



# **Regional Executive Director's Report**

## **Rapport du Directeur Général**

## **Wi'katikn Petkitk Nikanus**

Hello, Bonjour and Kwe',

With the start of 2019 we are fast approaching the school year reaching its half-way point. Time goes by very quickly. This month our high school students have been preparing for their First Semester exams. We wish you all the best during this time of preparation and studying.

SSRCE's success so far this year is very apparent to me when looking at the upward trajectory of the South Shore Region's student achievement results. For example, South Shore recently received the results of the provincial Grade 6 Reading Writing and Mathematics assessment. SSRCE exceeded provincial averages in both Reading and Writing. Our students also fared well in Mathematics.

The SSRCE is also doing very well in cohort data. Cohort data is when individual student progress is tracked over multiple grade levels. By tracking individual students, a Region can determine whether the same students are making progress over time. In the SSRCE, there is significant evidence of positive gains between how students did in a previous Mathematics 6 assessment to how the same students did in a recent Mathematics 8 assessment. The same patterns hold true for how students have done from Mathematics 8 to Mathematics 10, from Reading 6 to Reading 8, and from Reading 8 to English 10.

All of this points to ongoing successes and progress in student achievement in SSRCE. Though there is always room for more growth, it is clear that a focus on student learning and well-being at the home, school, and regional level are moving SSRCE in the right direction.

We appreciate the support of parents and guardians as our Region continues to focus on student achievement and well-being. It has been a pleasure being part of SSRCE this month and thank you for being very welcoming. I have truly enjoyed my time here.

Dr. Chris Boulter  
Acting Executive Director, SSRCE

### **Coming Up Next Month**

Friday, February 1  
Report Card Prep Day  
(high schools)

Friday, February 1  
Semester 1 Ends

Monday, February 4  
Begin Semester 2

Wednesday, February 6  
Embedded CLT  
(90-minute early dismissal)

Friday, February 8  
Report Cards (high schools)

February 10 - 16  
Teacher Appreciation Week

Monday, February 18  
Heritage Day  
No School

Tuesday, February 26  
Principals' Meeting

Wednesday, February 27  
Embedded CLT  
(90-minute early dismissal)

## SSRCE Regional Contacts

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## Follow the SSRCE Online!

 <https://www.facebook.com/SSRCENS>

 [https://twitter.com/SSRCE\\_NS](https://twitter.com/SSRCE_NS)

## Video Links

[Ms. Sheffield's 6M and P/1D classes at West Northfield Elementary - Hand Bell and Chime Playing](#)

[Bridgewater Elementary School's Christmas Concert](#)

[A Christmas Sing-a-Long at Dr. J.C. Wickwire Academy](#)

[Petite Riviere Elementary School's Christmas Concert](#)

[Former SSRCE student Stella Bowles visits Sweden to Share her Story with Students and Environmental Advocates](#)

## South Shore Schools Participate in Hour of Code

Classrooms across the SSRCE region participated in Computer Science Education Week by joining in on the Hour of Code in December. The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities but expanding to all sorts of community efforts.

Every student should have the opportunity to learn computer science. It helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic and creativity. By starting early, students will have a foundation for success in any 21st-century career path.

Hour of Code at Petite Riviere Elementary School



Students at Chester Area Middle School speaking with Chris McKillop, Head Engineer at Google in California



## \$15,000 in Toys for the IWK

New Germany Rural High School 2nd Annual Christmas Toy Drive for the IWK was a massive success. The toy drive started after teacher Michael Wilson, who's child received life-saving care at the children's hospital, wanted to give back. "When my family and I were in the IWK close to Christmas the staff were amazing. They also had a room full of donated toys where parents, who are focusing on their children's treatment and not having the time to shop for gifts, could go and pick out two presents for their kids. It was such a kind gesture not only for our daughter who was getting care but for our other kids as well. It was really touching and after that I wanted to be able to give back, not just because they saved my daughters life but because they were so kind to our entire family."

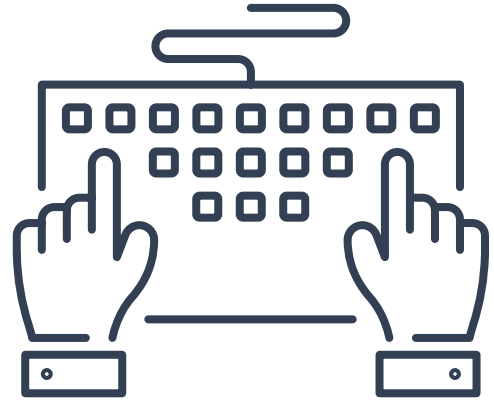
The Toy Drive ran from September through to the end of November and in total \$15,000 worth of toys was collected for patients of the IWK and their families. A further \$1,175 in gift cards were donated for parents. On December 6 students, staff and community volunteers loaded up all the donations and delivered them to the IWK. A huge thank you to everyone who helped or donated to the toy drive; as Mr. Wilson says "It is amazing what people can do when we all help out towards the same goal. It is so worth it when we see the expressions of joy on the faces of those kids in the IWK."



## Online Privacy Tips for Parents

It can be tough raising kids in a digital environment. Many of them use the Internet effortlessly, and easily adapt to new devices that connect to it. For many of us, these tools have become a routine part of our children's lives, as they use them to chat, surf, post, play and learn. The Internet has become one of the most powerful tools they have to connect with friends and make new ones.

Many kids, however, don't fully understand the impact that some online activities may have on their privacy. Below are 12 tips to help you limit the risks to your children's personal information, while allowing them to make the most of their time online.



### 1. Talk to your kids.

It's important to know the Internet spaces your kids frequent and the devices they use to go online, to help you understand the nature of personal information they may be sharing. Technology changes rapidly and many children are ahead of adults in adapting to new options. Talk with them often about their online activities to keep up with what they are doing and interested in.

### 2. Try it out.

It's not enough to know what online spaces and devices your kids are using. To understand the nature of the personal information they are sharing, you should know how they are using and experiencing them. So, dive in. Try out the family web cam if you have one, play the online games they love, create a profile on the social networking sites they frequent, and download some music.

### 3. Keep up with the technology.

Many mobile devices, like smart phones, tablets and gaming consoles, can connect to the web and have video cameras. The lines between devices are blurring, and it is important to know what kind of device your child has, so that you know whether they are merely playing a game, or if they are using the Internet and sharing personal information.

### 4. Make restricting privacy settings a habit.

Most social networking sites have extensive privacy options that children should learn to use. For each site where your kids are posting information about themselves, their family and their friends, sit down with them and review that site's privacy policy. Then modify the privacy settings of their account, and have them consider how the information they are posting could be used – or misused – by others.

### 5. Make password protection a priority.

Children need to understand that their online information will be better protected if they use passwords. They should use different passwords for different websites, accounts and devices. Encourage them to ensure their passwords are strong (eight characters or more and a variety of letters and/or numbers). If they need to write their passwords down to remember them, they should keep them offline in a secret, secure, locked place.

**For the rest of the 12 Online Privacy Tips, [click here](#).**

## Petite Riviere Elementary Holds a Book Exchange

On December 20 a very successful Book Exchange was held at Petite Riviere Elementary. Books were donated by students, parents and community members, and was a great way for all students to receive a new book for the holidays to enjoy or gift to a loved one.



## Christmas fun at Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School



## Holiday Dinners at South Shore Schools



NGRHS O2 students and NSCC Culinary students eating together after their hard work cooking and serving the entire school. A beautiful partnership!



Students at Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy were treated to a ham dinner, holiday music and some delicious desserts thanks to the Parents of Wickwire group.



Hebville P- 5 Christmas dinner. Thanks to the grade 9 citizenship helpers, our retirees, the volunteer servers, most importantly our wonderful cafeteria ladies for a delicious meal.



The Conquerall Bank, LaHave and Pleasantville fire departments hosted a Christmas dinner for the Pentz Elementary School Community on December 13. It is a wonderful annual tradition that the staff and students all appreciate!



The Holiday Dinner at Bridgewater Junior High School was a huge success feeding nearly 400 including these students who helped with the dinner!

## A Message from New SSRCE Regional Executive Director Paul Ash

Let me begin by saying I am thrilled to join the South Shore Regional Centre for Education (SSRCE) team as the new Regional Executive Director. I have spent my career as a Superintendent and Regional Executive Director focused on what we can do collectively to improve student achievement and well-being, and on supporting all of those individuals that have the responsibility to ensure we provide the best possible education for our children. I am very proud of successes we've had in Tri-County. My focus in the South Shore will be on supporting our students, teachers and administrators by engaging the entire school community in our shared goal of helping students succeed.

As part of my entry plan to the SSRCE, I will be visiting classrooms and scheduling meetings with SAC chairs, principals, staff and student groups to hear what is great in SSRCE and what needs to be strengthened. Following, I will share with our educational community areas of celebration and areas for growth so that we can move together with a common vision to support our students in ways consistent with the inclusive education report, "Students First." I truly believe that by collaborating, communicating and listening to one another, we can continue to make great things happen for our kids. I look forward to these discussions.

I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution in the South Shore school community and am very much looking forward to getting started.

Paul Ash

*Paul Ash comes to our region from the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education. His first day with the SSRCE will be Monday February 4, 2019*

## A Tessellation Tree

Students and teachers at Bluenose Academy created a huge tree by colouring smaller trees using tessellation properties - a team effort to get into the festive season! *Tessellation is an arrangement of shapes closely fitted together in a repeated pattern without gaps or overlapping.*



## Giving Back to Their Community

Chester Area Middle School had their semi-formal on December 13 and collected items for their local food bank. That's a lot of donations!



## A Community Resource Fair in Liverpool

Dr. J.C. Wickwire Academy had their first ever Community Resource Fair last week and it was a huge success. It brought school and community organizations together to share and educate families about the resources our community has to offer. Over 200 people attended and we had many positive comments from the organizations who came. Thank you to all who were involved in this event - we hope to see you next year!



## A Donation to Shoes for Kids

The Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) at Bayview Community School had a bake sale in December with all proceeds going to Shoes for Kids.



## Building Bat Boxes in Grade 12 Pro Tech at Liverpool Regional High School



## Santa Stops by Greenfield Elementary School





## The Spirit of Giving

This year, grade 9 students at Forest Heights Community School are participating in service learning projects designed to contribute to our communities. This group of students decided to help the local food bank by collecting food, toiletries, and winter clothing. They plan to continue their work in the new year by reminding people that hunger doesn't end at Christmas with more food drives and community outreach.



## Hebbville's Help Squad

Hebbville Academy's "Help Squad" are students who help to increase kindness and empathy, and improve peer conflict resolution skills while on the playground. Well done everyone!



## West Northfield Elementary's Salad Bar

Fueling our minds and bodies with "Make Your Own Salad" and Fruit Kebab was a hit at WNES!

Comments from students:

"This is the first time I have tried salad"

"I am going to try spinach", after trying it..."I like it!"

"I loved it, I ate it all"



## Big Tancook Elementary Celebrates the Holidays in Style

