



NOVEMBER · KEPTKEWIKU'S · NOVEMBRE 2023



REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the South Shore Regional Centre for Education

NEWS & FEATURES

A Message from the
Regional Executive Director

PAGE 2

Ideas for Education

PAGE 3

Literacy Spotlight

PAGE 4

Co-op Student Profile

PAGE 5

NSISP Student Feature

PAGE 6

Spotlight on Schools

PAGE 7

Storm Day Process

PAGE 8

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



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Skills Nova Scotia Career Showcase



Last month, in partnership with Skills Canada Nova Scotia, TCRCE, and CSAP, over 300 students from various schools in SSRCE attended the second annual Skills Nova Scotia Career Showcase in Bridgewater at the LCLC.

With a hands-on, try-a-trade approach to exploration of skilled trades and technologies, junior and senior high students visited various industry and community organization booths to learn about skilled trades.

Students were able to try their hand at model boat building, impact driver competitions, using wrenches to complete a relay race, virtual reality automotive detailing, welding simulators, hair styling, practice interview skills, and much more!

Career exploration activities are so important for our students to learn about potential opportunities and skill development as they plan for their futures.

A Message from the Acting Regional Executive Director

I'd like to first introduce myself. My name is Angela Gladwin and I am SSRCE's Acting Regional Executive Director. Paul Ash remains on leave from the position, fulfilling the role of Acting Executive Director, African Canadian Services Branch at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Nancy Pynch-Worthylake, who completed her role as Acting Regional Executive Director at the end of October. Nancy's leadership over the last year maintained our region's focus on the achievement and well-being of each student and I thank her for her commitment.

I am honoured to serve in this role and to have this opportunity to lead a group of talented individuals who work collectively to ensure the continued success for students, families, and the public education system. I have 15 years of experience in educational leadership roles including as coach, principal, Coordinator of Programs and MTSS and most recently as SSRCE's Director of Program and Student Services. I am passionate about instructional leadership, and building the collective efficacy of school teams as they work with our families and communities to ensure each student is successful in our system. These will be my top priorities as I lead the SSRCE team.

There have been some other changes to the SSRCE leadership team as well. I'd like to congratulate Steven Johnson who has moved into the Acting Director of Programs and Student Services role. Stephen has 16 years of experience in educational leadership roles including as vice principal, principal, and most recently has been the Coordinator of Evaluation and Principal Support. Moving into the Acting Coordinator of Evaluation and Principal Support role is Gord Walters. Gord comes to this regional support position with a wealth of experience from his role as principal at Park View Education Centre. We are very lucky to have both Stephen and Gord as part of the SSRCE team.

I am very proud of the terrific work that's happening in our schools and you'll find various examples throughout this report. I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and I look forward to continuing to showcase our region in future issues.

Sincerely,

Angela Gladwin

SSRCE Acting Regional Executive Director

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

Pre-Primary Program

📞 902-521-7679 or 541-0110

✉️ preprimary@ssrce.ca

Transportation

📞 902-541-8252

✉️ busdispatch@ssrce.ca

School Closure/Weather

📞 902-523-5368

✉️ weather@ssrce.ca

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 - Embedded CLT Day (90-minute early dismissal)

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 - Last Day Before December Break

Tuesday, January 2, 2024 - First Day After December Break



Math Specialist Pilot Program at Bayview Community School

SSRCE is piloting a Mathematics Specialist position at Bayview Community School. The idea for a specialist teacher to provide this additional support came from feedback gathered as part of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's [Ideas for Education](#) survey.

What does the Math Specialist do?

- Teaches mathematics in grades 3, 4, 5. Students receive 90 minutes of mathematics everyday.
- Supports 6 classroom teachers and 167 students in the area of mathematics. This involves working closely with the classroom teacher to improve student achievement in mathematics.
- Works with small groups of students within the classroom setting.
- Works as a team with classroom and learning support teachers to learn about best practices and decides how to support students during Collaborative Learning Time (CLT).
- Works as part of a team with the school's Teacher Support Team (TST), a team developed to strengthen the school's capacity to support student well-being and achievement by assisting teachers in developing strategies to meet the needs of their students.

What's the purpose of this pilot?

- The designated math position will allow for more focused planning and reflection on mathematics instruction.
- Students will have consistent access to an experienced and skilled math teacher.
- Collaboration within the school will benefit students and help teachers to feel supported.
- Math achievement data will show more significant student growth at the grades 3, 4, and 5 levels.



Leanne Jacobs (left) and Jenna Kilfoil (right).

How's the pilot going?

Jenna Kilfoil, who has been an elementary teacher for 12 years, was chosen as the Math Specialist for this pilot program. Jenna works with her colleagues to plan math lessons, including finding and creating resources, as well as helping with pre-assessment of math units.

She also teaches and co-teaches their math classes. Jenna says she has been welcomed into classrooms where her colleagues are happy to plan lessons and talk about math instruction. One of the teachers Jenna is working with is Leanne Jacobs, a grade four teacher at Bayview. Leanne says she enjoys working collaboratively with Jenna and receiving new ideas along with fully-planned units.

Both teachers say they are thankful for the opportunity to take part in this pilot program and are looking forward to growing as math instructors while improving student supports.

“My experience so far has been great. Our school has a wonderful group of teachers that have welcomed me into their classrooms, been happy to set aside time to work with me, plan with me and chat about math and math instruction.” – Jenna Kilfoil, Math Specialist

“I am excited for the benefits, which I am seeing already in my preparation and tier one teaching. The students are benefiting from more well-prepared lessons, and fun activities to strengthen their abilities and understanding.” – Leanne Jacobs, grade four teacher

SSRCE Literacy Spotlight



A grade 2 teacher displays the visual supports for phonics work in her classroom (above).

A primary teacher working with her class on phonemic awareness (pictured right).

Our grade primary, one, and two teachers are working hard to grow explicit and systematic instruction that teaches students the basic skills necessary for reading. This includes phonemic awareness, foundational phonics, and word study.

Our regional Literacy Team is working closely with these teachers to support student success in literacy. Each primary to grade two classroom teacher receives resources, professional learning, and on-site support at their schools.



School Advisory Council PD Sessions

School advisory councils (SACs) bring together school stakeholders and individuals from local communities who share an interest in promoting student success in their school. SACs are volunteer organizations and are an integral part of Nova Scotia's public schools.

One of the responsibilities of an SAC member is to participate in provincial and regional meetings, consultations, and professional development opportunities. On November 28th, members of the SSRCE School Advisory Councils (representing our 23 schools) attended a Fall Professional Development evening session at Hebbville Academy.

SAC members sampled a school "Salad Bar" consisting of fully-loaded baked potatoes provided by our South Shore School Food Program before attending four concurrent sessions.

The PD sessions were generated by the interests of the SAC members. The topics included; Creating Healthy Inclusive Schools, SSRCE Policy Snapshot: Assessment, Attendance, Student Transfer, Career Pathways and Opportunities and the Nova Scotia International Student Program (NSISP).



Co-op Student Feature

Emma Allen is a grade 11 Co-op student at Park View Education Centre. Emma is completing her first 80 hour Co-op placement at SSRCE with the Finance team. Emma has applied to the Business Hospitality program at the Nova Scotia Community College, following her graduation, with aspirations to open and manage her own restaurant. She feels that in order to effectively manage her own business one day, she will need to have a strong basis in finance, which is why she was interested in completing her Co-op with the team at SSRCE.

Throughout her placement, Emma is supporting the Finance department with the organization and management of payables, and she is helping to make sure that invoices are processed and paid in a timely manner. Some of the valuable skills that Emma is working on include learning the technology side of business including becoming more familiar with Excel spreadsheets and using Outlook.

Emma says she would definitely recommend Co-op to other students as it is an individualized course where gaining practical work experiences and growing connections through meeting new people will definitely help her now and in the future.



A graphic with a purple and white background. At the top left is the Canadian flag and the text "Government of Canada" and "Gouvernement du Canada". At the top right is the word "Canada" with a crown over the 'a'. The main text in large white letters reads "DO YOU KNOW AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR?". Below this, in purple text, it says "Nominate them for the 2024 Prime Minister's Awards."

Consider nominating an educator for a 2024 Prime Minister's Award!

Help us celebrate those who go above and beyond to create safe spaces for their students, continue to work hard to make learning fun and inspire the next generation to be bold innovators and creators.

You can find more information and download a nomination package [here](#).

Nova Scotia International Student Program: Student Profile!



Zoey is a full-year student from Germany and is in Grade 9 at Bridgewater Junior High School. Zoey's host parents are very happy to include her as part of their family. They describe Zoey as being "a dream," and say they can't imagine a better match for their family. They have also commented she gets along very well with their children, including the younger ones. She is a cheerful person, happy to be here for school, and loves taking part in family activities. Zoey really enjoys her host family. Outside of the family, she is on the volleyball team at school and also does horseback riding and takes figure skating lessons.

Interested in hosting an international student? You may be surprised at how your family can grow! Visit www.ssrce.ca/host for info.



Joint Accessibility Plan

Nova Scotia's seven regional centres for education and Conseil scolaire provincial have been developing a multi-year Joint Accessibility Plan to ensure accessibility in public education. This is part of a bigger provincial goal for an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Last February, families and staff throughout the province were invited to review a draft plan and provide feedback. We thank everyone who provided their thoughts and ideas. Now, we are pleased to share the finalized Joint Accessibility Plan. [Click here](#) to see the plan.

As a next step, SSRCE is developing an implementation plan. You can expect additional updates as we continue the important work of creating accessible public education in Nova Scotia.

Joint Accessibility Plan

Nova Scotia's Regional Centres for Education & Conseil scolaire acadien provincial

Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education
Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education
Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education
Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Halifax Regional Centre for Education
South Shore Regional Centre for Education
Strait Regional Centre for Education
Tri-County Regional Centre for Education

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Strait Regional Centre for Education
Tri-County Regional Centre for Education



Spotlight on Schools



Elementary students at North Queens Community School check out their new accessible swing (pictured above). This swing was made possible by a grant from Westfor Management. Special thanks to Westfor and NQCS's playground committee.

A pre-primary student at Pentz Elementary School creates a flag after learning about flags around the school and the community (pictured left).



Bridgewater Junior High School students, Lucy & Carter, visit CKBW to record a PSA about safety in their school zone (pictured above).

Petite Rivière Elementary School students at their school's Remembrance Day ceremony (pictured left).

Storm Day Closure Process

SSRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools and school busses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

We encourage you to check multiple sources for school closure info. Here are the ways we share the updates:

- Check our website www.ssrce.ca
- Local media (radio and TV stations)
- Our [Facebook](#) & X (formerly [Twitter](#))
- Email & text alerts: messages are sent via email and text through our service provider to contact information we have on file. Opt-ins are required to receive text messages. **If you haven't already done so and would like to sign up to receive texts from SSRCE, text "Y" (from a number on file with a school) to 978338.** Please note, delivery times for text and email can vary based on service providers. It is not recommended to rely solely on receiving this notification. If you need to update your contact information, please contact your school directly.

For more information on the SSRCE storm day process, visit our website at <https://ssrce.ca/storm-day-closure-process>



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)



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NOW



It's fast and secure to donate to any of our schools.

We are now accepting donations through SchoolCash Online.

Just scan the QR code to make a donation or [click here](#). Be sure to indicate which school and initiative you'd like to support.