



REGIONAL UPDATE

November 2024

LEST WE FORGET SSRCE REMEMBERS



Students across SSRCE have been actively learning, reflecting, and commemorating, in advance of Remembrance Day. Pictured above is a pre-primary class at **Bluenose Academy**. These students created a beautiful poppy wreath and delivered it to the Lunenburg Royal Canadian Legion Branch 23.

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A Message from the Regional Executive Director

Welcome to our monthly newsletter! In this edition, we are excited to share an update on our instructional focus and our updated **Regional Student Success Plan 2024-2025**.

The full plan can be found [here](#) and the highlights in the image below. The plan was co-created with principals, coaches, coordinators, and directors, all with a shared focus on enhancing student achievement and well-being. Before the plan was finalized, this past Spring, it was also shared with our Regional School Advisory Council for feedback. This collaborative approach ensures that the plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community and outlines our comprehensive approach to enhancing student achievement.

Our vision is to provide a culturally and linguistically responsive, accessible, inclusive, and equitable education that empowers every student to excel. Through high-quality instruction based on Universal Design for Learning (UDL), we foster critical thinking and prioritize well-being and achievement, celebrating diversity and ensuring every voice is heard. UDL is framework for instruction that considers the diversity of all learners within the lesson design and lesson delivery. I invite you to learn more about UDL [here](#).

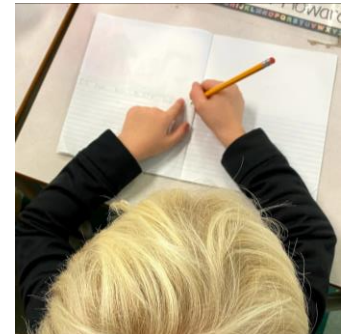
We are committed to creating a safe, dynamic environment where every student can thrive. This plan outlines our goals, strategies, and actions to support us in our work to achieve this, with a continued focus on improving literacy, numeracy, and well-being.

We look forward to working together to support our students' growth and success. As always, thank you for your continued partnership and support.

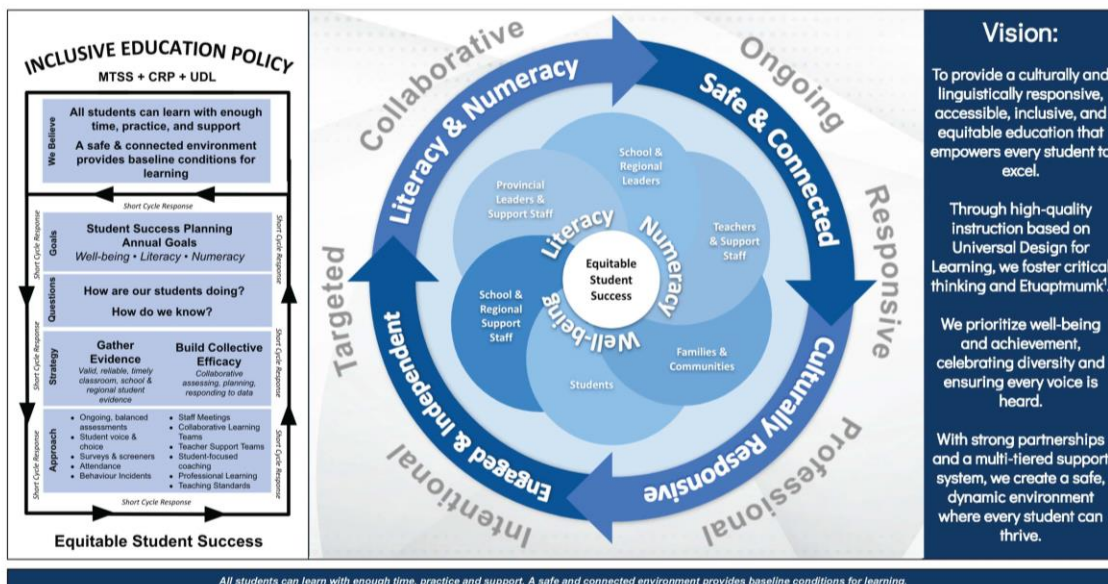
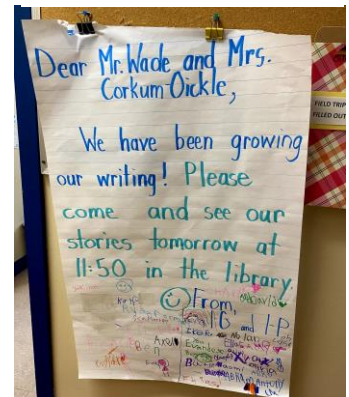
Warm regards,

Angela Gladwin

SSRCE Regional Executive Director



One of the main goals of our Regional Student Success Plan is literacy. In SSRCE, we are focused on growing writers from P-12.



'Etuaptmunk: A Mi'kmaw guiding principle, shared by Dr. Elder Albert Marshall and the late Dr. Elder Mordena Marshall, meaning the gift of multiple perspectives. SSRCE has worked with Mi'kmaw Services Branch of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and with Mi'kmaw Elders and Knowledge Holders to grow our knowledge on Mi'kmaw Ways of Being and Knowing and to incorporate the teaching of Etuaptmunk in all levels of student programming.

Public Engagement Session – Postponed



Last month, we shared a save the date for a public engagement session on November 20th. **That session is now postponed.** On October 27, the Government of Nova Scotia called a general election. While all routine business related to school and regional operations continues during the period leading up to the election, some activities related to government priorities have been paused, such as this session. An update will be sent following the election. Thank you for your understanding

Homework Hub

Homework Hub offers free bilingual tutoring in mathematics for students in grades 4-12.

Tutors for grades 4-6 are available Monday - Wednesday from 5:30-7:30. Tutors for grades 7-12 are available Sunday - Thursday from 5:30-9:30. Access to textbooks, videos, practice questions, and vocabulary review is available 24/7.

To access, click on the Homework Hub icon from the GNSPES Launch Page. For more information please visit the Homework Hub website [here](#).

Parent/Guardian Questions or Concerns?

1. **For curriculum or classroom-related questions**, start with your child's teacher. If required, follow up with the school principal.
2. **For questions about the pre-primary program**, start with your child's Lead Early Childhood Educator. If required, follow up with the school principal.
3. **For questions about programs and services available from community partners at a school**, and how to access these supports, please contact SchoolsPlus (Shannon Vincent at 902-523-1451).
4. **For questions related to busing, bus stops, and or/bus routes**, please contact SSRCE Transportation at 902-541-8252 or busdispatch@ssrce.ca
5. **For school closure/weather inquiries**, contact 902-523-5368 or weather@ssrce.ca.
6. **For general inquiries**, please contact the SSRCE office, where someone will be happy to connect you with the appropriate staff member. Email receptionist@ssrce.ca or 902-543-2468.



TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

SSRCE Receives Five New Buses

Have you seen one of SSRCE's new Freightliner school buses on the road yet? SSRCE has received three out of the five new buses so far, with the final two scheduled to arrive soon.

The new buses have replaced old buses on routes 284, 247, and 235.

These new Freightliner buses are a different make and model than SSRCE's other school buses, but are equipped with the same safety features.

Red Light Violations

We are pleased to report a 40% decrease in the number of red light violations for the month of October. We would like to thank the public for being more aware and our parents for calling the transportation department with information on violations.

While any decrease is good, we can always improve. Remember, a stopped bus with red lights flashing means traffic must stop in both directions. If you are approaching a bus, come safely to a complete stop. If you are following a bus, you are also required to stop.

Under no circumstances should you pass a bus from behind. We all have a role to play in keeping our students safe!



One of SSRCE's new Freightliner school buses.

Upcoming Dates to Remember



- Monday, Nov. 11, 2024 – Remembrance Day. No classes all schools.
- Friday, Nov.22, 2024 - Elem/Middle/Jr Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes Elem/Middle/Jr ONLY)
- Nov.18-28 Report Cards High School
- Nov.18-Dec. 5 Report Cards Elem/Middle/Jr

SCHOOL SNAPSHOTS



This grade 5/6 class at **Petite Rivière Elementary School** recently learned about the Ma'git's Doll story with Ms. Daye. Elder Margaret (Ma'git) Poulette was a survivor of residential schools in Nova Scotia. When she arrived at the residential school, at age four, her doll was taken away from her so she created dolls from her cleaning rags.



North Queens Community School recently celebrated Diwali and would like to thank Aadhya for sharing the gift of Rangoli.

Rangoli is an artform that originates from India in which patterns are created on the floor or a tabletop using materials such as coloured sand, flour and other natural items. It is mostly reserved for festivals and other important celebrations as it is time-consuming. The rangoli represents the happiness, positivity and liveliness of a household, and is intended to welcome Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and good luck.

Aadhya spent the day in the school's learning commons creating a beautiful image as part of her Diwali traditions. The work that you see is the result of hours of work planning and crafting and five hours of carefully placing sand to create the final product.



Bridgewater Junior High School held a student vote to coincide with recent municipal elections. 304 student votes were cast in their Town of Bridgewater election. Students were engaged in the election process, which was led by the Grade 6 Immersion class & Mademoiselle Hillier.

SCHOOL SNAPSHOTS



Students at **Newcomville Elementary School** recently came together to share their writing samples. There was plenty of positive feedback and students were proud to share their narrative writing with peers.



Thank you to Coastal Action and students at **Mahone Bay Alternate School**, who recently worked to clean and prepare the Mahone Bay Centre Community Garden for winter.



These **Bridgewater Elementary School** primary students pose with one of their Halloween centre activities. Their activities included building with witchy fingers, monster tic tac toe, building numbers with Halloween erasers, building bat caves with blocks, pumpkin gutting, and colour by number.

SCHOOL SNAPSHOTS



Early morning band practice was sounding amazing at **Hebbville Academy**. The dedication and passion these students show is inspiring. Keep up the fantastic work!



Focused literacy instruction happens every morning in SSRCE, like in this photo from **Wickwire Academy**. It's incredible to see the dedication and hard work of both students and teachers as they dive into their reading and writing activities.



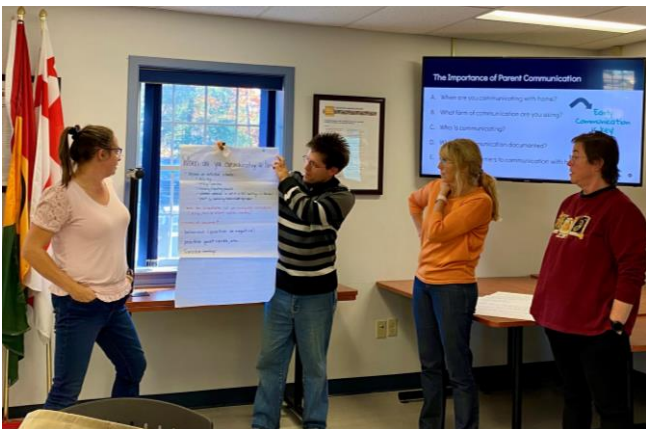
Students at **Liverpool Regional High School** are pictured here connecting while enjoying lunch. These lunchtime connections are so important for fostering a sense of community and belonging.

MI'KMAW FOOD CELEBRATION

On October 29th, **Forest Heights Community School** staff and special guests gathered together to celebrate Mi'kmaw History Month through traditional food. Elder Peggie shared Mi'kmaw prayer, drumming and song, and all attendees enjoyed traditional foods, including luskinikn, smoked and baked Atlantic Salmon (Plamu), along with blueberry tea.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSION



In late October, a Student Services professional development session with Administrators and Learning Support Teachers was held at the SSRCE regional office. It was a great day of learning, collaboration, and growth.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Sixteen SSRCE schools are now offering the school lunch program. As a reminder, ordering opens on Friday mornings and close on Wednesday at noon.

Here are the steps on how to place an order:

1. Create an account, or login to your existing account on NSLunch.ca by clicking “Order Now” button and selecting SSRCE.
2. Add a Diner Profile for the student and then select “Order Meals Now” for that student to place an order.
3. Select meals for each school day for a two-week period. Every day, there will be two choices.
4. Confirm your meal selections. You will be able to choose the amount you wish to contribute to the meal, if any. If you choose to pay for the meal, you will be asked to provide your payment information. Once you input your information, click Submit Order to submit your order.
5. The student(s) will receive their meals at their school’s designated lunch area.

Help Update the Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy

SSRCE is sharing on behalf of the NS Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

We are updating the **Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy** to improve how we respond to, record and track incidents of unacceptable behaviours and to ensure that Nova Scotia schools are safe, caring and inclusive spaces for students to learn and staff to work.

Throughout summer and early fall 2024, the Department met with and held online consultations with school staff, School Advisory Councils (SACs), and partners including the Public School Administrators Association of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union to hear what they wanted to see in an updated Policy.

We are now looking for student, school staff, family, partner and community feedback on our first working draft of the updated Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy.

Read the working draft now and participate in the online consultation:

- **Working draft – Provincial Code of Conduct Policy**
- **Working Draft – Guide to Unacceptable Behaviours and Responses**
- **Online Policy consultation**

The online consultation will be live until Sunday, November 17.