition. Due to job action, some of our teams were unable to attend and thus the usual complement of 12 teams was not present. All things put aside, we had one of the best provincial competitions ever. The shows at Learning saw some exciting games happening. Many ended up being decided in tie breakers or by a two point win.

Flight One	Flight Two	Finals
Lindsay Thurber 280 Gerard Redmond 1 80	Lindsay Thurber 260 J.C. Charyk 240	Lindsay Thurber Holy Trinity
J.C. Charyk 290 Harry Ainlay 250		
Holy Trinity 320 Mayerthorpe 210	Holy Trinity 230 Gerard Redmond 2 220	
Gerard Redmond 2 230 William E. Hay 200		

Final game was Lindsay Thurber vs Holy Trinity with **Holy Trinity** winning! J.C. Charyk finished third and Gerard Redmond 4th.

Congratulations to **Holy Trinity!** This is the first year that Holy Trinity has competed so they had a real "Cinderella Day". Our congratulations to them.

NEW BRUNSWICK REPORT

By Bill Hay,
New Brunswick Provincial Co-ordinator

This past year has been an exciting one for Reach For The Top in New Brunswick. The Reach For The Top Advisory committee, brought together by Provincial Co-ordinator of Student Activities Diane Gillett, has completed work on a guideline folder for the operation of Reach in New Brunswick. This folder will go out to every high school in New Brunswick in September. The folder includes all information needed to set up and run Reach For The Top in schools, as well as information to organize tournaments. Members of the Advisory Committee are Sean Newlands (Nackawic High), Jonathan Logan (Sir James Dunn), Lloyd Cameron (James M. Hill), Mary Savoie (Saint John High), and Chair Bill Hay (Oromocto High).

Several new teams were again added this year to the group of schools playing Reach For The Top. Records were set for the number of teams at a tournament – with 32 at Sir James Dunn in November and again with 36 at the Championship Tournament at Oromocto High in April – also for the number of tournaments – seven.

Other tournaments during the school year were held at Hampton High in February, at Miramichi Valley in April, and Rothesay Netherwood hosted for the first time in March. Fredericton High, Kennebecasis Valley, and Saint John High were the most competitive teams at these tournaments.

Eighteen teams entered the championship draw at the Oromocto Tournament on April 27. After a five-game round robin in each of the three sections, Fredericton High defeated Riverview High in one semi-final, and district rivals Saint John High and Kennebecasis faced each other, with Saint John winning a close one. Fredericton High won the exciting final. The Fredericton High Junior team also won the non-championship side of the tournament, again besting Saint John High in the final.

Thanks to all coaches/advisors, to tournament organizers, and to volunteers quiz people for the time you gave to the success of Reach For The Top in New Brunswick for 2001-2002.

Semifinals	Finals
Fredericton 500 Riverview High 220	Fredericton 500 Saint John High 380
Saint John High 380 KVHS 360	

Congratulations to the Champion **Fredericton High team: Peter Nimigan, Dan Hagerman, Amal Imbulgoda, John Fiset, Jason Hornosty,** and captain **Bill McIntyre**. The coaches/advisors are **Grant Williams and Peggy Kirkpatrick**.

QUEBEC REPORT

By Ivan Gumbos
Quebec Provincial Co-ordinator

In this second year of Quebec's participation in Reach For The Top, 7 Montreal schools joined the Reach family.

They were: Champlain College, John Abbott College, Vanier College and Dawson College in one league, co-ordinated by Claire Sargeant; Lower Canada College, Loyola High, and Royal West Academy in another league, co-ordinated by Michael Enright.

In an exciting April final tournament, Dawson won the CEGEP League Championship against a very powerful Vanier team, and then went on to battle the tough High School League winner: Loyola High. Dawson College emerged the winner and their win was part of the celebrations during the Dawson College Awards night held on May 1st.

A number of very dedicated people contributed to the success of the 2001-2002 Reach games in Quebec. The Dawson contingent – Claire Sargeant (League Co-ordinator, Coach and Judge), Al Benghiat (Coach), Alan Greig (Judge), Eddy and Rena Entus (Special Assistants) – ensured the smooth running of the inter-school games at our Quebec home site. Our senior Dawson administrators stepped in with generous financial support for refreshments, prizes, and funding for our Dawson winners' trip to the Edmonton Finals. A special thanks goes out to Donna Varrica, Dawson Director of Public Relations. With her help, the Quebec games received extensive media coverage.

I look forward to year three when, the "force" being with us, the ban on extracurricular activities in Quebec schools will be lifted, allowing us for an even greater participation in Reach For The Top competition.

ONTARIO REPORT

By Pat Beecham
Judge, Ontario Provincial Finals

The Ontario Provincial Championships were held in Scarborough, Ontario over the Mother's Day weekend, May 11-13. 40 league winners from across Ontario took part in a round robin tournament held at West Hill C.I., a few minutes walk from where the teams were staying at University of Toronto, Scarborough College. The residences at Scarborough College were houses with kitchen facilities, and walk out patios. This provided a really nice atmosphere, different from the usual university dorm.

Our annual gala dinner consisted of a delicious buffet dinner, lots of door prizes and an inspiring talk by Vivek Krishnamurthy, a former reach player from Gloucester High and newly named Rhodes scholar. Overall, this was an excellent tournament. The facilities at West Hill C.I. and at Scarborough College were great. It was a really nice location.

It was interesting to note, as the games progressed, which teams remained undefeated, and which teams started to pick up more wins after a slow start. After all the games were played, the final results were tallied, and after some heart pounding suspense, the final ten teams were announced.

(Speaking as a judge, I think all forty teams were winners. All teams showed good sportsmanship and accepted final decisions without question. Congratulations to all league winners)

The 10 teams that moved on through the 11 final games (where highest scoring losing teams still had a chance at being a wild card) which were played out in front of cameras and an audience at Studioasis, and taped for air on TVOntario. After an exciting and close final game between C.H.A.T. and U.T.S. (both of Toronto) U.T.S. came out on top as the 2002 Ontario Champions.

The host of the TV shows, Joe Motiki is so energetic, and really brought fun and life to the TV shows, all the while keeping the integrity of Reach for the Top. There were a few (very few) technical glitches such as the lights going out in the middle of taping, or a buzzer breaking down in the middle of a game, but all in all, the 2002 championships were a fabulous success, thanks to Paul and Bob and all the Reach Teams. Congratulations everyone.

Finals Games 1-5

1 University of Toronto	280
10 Merivale H.S.	170

2 Lisgar C.I.	270
9 Kitchener-Waterloo	300

3 C.H.A.T.	400
8 Gloucester H.S.	330

4 Fellowes H.S.	370
7 The Woodlands	250

5 John F. Ross	230
6 North Dundas	260

*Winners and top scoring losing team move on..

Finals Games 6-8 (Quarter Finals)

1 University of Toronto	270
8 Gloucester H.S.	210

3 C.H.A.T.	290
9 Kitchener-Waterloo	280

4 Fellowes H.S.	210
6 North Dundas	270

*Winners and top scoring losing team move on..

Finals Games 9-10 (Semi-Finals)

3 C.H.A.T.	330
6 North Dundas	230

1 University of Toronto	390
9 Kitchener-Waterloo	190

Finals Game 11 (The Finals)

1 University of Toronto	400
3 C.H.A.T.	220

Congratulations to University of Toronto Schools: Luke Stark, Marc Lizoain, John Mackay, Bronwen Masemann, Rose Mary Masemann, Jean Wan, Julian Tam, Evan Roberts, Jacob Baskin and (Coach) Larry Rice.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL TOURNAMENT results are available on our website at: www.reachforthetop.com

MANITOBA REPORT

By Murray Karlicki,
Manitoba Provincial Co-ordinator

Manitoba saw some changes in their province with both the Senior and Intermediate leagues expanding to 6 and 3 regions respectively. New teams from Vita (Shevchenko), Winnipegosis, Ethelbert, and Lac du Bonnet were welcomed into the league.

This year's Senior Provincials were hosted by Kelly Martel and Portage Collegiate:

Pool A				
Rank	Team	W	L	Points
1	Joseph Wolinsky	3	0	1610
7	Crocus Plains	1	2	1080
3	Rosenort	0	3	720
5	Silver Heights	2	1	1340

Pool B				
Rank	Team	W	L	Points
2	Dauphin	1	2	1270
4	Kelvin	3	0	1740
6	U. of Winnipeg	1	2	1080
8	Portage	1	2	990



This year's Intermediate Playoffs were hosted by Raymond Sokalski and Kelvin High School:

Rank	Team	W	L	Points
1	Kelvin	4	1	1760
2	Pinawa	4	1	1530
3	Grant Park	3	2	1680
4	Roseau Valley	3	2	1430
5	St. John's Ravenscourt	0	5	1350

Intermediate Finals

Kelvin	370
Pinawa	320

Congratulations to **Kelvin High** and their Senior and Intermediate teams for winning both leagues this year. Thanks to everyone who made this year a success. Special thanks to those schools who hosted tournaments this year.

Congratulations to the winning teams. Thanks to everyone who made this year a success. Special thanks to those schools who hosted tournaments this year in Manitoba.

REMEMBER: WE BUY QUESTIONS!

Address all inquiries to
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