



OCTOBER, 2020



REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the South Shore Regional Centre for Education



Pre-primary students at Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School

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Executive Director

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www.ssrce.ca



A Message from the Regional Executive Director

We have just completed our first month back in classrooms. It looked much different than in years past – the layout of many classrooms has changed, there are directional arrows on floors, and masks have become the norm. Even with all these changes, there was still that familiar excitement in the air as teachers, students, and school staff began their new routines.

SSRCE is following Nova Scotia's Department of Education & Early Childhood Development's Back to School Plan. Working together, we continue to plan for a variety of scenarios related to COVID-19. While we currently have very low numbers of COVID-19 in our province, it is important that we remain vigilant with public health measures. We know school is the best place for our children and that's why our goal is to continue to keep our schools open. That's also why it's so important to follow the advice of public health, both in our schools and at home. Together, we can keep each other safe.

"It's so important to follow the advice of public health, both in our schools and at home."

- PAUL ASH
SSRCE REGIONAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Staff at Newcombville Elementary School plan a special welcome back for students.

Director's Message Continued. . .

Mi'kmaq History Month

October is Mi'kmaq History Month. Throughout the month, our schools will continue their ongoing education and celebration of our shared culture and heritage. I invite you to follow SSRCE on social media to see the variety of ways our schools will mark this occasion. Inclusive education is a priority for SSRCE. In fact, the Nova Scotia Inclusion Education Policy has just come into effect this school year. The policy will guide how we move forward providing safe and supportive school communities, where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. To read more about this policy, please visit page seven.

Thanks & Appreciation

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our staff who have shown their tremendous commitment to providing our students with a learning environment that both engages and inspires them to reach their full potential. Even in uncertain times, you have used your creativity and professionalism to provide our students with memorable teaching moments while adhering to public health protocols.

I look forward to the 2020-21 school year. Our students are always our top priority and we will continue to provide safe and inclusive school communities as we evolve to adhere to the latest health and safety protocols.

Stay healthy,

Paul Ash

SSRCE Regional Executive Director



Students at West Northfield Elementary School (left) and Parkview High School (above) wear orange on Sept. 30 to mark Orange Shirt Day and honour survivors of residential schools as well as those who did not return home.



Outdoor Learning

In keeping with Nova Scotia's Back to School Plan, teachers have been encouraged to move learning outdoors whenever possible. Our wonderful September weather has provided ample opportunities for outdoor learning in all grade levels. Teachers will continue to think of creative ways to incorporate outdoor learning into their lessons throughout the year.



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO TOM DALEY



All students at Petite Riviere Elementary School can now be seated outside thanks to these new accessible picnic tables built and donated by Tom Daley.



SCHOOLS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



As part of the Lunenburg Lit Festival, Bluenose Academy Grade 8 & 9 students enjoyed a socially distanced book talk at the Lunenburg Bandstand with Lunenburg author, Jo Treggiari. She chatted with the students about her newest novel, "The Grey Sisters."

Bluenose Academy thanks the South Shore Public Libraries for organizing this event and for providing each student with a copy of Jo's book!



Students and staff at Big Tancook Elementary School (left) show their pink to celebrate anti-bullying day on September 10.

Due to health restrictions, North Queens Community School (above) had to get creative with their annual Pink Day photo and used photoshop to pull it off!

A Peek Inside Pre-Primary



SSRCE welcomed pre-primary to all our schools this September. Children and staff have been enjoying this play-based learning program that will help the students transition into the school system.



COVID-19 Reminders

COVID-19 Daily Checklist

It is important to closely monitor your health and the health of those you care for. Please consider these questions each day before leaving home and entering public spaces.

If you are feeling unwell, you should **stay home or go home immediately, and follow the instructions below.**

- 1 **Are you feeling unwell or do you have new or worsening health symptoms?**
If yes, stay home and avoid public spaces, including work, school/child care, and shopping.

- 2 **In the past 48 hours have you had, or are you currently experiencing, any of these symptoms?**



Fever (i.e. chills/sweats) **OR** Cough (new or worsening)

OR two or more of the following symptoms (new or worsening);



Sore throat Runny nose/nasal congestion Headache Shortness of breath

If yes, stay home and contact 811 to be screened for testing for COVID-19.

If you are unsure whether you should be tested complete the COVID-19 self-assessment online, <https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/>, or if unable to access the online tool, call 811.

- 3 **In the last 14 days, have you travelled outside Atlantic Canada?**
If yes, you must stay home. You are required by law to self-isolate for 14 days upon return to Atlantic Canada.

- 4 **In the last 14 days, have you had close contact (within 2 metres / 6 feet) with someone confirmed to have COVID-19?**
If yes, you must stay home. You are required by law to self-isolate if you have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19. If you haven't spoken with Public Health or been tested, you should contact 811 to be screened for testing for COVID-19.

- 5 **Are you waiting for results from a COVID-19 test?**
If yes, stay home. You are required by law to self-isolate while awaiting COVID-19 test results. Please follow instructions given by Public Health.

Revised October 5, 2020

novascotia.ca/coronavirus



Inclusive Education

Inclusive education is a commitment to ensuring a high-quality, culturally and linguistically responsive and equitable education to support the well-being and achievement of every student. All students should feel that they belong in an inclusive school—accepted, safe, and valued—so they can best learn and succeed.

Nova Scotia's Inclusive Education Policy came into effect September 2020. To read the full Inclusive Education Policy visit: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/inclusiveeducationpolicyen.pdf>