



JUNE · NIPNIKU'S · JUIN · 2022



REGIONAL UPDATE

Newsletter of the South Shore Regional Centre for Education

NEWS & FEATURES

A Message from the
Regional Executive
Director
PAGE 2

Spotlight on Schools
PAGE 3 & 4

Cafeteria Price Changes
PAGE 5

Summer Reading Fun
PAGE 5

Engage in Summer Math
PAGE 6

Entrepreneurship Award
PAGE 7

Black Excellence Day
PAGE 8

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

 @SSRCENS

 @SSRCE_NS

SSRCE Celebrates Pride



June is Pride Month and a cause for celebration at schools throughout SSRCE. We believe schools must be safe and supportive places where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

During the month, students learn to show kindness and respect, no matter who they love or their gender identity. These lessons are done in age-appropriate ways and throughout the entire school year.



A Message from the Regional Executive Director

Welcome to the end of the 2021-22 school year. I'd like to take a moment to thank our staff, students, and families for making this year a success.

This has been a busy month, as student's wrap up their class work, high school students complete exams, year end activities and events are taking place, and graduations are being celebrated.

June is also Pride Month, as you'll see highlighted on the cover page.

It's also National Indigenous Peoples Month and June 21st was National Indigenous Peoples Day, a time to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and contributions of Indigenous People. You will see photos to the right, from events at North Queens Community School. As well, on page four, a photo from an Elder's Room that has been created at Liverpool Regional High School.

On June 17th, public schools celebrated the inaugural Black Excellence Day. You will find this milestone highlighted on page eight.

There were also plenty of academic achievements and special milestones celebrated throughout the month as well. Many schools held special assemblies to send off students who are moving up to new schools and there will be many more milestones taking place next week, when grade 12 students receive their high school diplomas.

Congratulations to the class of 2022. On behalf of all SSRCE staff, I wish you much success and joy as you move into this next phase of your life.

Best wishes for a safe and healthy summer.

Sincerely,
Paul Ash
Regional Executive Director



To mark National Indigenous Peoples Day, students at North Queens Community School visit a display and hands on exploration session with Richard, who shared his experience living on the land in the Mi'kmaq tradition.



Spotlight on Schools



Students and staff at Bayview Community School were thrilled to hold the first band concert dress rehearsal in three years (pictured above).

Students at Big Tancook Elementary School work on a new unit in science - light. They discussed why we need light to see as well as optical devices (pictured left).



Petite Rivière Elementary School students show art created after an art lesson (pictured above).

Liverpool track and field athletes show their school pride while competing at Provincials in Stellarton (pictured left).

Spotlight on Schools



Liverpool Regional High School recently opened their Elder's Room. The space is a dedicated for Mi'kmaw/Indigenous Elders to share their knowledge and experiences. The room was created with funds from a Reconciliation Grant (pictured above).

A variety of animals visited Greenfield Elementary School during pet day (pictured left).



North Queens grade 10 Visual Art students are pictured above painting with water. They were on the water, using water, and inspired by water.

Bluenose visits the Bluenose! Grade 9 students from Bluenose Academy recently had the opportunity to sail on the Bluenose (pictured left).

REGISTER TODAY!

SchoolCash Online

Pay for school items & fees online

Cafeteria Price Changes in September

Due to rising food costs, it is necessary for us to increase cafeteria prices effective September 1, 2022. All items (with the exception of milk) will increase by fifty cents. For example, a \$1.00 recess item will increase to \$1.50 and a \$5.00 meal will change to \$5.50.

We thank our Food Service Workers for going above and beyond since the beginning of the pandemic and ensuring our students are fed and kept safe. They have been an essential part of our schools for more than thirty years and have been providing food to our students at the lowest cost possible.

We understand rising costs of essential items is having an impact on many families. This adjustment is necessary as cafeteria prices have not seen a significant price change in more than ten years and we must respond to the increasing costs of our supplies.

If you require food support, please reach out to your school principal or teacher. There are programs available to ensure our students don't go hungry. Additionally, you can call 211 or visit ns.211.ca and search food support for your nearest option.



A sample of cafeteria selections from Bluenose Academy.



Summer Reading Fun

As summer approaches and schools close, be sure to keep the door to reading open!

Books have been called windows into new worlds, doors into the imaginary, and mirrors reflecting our world and experiences. **Students benefit from continued literacy practice over the summer, regardless of their age and grade.** This includes reading and writing in many forms. Explore the growing options for reading, including graphic novels, and tech supported ebooks.

Consider visiting your local Library or Bookmobile. More info at www.southshorepubliclibraries.ca

Ideas to help support your child:

- Make reading part of your **summertime** routine.
- Give your child the power of **choice**. Interest in a topic sparks longer and more successful reading.
- **Talk** about your reading and make it part of your summer fun.
- Create a **focus** on reading by setting goals: count books read (keep a list), attempt new books, and access your local library regularly for programs and services.

Common concerns:

- If the reading choice is **too easy**, it's okay; it allows the reader to feel successful.
- If the reading choice is **too hard**, read it together and talk about the book.
- If the reading choice is **read over and over**, don't worry. Familiar reading builds important literacy skills.

Children benefit from practicing their literacy skills over the summer. **Students who read and write, and talk about reading and writing, are more prepared for school in September.** All reading or writing practice is a great way to support your child's literacy success.

Find fun and easy ways to incorporate literacy that suit your family and have a blast with summer reading!





Engage in Summer Math

Many summer activities can be turned into a math experience for your children. You can explore number concepts and ask thought provoking questions to encourage mathematical thinking in almost any activity. Exploring math in real life can help make math meaningful. Engage in activities that involve counting, computation, measurement, estimation, encourage thinking and problem solving.

Here are a few ideas to spark your imagination:

- **Gardening by the Numbers:** Involve children with designing a garden space, planting seeds, watering, and charting the plant growth.
- **Math in Nature:** Look for patterns, shapes and symmetry in nature.
- **Shapes Hunt:** Create a list of shapes, find each shape outside and draw shape pictures.
- **Explore Shadows:** On a sunny day create shadows on the ground and challenge children to make the shadow taller or shorter.
- **Sort Found Objects:** Collect rocks on a hike, shells at the beach, or leaves in your backyard. Draw circles on the ground or in the sand. Then sort the objects into different groups.
- **Weather Chart:** Keep track of the weather, daily temperatures or rainfall.
- **I SPY:** On a road trip, at the beach, in the woods, or at the park say "I SPY...." The children look for something such as a shape, a colour, an object about the length of a ..., as big as a ..., etc.
- **Estimation Jar:** Fill a clear container with small toys, balls or household items. Encourage children to make thoughtful guesses of how many items are in the jar. You could give them a hint and show them what 10 of the item looks like.
- **Newspaper Fort:** Tightly roll up newspapers, secure with tape, use the rolled pieces to build a frame, and then cover with a sheet.
- **Analyze Sports:** When watching sports together in person or on TV, ask questions that provoke math thinking such as: What is the score? Who has the most points? How many points do they need to win?
- **Family Cooking:** Cooking or baking is rich with mathematical opportunities to problem solve. Create a shopping list, measure ingredients, follow a recipe, track cooking times, and decide the serving portions.
- **Game Time:** Card games, dice games, puzzles, and board games engage children in problem solving and using number skills such as keeping score. Games can be played anywhere at the family table, on the deck, in the car, at the beach, or on a picnic.

Minister's Entrepreneurship Award Winner

Each year, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development partners with the Business Education Council to recognize students in grades 6-12 who show an interest in entrepreneurship.

Three students are chosen to receive the Minister's Entrepreneurship Award of Excellence and a \$1,000 grant and mentorship to help them start or grow their business.

Congratulations to Jayden Porter, grade six Petite Riviere Elementary School student, who won in the Innovation and Creativity category for the 2022 Minister's Entrepreneurship Award of Excellence!

Jayden's Weekend Wax creates hand poured soy candles and wax melts using locally sourced ingredients. Proceeds go to a local charity that helps reduce childhood poverty.



Petite Riviere Elementary School student, Jayden Porter. Photo courtesy of the Province of Nova Scotia.

SSRCE Marks Black Excellence Day



For the first time ever, Nova Scotia's public schools celebrated Black Excellence Day on June 17, 2022.

Students and staff were invited to wear black T-Shirts to celebrate and stand in unity in support of the success of Black students. Black Excellence Day celebrates Black Achievements, Black stories, Black Art, Black innovations, and Black people and their communities.

Throughout the region, schools marked the day with special lessons and events.

Thanks to staff and students at Dr. John C Wickwire Academy who hosted Becky Druhan, Minister of Education & Early Childhood Development along with several other special guests.



Photos courtesy of the Province of Nova Scotia.



In Nova Scotia, there are 17,655 people of Black/African descent.
71.8% of the Black population is third generation or more.



Black Excellence in Schools



8231
students of
Black/African descent



523
high school graduates of
Black/African descent



80%
plan to attend university
or community college

93% of Black students surveyed feel that
it is important to work hard in school

89% of Black students surveyed believe they
can do well in school

92% of Black students in French Immersion,
Intensive French, or CSAP are comfortable speaking
French with their teachers during class time

85% of Black students in Grades 7-12 use technology
to support group work or collaboration



476
scholarships awarded
to students of
Black/African descent



2195
students enrolled in
African Canadian Studies



**WEAR BLACK ON
JUNE 17**

Post your photos
via social media using
#NSBlackExcellenceDay



Sources:

Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. 2019. "Student Success Survey" Halifax, NS: Government of Nova Scotia. <https://plans.ednet.ns.ca/student-success-survey/>

Canada. Statistics Canada. 2019. "Canada's Black Population: Growing in Number and Diversity" Ottawa, ON: Government of Canada. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2019006-eng.htm#archived>.

Prepared by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, June 2022.



Learn more at:
ednet.ns.ca/acs/home