



JUNE · NIPNIKÚS · JUIN 2021



# REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the South Shore Regional Centre for Education

## NEWS & FEATURES

A Message from the  
Regional Executive Director

PAGE 2

Sights from Schools

PAGE 3

Recipient of the Lieutenant  
Governor's Respectful  
Citizenship Award

PAGE 4

2021 Education Week  
Recipients

PAGE 5

Mourning the 215 Children  
of Kamloops Residential  
School

PAGE 6

RootED Contest Winners

PAGE 7

School Retrofitting Project &  
New Skills Trade Centre

PAGE 8

Have a story or photo you'd like  
included? Please contact us:  
[www.ssrce.ca](http://www.ssrce.ca)

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## Congratulations to all SSRCE Graduates!

Pictured above are Liverpool Regional High School's band graduates, Lauren Inglis and Rhys Brown.

This year, Lauren was voted by her fellow band members to receive the LRHS Band Spirit Award for being the student who most embodies what it is to love band, live band, and represent band. Lauren is also the recipient of a Canadian Band Association Certificate of Distinction in recognition of superior musicianship, leadership, dependability, loyalty, and cooperation.

Rhys Brown is the first student at LRHS to complete Music 9, 10, 11, and 12 courses. His desire to learn about music, deep understanding of practical music theory and pure talent have been an asset to LRHS the last 4 years. This year, Rhys is the recipient of a Nova Scotia Band Association Outstanding Musician Award.

Congratulations to you both!



## A Message from the Regional Executive Director

*"I encourage you to keep an open mind as you prepare for the next stage of your life. Set goals, stay focused, and remember all that you've already achieved."*

**-PAUL ASH**  
SSRCE REGIONAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Congratulations to all our 2021 graduates! You have faced many challenges throughout this last year and a half. I know this is not the way you imagined you'd be celebrating your high school graduation. However, you've been faced with setbacks, you've risen to the challenge and here you are... about to embark on the next chapter of your life.

Graduating during a pandemic has taught you so much more than the assignments you worked on in your classrooms – through these difficult times, you've inevitably learned many life lessons as well. You learned how to adapt when plans changed. You learned how to be creative and make the most of what you had. You learned not to take things for granted and that together, we are stronger. And your learning will continue. No matter what your plans are for next year, you will continue to learn. We are all students for as long as we are learning, and we will continue to learn and to grow, all throughout our lives.

I encourage you to keep an open mind as you prepare for the next stage of your life. Set goals, stay focused, and remember all that you've already achieved. Have confidence in the skills you've gained and know that no matter what curveball comes your way, you can handle it. You've overcome adversity before and you can do it again.

As we wrap up the year, I'd like to again express my appreciation to all students, staff, and families as you all continually demonstrate your ability adapt to the changing public health guidelines. We were lucky here in SSRCE to have our students learning from the classroom for most of the year, and this success is thanks to your collective efforts.

I wish you all a wonderful summer with plenty of opportunity to enjoy your friends and family. Plans are currently being put in place provincially for the 2021-22 school year. We will keep you updated when we know more and share what we expect the return to school will look like. Have a safe and healthy summer and remember the importance of getting vaccinated when you're able to do so.

All the best,

Paul Ash  
SSRCE Regional Executive Director of Education

# Sights from Schools



A bike rally to celebrate wrapping up another successful school year at North Queens Community School.



Staff and students at South Queens Middle School show their support for their favourite hockey team!



The 2021 graduates from the Verge House Transition Program. Congratulations!

# Recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Respectful Citizenship Award

The Gender/Sexuality Alliance (GSA) at Forest Heights Community School is a recipient of this year's Lieutenant Governor's Respectful Citizenship Award. Due to Covid-19 regulations, the ceremony was held virtually on June 28, 2021, with the Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC., Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.

Recipients of this award are Nova Scotian students who were nominated for their leadership and commitment to form an inclusive environment. A SSRCE staff member nominated the GSA for their incredible work to create a safe and inclusive space both within the school and local community.

"The students and the staff, who support them, demonstrated the leadership qualities to collaborate, communicate and to advocate for a gender-neutral washroom facility at their school," said Carol Hughes, SSRCE Consultant for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

"They also showed leadership beyond their school, and reached out into the larger community of the Municipality of Chester and were able to lobby for change."



*The Gender/Sexuality Alliance at Forest Heights Community School, which received the 2021 Lieutenant Governor's Award.*

Over the last three years, a group of students established the GSA with the collective support of adults. These students did not let lockdowns hinder their vision and unwavering efforts for systematic changes in their school or community. When Covid-19 health measures required two separate lunch times, the GSA quickly divided in two groups to continue in supporting all students.

In collaboration with other interest groups, the GSA advocated for their school and the Chester Municipality to fly a Pride and Transgender flag for last year's Pride Month and Trans Day of Remembrance. A first for both events in these communities.

These students also worked with the entire Forest Heights Community School staff, Nova Scotia Health, and various interest groups to make lasting inclusive change in both their school and community.

Thank you for leading by example.

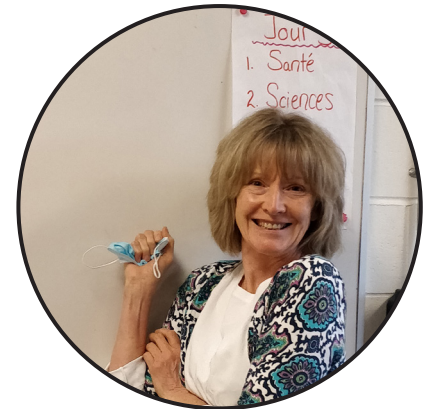
# Meet our 2021 Education Week Recipients



**Early Childhood Educator Award**  
Lynnanne Snair at New Germany Elementary School



**Teacher Award**  
Valerie DeLong at Petite Riviere Elementary School



**Teacher Award**  
Wendy Allen at South Queens Middle School



**Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal Educator/  
Student Support Award**  
Sheila Porter at Chester District School and Chester Area Middle School



**African Nova Scotian Educator/  
Student Support Award**  
Rebecca Fisk at Forest Heights Community School



**Student Support Award**  
Sally Tanner at South Queens Middle School



## PSAANS Member Award

All School Staff in the South Shore Region

The recipient for this award would instead like to recognize the entire region for their incredible work during a time when our students and communities needed us the most. Every staff member has been, and continues to be, a crucial part of this year's success and keeping our school communities safe.

# Remember all those lost at Canada's Residential Schools

This June's National Indigenous History Month began with the heartbreaking discovery of 215 children found buried at the former Kamloops Residential School in Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc territory. Then, just last week we learned of many more graves found in Saskatchewan. The South Shore Regional Centre for Education honours the lives of all those lost at residential schools and stands with our Indigenous communities who are mourning, as this tragedy is a reminder of harm done by residential schools.

On June 2, many students and staff wore orange to recognize the tragedy and mourn all the lives lost at Canada's residential schools. Flags at all SSRCE schools and buildings lowered flags to half-mast for nine days — an hour for each child. This took place from sunrise on Monday, May 31 to sunset on Tuesday, June 8.

Schools also have engaged their students in various activities to honour these children. Stephanie Hunt and her Grade 5 class at Bluenose Academy created a tribute using chalk to draw a heart for each Indigenous child



North Queens Community school honours the 215 children's souls with song and drum.

found in the mass grave. North Queens Community School paused to mourn and remembered the lives through a traditional Indigenous song and drum. The school also hung a banner with the words "Every Child Matters" on the fence where students tied orange ribbon and community members were encouraged to add their own ribbon. These are just a few of the many ways SSRCE schools commemorate this tragedy.

At a time of great sadness, SSRCE created respectful, teachable moments and encouraged

classroom conversations about residential schools. This included discussing the legacy of Canada's residential school system and acknowledging that many children were taken to residential schools and never returned home.

SSRCE will continue to focus on reconciliation through Treaty Education, where all grade levels learn about the Mi'kmaq, treaties, relationships, and reconciliation. These teachings are woven into each grade level throughout the school year.

If you're finding this news difficult, please reach out to available supports.

- The National Indian Residential School Crisis Line: 1-866-925-4419
- The Indian Residential Schools Survivor Society: 1-800-721-0066
- The Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Crisis and Referral Centre: 1-855-379-2099
- [Additional School Mental Health Supports](#)



Petite Riviere Elementary School hung 215 orange ribbons to honour the 215 children whose lives were taken at the former Kamloops residential school.

# RootEd Contest Winners

The RootEd School Food Project announced four winners who used their imagination and creativity to demonstrate the importance of serving colorful, local and equitable food in schools. The contest winners were from across the South Shore region with most participants in the category P-5.



Picture by: Hunter Bradshaw

The winning pieces included a fun mix of pictures and videos. First place for the category 6-9 was a colourful picture by Calla Brown, who is in Grade 7 at South Queen's Middle School. Calla's prize was a \$100 school food meal voucher!

There were three winners in the Category P-5, including a tie for 2nd place. The Grade 1 class taught by Heather Jeffers at West Northfield Elementary School won 1st place for their video submission. For each student's hard work, they all received a food meal voucher.

Hunter Bradshaw in P-1 at Newcomville Elementary School placed 2nd for his picture.



Picture by: Calla Brown

Tied for second was a video submission by Valor Brown in Grade 1 at Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy. Valor showed teamwork by receiving help from his sister, Calla. Both Hunter and Valor received a \$20 school food meal voucher.

Thank you to all who entered.

**REGISTER NOW! PRE-PRIMARY IS COMING TO  
BIG TANCOOK & GREENFIELD ELEMENTARY**



# School Retrofitting Project

On June 2, 2021, it was announced the Government of Canada is investing over \$20.5 million and the Government of Nova Scotia is contributing more than \$5 million to school retrofitting. This joint federal and provincial funding through the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan will benefit students, teachers, and communities.

In the South Shore, there are seven schools that will be receiving

upgrades. All of which are to modernize schools, become more energy efficient and create better spaces for education. As studies continue to demonstrate, when students have good learning environments, their overall educational experience and well being improves significantly.

West Northfield, Bridgewater Jr. High and Chester District Elementary school will get upgrades to building envelope. Aspotogan

Consolidated, Bayview Community and Bridgewater Junior High school will receive upgrades to HVAC systems to improvements energy efficiencies and provide future savings.

The benefits extend beyond students and staff, as many community groups use school spaces as well. This investment in schools, students and the future will help the social and economic wellbeing of the province.

# New Skilled Trades Centre

Construction has started to build Liverpool Regional High School's new skilled trade centre as part of the province's 2019 Capital Plan. This new building will expand the tech ed program to a suite of courses to help prepare students to enter the trades.

The 2019 Capital Plan awarded the school \$975,000 for the new skilled trades centre. Skilled Trades courses have been developed to reflect work in the trades as realistic as possible in a school setting. These courses are based on curricula that immerse students in the realities of skilled trades work. This will provide a unique opportunity for students to have hands-on experience and explore a possible career options in skilled trades.

This new facility will allow Liverpool Regional High School to expand its current stand-alone program Skilled Trade 10, including Construction Trades 11. LRHS students have shown great interest in the current skills trade courses with some even being wait-listed for Skills Trade 10. For the 2021-2022 school year, there will be three sections of Skills Trade 10 and two sections of Construction Trades 11, all which are already close to capacity.

Skilled Trades courses are designed to be taught by certified journeypeople. Students receive apprenticeship hours upon registration, based on the actual class time while under the supervision of a certified journeyperson teacher.



Breaking ground at Liverpool Regional High School's new skilled trade centre.