

NOVEMBER · KEPTKEWIKU'S · NOVEMBRE 2021



# REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the South Shore Regional Centre for Education

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[www.ssrce.ca](http://www.ssrce.ca)



@SSRCENS



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## Community Tree Planting at NQCS



In late October, students at North Queens Community School participated in a tree planting project made possible by The Medway Community Forest Co-op in partnership with the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute.

With the generous support of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative's (SFI) Community Grant and Tree Canada's Operation Releaf program, the project engaged local youth in planting tree saplings along the main road in Caledonia, in Harmony Park, and at the school.

In addition to planting select tree species, organizers hosted facilitated programming at the school to explore various topics related to climate adaptivity and forests, showing younger generations how they can be environmental advocates. A total of 65 hardwood trees were planted.





"Another way we measure how our education system is doing is through assessments. One of these assessments is called the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP)."

- PAUL ASH

SSRCE REGIONAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## A Message from the Regional Executive Director

Here we are nearing the end of November, all settled into the school year with a renewed focus on student achievement and well-being. Our schools recently held parent/teacher conferences and reviewed student progress. It is important school staff, together with parents/guardians, continue to have these discussions throughout the year. Ongoing communication is key to understanding student success.

Another way we measure how our education system is doing is through assessments. One of these assessments is called the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP). This has been designed to determine whether students across Canada reach similar levels of performance in core disciplines at about the same age, and to complement existing provincial assessments. In the spring of 2019, approximately 30,000 students in Grade 8 from close to 1,600 schools across the country were tested. This included SSRCE grade 8 students. Mathematics was the major focus of the assessment (reading and science were also measured). I'd like to share some of the results.

### **Math Highlights**

- For the overall mean score in mathematics, Nova Scotia ranked fourth (out of ten provinces).
- Ninety percent of students in the English-language school system in NS achieved level 2 (the baseline or expected level of mathematics proficiency for Grade 8 students). This is right on par with the national percentage.
- Compared to the baseline year of 2010, there was a positive improvement overall in mathematics and this was also true for right across Canada.

### **Reading & Science Highlights**

- Within the province, students showed significant improvement in overall reading scores compared to 2010, however the overall reading scores in Nova Scotia were lower than that of Canadian students overall.
- In science, students in Nova Scotia achieved scores similar to the Canadian average. Also, here in NS, science scores were significantly higher in 2019 compared to the baseline year of 2013.

Overall, we should be very proud of these results. Not only did NS rank fourth for the overall math scores, we saw significant increases across all three subject areas and as a province, we are right on par with the national average for math and science. Assessments like this one, provide us with important data that helps us understand how we are doing and also examines where there is opportunity for improvement. In SSRCE, our main goals are literacy, well-being and numeracy. I'm confident we are on the right track to improve our scores in all disciplines.

Regards,  
Paul Ash  
SSRCE Regional Executive Director





*PVEC Panthers celebrate their Provincial Championship title.*

## Park View Panthers Capture Provincial Championship

Winning a provincial championship in any sport is cause for celebration, but for the newly formed Park View Education Centre (PVEC) football team, winning the provincial title after an undefeated season is pure jubilation.

Earlier this month, the PVEC football team defeated Lockview High School, 41-7, in the final game that took place at Acadia University. This achievement wouldn't have been possible just a few short years ago. That's because, the team was only formed in September 2018 and last year their season was lost due to COVID-19.

Jamie Dearing is the head coach and says he knew there was a demand for this team because of the very strong local minor football team. "We were finding that kids who really wanted to play at the high school level were not able to and they were actually moving to the city to keep their football career going," he says.

Jamie, along with another parent, Dave Patton, presented their case for a football team to PVEC staff. They were successful and also received the support of Town of Bridgewater, gaining permission to use Kinsmen field as the team's home field. Jamie says they had 40 children sign up to play that first year.

"The students who really wanted football (like my son and his friends) were super excited to have a team but nervous at the same time," says Jamie. "We didn't know if we would be competitive or we would lose every game."

In that first season, the team's record was three wins and five losses. Fast forward three years and the PVEC Panthers are now provincial champions.

Jamie has coached many of his players since they were 8 and 9 years old (when they played for the South Shore Seahawks) and while they had made it to the finals a few times, they had never taken home a win. Until now. "When I hugged some of them after the game they said, 'we finally did it,' which almost made me cry, being so happy for them," he says.

School teams do not function without the support of parent volunteers and volunteer coaches.

"They all give their time to this program, some coaches do not even have a player on the team but just want to be involved," says Jamie. "Parents help by selling team clothing, working the canteen at home games and doing other various jobs for the team when needed."

Jamie says football teaches teamwork, discipline, hard work, and loyalty. He also says the team becomes close like a family and that's one of the reasons he encourages others to try the sport. With football gaining traction on the South Shore, Jamie is hopeful this incredible season will inspire others to come out and give football a shot and support the PVEC Panthers.

# **Changes to School Cafeterias:**

## **School Food Project Brings Affordable & Nutritious Food for All**

School cafeterias are changing throughout the South Shore Regional Centre for Education. In order to provide equity for all students, our schools will now offer the same nutritious foods at the same prices. Through our School Food Project, cafeterias will now be managed at the regional level.



### ***What does the School Food Project mean for you?***

All cafeterias will now use the same approved recipes and have common standards for ingredients and costs. Menu prices will be set regionally and all schools will have the same pricing. This means that no matter which school a student attends, they will have access to healthy and affordable food options. It also means that (in many cases) meal costs will be lowering.

### ***Why do we need the School Food Project?***

Previously, the success and the types of foods offered in cafeterias throughout SSRCE varied. For example, high schools would typically see more meals sold at higher prices than elementary schools and in some areas, social demographics hindered sales. Schools also managed cafeteria operations and staff, which was time consuming and complex. Now, there will be standard costs and procedures, and cafeteria staffing will be handled regionally through the School Food Project.

The intention of school cafeterias is not to be a revenue generator for a school, but rather a way to provide equitable nutritious food. With the School Food Project, any funds that are made through cafeteria sales will go right back into the operation of the cafeteria.

The School Food Project is directly linked to the provincial Inclusive Education Policy as well as SSRCE's main goals of improving students' health, wellness, and readiness to learn. This project will ensure more students' basic needs are being met and help prepare them for success at school.

If you haven't already received information from your school about the School Food Project along with updated menus and costs, you can expect to get more details soon.





## Cultural Cooking Program



Thanks to a collaboration between SSRCE SchoolsPlus, SSRCE Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding & Human Rights (RCH), Student Support Workers and Coordinators, the United Way, the Toronto Dominion Bank, the Bridgewater Food Bank, and the Atlantic Superstore, we've launched the Cultural Cooking Program.

Forty SSRCE families of African Canadian or Indigenous heritage were selected by Student Support Workers to participate.

Each family received a crock pot and cookbook (including five Indigenous, five African Canadian and five crock pot recipes) plus pantry supplies required to cook the meals. They also received weekly drop-offs of food for five weeks to cook three meals per week and were emailed weekly links to watch how to prepare the meals.

In total, we were able to provide enough food to prepare 600 meals!



# MEET OUR MATH TEAM

Meet the SSRCE Math Intervention team!

The Math Intervention team provides support and instruction that will help learners build the skills they need to improve their mathematical development. The approach used for intervention is evidence-based focusing on identification, concentrated instruction, and intervention practices that will give learners the support they need to boost their confidence in mathematics.

The Math Intervention team provides support at both the elementary and junior high level in the SSRCE.

## Interventionists

N. Jefferies, S Fox, T. Comeau, J. Landry, S Benoit, A. Baker-Rawding, P. Johnson (missing - B Norwood, S Mitchell)



## Coaches

G Marshall, D. MacDonald (missing - L Andrews, S. Delory, L. Taylor)



# Intensive French Immersion Program Now Accepting Registrations

Looking for government-funded opportunities for students to learn or improve their French? Want your child to boost their self-confidence, gain independence, and develop new skills?

Explore is an intensive French-immersion program that is offered during the spring and summer for students aged 13+. With host institutions across the country, participants can experience francophone culture while traveling and connecting with others like them. The classes are assigned by skill level, so participants are bound for success. Along with class time, Explore offers workshops, excursions and trips to the must see attractions of the area, as well as free time!

Visit the [official languages programs website](https://www.officiallanguagesprograms.ca) for more information about this amazing opportunity and to access the application portal. The early-bird deadline for applications is February 15th! If you have any questions, please reach out to Nova Scotia's promotion agent of the programs, Caroline Hitchcock – [caroline.hitchcock@novascotia.ca](mailto:caroline.hitchcock@novascotia.ca), 902-424-8352.





# Spotlight on Schools



NQCS welcomed Dan Hennessey, Honorary Colonel 14 Construction Engineering Squadron RCAF, who came by to pick up the donations for the Adopt the Troops for Christmas campaign. The grade nines put together four boxes of items to cheer up deployed members of the Canadian military over the holiday season (pictured above).

Ms. Smith's Grade 5/6 class displayed their leadership skills as they conducted Petite Riviere Elementary School's Remembrance Day ceremony (pictured left).



The grade 2/3 class at New Ross Consolidated School welcomed Ron Langevin who spoke to the students about Remembrance Day (pictured above).

Thank you to the New Germany Legion - Branch 102 members for attending West Northfield's Remembrance Day ceremony (pictured left).



# Spotlight on Schools



South Queens Middle School Food and Nutrition students planned and prepared healthy meals (based on the new Canada's Food Guide) for themselves. Burritos and salad with homemade guacamole were on the menu above.

Grade 1 students at Bridgewater Elementary School are enjoying music class (pictured left).



Greenfield Elementary school has received an UPLIFT grant through Health Promoting Schools. The students came up with innovative ideas to enhance indoor and outdoor learning. Thank you UPLIFT! (Pictured above).

Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School students enjoy a beautiful day outside. They collected elements from nature to create patterns (pictured left).

# READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Become a member of our Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee



## We're looking for people to represent SSRCE!

Help remove barriers for students and staff with disabilities. Become a member of the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee for the Regional Centres for Education (RCEs) and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP).

We're looking for people with lived experience and/or with expertise in the area of accessibility. In accordance with the Accessibility Act, at least one half of the membership will be persons with disabilities or from an organization that represents persons with disabilities. SSRCE staff, students, community partners, and community members are encouraged to apply.

Application deadline is December 3, 2021.

For more details and an application form [click here](#).



# NOW HIRING

We have immediate openings for part-time and full-time positions including:

- Substitute Teachers (Bachelor of Education)
- Alternate Substitute Teachers (Bachelor Degree)
- Early Childhood Educators
- Teaching Assistants
- Janitors
- Bus Drivers
- Food Service Workers
- Administrative Assistants (casuals)
- HVAC Technician



**South Shore**

Regional Centre for Education



## Have you signed up for SchoolCash Online yet?

SchoolCash Online as our preferred method of payment for school fees, including everything from field trips to yearbooks to lunches. SchoolCash Online helps parents and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. By using SchoolCash Online, you help increase efficiency and security at your school by making payments directly into your school's bank account. This allows teachers and administrative assistants to focus on helping students, and not counting cash. In addition, you are immediately informed about school activities.

Registering for SchoolCash Online is safe, simple, secure. Create an account today at <https://ssrce.schoolcashonline.com/>

- Be ready to receive email notifications of new fees or items available for purchase, including field trips, yearbooks, spirit wear, athletic fees, and more.
- Be ready to pay for school fees anytime, anywhere, with a simple click.
- Keep track of school items and activity fees, and manage all students in your household from one location.
- Have online access to your account history and view and print receipts.

Securely pay for  
school items &  
fees 24/7

[Log in](#)

**SchoolCash Online**

