



Regional Executive Director's Report

Rapport du Directeur Général

Wi'katikn Petkitk Nikanus

Hello, Bonjour and Kwe',

March came in with a burst of winter but that didn't slow down the many activities, events and learning experiences our students have taken part in this past month. To recognize Canada's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) our high schools had Red Dress ceremonies. The Red Dresses serve to remind us of the estimated 4000 MMIWG across Canada and to raise awareness that the number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada is disproportionately high when compared to the non-Aboriginal female population. You can read about these ceremonies further in this report.

Science was a key subject in March with many teachers showcasing their classes on social media learning about chemistry, physics and biology with experiments. The Regional Science Fair took place on March 28 and students were able to display their projects for the community; and many took home prizes for their efforts. Congratulations to all!

As we head towards the end of this school year our focus on improving student achievement is top of mind. As educators and administrators, we never stop asking "how can we better support our students to learn?" Regionally, our staff work with schools to analyze overall school and individual student data. Watching the data trends as we go through the year helps to show us what is and isn't working for our schools or students. Supports like Instructional, Math and Literacy Coaches, our RCH Coordinator and Coordinator of Mi'kmaq Services and various Consultants can help individual schools by working directly with students to support their learning and achievement. We are very fortunate to have dedicated educators who go above and beyond to support our students learning and well-being. Our region has been on an improving trend and we look forward to sharing our results with you in the future.

Paul Ash
Regional Executive Director

Coming Up

Monday, April 29
School-Based In-service Day
No classes for all students

Tuesday, April 30
Principals' Meeting

Thursday, May 2
Report Cards (high schools)

Wednesday, May 8
Embedded CLT12
(90-minute early dismissal)

Monday, May 20
Victoria Day
No classes for all students

Wednesday, May 22
Embedded CLT13
(90-minute early dismissal)

Tuesday, May 28
Principals' Meeting

Friday, May 31
Vice-Principals' Meeting

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Video / Audio Links

[Enjoying the 'Conga' at Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School](#)

[New Germany Elementary School Podcast: Pizza vs. Tacos](#)

[New Germany Elementary School Podcast: Monopoly vs. Crokinole](#)

[Greenfield Elementary School Making Music](#)

[Stair Shuffling at Hebbville Academy](#)

Do All Liquids Mix?

In March students at Big Tancook Elementary School did an experiment to answer the question - "Do all liquids mix?" At first, we thought the answer was "yes". After performing the experiment, we soon realized that the answer is "no". Our conclusion - "All liquids do not mix".

The science behind the experiment: When two liquids combine to form a new liquid, we call the liquids "miscible." When two liquids do not mix together and instead form layers, we call them "immiscible." The chemical properties of the liquids will determine if they will mix or not. Those with similar chemical properties will mix; those with different properties will not mix.

This is a great at-home science activity for students aged 5 - 8; click here for the [more information](#).



Students Honour Missing and Murdered In Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) with a Red Dress Ceremony in Caledonia

North Queens Community School's Grade 9 Citizenship Education Class Recognized Canada's MMIWG with a Red Dress Ceremony at Miriam Hunt Park in Caledonia on International Women's Day, March 8, 2019. Many people attended the ceremony including Chief Deborah Robinson, MLA Kim Masland, Mayor David Dagley, Coordinator Mi'kmaq Student Services Rod Francis, and NQCS Principal Jennifer Weare, regional SSRCE staff, students, families, the media and more.

The evening consisted of a sacred fire, traditional Mi'kmaq songs and drumming, as well as student performances, speeches and a special moment of reflection with music by the elementary school choir. It was a time for remembrance. Before the event, Grade 9 student Ira Reinhart-Smith remarked "we hope that the community will join us as we share our discoveries and pause to honour the many women and girls in our country who are missing or have been murdered. Helping others to understand is our goal".

The students did an excellent job not only planning and running the ceremony, but their efforts to raise awareness throughout their community with dress installations and their work in researching the issue went above and beyond. "Their leadership and voices are an example of how we can all make a difference. The knowledge and understanding that these young men and women have will positively impact their communities and fellow students as they continue to move forward in their lives," says Coordinator Mi'kmaq Student Services Rod Francis.

We are all incredibly proud of this Grade 9 class and their efforts to create conversation and raise awareness about Canada's MMIWG.



Lunenburg County Junior & Senior High School Art Exhibition

In March the the Lunenburg Art Gallery Society Hosted the Lunenburg County Junior & Senior High School Art Exhibition featuring art from Forest Heights Community School, Bridgewater Junior High School, Chester Area Middle School, Bluenose Academy, South Queens Middle School, Park View Education Centre and New Germany Rural High School. The exhibition was a testimate to the incredible talent of our local students with artwork in a varity of mediums on display; from paintings to sculptures, carvings and more. Below are just some examples of the artwork. Thank you to the students, school and regional staff for your hard work in making this exhibition happen and to the Lunenburg Art Gallery Society for hosting.



Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School Receives Physical Education Award

Congratulations to ACES for receiving the Quality Physical Education Award from Physical and Health Education (PHE) Canada. Quality Daily Physical Education (QDPE) is a well-planned school program of compulsory physical education provided for a minimum of 30 minutes each day to all students throughout the school year. QDPE ensures that all children who receive it have the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, and habits that they need to lead physically active lives now, and just as importantly, into the future. A QDPE school is one that values the importance of physical education to the complete learning of our children, and has engrained QDPE and physical activity into the foundation and culture of the school environment.



Student Blog: Vimy to Juno, Europe 2019

North Queens Community School Grade 12 Student Rhylee B. recently traveled to Europe with her fellow students, teachers and volunteer chaperones for a cultural and historical experience of a lifetime. She recently wrote a blog to share her experience with everyone.

This March break I experienced the trip of a lifetime. My school, North Queens Community School, recently travelled over 5000 kilometers overseas to Europe to learn about Canadian History and the impact Canadians had on the World Wars. First we flew from Halifax to Montreal, and then we were lucky to have an overnight flight of seven hours to Frankfurt, then a quick little flight to Berlin. We landed at 1pm Berlin time, giving us almost the whole day to explore the city. Our tour director kicked the tour off with a walking tour of Berlin. We got to try some traditional German food, like currywurst! After our supper of German mac and cheese, we walked back to the hotel but stopped to see the Brandenburg Gate lit up at night! It was a beautiful way to end our first day on tour.

Our hotel was quite nice so we all got a good night's sleep for the day ahead of us. In the morning, a bus picked us up at the hotel, then we picked up a tour guide for a bus tour around Berlin. Along the tour he told us historical facts about the buildings around us, and Germany itself. We also got the chance to get off the bus and see the Berlin wall up close! I loved the political expression on the wall through art. The graffiti was beautiful, Berlin has some talented artists among them! The tour guide also took us to the Treptower Park Soviet Memorial, in honour of the 27,000,000 civilian and military lives lost. We dropped that tour guide off, and picked up another one for our next stop.

The next tour was in Oranienburg, at the Nazi concentration camp, Sachsenhausen. This was one of the most emotional parts of our trip. The tour consisted of visiting the the museum part of the memorial first before stepping on to the actual grounds. The museum gave us some background about what actually happened at the camp; it wasn't a Jewish concentration camp, but a Prisoner of War camp where over 200,000 prisoners passed through during World War Two. Over 100,000 prisoners died there from disease, being overworked, and executions. After learning a bit about the camp, we walked inside the grounds. The weather was quite fitting for the tour, windy, cold, and raining. As we walked towards the replica barracks, there was a sign translated from German to "Neutral Zone." Our tour guide explained that this area was a very dangerous spot 75 years ago. If a prisoner were to step inside the neutral zone, they were automatically executed. This really stood out to me because we can freely walk wherever we like in the grounds, including in the neutral zone, but during the war that was not the case. (To continue reading Rhylee's blog, [click here](#))



Dr. J.C. Wickwire Academy Launches Wigwam Building Project

A traditional Wigwam (Wikuom) building project is underway thanks to a \$5,000 grant from Mi'kmaq Services. Teacher Adam Leuschner is coordinating the build and says students are very excited about the project. In March a launch event was held at the school with drumming. The project will be built under the guidance of Mi'kmaq Master Builder and Elder Todd Labrador. Below are some pictures from the launch event and from the site where the Wigwam will be built.



Greenfield Elementary School Learns about Mi'kmaq Culture

Grade 5 and 6 students at Greenfield Elementary School learned about Mi'kmaq culture in March with teachings from the Coordinator of Mi'kmaq Services Rod Francis. Students took part in a smudging ceremony using the four sacred plants; tobacco, sage, cedar and sweet-grass. They created medicine wheels depicting the four stages of life, four sacred animals and plants and also the four directions. Students also played a Mi'kmaq drum and sang the honour song. To finish, tobacco was scattered over the school's property to cleanse the land and welcome spring.



New Ross Students Celebrate International Women's Day

On March 8 girls in Grades 6 - 8 from New Ross Community School headed to Mount Saint Vincent University for their 8th Annual Girls 2019 Conference. The gathered together with young women from across the province to take part in workshops and activities helping build their confidence, leadership skills and more.



New Germany Red Dress Ceremony

On March 14 students and staff at New Germany Rural High School gathered together to learn about, honour, and respect the thousand of missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls in Canada. Following a presentations, everyone came together outside for a healing and memorable smudging ceremony. It was an incredibly powerful and emotional presentation.



Pre-Primary Drumming

It was a mixture of music, culture and fun at Pentz Elementary when the Pre-Primaries were included in a drumming lesson with Mr. Fells. Mr. Fells is the RCH Coordinator for the SSRCE and provided the students with an interactive drumming lesson as part of African History Month.



Winter Carnival Fun at South Queens Middle School



Lunenburg County Elementary Schools Art Exhibition

The Lunenburg County Elementary Schools Art Exhibition is happening now until April 30 at the Desbrisay Museum. There are some wonderful young artists on the South Shore so please go check out their work; it is free to visit but donations to the Museum are appreciated.



A Snowy March

Snow in March didn't get students from Bluenose Academy down! Teacher Kajtek Jaskowiak shared pictures of a coastal hike and students having a blast on the ski hill.



Primary Penguins

Bridgewater Elementary School's Grade Primary Spindler/Cook class was doing a unit on penguins, when the students decided they wanted to learn to draw penguins. After a YouTube tutorial, these are the results! Beautiful artwork!



Maple Syrup - Not just for Pancakes

Grade 8 students at Hebbville Academy tapped maple trees for their fluid unit, learning about density and viscosity. They gathered the sap and then boiled it down to make maple syrup.



Wood Burning Art

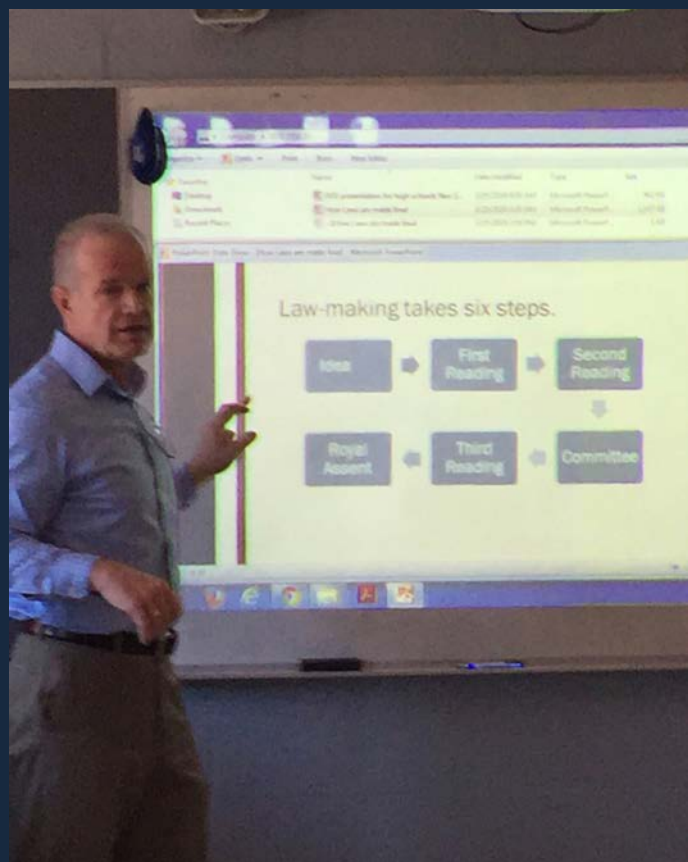
Grade 9 students at Bridgewater Junior High School thoroughly enjoyed their wood burning unit with Mr. Phillips in Tech Lab.



A Visit from Hon. Mark Furey

Hon. Mark Furey stopped by Park View Education Centre in March to speak to their Law 12 Classes about his role in our government and presented on law topics. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and for being open to a Q and A with students.

Mark Furey is the MLA for Lunenburg West, Attorney General and Minister of Justice for Nova Scotia



Forest Heights Students take home Bronze at the NSSAF Sports Curling Championships



New Seating for Bayview Community School's Library

Some new seating in the library at BCS was a huge hit with students! Among the positive comments from students was "This library gets better every time I come here!"



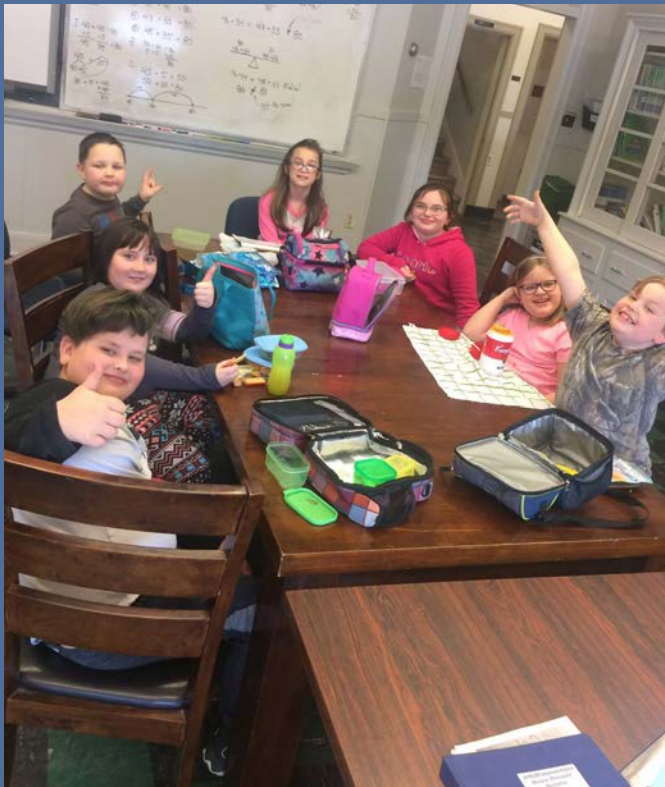
Crazy Hair

Newcombsville Elementary School students sure have school spirit - here they are on Crazy Hair Day with peppy ponytails and colourful locks!

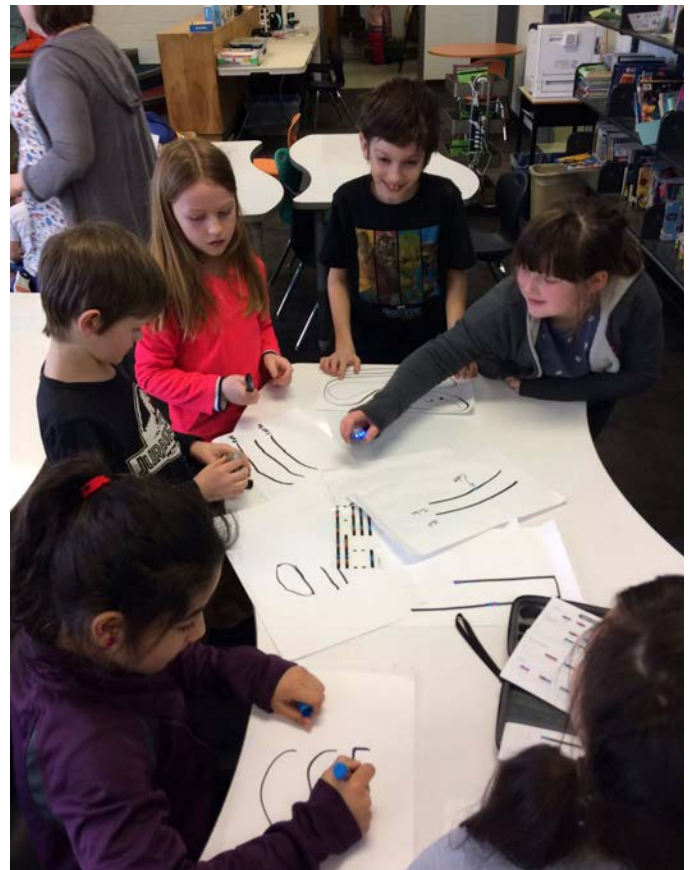


Future Leaders at New Germany Elementary School

These NGES students recently "applied" in writing and then interviewed for student leadership jobs in the school using persuasive literacy skills. Well done everyone!

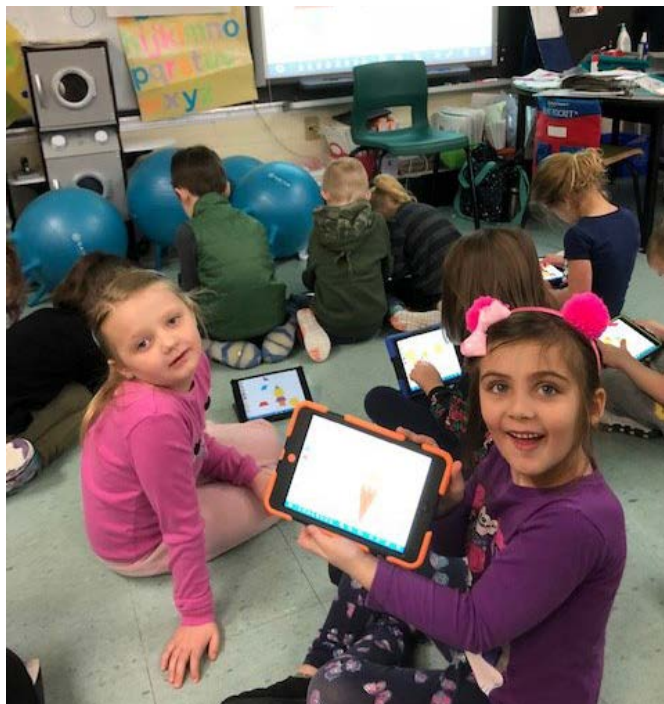


Grade 1 & 2's at Chester District School Learn about Coding and Robotics with SSRCE Instructional Coach Mr. Byron Butt



Interactive Shapes

Grade Primary and 1 students were having fun learning about shapes at West Northfield Elementary School with iPads. Can you tell a triangle from a hexagon?



Primary Penguins

Grade 5 and 6 students at Petite Riviere Elementary School made their own home made stoves to cook grilled cheeses, roast marshmallows & make s'mores in Outdoor Education. Thanks to Mr. Wardell for using his knowledge to teach these skills to our students!



SSRCE Regional Science Fair

The SSRCE Regional Science Fair was held on March 28 at the LCLC in Bridgewater. There were so many interesting projects this year with students presenting on a variety of topics including the speed of light, disease and climate change, dog behaviour, and more. Well done to the many students who had projects for the fair and congratulations to all participants and winners. A special thanks to the dedicated regional and school staff who worked hard to organise the fair and to the sponsors who supported it.

To see the complete list of Science Fair winners, [click here](#).

