



REGIONAL UPDATE

Newsletter of the South Shore Regional Centre for Education

NEWS & FEATURES

A Message from the
Regional Executive
Director

PAGE 2

LRHS Food Hike

PAGE 3

Spotlight on Schools

PAGE 4

"ReconciliACTION" Grants

PAGE 5

NSISP Program

PAGE 6

Pre-Primary Registration

PAGE 7

Magic of Harry Potter

PAGE 8

PM Awards for Teaching
Excellence in STEM

PAGE 9

National Social Work Month

PAGE 10

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



@SSRCENS



@SSRCE_NS

SSRCE Becomes First in Atlantic Canada to Introduce Extended Stop Arm for School Bus



From left to right: Denise Crouse, SSRCE Transportation Coordinator, Honourable Becky Druhan, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, and Paul Ash, SSRCE Regional Executive Director, stand along side the newly installed extended stop arm. (Photo courtesy of Becky Druhan, MLA's Facebook page).

Beginning Monday, March 21, 2022, drivers in the Hebbville area will notice a new feature on bus route 245. In an effort to reduce red light violations and increase student safety, SSRCE is piloting an extended stop arm.

The new stop arm will extend a total of 2 metres into the oncoming lane of traffic and with two illuminated stop signs, will be more visible to motorists. If a vehicle hits the stop arm, it is designed to break away, likely causing damage to the vehicle but keeping the child safe.

Although it is illegal to pass a school bus with its lights flashing, there are still several violations each year in SSRCE. The intention of this pilot is to decrease those numbers, increase driver awareness of the importance of stopping when the stop arm is extended, and in turn improve student safety. To read the full news release please [click here](#).



A Message from the Regional Executive Director

We've just wrapped up March Break and have entered spring – a season of growth and potential. While we watch for flowers to bloom and welcome warmer weather, we are also heading into the final months of this school year with a renewed sense of optimism.

The province has now moved into Phase 3 of its reopening plan and our schools are seeing changes relating to things like cohorting, visitors, and large gatherings. We understand this shift will cause a variety of feelings and encourage everyone to continue to be patient and kind with one another.

As you know, Public Health has advised that masking will remain in place for staff, students, and visitors for a few more weeks during school hours and on school buses. We continue to follow the lead of Public Health and their directives.

With the lifting of restrictions, many schools have started to plan graduations and students are already feeling the sense of excitement that comes along with acknowledging education milestones. Schools will have more to share on their graduation plans and you can expect to hear directly from your home school.

I'd like to take a moment to recognize a number of important initiatives happening in our region, many of which you'll see highlighted throughout this report. Last month, we celebrated African Heritage Month and the theme, *Through Our Eyes: The Voices of African Nova Scotians*. From flag-raising, to guest speakers and special projects, our schools honoured the legacies of people of African descent and made a commitment to continue this education all year round.

On page 5, I invite you to read more about three schools in SSRCE who have just received ReconciliACTION grants. These grants are provided by Mi'kmaw Services for projects that develop, promote, and deliver programs, resources, and services that support classroom-based, school-based, and regional Reconciliation.

As you've seen on the cover page, SSRCE just launched an extended stop arm on a school bus in the Hebbville area. This route was chosen because it has the highest number of red light violations, historically. Even though passing a school bus while the lights are flashing is illegal, there are still several red light violations each year. The intention of this pilot is to decrease these violations and improve student safety.

I invite you to continue to read this report and learn more about what's happening throughout SSRCE.

All the best,
Paul Ash



Dates to Remember:

Friday, March 25 - Assessment/Evaluation Day (P-9). No classes for students in grades Pre-Primary to 9 (based on school configurations).

Wednesday, March 30 - Embedded CLT (90-minute early dismissal).

Thursday, April 7 - Parent-Teacher Afternoon (P-12). No afternoon classes.

Wednesday, April 13 - Embedded CLT (90-minute early dismissal).

Food Hike at LRHS Made Possible with Uplift Grant

Schools throughout SSRCE have access to a grant through Uplift (a partnership that supports the health and learning of school-aged children) of up to \$5,000 before the end of 2023.

Uplift grants support youth-led projects that contribute to the well-being of their community. At Liverpool Regional High School, a group of students applied for an Uplift grant to complete a Food Hike in support of a local food bank.

The food hike team was made up of Asa Danylewich, Zander Goodwin, Darian Hanson, Cooper Theriau, Abram Young, and Mr. White.

With help from the Uplift grant, along with \$200 donated by Sobeys, the group purchased hiking backpacks, and nearly \$1,000 in school snacks. The group decided the donations would consist of school snack items because the food bank staff told them these types of donations are less common and they were in need.

The team loaded what they could in their backpacks and walked from the Sobeys to the local food bank. They also had the help of local RCMP, who loaded the other donations in their vehicle to bring to the food bank.

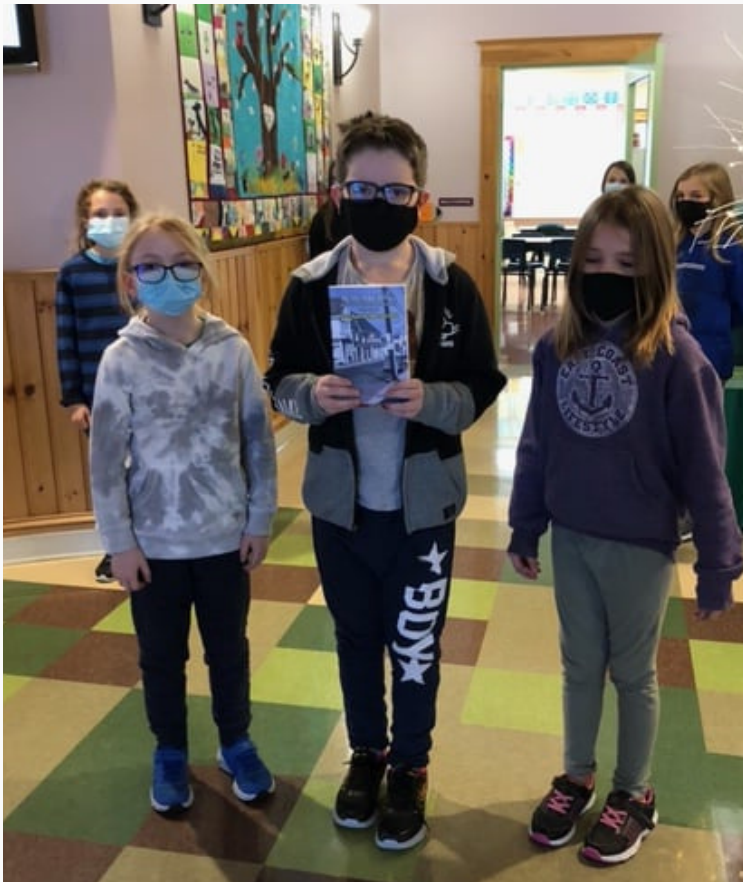
All in all, more than 1,000 snacks were donated to the Queens County Food Bank.

More information on Uplift can be found here: <https://www.upliftns.ca/en/home/>



LRHS students prepare for the Food Hike (left) and make their way to the Queens Food Bank (right) with their many donations of school snacks.

Spotlight on Schools



Pre-primaries at Chester District Elementary School celebrate African Heritage Month and explore their creativity while being inspired by the work of Joan Butterfield (pictured above).

Greenfield Elementary School would like to thank Tim McDonald for donating his books to their school library. Students will enjoy learning about Queens County through his writing and photography (pictured left).



South Queens Middle School recently held a Wellness Challenge. A theme of one challenge was 'smile.' This class, 7 Allen, knocked it out of the park with their smile masks (pictured above).

A geometric falcon mural created by Lydia Shirran for her Art Entrepreneurship 12 class at Forest Heights Community School (pictured left).

Three SSRCE Schools Receive "ReconciliACTION" Grants to Promote and Support School Reconciliation Projects

Congratulations to Liverpool Regional High School, Chester Area Middle School, and Bayview Community School, who have all been awarded ReconciliACTION grants.

These grants are provided by Mi'kmaw Services for projects that develop, promote, and deliver programs, resources, and services that support classroom based, school based, and regional Reconciliation.

Through the leadership of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the wisdom gained in developing the 94 Calls To Action, the hope is that all Canadians, regardless of their role in society, can connect with one of the actions outlined with an activity in their classroom, school, community or home. These actions, or reconciliACTIONS, whether they be small scale or community-wide are considered to be the building blocks in the foundation of the reconciliation movement. The role of this grant is to stimulate the creative thinking in school communities to consider activities that might not otherwise emerge through typical school programming.

Schools were encouraged to apply for the grants of up to \$5,000. Here's an overview of the successful projects that will be funded in SSRCE:

Liverpool Regional High School

Project Title: The Elder's Room

Description: The creation of a learning space within Liverpool Regional High School dedicated to Mi'kmaw/Indigenous Elders. The purpose of this space is to create an environment where our local Mi'kmaw/Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers feel safe, included, and welcome to share their knowledge and experiences. We wish to honour their presence and generosity by gifting them ownership in our school. LRHS will provide materials and tools to facilitate a warm, friendly, and respectful teaching of traditional knowledge, crafts, and stories.

Chester Area Middle School

Project Title: Mobile Medicine Wheel/ Outdoor Learning/ Gathering Space

Description: The creation of a mobile medicine wheel in a green space at Chester Area Middle School to support land-based learning and increase cultural competency of staff and students. The medicine wheel will be constructed and deconstructed by students and staff for each use and provide a platform which will guide the learning environment. The inclusion of the seven sacred teachings and other Mi'kmaw concepts such as Netukulimk and Etuaptmumk (two-eyed seeing) will enhance outdoor learning and in classroom learning. Elder and Knowledge Keeper presence will allow for first voice in many of the traditional teachings and enhance the learning environment for both staff and students.

Bayview Community School

Project Title: Connecting to Mi'kmaq Land and Culture

Description: Creation of an outdoor learning space in the form of a traditional Mi'kmaw wikuom (wigwam). Using the space to explore and learn the Mawio'mi (gathering) through dance, song, games, and ceremony. Honouring and empowering our Indigenous students, staff, and community members. Students will have the opportunity to prepare materials and build the wikuom while learning important Mi'kmaw concepts such as Netukulimk and Etuaptmumk (two-eyed seeing). Inclusion of Mi'kmaw/Indigenous drumming, song, and dance in our music and physical education classes will increase our school's cultural competency.

Bring the World Home

Since 1997, the Nova Scotia International Student Program has welcomed students from around the world into homes across Nova Scotia. After nearly two years of being closed to the world, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we finally welcomed back international students to the South Shore last month.

As of February 1st, we have 41 International students ranging from grade 8 to grade 12, from 14 different countries attending various SSRCE schools. This is so exciting for everyone involved, from the students to the schools and homestay families!



NSISP students enjoy all of the perks of becoming a member of one of our fantastic homestay families. Our homestay families open their hearts and their homes to the international students, and the experience for everyone is extremely rewarding. The homestay program is the heartbeat of the NSISP experience. For students, it is a way to learn about the Canadian way of life. For the host families, it's an opportunity to bring the world to their home and gain a new family member. These rewarding relationships do last a lifetime.

Our international students are looking forward to being able to explore all the wonderful locations and events the scenic South Shore has to offer!

We are looking for host families for September. [More info here.](#)

[More about the NSISP.](#)

Follow us on [FACEBOOK](#) and [INSTAGRAM](#).



Photo: [@yumi.m.photography](#)

REGISTER NOW PRE-PRIMARY & NEW REGISTRATIONS

Know someone with a child ready to start school in September? We are accepting registrations for the 2022-2023 school year now.

Families are encouraged to register online at:
www.ssrce.ca/register.

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



Catching up with IB Alumni

The International Baccalaureate (IB) program is available at Park View Education Centre and recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. As part of this milestone, they've compiled stories from 40 alumni.

Wondering what it's like to be part of the IB program? Here's a sneak peak of the testimonials.

For more information on the IB Program visit:
<https://ssrce.ca/enriched-programming-ap-a-ib/>



Explore Program Accepting Registrations



It's not too late to apply!

Explore is a once in a lifetime experience for all students aged 13+. This French-immersion summer program is more than just a French course, it's an opportunity for students to experience Francophone culture in a whole new way! The program allows participants to travel somewhere new and make new friends! It is open to all French levels, students are not required to be in French-immersion to participate. The Official Languages programs (OLP) are funded by the government of Canada, and it's a great way to learn and practice French outside of the school year.

Candidates can select up to three preferences in their application, choosing which sessions interests them the most based off their location and what the host institution has to offer in order to make the program unique! The OLP is happy to offer Explore sessions in-person and virtually. The sooner they apply, the better their chances are of being selected for a spot.

For more information and to apply, visit [EnglishFrench.ca](https://www.englishfrench.ca). Have questions? Contact Nova Scotia's promotion agent, Caroline Hitchcock – caroline.hitchcock@novascotia.ca, 902-424-8352.

The Magic of Harry Potter - Still Time to Check Out the Fundraiser for Bayview Community School



For four magical days during March Break, Bayview Community School hosted a walk-through experience that thrilled Harry Potter fans.

The event was so successful they have added two additional days to catch the display. Stop by to check out The Magic of Harry Potter from 10am -3pm on Saturday, March 26 and Saturday, April 2 at the Bridgewater mall.

When: Additional days of March 26 & April 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Bridgewater Mall

Cost: \$5 per person or \$20 per family

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.facebook.com/BayviewMagicofHarryPotter>





Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence and Teaching Excellence in STEM

The nomination period for the 2022 competition for the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence, Teaching Excellence in STEM and Excellence in Early Childhood Education is extended until April 21, 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Canada's educators are showing unparalleled resilience and commitment to students in the face of COVID-19. If you know an educator who has gone above and beyond, nominate them for a Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence, Teaching Excellence in STEM, or Excellence in Early Childhood Education.

Download your nomination package today. Submit your nomination electronically or by mail by April 21, 2022.

Have you signed up yet?

SchoolCash Online

Pay for school items
& fees online

SchoolCash Online is SSRCE's preferred method of payment for school fees from everything from field trips to yearbooks to lunches.

By using SchoolCash Online, you help increase efficiency and security at your school by making payments directly into your school's bank account. Registering for SchoolCash Online is safe, simple, secure. Create an account today at:

<https://ssrce.schoolcashionline.com/>

Securely pay for
school items &
fees 24/7

[Log in](#)

SchoolCash Online

MARCH IS NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

March is Social Work Month and we are highlighting the Social Workers who work within the SchoolsPlus Program. They work as a team to support our students/families and we thank each of them!



Cicely Smith

SchoolsPlus Community
Outreach Worker
New Germany Schools



Melanie Halliday

SchoolsPlus Facilitator/Parent
Navigator for Hebbville Feeders
and Lunenburg (HA, NES, PRES,
PES, NES, BA)



Shannon Vincent

SchoolsPlus Facilitator/Parent
Navigator for
Queens County Schools



Linda Jensen

SchoolsPlus Facilitator/Parent
Navigator for Bridgewater
Schools (PVEC, BES, BJHS,
Adult High)



Colleen Myra

SchoolsPlus Facilitator/Parent
Navigator for Chester Area
(ACES, CDS, CAMS, FHCS,
NRCS)



Alexandria Acton-Bond

SchoolsPlus Facilitator/Parent
Navigator for NGRH, NGES,
WNES, BCS, Mahone Alt



ADULTS IN OUTDOOR PLAY



THE ROLE OF THE ADULT IS TO OFFER



PERMISSION

Let kids play and allow for child-directed play.

Value play as essential to learning.

Model play by being playful yourself.



TIME

Children need time and opportunity for play.

Allow for play to feel endless and be uninterrupted.



MATERIALS

Offer a variety of materials including loose parts with no set purpose that can be moved, combined and manipulated.

Materials can be synthetic, natural or diverted waste.



SPACE

Quality playspaces invite play! They include wonder, excitement, the unknown and the unexpected.

Importantly, the best playspaces are those not controlled or ordered by adults.



WHAT TO DO IN THE MOMENT

BE A LEARNING ALLY

Let your child follow their play needs. Redirect only when needed.

WAIT AND OBSERVE

Don't interrupt. Only join in when invited.

CHECK-IN

Ask questions or offer tips: "How do you plan to get across that?" "If you fall, go floppy and roll."

THE 17 SECOND STRATEGY

Give children time to problem solve on their own.

DON'T LET YOUR FEARS BECOME THEIR FEARS

The benefits of play far outweigh the risks.

OFFER A SAFE SPACE FOR PLAY

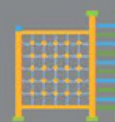
Ensure the playspace is free of hazards. Offer a secure base (ie. your lap) to get started.

HAZARDS VS. RISKS



HAZARD: A danger that could seriously injure or endanger a child and is beyond the child's capacity to recognize.

Adults are responsible for hazards.



RISK: A challenge that a child can recognize and learn to manage by choosing to encounter and determining their own limits.

Risks help your child develop.

Appropriate level of risk will be different for each child.

TAKE A LIFEGUARD APPROACH

Source: Dr. Mariana Brussoni

OBSERVE

OPEN ATTENTION

Express interest as you watch but avoid interfering in their play. Trust that the child can manage the risks and challenges at hand.

CHECK-IN

FOCUSSED ATTENTION

If/when danger presents itself that may push the edge of acceptable risk, check-in with the child to see if they are aware of the risk. If yes, go back to observing.

INTERVENE

ACTIVE PROTECTION

If the level of risk has become unacceptable it's time for the adult to intervene. Take steps to reduce the risks. Help the child better understand risk and give them the confidence to manage it.

“Access to active play and outdoors—and its risks—is essential for healthy child development.”

- Outdoor Play Canada

LOOK AT
YOU GO!

SOUTH SHORE ACTIVE COMMUNITIES
More info @ southshoreconnect.ca