



**South Shore**  
Regional Centre for Education

# February 2020

## Monthly Report

This month, our schools will celebrate African Heritage Month, through special events, activities and learning opportunities in and out of our classrooms. Each February, and throughout the year, our schools focus on the history, culture, and achievements of African descent people. As we reflect on our shared history and understanding of the contributions and traditions, all of this information assists in shaping our understanding and cultural awareness.

As a system, our collective attention continues to be focused on the successful implementation of the SSRCE System Improvement and Educational Business Plans for 2019-2020. Both of these plans focus on goals and priorities that will raise the bar and close the achievement gap to address the needs of all learners in our schools.

Planning has now started for the 2020-2021 school year. Early Pre-Primary and Primary registrations have been completed and staffing plans are underway. As well, the school calendar is in the process of being developed, and capital projects for the 2020-2021 are being considered.

As always, I encourage you to keep an eye on some of our schools and regional celebrations in print, on our website and via the SSRCE Twitter/Facebook pages.

Sincerely,

Paul Ash  
Regional Executive Director  
South Shore Regional Centre for Education

### CELEBRATE AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2020

#### *Sharing the History and Culture of African Nova Scotians*

This year's African Heritage Month provincial theme, ***The Ties that Bind: Faith, Family & Community***, recognizes the unique bond People of African Descent share through Faith, Family and Community. This theme is about celebrating the longstanding legacy of Faith and Spirituality, acknowledging strong family ties and honouring the togetherness of the African Nova Scotian Community. These ties help facilitate a greater bond and understanding of all cultures in Nova Scotia. The theme also aligns with the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD). The goal of DPAD is to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent as they strive for full inclusion in all aspects of society.

Nova Scotia has over 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back well over 200 years. African Heritage Month provides us with another opportunity to celebrate our culture, legacy, achievements and contributions of our people – past and present.

Courtesy of <http://www.ahm.bccnsweb.com/wp/home/> - official website of the Nova Scotia African Heritage Month Information Network



#### UPCOMING Events



- February is African Heritage Month
- February 10-13—Report card distribution (10-12)
- February 12—Embedded CLT (90 minute early dismissal)
- February 14—Valentine's Day
- February 17—Heritage Day
- February 25—Principals' meeting
- February 26—Embedded CLT (90 minute early dismissal)



## ***What does Inclusive Education look like in the South Shore Regional Centre for Education?***

In March 2018, the Province of Nova Scotia accepted the recommendation from the Commission for Inclusive Education, "Students First: Inclusive Education that Supports Teaching, Learning and the Success of all Nova Scotian students".

### ***What has this meant for the SSRCE?***

The acceptance and implementation of this report has had a significant impact on SSRCE. It has resulted in a number of additional positions, targeted interventions and an intentional focus for our region.

The additional supports announced by our government have been very much appreciated, and equally important with supporting our efforts to deliver intentional and impactful instruction aimed at closing the achievement gap for our learners. We know that historically and currently there are groups of students who experience significant gaps or success disparities while navigating through our educational systems. We know that within the SSRCE these groups include, but are not limited to, our First Nations, African Nova Scotian, LGBTQ, and students living in poverty. The SSRCE is responding by shifting focus in a very intentional way. Inclusive education is not about a specific action but rather a "*way of being*" within our daily interactions to ensure we are keeping the achievement gap at the forefront of everything we do. We must constantly ask, who are the students we have not created that success for yet?

Our programs department, along with school staff have been working diligently to focus on impactful first wave instruction and lesson design. Our student services department, along with school staff have been working together to develop a deeper understanding and application of the Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS) and Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Our RCH department and school staff have also been collaborating to support the implementation of Treaty Education (P-2), Achievement Gap Initiative and Culturally Responsive Education. Additionally, regional office and schools have included a focus on well-being of staff and students as the core of our regional improvement plan and school improvement plans.



All four areas of focus are being supported and reinforced during collaborative learning time, professional development sessions, inclusive education network grant initiatives, etc. When discussing the implementation of the inclusive education framework within SSRCE, our region recognizes that inclusive education is not restricted to one area or department of education; rather ***everything*** we do in education is about inclusive education.



Anti-Vaping Campaign



Letter from the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development to Schools

Response from Liverpool Regional High School Students

Good Morning Minister Churchill,

My name is Chelsey and I go to Liverpool Regional High School. I am writing you in response to your vaping email. Our student council is interested in your proposal and we would like to participate. Firstly, our kickoff idea would be a video or series of short clips, in which members from our 'Anti-Vaping Club' ask (anonymous) vapers and non-vapers a few questions about their experiences regarding nicotine—a list of questions is enclosed.

Questions for our Vapers:

1. When did you start vaping/how long ago?
2. Did you smoke cigarettes before you vaped/ do you still smoke, or did you switch to only vape?
3. If it's not too personal, what's your best guess of the amount of money you've spent on vape?
4. Is there a reason you started vaping? Cool, stress, friend was doing it.
5. All you hear from mature smokers is don't start smoking. Would you give the same evidence towards vaping why/why not?
6. Have you lost any friends to vaping that maybe didn't understand this activity? So they didn't want to hang with you anymore.
7. Is there anything you wish you knew about vaping before you started?
8. Do you feel vaping is wrongly portrayed in the media /why do you think that way?

Questions for our Non-Vapers:

1. Have you ever felt pressured to vape? What was the circumstance?
2. Would you ever consider vaping in the future? Why?
3. Why do you think people start vaping?
4. Why have you chosen not to partake in vaping?
5. Have you changed your opinion on someone because they started vaping?
6. Do you think there is adequate coverage of the dangers of vaping in the media?
7. Is there anything you would like to say to people who have started vaping?
8. What do you think should be done to educate youth about the dangers of vaping?

Our goal is to have all of our footage and interviews done by the end of February. The final product should be completed shortly after that deadline. As to the \$500 that is being offered, one of our ideas is to bring in a guest speaker to talk and educate the student body about the dangers of vaping and breathing in toxic chemicals. We believe that the results of this project will extend past the funding period. We believe we can do this by putting it on the school website and using it in health classes. We thank you for taking the time to read this, hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,  
LRHS Student Representative Council

Dear Principal:

I know that vaping is a concern for you and your school community. In September, information from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development was distributed to the school regions/CSAP to assist in deepening understandings of the issues surrounding vaping. I want to continue the conversation about e-cigarettes and vaping with you and with the students of Nova Scotia.

One of the best ways to raise issues with students, is to involve students. Therefore, the Minister is inviting help from our student leaders to take action and to develop an education campaign to reach out to other students about vaping. We need a campaign that is designed by students, for students. Your support of this initiative is critical for its success.

With the troubling rise in vaping among youth, we want to break through the noise that your students hear everyday about vaping. The Minister will be inviting students to use their school leadership voice to reach out to their peers with the message that breathing in vaping chemicals is harmful, the long-term health effects are still unknown, and that vaping can lead to addiction. Campaigns could include a focus on the marketing that is done targeted at youth to attempt to attract new young consumers. Students can work together to understand why students are vaping, how vaping is marketed and to look for solutions to address vaping in your school community.

Student leaders will be asked to get a sign-off from their school principals and then to send along their idea to the Minister's office at educmin@novascotia.ca before December 20, 2019. He will provide \$500 per high school student council for their submission to support the development of an approach or a campaign. It can include posters, digital options, video messaging, guest speakers or other creative and innovative ways for youth to speak to youth about this health issue.

Please advise school staff who support your student council about this student voice opportunity, as they should approve the content of the student educational campaign before anything is posted or distributed.

The ideas generated can be used to help students in your school and across the province. I'm really looking forward to seeing what students come up with and we appreciate your support in addressing this student health issue.

Thank you.



Response from Minister Churchill

Thank you Chelsey and Student Council Members for your proposal regarding the Anti-Vaping Campaign. I am pleased to inform you that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will support your efforts and initiatives with a \$500.00 funding contribution. The grant will be provided to the Regional Center for Education, who will then distribute this to your school. I encourage you to connect with your local health authority and Schools Plus for any background information or support for presenters. I look forward to learning more about your videos and how the proposed presentation goes. Please keep us informed about how the project evolves. Thank you again for your ongoing commitment to prevent vaping and to building healthy, safe, and inclusive school environments. I wish you all the best with all of your endeavours.

Sincerely,  
Zach Churchill  
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

Wonderful Things



To view the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Storm Day Video visit —

<https://vimeo.com/user63591273/review/383086079/cacfc693f2>  
[https://youtu.be/kK6hp\\_CjF68](https://youtu.be/kK6hp_CjF68)

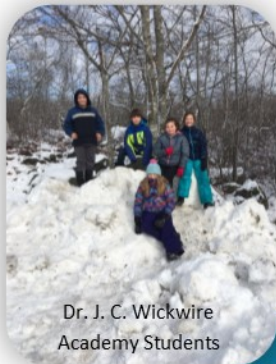
**NS Education and Early Childhood Development** @nseduca... · Jan 7

Does your family have a storm day plan? With more than 120,00 students travelling to and from school every day, we all share the responsibility to get ready in case there's a storm day.



For South Shore Regional Centre for Education Storm Day Process visit—

<https://ssrce.ca/storm-day-closure-process/>



Dr. J. C. Wickwire Academy Students



Petite Riviere Elementary Students



Aspotogan Consolidated Students

**DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER**

adding layers will help keep you warm as the temperature drops

CHILLY	COLD	EXTREME COLD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-2 layers</li> <li>long layer</li> <li>outer layer to keep out wind, rain</li> <li>warm shoes water proof</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-3 layers</li> <li>gloves</li> <li>1-2 layers</li> <li>warm hat</li> <li>outer layer to keep out wind, wet snow</li> <li>boots water proof</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3+ layers 1 insulating</li> <li>gloves</li> <li>2+ layers</li> <li>warm hat</li> <li>face mask</li> <li>outer layer to keep out wind</li> <li>boots water proof</li> </ul>



Pentz Elementary Students



Bluenose Academy Students



Liverpool Regional High Students





**Kajtek Jaskowiak** @jaskowiak\_k · Jan 22  
Nothing but smiles with the start of our Ski Club season for middle school students. Goals set and completed with such great support from friends. Big thanks to the folks at Martock for another great 'first' for our younger students @ssrsbba @SSRCE\_NS @Martock @taphens

**Greenfield Elementary School**  
January 24 at 3:06 PM

Today we had a visiting author share her passion and interest for writing. Marcia Harding discussed her experiences and read a chapter from her book, *The Secrets of Sable Island*. The students loved all of her artifacts that inspired her writing. Thank you to Marcia, WITS (writers in the school) and to the GSS (Greenfield School Society).

We also enjoyed some study buddy time today. We all have a buddy to enjoy reading time and special projects.

Kaylin and Karlee have been wonderful school librarians for the past seven weeks. They read, signed out and checked in books, and led lessons through their leadership. Mrs. Dianne Simpson will be returning to her volunteerism at our school on Monday. Welcome back Mrs. Simpson!

**Hebville Academy** @HebbPatriots · Jan 22  
Thanks, Bridgewater Superstore for providing a delicious and healthy breakfast for our P-4 students! #community #beststarttotheday @SSRCE\_NS

**Pentz Elementary School** @ssrsbps · Jan 23  
Pentz Elementary girls hosted Petite today for their first basketball game. Great example of sportsmanship from both teams. @PRESPrincipal @WardellPat @JenniferStead12 @SSRCE\_NS

**Byron Butt** @ByronButt · Jan 24  
@HebbPatriots with gr 3/4 Scott introducing Dash and Sphero with block coding on a Friday afternoon! #studentengagement @SSRCE\_NS



**PRESPrincipal** @PRESPrincipal · Jan 24  
Huge thank you to Karen Seamone for joining us today to continue to learn more about our brains and the connections about the brain and art. We always enjoy your visits & sharing your expertise. #SEL @SSRCE\_NS @VisualArtsNS @nseducation @kseamone

**Chris Gilham** @ChrisGilham3 · Jan 24  
What a great group! Thanks for rolling up your sleeves to understand the evaluation and implementation process. Same dedication across regions, too @TCRCE\_NS @CBVRCE\_NS @HRCE\_NS @SSRCE\_NS

**Ms. Bergman** @MsSomersBergman · Jan 24  
"Here are some options - now create!" Really, Ms. B, just do what ever I want to make." "Yes!" Turned our awesome. Pinch pot pottery. @ssrsbrges @SSRCE\_NS

**Marc Breagh** @MarcBreagh · Jan 23  
Grade 9 students learning about consent through role play. Thanks to Julie @southshoresh and Tiffany from Harbour House. @SSRCE\_NS @BayviewBobcats

**Diane Spencer** @elinespencer · Jan 23  
My favourite 35 minutes of the school day is spent outside on our front steps welcoming our students to school. I love to see the sweet goodbyes, have a great days, and see you later's. Lots of hugs & kisses. We have a such loving school community ❤️ @SSRCE\_NS @nseducation

**New Germany Elem** @ssrsbrges · Jan 23  
So engaged in "real reading" loving our books, as the teacher confers, that we didn't notice anyone popping in to take our photol! @SSRCE\_NS



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