



As we quickly approach the end of the 2017-18 school year, our schools continue to be overflowing with rich learning experiences for our students. All across the South Shore Regional Centre for Education our students and communities continue to be busy with science and heritage fairs, drama productions, robotic competitions, concerts and end of year celebrations.

As staff, we have seen many changes this year and I am proud of our teachers, administrators, regional staff, bus drivers, mechanics, administrative assistants, teacher assistants, cafeteria staff, technicians and more. Staff have continued doing what they do best - providing the best learning environment for our students. This is our first priority and I thank all of you for everything you do every day!

Unavoidable circumstances resulted in our budging process being delayed. This led to a delay in hiring so I want to especially thank our teachers and administrators for their patience. Our Human Resources staff have been working long hours to get the positions filled. Thank you to the five person team!!

The Commission on Inclusive Education released its final report - Students First (<https://inclusiveedns.ca/final-report/>). Following this, the EECD announced it would spend \$15 million on inclusive education, including the hiring of more than 190 people across the province. For the SSRCE, this means we will hire an additional six teacher assistants, four child and youth practitioners, a parent navigator, an additional three full-time equivalent behaviour support teachers, an additional autism teacher specialist, and two full-time equivalent learning centre/resource teachers. We will be sharing a portion of a student health partnership nurse with three other school regions. We are also adding an alternative education program to help engage and teach students in ways that meet their unique needs. Over the last several years, we have focused our budget priorities on increasing student services staff. These new positions will mesh nicely with our current student services staff and program planning teams in schools.

I am looking forward to growing our Race Relations and Cross-Cultural Understanding team with a new position: a Regional Coordinator of Mi'kmaw Services/Education. This position joins the RCH Coordinator and Student Support Workers for September. This new position will also work closely with the senior team on system impact decisions, guidance and to strengthen the SSRCE relationship with Aboriginal students and families and Mi'kmaq and Aboriginal organizations.

School Advisory Councils in SSRCE can expect a new handbook moving into the new school year. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development completed consultations around the province and are responding to the feedback with an updated guidebook. The SSRCE will be holding an evening conference for SSRCE SACs this coming fall to better examine how our SACs and Region can best serve students and families.



Walk the Walk for Autism was held on June 16 and I had the pleasure of joining a team to participate. The event raised close to \$16,000 for the South Shore Chapter for programming and supports for students and families. Congratulations to Ann Wentzell and the organizing committee for an excellent event.



National Indigenous Peoples Day was celebrated on June 21 at the Liverpool Office of the Native Council of Nova Scotia. Several of our schools attended and I had the honour of participating in the open ceremony. A big thank you to Education Director April Hiltz, her team and the volunteers that made the day a culturally enriching experience for all.

Congratulations to the 16 educators that have decided to retire at the end of this school year. I had the pleasure of attending both the Queen's and Lunenburg NSTU Local celebration events. There were lots of laughs and a few tears reflecting on these impressive careers. Thank you for a career serving students, their families and the community.

This is a busy and exciting time for all in the school region. Many students are celebrating with school closing activities and high school students are busy preparing for and writing examinations. At the same time, we are preparing for next year. Please enjoy the summer break and be safe!!

Scott Milner, Regional Executive Director

**Congrats to our over 500 graduates! Your hard work and dedication will serve you well as you move on to the next phase of your lives!**

## Guiding Our Way After School Program wraps up a successful year

Guiding Our Way is an after school program created by Park View Education Centre (PVEC) students. The goal of the program is to benefit students of Aboriginal and African Nova Scotian Descent within the South Shore Regional Centre for Education by teaching the importance of heritage and culture in a hands-on learning environment.



The 2017-18 school year was the first for the program. PVEC co-op students ran with a general guideline that had to include a medicine wheel and the seven Mi'kmaq sacred teachings. It was a very successful year with nine student participants from Pentz

Elementary, Hebbville Academy and Bridgewater Elementary.

Cathy LeBlanc, Student Support Worker, was really pleased with how well the program went and how kids from different schools got to meet each other and create relationships they might never have. "Kids that were very shy, instantly came out of their shell and we had no behaviour issues. They established relationships quickly and because it was a safe environment, the kids were comfortable and confident. Everyone became close...became a family."

Cathy is hopeful that the program will continue: "With the feedback and positive outcomes, hopefully the model will be shared and become a model for the province."

## Four SSRCE students attend Canada Wide Science Fair in Ottawa

Many SSRCE students presented high quality projects at the Regional Science Fair this year. The projects demonstrated a high degree of personal learning and growth in the area of science.



In addition to science, an inquiry-based science fair project integrates reading, writing, grammar, spelling, statistics and data analysis, computer science, graphic arts, logical thinking and scientific methodology.

Students also enhance their presentation skills by explaining their project and defending it in front of a panel of expert judges.

Science is so important, states Instructional Coach Jane Berrigan. "Our society relies more on science every day, and inquiry based science fairs projects are a great way for students to become more

knowledgeable about how the world around them works. Scientific literacy enables students to make educated decisions about what they read in the media and about other everyday problems they will encounter throughout their lives."

Following the SSRCE Regional Science Fair, **Teodora Milos** from PVEC, **Stella Bowles** from Bridgewater Junior High, **Kasia Kowalski** from Bayview Community School (BCS), and **Lily Street** from BCS were selected to attend the Canada Wide Science Fair (CWSF) in Ottawa to present their science projects. The CWSF brings 500 of Canada's top young scientists to showcase their real world solutions to some of the earth's most important issues while competing for nearly \$1 million in awards, prizes and scholarships. Congratulations to all participants and to our winners!



## Lieutenant Governor Medals recipients for 2017-18

Every year, Lieutenant Governor Medals are awarded to two outstanding grade 11 students in Nova Scotia who have demonstrated:

- qualities of leadership and service in the school and community, and
- commendable performance in the courses in which they are enrolled.

Congratulations to the following grade 11 students (two from each of our five SSRCE high schools) for receiving this prestigious award:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • <b>Lincoln Inglis</b> (Liverpool Regional High School) | • <b>Tori Benedict</b> (Liverpool Regional High School)   |
| • <b>Natalie Baker</b> (Forest Heights Community School) | • <b>Robbie Mosher</b> (Forest Heights Community School)  |
| • <b>Amelia LeFave</b> (New Germany Rural High School)   | • <b>Ryleigh Flemming</b> (New Germany Rural High School) |
| • <b>Jacob Lenethen</b> (North Queens Community School)  | • <b>Meghan Crouse</b> (North Queens Community School)    |
| • <b>Wyatt Patton</b> (Park View Education Centre)       | • <b>Kaitlyne Benjamin</b> (Park View Education Centre)   |

Thanks to hard work, extracurricular activities and community involvement, SSRCE students will receive well over \$1.6 million in scholarships, bursaries and other awards this year!

### Keep reading this summer!

Reading is important throughout the year, not just during the school year. Read everything: newspapers, magazines, books, websites, etc. You can also join the Summer TD Reading Club at your local library or bookmobile - it's free!