



OCTOBER · WIKEWIKU'S · OCTOBRE · 2023



REGIONAL UPDATE

Newsletter of the South Shore Regional Centre for Education



Students and staff throughout SSRCE wear orange to mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (pictured top left: Petite Rivière Elementary School, top right: Hebbville Academy and above: Bluenose Academy).

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation coincides with Orange Shirt Day and on September 29, schools throughout SSRCE honoured the survivors, families, and communities impacted by residential schools in Canada. These institutions separated Indigenous children from their language, culture, identity, and communities. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is also a time to learn about the history and legacy of residential schools in Canada and to commit to the ongoing process of Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of Canada.

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@SSRCENS



@SSRCE_NS

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

A Message from the Regional Executive Director

It's hard to believe we've just wrapped up the first month of another school year. Students and staff are now settled into their updated routines and new classes.

As we move through the 2023-24 school year, our focus remains on student achievement and well-being. The SSRCE team has been busy laying the groundwork to achieve the main goals as outlined in our student success plan, as you'll see in the graphic below.

In order to achieve these goals, we ask ourselves these two questions on a regular basis - "How are our students doing?" and "How do we know?"

There are a variety of ways we can answer these questions and how we can determine the effectiveness of our work and initiatives. One way is with numerical data through things like assessment scores or attendance. Another way is with observational and anecdotal evidence through classroom teachers and support staff. Regardless of how we measure, it is important to recognize the benefit of doing these checks early. That way, if we know something isn't working early on, we can make the necessary adjustments to improve and still have an opportunity to achieve the intended goals. This is what we call short cycle planning. This cycle of planning and monitoring can last up to 90 days and occurs multiple times throughout the year.

I would encourage you, as parents and guardians, to ask your students similar questions, "how are you doing at school and how do you know?" and to do so regularly, throughout the school year. It is my hope that by discussing your student's achievements with them, they will find opportunities to succeed throughout this school year and beyond.

Best wishes for a successful school year.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pynch-Worthylake

Regional Executive
Director of Education

Upcoming Dates

October is:

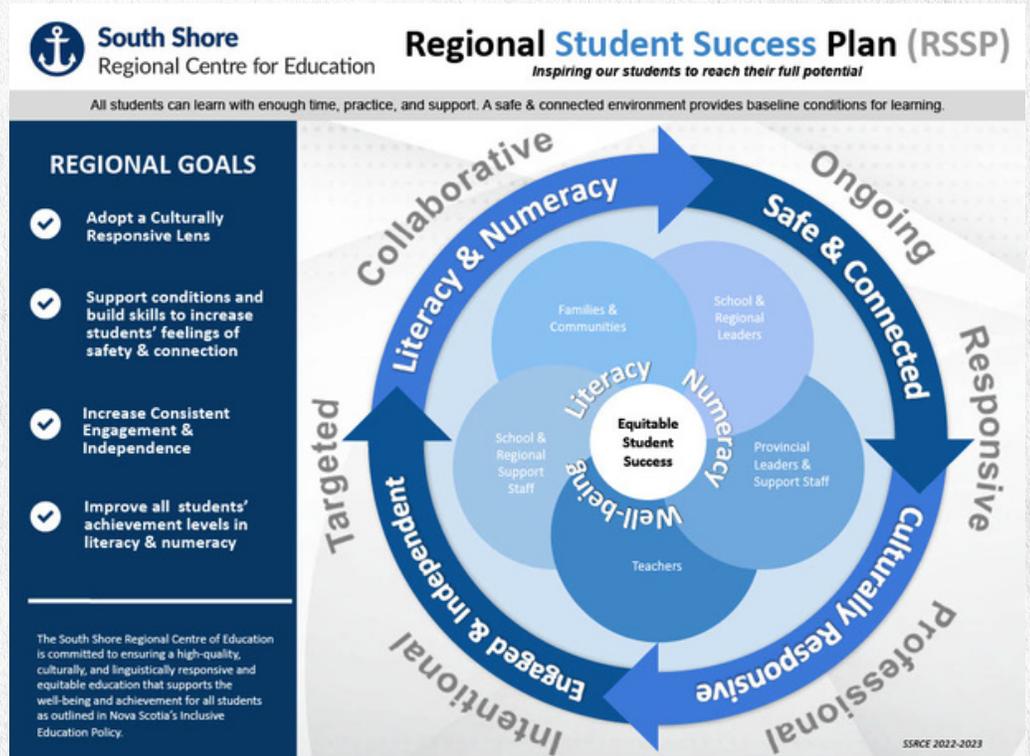
- Learning Disabilities Awareness Month
- Mi'kmaw History Month

Mon. Oct. 9: Schools Closed for Thanksgiving Day

Weds. Oct. 18 CLT Day (90 min early dismissal)

Thurs. Oct. 26: No School for Students (In-service & parent/teacher)

Fri. Oct. 27: No School for Students (NSTU Conference Day)



Ideas for EDUCATION

Over the last year, the NS Department of Education and Early Childhood Development gathered *Ideas for Education* directly from teachers. From this feedback, a number of new initiatives were created.

Here's an overview of the teacher-inspired pilot projects that have been approved for funding in SSRCE. These projects are now being developed with implementation planned for this school year.

Elementary Math Specialist Pilot:

With a focus on students in Grades 3-5 in a chosen pilot school, a highly skilled math teacher will co-teach, model teach, and coach other teachers to fine tune math education.

Children & Youth Care Practitioners (CYCPs) Supporting Student Behaviour in the Classroom:

The CYCP will support eight teachers (over four periods in two semesters) in an identified pilot school.

Hire Full-Time Term Substitute Teachers:

These full-time term substitute teachers will be hired for schools where there is a shortage of substitutes.

Teacher Mentors:

New teachers will be encouraged and empowered through a mentorship with retired teachers who will share their knowledge and expertise.

Teacher Appreciation:

Working with NSTU, SSCRE will plan a Teacher Appreciation event at each of our five high schools.

These pilots projects may be adjusted as necessary and we will continue to share details with you as we move forward. Please check future monthly reports for updates.

Who to Contact at SSRCE?

Parent/Guardian Questions or Concerns?

- 1** Please start by speaking with your child's teacher.
- 2** Follow up with the school principal.
- 3** If more action is needed, contact the South Shore Regional Centre for Education at 902-543-2468/ toll-free 1-888-252-2217, and we'll put you in touch with the right person.

General Inquiries

☎ 902-543-2468

✉ receptionist@ssrce.ca

Transportation

☎ 902-541-8252

✉ busdispatch@ssrce.ca

Pre-primary Program

☎ 902-521-7679 or 902-541-0110

✉ preprimary@ssrce.ca

School Closure/Weather

☎ 902-523-5368

✉ weather@ssrce.ca

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 (casual)
- Bus Drivers
- Food Service Workers
- Administrative Assistants (casuals)

Visit: www.ssrce.ca/employment



Spotlight on Schools



The pre-primary class from Bayview Community School journeyed down to the waterfront of Mahone Bay while taking in the scarecrow festival (pictured above).

Bridgewater Junior High School students show what they created for the candy catapult challenge (pictured left).



North Queens Community School takes part in Pink Shirt Day and creates this Be an Ally photo as a way to Stand Up Against Bullying (pictured above).

Big Tancook Elementary School recently visited Chester District School to join in some classes, experience an assembly and participate in their Terry Fox Run (pictured left).



Did you know, in Nova Scotia, a red light violation can result in a fine of \$410 and six points on your license?

It is illegal to pass a school bus with its light flashing as it poses an extreme danger to students who are boarding or getting off a school bus. All motorists (both in front and behind the bus) and in all lanes of traffic must stop when the school bus has its red flashing lights on.

School Bus Safety Week is October 16–20 and we invite you check out www.schoolbussafety.ca for more important safety tips.

Nova Scotia
HomeworkHUB
APPUI aux devoirs
Nouvelle-Écosse



NEED HELP WITH A MATH QUESTION?

<p>GNSPES Access Click the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon</p>	<p>Available 24/7 · textbooks · videos · practice questions · vocabulary review</p>	<p>Bilingual Tutors Tutors for Grade 7 - 12 Sunday through Thursday 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.</p>
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1-888-444-6607
Nova Scotia
HomeworkHUB
APPUI aux devoirs
Nouvelle-Écosse
gnspes.ca



Please Return Old Device Chargers

Do you have device chargers at home that don't seem to belong? We are missing a number of chargers and asking students, and parents/guardians, to check around their homes for chargers like the ones pictured below. These would have come home with a school device in the last year or two, and while the device was likely returned, the charger may not have been.

The chargers might have an SSRCE label or a hand-written number in silver Sharpie marker (or, no label/number). They could also be mistakenly being used to charge an Android phone, a gaming console, or another device.

While we are looking at how to improve our distribution process and collection, we are asking for your help to look for these chargers now.

Thank you for your assistance. If you are questioning if any charger or device belongs to the school, please reach out to the school directly.

Here's a photo of what the chargers might look like:



MISSING

Have you seen these (or similar) chargers?

Mi'kMAW

WIKEWIKU'S HISTORY MONTH OCTOBER 2023

Mi'kMAW Sports, Traditional Games, and Pastimes

Lacrosse, known to some as the Creator's Game, grew out of a diverse group of intense and fierce ballcourt games that were known throughout eastern North America. Ballcourt games were played for several thousand years before Europeans and others arrived. Hockey, basketball and even soccer share the same form, with teams vying to move a ball or disc across a field or floor. These games connected hundreds of different nations across territories, creating opportunities to share and to learn from one another.

"We are so lucky to have the whole community behind us. They are the ones that come together and make it possible for us to travel and compete. I definitely wouldn't be where I am today without my community."

Sara-Lynne Knockwood
Sipekne'katik First Nation



Sport demands training not only body and mind, but heart and spirit as well. Coaching and teaching in Mi'kMAW culture are holistic and young people learn by doing. Kojjoo dancing merges movement with sound and spirit in a fun and competitive atmosphere.

"For me, the flight of the arrow is an extension of who I am and who my ancestors were. It is still who we are today."

Clifford Paul
Membertou Mi'kMAW community

With deep roots in Mi'kMAW, hockey might be the most popular sport within Mi'kMAW communities today. Two large tournaments gather teams from across Mi'kMAW and beyond each year. The Wallace Bernard Memorial Native Youth Hockey Tournament honours its namesake as a champion of Mi'kMAW sports and one of the first organizers of the Nova Scotia Mi'kMAW Summer Games. The Peter and Mary Agnes Julian Memorial Hockey Tournament celebrates their life-long dedication to sports within Mi'kMAW communities, including starting the Nova Scotia Indian Sports Program.



For generations, participation in sports and games have grown Mi'kMAW ways of knowing and being, teaching young ones how to hear, how to see, and how to move. Competition sharpens skills and builds endurance, speed and strength. Sports demand young ones predict what will happen before it has actually occurred. Using this kind of pattern recognition together with all of our senses makes great hunters and skilled warriors. These teachings carry us into ways of thinking, moving and being as adults.

Sports are not only about training and growth, but also about spirit and ceremony. Many athletes show gratitude to the Creator by continually striving for perfection. Traditional activities like archery, waltes, lacrosse, and wapnaqk connect people to each other and to ancestors who have come before them.

Sports and games allow generations of spectators, coaches and participants to grow up together through annual events and gatherings. Food, entertainment and socializing involve everyone. Many games have elements of chance that allow spectators to join in the fun. Our value of inclusion encourages all to participate!

Mi'kMAW guides, largely from the district of Kespekwik, were renowned across North America in the early 20th century. With skills like hunting, fishing and canoeing rooted in traditional and generational knowledge, Mi'kMAW dominated sports showcircuits. The competitions hosted a wide range of events for both men and women, including log rolling, chopping, sawing, canoe racing, shooting, fly-casting and swimming.

