



JANUARY · PENAMUJIKU'S · JANVIER · 2022



REGIONAL UPDATE

Newsletter of the South Shore Regional Centre for Education

NEWS & FEATURES

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Have a story or
photo you'd like
included? Please
contact us:
www.ssrce.ca



@SSRCENS



@SSRCE_NS

Week of At-Home Learning Concludes



After an extended holiday break, students returned to classes virtually on January 10 for a week of at-home learning.

Teachers and staff throughout SSRCE once again demonstrated their ability to adapt to changing environments and quickly prepared for online learning.

Pictured above are Mrs. Longley and Ms. Demone at Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School practicing their Google Meets with each other prior to the start of at-home learning.

Once again, we thank students, staff, and families for their ongoing patience and commitment to education.



A Message from the Regional Executive Director

I'd like to take a moment to thank all our families, students, and staff for a tremendous week of at-home learning. While learning online isn't ideal, and can be a difficult balancing act for many, I've received positive feedback and have seen impressive stories online. Once again, you've come together to make our students the priority and your adaptability is impressive.

We know having students learning in-person is the best scenario for our children. It's vital for their emotional, physical, intellectual and social development. That's why I'm pleased to see students return to in-person learning on January 17. As we have done since the beginning of the pandemic, we follow the advice of public health and medical professionals. Our schools will continue to follow core public health measures along with a number of enhanced measures.

For a full list of changes in schools, please visit the provincial [Back to School Plan](#).

The key public health measures include: wearing a properly fitted 3-ply mask, washing and sanitizing hands regularly, getting vaccinated if eligible, and staying home if feeling unwell. I encourage parents to review the Daily COVID Checklist [here](#). Please keep your children home if they are sick.

As we learn to live with COVID, we also learn to adapt to a new routines in our schools. I'm hopeful the rest of the school year will provide us plenty of opportunity to continue to focus on our main goals of literacy, well-being, and numeracy. SSRCE staff remained committed to providing environments where our students can reach their full potential and I look forward to seeing this in action, and in-person, for the remainder of the school year.

Stay well,

Paul Ash

SSRCE Regional Executive Director



Dates to Remember:

Friday, January 28, 2022
Assessment/Evaluation Day (10-12).
No school for grades 10-12, based on school configurations.

Monday, January 31, 2022
Semester 2 Begins

Wednesday, February 2, 2022
Embedded CLT
(90-minute early dismissal)



Hebville Academy Hosts Provincial Announcement

In mid-December, Hebville Academy hosted the Minister of Education and the Minister of Agriculture for a provincial announcement.

To support student success and well-being, the government is investing \$2 million in the new Healthy Schools Fund and covering the increased cost of milk for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year.

The Healthy Schools Fund will provide each school across the province with \$5,000 and an additional \$1 per student annually for programs and activities that support mental and physical health or cultural awareness.

Schools will work with students, teachers, and school advisory councils to determine how to best spend money from the Healthy Schools Fund.

"We know student success is directly linked to overall student well-being," says Stephen Johnson, Hebville Academy's Principal. "This funding will provide schools an opportunity to directly improve our students' mental, physical, social, and emotional health. We look forward to working with our school community to put these funds to use, whether that be increasing fitness activities, supporting our student-led groups and clubs, or expanding upon our cultural experiences."



Hebville Academy Principal, Stephen Johnson speaks during a provincial announcement.



Minister of Education, Becky Druhan and Agriculture Minister, Greg Morrow, chat with Hebville Academy students about the school's milk program.

Spotlight on Schools



Grade 2/3 students from New Ross Consolidated School spent a day at Ross Farm learning about farming then & now, how it impacts the land, different trees and their uses, along with lots of local history (pictured above).

A recent winter storm caused water pipes to break in the main classroom of Big Tancook Elementary School. Over the weekend, and before a plumber could get to the school, a number of parents and community members (including some students) came together to clean up flooding. We'd like to send our appreciation to all those who pitched in and supported their community! (Pictured left).



Students at New Germany Elementary School enjoy hot chocolate after a trail walk (pictured above).

Grade 4 to 6 students at Petite Rivière Elementary School worked hard spreading wood chips, donated by Mayfair Tree Care, in the school's garden (pictured left).

Spotlight on Schools



SSRCE schools and communities came together to support those in need during the holiday season. Here are a few examples of SSRCE generosity.

Bridgewater Junior High School's LEOS (Leadership, Experience, Opportunity, Service) Club had a very successful Food Drive with 1066 non-perishable items donated to their local community (pictured above).

Students and staff at Liverpool Regional High School raised \$1565 for the Queens County Food Bank (pictured left).



Through popcorn sales dedicated to the New Germany & Area Toy Drive, the New Germany Rural High School Student Council purchased 24 toys to donate (pictured above).

Newcombville Elementary would like to thank Nature's Reflections Landscaping Ltd. for their generous donation of \$500.00 toward their Breakfast Program (pictured left).



Delmore "Buddy" Daye
Learning Institute
Excellence in Africentric Education & Research

The 2022 African Nova Scotian History Challenges

Entries accepted from December 1, 2021 to February 18, 2022

Awards include bursaries totalling \$3,000.00, prizes and gifts.



KNOW SOMEONE WITH A CHILD READY TO START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER?

EARLY REGISTRATION

For planning purposes, we encourage early registrations.

Our early registration week was January 10-14, however, do not worry if you missed this date. Families can register their child at any time.

As non-essential visitors are not currently permitted in our schools, please register online at: www.ssrce.ca/registration.

(This is for new registrations only, current students do not need to register).



Your voice is important. The Nova Scotia Government is reviewing a law, called the Intimate Images and Cyber-protection Act, to understand how well it's working for Nova Scotians.

Your thoughts, experiences and opinion on cyberbullying and intimate image sharing without consent will help determine how well the law is working.

The survey is open until Jan. 28th. [Access the survey here.](#)

If you are currently experiencing cyber-bullying or intimate image sharing without your consent, please reach out to CyberSCAN by calling 1-855-702-8324 for support.

If you'd like to speak to a mental health professional, please contact the Nova Scotia Mental Health and Addictions Crisis Line at 1-888-429-8167.

Intimate Images and Cyber-protection Act Public Survey



COVID-19 Daily Checklist

It is important to closely monitor your health and the health of those you care for to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses like the flu.

Vaccination is your best defense against COVID-19 and some other illnesses like the flu.

NOTE: If you are in a school or child care setting, you need to follow this checklist AND instructions for the [Test to Protect Program](#).

1 Do you feel sick?

If yes, stay home or put a mask on right away and go home. Keep doing healthy habits like washing your hands and coughing or sneezing into your elbow. Avoid school, work, child care settings and public spaces. Do not return until you feel better (without fever medications) for at least 24 hours. It's ok if you still have a mild cough or runny nose, unless you are in one of the situations below.

2 In the past 48 hours, have you had, or are you currently experiencing:



Cough (new or worsening)

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



Fever
(i.e. chills/sweats)



Sore
throat



Runny nose/
nasal congestion



Headache



Shortness of breath

If yes, go home or stay home as noted above. Follow [Public Health instructions](#) for testing and isolation.

3 Have you visited a COVID-19 exposure site?

Check the list of [COVID-19 exposure sites](#) and follow Public Health instructions. You may need to be tested. You may also need to self-isolate.

4 Have you been outside Nova Scotia in the past 14 days?

If yes, check if you are required to [isolate due to travel](#).

5 Has someone who tested positive for COVID-19 told you that you are one of their close contacts?

If yes, follow [Public Health instructions](#).