



REGIONAL UPDATE

January / February 2024

CELEBRATING WORLD READ ALOUD DAY



Students at Bridgewater Junior High are in the middle of their 4th annual Curl Up & Read month, which involves school-wide literacy activities and challenges.

These students celebrated World Read Aloud Day on February 7th by reading presidential inaugural poet, Amanda Gorman's book "Something Someday."

What's Inside?

- **An Update from the Regional Executive Director – Page 2**
- **RootED Volunteer Opportunity – Page 3**
- **SchoolCash Online – Page 4**
- **Registration for 2024-25 School Year – Page 5**
- **See Inside Our Classrooms, Family Literacy Day – Page 6**
- **See Inside Our Classrooms – Page 7**
- **Public Engagement Sessions – Page 8**





A Message from the Acting Regional Executive Director

February is African Heritage Month and a time that is symbolic and tremendously important for all of us throughout SSRCE.

Each February provides us with an opportunity to celebrate and promote the culture, achievements, and contributions of people of African descent in Nova Scotia, both past and present.

While we recognize the importance of African Heritage Month, it's important to note that our learning extends beyond February, and indeed, is incorporated into education throughout the whole school year.

I invite you to follow SSRCE and our schools on social media. You'll see various ways our schools will be honouring African heritage. Some examples include, learning about important figures in our shared history and hearing from special guest speakers.

You'll find photos on this page of the Town of Lunenburg's flag-raising ceremony to kick off African Heritage Month. I was honoured to attend, along with my colleagues and SSRCE students.



In SSRCE, we practice the Culturally Responsive Pedagogy approach and are committed to providing an inclusive, diverse, equitable, safe, and healthy education that supports the learning and success of our students. Another example of our commitment to inclusivity is the ongoing implementation of our Joint Accessibility Plan.

We worked with the province's other seven regional centres for education and Conseil scolaire provincial, and developed 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.



We are actively working on the priorities of this plan and have redesigned this monthly report to be more accessible. You may notice fonts are larger, colour contrasts improved, alternative text available for photos, written in plain language, and it is organized with appropriate headers and subtitles, so screen readers can more accurately read the document.

I hope you enjoy this month's report.

Sincerely, Angela Gladwin, Acting Regional Executive Director

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers Needed

RootED Call for Volunteers

RootED is currently seeking volunteers to join their Board of Directors and help raise funds to support equity meals and cafeteria equipment in our schools.

School food within SSRCE is supported by RootED, a not-for-profit organization committed to investing in our children and schools, to build a healthy food culture in our South Shore school communities. Click [here](#) to find out more about RootED and how to volunteer.



Parent/Guardian Questions and Concerns?

- 1) Please start with your child's teacher.
- 2) Follow up with the school's Principal.
- 3) If more action is needed, contact SSRCE at 902-543-2468 or 1-888-252-2217 and we'll put you in touch with the right person.



SchoolCash Online

Have you signed up yet?

SchoolCash Online as our preferred method of payment for school fees, including everything from field trips to yearbooks to lunches.

SchoolCash Online helps parents and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. By using SchoolCash Online, you help increase efficiency and security at your school by making payments directly into your school's bank account. This allows teachers and administrative assistants to focus on helping students, and not counting cash. In addition, you are immediately informed about school activities.

Registering for SchoolCash Online is safe, simple, secure. Create an account [here](#).

Securely pay for school items & fees 24/7

Log in

SchoolCash Online

DRIVE THE FUTURE

Now Hiring Bus Drivers!



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS • TRAINING PROVIDED • SAFETY FIRST MINDSET

REGISTRATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Know someone with a child who will be ready to start school in September? We are accepting registrations for the 2024-2025 school year now.

In order to be eligible to attend pre-primary your child must be 4-years-old on or before December 31 in the year they start pre-primary.

Find info on how to apply [here](#).



Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Monday, Feb. 19, 2024 - Heritage Day
- Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024 - Embedded CLT (90-minute early dismissal)
- Wednesday, March 6, 2024 - Embedded CLT (90-minute early dismissal)
- March 11-15, 2024 – Spring Break

SEE INSIDE OUR CLASSROOMS

Family Literacy Day



Family Literacy Day took place on January 27 and numerous SSRCE schools celebrated the occasion. North Queens Community School (pictured above, to the left) welcomed many parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and family friends to share in the joy of reading. At Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School, students welcomed a variety of guest readers to share their favourite stories (pictured above, to the right).



West Northfield Elementary School celebrated Family Literacy Day by inviting families in to read with their students. They had a great turnout with nearly half the families represented. Students who didn't have family present were able to read with other students or siblings. One of the families who participated were a father and daughter from Ukraine (pictured left, above). They were able to read Ukrainian books that were provided by SSRCE ESL staff (as well as some English books). An inclusive opportunity!

SEE INSIDE OUR CLASSROOMS



Students at Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy recently celebrated Lunar New Year. 2024 marks the Year of the Dragon, representing vigour, strength and good fortune.



Every student enrolled in the full IB Diploma program is required to complete an Extended Essay on a topic of their choice. This 3,500 to 4,000 word independent research paper is a substantial piece of work for high school students, but also excellent preparation for the academic demands of university study. This year's Grade 12 IB Diploma candidates celebrated the completion of their Extended Essays. Back row left to right: Olivia Williams, Jessie Beales, Renee Patrick, Kesia Corkum. Front row: Luca Haase; missing: Victoria Zeh.



Grade 3 students from Hebbville Academy (left) are shown here working on open number lines with benchmarks outside on a beautiful afternoon. There are so many great ways to learn and do math, including getting outside! Students from Pentz Elementary School (far left) engaged in mathematics activities in a positive learning environment. This teacher is using formative assessment to transform the classroom into a place where math isn't just taught, but is a journey of growth and discovery.

Public Engagement Sessions

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS



Wed. March 6, Hebbville Academy
6-7:30 p.m.

Wed. May 15, South Queens Middle School
6-7:30 p.m.

In December, we shared [a letter](#) from the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, announcing a number of new initiatives that will strengthen the voices of local families. One of these changes is the introduction of Public Engagement Sessions. SSRCE will be holding two Public Engagement sessions this school year (with future plans to hold at least three sessions in a typical, full school year).

Here are the details on our upcoming sessions. Please note: both sessions will cover the same topics and virtual options will be provided for both events.

Date & Location: Wed. March 6, 2024 at Hebbville Academy (5-9 building), 16147 Highway #3, Hebbville

Wed. May 15, 2024 at South Queens Middle School, 157 Old Bridge Street, Liverpool

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

What: Sessions will be led by the Regional Executive Director, with senior staff providing break out information sessions on the following topics: Student Achievement, Student Well-Being, and Capital Planning.

RSVP: For planning purposes, we ask that you please [RSVP](#) here for the March 6 session and indicate if you plan to attend in-person or virtually. RSVP information will be sent for the May 15 session at a later date. We are working to make both events as accessible as possible, including (but not limited to) ASL interpretation and closed captioning. As well, if you wish to participate and there are barriers preventing you from doing so, please reach out to your child(ren)'s school Principal directly.

If you have questions related to the sessions, please email communications@ssrce.ca.