



South Shore
Regional Centre for Education

September 2019

Monthly Report

Welcome to another exciting school year at South Shore Regional Centre for Education! I would like to express what a privilege it is to work with a regional centre keenly dedicated to providing an enriching learning experience for student success. We are pleased to welcome our students and staff back to school for the 2019-2020 academic year, and we look forward to working with them and our parents, volunteers, and community partners to ensure another great year in SSRCE schools.

The summer months are a busy time for school staffs and central office personnel. This summer, school buildings were cleaned thoroughly, repairs and improvements were made at many schools, buses were inspected, new employees were hired, and teachers and other employees participated in professional development. We are excited and ready to start another productive school year for our students!

The SSRCE will continue to serve every child who walks through our doors with respect and kindness. Our primary focus will always be on teaching and learning. We will continue to put our classrooms first in all our decisions. We believe that we have some of the most talented and committed staff in the province. We will continue to support and grow our classroom leaders who see their students as their most precious cargo.

The South Shore Regional Centre and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, are working hard to continue to lower class sizes, increase resources in some of our higher needs schools and expand the pre-primary program. We have implemented our final two pre-primary programs within our region, extended busing to the majority of pre-primary students and established a number of before and after school programs, in partnership with local organizations. It is our hope to continue to support and grow these opportunities for our youngest learners.

As we welcome the new school year, we will continue our focus on:

- Supporting the well-being of students and staff;
- Increasing student achievement in Literacy;
- Increasing student achievement in Numeracy.

The regional staff and regional leadership team join me in extending best wishes to all students, parents, and employees for a productive school year. Working together, we will continue to raise the bar and close the gap by maintaining high standards and an environment that inspires success.

Sincerely,

Paul Ash
Regional Executive Director
South Shore Regional Centre for Education

Coming up this month ...

September 2, 2019 - Labor Day

September 3, 2019 - Orientation Day (First day for teachers)

September 4, 2019 - School-Based In-service

September 5, 2019 - First day for students

September 7 & 8 - Gold River Pow Wow

September 12 - SSRCE Pink Day

September 24, 2019 - Principals' Meeting

September 27, 2019 - School-Based In-Service (includes IPP ½ day)

September 30 - Orange Shirt Day



Finance

The South Shore Regional Centre for Education wants to give our students the tools and support they need to succeed. That's why every year, we work closely with Schools, Regional and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development staff to ensure we match funding to our region's needs.

This year, the overall budget for education in the province increased by \$44 million dollars. This is the 6th year in a row that the overall budget has increased – government is spending 30% more on education.

There are also 165 new people in the system, even after retirements. This results in more money and more people in our region this year.

Here's what these investments mean for students and families in our region:

- Class caps will stay in place for Grades P-12 to keep class sizes small and teacher-to-student ratios high. These are the best we've seen in decades, especially for specialist positions such as guidance, resource, speech language pathologists and school psychologists.
- In September, there will be 11.5 more people in non-teaching positions such as autism specialists and child and youth practitioners, in our schools. There will also be an additional 4 NSTU positions such as Guidance Counsellors and Resource Teachers for a total of 15.5 more individuals supporting our students. This is on top of the 23.5 inclusive education supports added at the start of this school year.
- By September 2019, all eligible schools in Nova Scotia will have access to the Reading Recovery program. This program gives students in grade 1, who are struggling with reading, more specialized support.
- By September 2019, every school will have access to SchoolsPlus. This program helps students and families make connections to support services like social work, justice, mental health and recreation services.
- In September, two more pre-primary classrooms (Bluenose Academy and Bridgewater Elementary School) will open in our region, for a total of 14 programs across our region. This means that every 4-year old in our region has access to pre-primary one full year ahead of the four year timetable.

There is so much good work happening in our schools – from the investments made by the province to the efforts of individual teachers and support staff who work with students every day. For more information, please contact Tiffany Joudrey, Director of Finance at 902-541-3032 or tjoudrey@ssrce.ca





Pre-Primary Program Information

Transportation to Pre-Primary Programs

SSRCE is pleased to implement busing for eligible children attending the Pre-Primary programs within our region, helping more families to access the Pre-Primary programs. We have begun preparations to allow for the safe transport of these children to their enrolled site. Transportation will be phased in, with a goal of having all eligible students transported by September 2020. Busing will be added as follows:

September 2019

- All children enrolled in Pre-Primary at North Queens, Hebbville Academy, New Germany Elementary, New Ross Consolidated, Newcombville Elementary, Pentz Elementary, Petite Riviere Elementary, and West Northfield Elementary can be transported.
- All parents and guardians who have children currently registered at these sites will receive information about bus stops and times, parent responsibility, contact information, and training sessions on requirements. Parents are not required to re-register currently enrolled children.
- Students who are not enrolled may register at the relevant school or click here <https://ssrce.ca/pre-primary-program/>
- All inquiries for transportation at these locations should be directed to the SSRCE Transportation Department at 902-541-8252.

October 2019

- Limited seats may be available for pre-primary programs at Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary, Bayview Community School, and Chester District Elementary.
- Parents / guardians who wish to be placed on a waiting list for available seats should contact SSRCE Transportation Department at 902-541-8252. Seats are subject to availability by route.
- As seats become available, parents and guardians will be contacted with information and training will be arranged as necessary.

September 2020

Currently, there are no available seats for pre-primary programs at Bridgewater Elementary, Dr. JC Wickwire Academy, and Lunenburg Academy. The SSRCE transportation department is developing a plan for busing of these students beginning September 2020. Notifications will occur when a plan for transportation is in place.

We are working diligently to safely bus these children to their site. If there is a concern or a question, please call SSRCE Transportation Department at 902-541-8252.

Please visit the South Shore Regional Centre for Education website for more pre-primary information:

<https://ssrce.ca/pre-primary-program/>

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/pre-primary>

Gillian Kiely, Pre-Primary Facilitator—P: 902-521-3203 E: gkiely@ssrce.ca

Janice Jollimore, Administrative Assistant—P: 902-541-3005 E: jjollimore@ssrce.ca



2019-2020

Nova Scotia Before and After Program

In September 2019, the Nova Scotia Before and After Program will be expanded so more families can access before and after programming. The program is available to children and public school students from Pre-primary to Grade 6.

South Shore Regional Centre for Education

Bridgewater Elementary School	Bridgewater
Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy	Liverpool
Hebbsville Academy	Hebbsville
Newcombville Elementary School	Newcombville
Petite Rivière Elementary School	Petite Rivière
West Northfield Elementary School	West Northfield
Bayview Community School	Mahone Bay

For more information, please visit the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website:
<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/bap>

Pre-Primary Locations: South Shore

School	Community	Busing	Before & After Program
Big Tancook Elementary School	Big Tancook Island		
Bridgewater Elementary School	Bridgewater		✓
North Queens Community School	Caledonia	✓	
Chester District Elementary School	Chester		
Greenfield Elementary	Greenfield	✓	
Hebbsville Academy	Hebbsville	✓	✓
Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy	Liverpool		✓
Bluenose Academy	Lunenburg		
Bayview Community School	Mahone Bay		✓
Aspotogan Consolidated	Mill Cove	✓ (Oct.)	
New Germany Elementary	New Germany	✓	
New Ross Consolidated School	New Ross	✓	
Newcombville Elementary School	Newcombville	✓	✓
Petite Rivière Elementary School	Petite Rivière	✓	✓
Pentz Elementary School	Pleasantville	✓	
West Northfield Elementary School	West Northfield	✓	✓

Department of Education & Early Childhood Development New School Year, More Supports for Students

[Education and Early Childhood Development](#)
September 4, 2019 - 9:03 AM

Thousands of new and returning students across the province will benefit from greater access to programs and services this year.

“The start of a new school year is always an exciting time for students and families,” said Zach Churchill, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. “I want to wish our new and returning students, teachers and school staff a school year filled with learning, fun and success.”

As part of the new model of inclusive education in the province, 173 more inclusive education specialists, teachers and non-teaching staff will bring the total number of new supports to 364.

Two programs will also be rolled out provincially. Reading Recovery helps children in Grade 1 who are struggling significantly with reading and writing by working with a reading recovery teacher and one-on-one lessons. SchoolsPlus helps students and families access various supports including mental health services.

In addition, the Pre-primary Program will be available in 201 school communities this fall. Busing for eligible pre-primary children and the Nova Scotia Before and After Program will be available in some pre-primary locations this year.

Quick Facts:

- government has invested \$30 million over the past two years to support 364 Inclusive education specialists
- all schools with a Grade 1 class will have access to the Reading Recovery program
- the Nova Scotia Before and After Program, for children and students from pre-primary to Grade 6, is available at 42 locations this fall
- bus service is being offered to eligible pre-primary children at 56 sites this fall and will be available provincially in September 2020

Additional Resources:

- <https://Novascotia.ca/educationsystem>
- <https://Novascotia.ca/preprimary>
- <https://Novascotia.ca/bap>



Liverpool Regional High School improvements among school infrastructure projects to be funded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Significant infrastructure upgrades at Liverpool Regional High School (LRHS) will soon be a reality thanks to provincial funding.

This LRHS work includes roof replacement, gym floor refinishing and other site work. This project was submitted as a priority by the South Shore Regional Centre for Education to the province during 2019-20 capital funding process.

“Our ongoing investment in school infrastructure will strengthen buildings and improve accessibility so that our students can continue to receive a quality education for generations to come,” said Paul Ash, Regional Executive Director of Education for the South Shore.

The project was approved as part of the province’s capital plans and was chosen based on need, priority and supporting student learning.

Construction began this summer.

New Provincial Policy Will Support Extracurricular Activity in Schools

[Education and Early Childhood Development](#)
August 21, 2019 - 11:21 AM

Schools will have more options to support extracurricular activities for students in September.

A new provincial policy sets out who can lead and supervise extracurricular activities. The policy has been released to the regional centres and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial.

“Extracurricular activities benefit students, families, the community and our schools,” said Zach Churchill, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. “This policy creates more opportunity for families and communities to take a bigger role in extracurricular school activities that can help improve student achievement, well-being and attendance.”

Under the policy, principals can assign a registered volunteer to lead and supervise extracurricular school activities. Previously, each region had their own policies and employees of a Regional Centre for Education or the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial had to be present to lead and supervise activities.

A registered volunteer must be at least 18 years old, not employed by a Regional Centre for Education or the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial and not be a public school student. They must be approved by the school principal, complete and provide proof of all necessary background checks, and provide relevant and required certifications.

School Advisory Councils were consulted in the development of the policy.

If you would like to become a volunteer, contact your school's principal for more information.



**Pink Shirt Day
September 12**



On Thursday, September 12, 2019, wear pink to celebrate safe and inclusive schools & workplaces. Stand up to Bullying Day – “Pink Shirt Day” – takes place on Thursday, September 12. Wear pink to show your support for safe and inclusive schools and work places. Pink shirt day is a time to reflect on how we make other people feel from our actions and choices. Please take a few moments to reflect on how we treat others.

Share snapshots on Twitter with @SSRCE_NS – let’s show how our schools and workplaces are welcoming and safe for everyone!

For more information contact, Carol Hughes, Consultant for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, 902-521-9940 or chughes@ssrce.ca



**Orange Shirt Day
September 30**



Orange Shirt Day is an annual recognition of the impact of Canada’s residential school system on indigenous people.

Nationally, Orange Shirt Day takes place on Monday, September 30, while local events honouring residential school survivors may be held on alternate dates.

In SSRCE, everyone is encouraged to wear orange shirts, pins or accessories. Please share your photos of orange shirt day activities in schools with @SSRCE_NS on twitter. We look forward to highlighting these events in our school communities.

For more information contact, Rod Francis, Mi’kmaq Education Coordinator, 902-440-1650 or rfrancis@ssrce.ca and visit www.orangeshirtday.org

Have a question or concern? Not sure where to start or who to call?

To share a concern or a question that is classroom-based, parents/guardians should first speak with their child’s teacher. If a resolution is not reached, please contact your school Principal .

To share a concern or a questions that is of a different nature, parents/guardians should first speak with their school’s Principal. If a resolution is not reached, please contact the Director of Programs & Students Services.

In most instances, concerns and issues are resolved through an informal process of conversation and collaboration. This process will occur as quickly as possible, and may involve multiple conversations and exchanges of information and ideas at the school level. SSRCE values a relational approach where your voice will be included in our work towards a solution.

If your concern has not been resolved at the school, please contact the Director of Programs & Students Services or the Regional Executive Director of Education.

Jeff DeWolfe, Director of Programs & Student Services
902-541-3045

Paul Ash, Regional Executive Director
902-541-3002

If you have a general question, please contact South Shore Regional Centre for Education directly at 902-541-3000. We will ensure your question or concern is referred to the appropriate staff member.

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