



South Shore

Regional Centre for Education

REGIONAL UPDATE

June 2025

Community in Action: Enriching Education Beyond the Classroom



Community plays an essential role in education, and as demonstrated recently at North Queens Community School, the word "Community" is more than just a name—it's a lived experience.

Students had the opportunity to engage in hands-on, real-world learning supported by dedicated community partners. The Health and Human Services class contributed at the local Community Food Resource Network, planting seeds and preparing food for distribution—an experience that blended service with education. Meanwhile, the Community-Based Learning class, part of the O2 Program, collaborated with Learn to Fish NS, McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery, and the North Queens Nursing Home to offer residents a time of fishing, joy, and connection.

One of the most meaningful experiences was the construction of a traditional wi'kuom, guided by Todd Labrador, Melissa Labrador, and Corbin Hart. Many classes participated from start to finish, gaining immersive insight into Mi'kmaq tradition, culture, and craftsmanship.

These experiences extend far beyond the classroom. They nurture empathy, deepen understanding, and foster a sense of pride, connection, and responsibility. Sincere thanks go to all community partners and volunteers. Their generosity, time, and expertise are helping shape thoughtful, well-rounded, and inspired learners.

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A Message from the Regional Executive Director

As we wrap up another school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many accomplishments we've achieved together. From academic milestones to creative projects, our learners have shown resilience, curiosity, and a strong sense of community.

I would like to personally thank the **Regional Student Advisory Council** for your dedication, honest feedback and insights, and invaluable contributions throughout the past two academic years. Your commitment to representing the student voice and fostering positive change has been truly inspiring.

I'd also like to send a special shout out the graduating class of 2025. This milestone marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter, and I am confident your journey ahead will be filled with success, growth, and endless opportunities.

To all our students—whether you're moving up a grade or graduating—congratulations on a year well done!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our dedicated staff. Your passion and commitment have made a lasting impact on our students' lives. Special recognition goes to those who are retiring this year. Your impact will be felt for years to come, and your presence will be deeply missed. And to our families—your support, encouragement, and partnership have been essential every step of the way. Each of you play a vital role in the success of our learners.

As we head into summer, I hope everyone finds time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the season. Whether it's reading a good book, exploring the outdoors, or simply spending time with loved ones, may your summer be filled with joy and renewal.

Wishing you a safe and happy summer break.

Sincerely,

Angela Gladwin

SSRCE Regional Executive Director



The Regional Student Advisory Council logo, designed by the student members.



The graduating class of 2025 at Liverpool Regional High School.

SNAPSHOTS FROM SCHOOLS



Recently, Park View Education Centre's Service Trades 10 students visited Executive Chef Matt Tattrie at White Point Beach Resort. He gave students a kitchen tour and students enjoyed a private seating in their dining room to experience their lunch menu. The day also included a tour of the grounds.



Learners in Grade 3 at Hebbville Academy recently took advantage of a beautiful spring day to practice solving division story problems in their outdoor learning space.



The Mobile Construction Experience recently visited South Queens Middle School! Participants of the Mobile Construction Experience (MCE) were immersed in a live, outdoor "construction zone" and students were able to try a variety of hands on activities while learning about some of the trades in our province.

Strengthening Local Voice

We are continuing our work to strengthen local voice in the public education system. Part of how we collaborate with our community is through the Regional School Advisory Council and the Regional Student Advisory Council. We thank everyone who volunteers their time to participate on these committees.

Regional School Advisory Council

The Regional School Advisory Council (RSAC) had their latest meeting on June 3, 2025, where a significant focus was communication with families. Members shared their experiences and suggestions for improvement. There was feedback provided about the effectiveness of current communication methods, including newsletters and the use of technology and apps. The committee also talked about the importance of helping parents understand the value of Collaborative Learning Teams (CLTs) by focusing on the impact they have directly on student success.

A discussion was had regarding the current membership and who would be continuing with the RSAC for a year to overlap with the new members, with all members in attendance agreeing to stay for another year. There was an ask for advice about how to format meetings and RSAC processes going forward to allow the group to provide feedback to impact the region and schools. We look forward to meeting with the returning members, along with the new members, next school year to continue our meaningful and collaborative conversations around our school communities.

The SSRCE would like to extend sincerest gratitude to the members who will not be joining us for another year. Thank you for your dedication and service. Your contributions have been invaluable and we are grateful for the time and effort you have invested in the Regional School Advisory Council.

Expression of Interest

If you would like to be a part of the Regional School Advisory Council for the upcoming school year, please complete the Expression of Interest linked here: <https://forms.office.com/r/Lbhv7qSEvA>

Allyship Day

On June 11, Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding, and Human Rights leadership groups were recognized and celebrated for their leadership in SSRCE schools. Ally Clubs, Social Justice and GSA's gathered to enjoy a day of fun-filled activities. Students had an opportunity to take a medicine walk with Shawn Feener, Regional Coordinator- Mi'kmaw Education Services, skate, journal, and many other activities that provided an opportunity to meet new friends and enjoy the great outdoors!

We would like to thank the staff of South Shore Chapter Autism Nova Scotia, Margaret Hennigar Public Library, LCLC staff, as well as the many staff and students for their efforts to make our schools a more inclusive and welcoming space. Here are some photos from the day.



Well-Being at the Heart of Learning: SSRCE's Commitment to Student Success

We know that healthy students are more engaged learners - and strong education leads to healthier lives. In SSRCE, we support the whole child by nurturing each student's heart (emotional well-being), spirit (relational well-being), mind (cognitive well-being), and body (physical well-being). These areas grow when students feel safe, connected, and have opportunities to explore meaningful questions like: *Who am I? Where do I come from? What is my purpose?*

- Across SSRCE, school-based staff and counsellors work in close collaboration with regional teams to promote student well-being in inclusive and accessible environments that support all learners in both English and French programs. Key areas of focus include: **Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding, and Human Rights (RCH)**: Promoting equity by providing culturally responsive supports, fostering student leadership, and offering professional learning grounded in anti-racism and anti-discrimination practices.
- **Student Services**: Collaborating with school staff to develop personalized learning and engagement plans, build life skills, and ensure students with diverse needs can fully engage in all aspects of school life and community.
- **SchoolsPlus**: Working with families and community agencies to connect students with services, housing supports, and recreational opportunities - helping to reduce barriers to learning and participation. An integrated service model.
- **Health Promoting Schools (HPS)**: Partnering to create environments where healthy choices are easy choices. HPS supports Youth Health Centre Coordinators who lead initiatives in mental health promotion, healthy relationships, youth engagement, and service navigation. HPS also supports the School Food Program, which ensures all students have access to nutritious meals.
- **Well-Being Regional Support Team**: Working directly with schools to engage diverse student voices in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of school-wide well-being initiatives. A collaborative working group made up of members from the teams above.



In 2024-2025, SSRCE continued to advance its well-being strategy by engaging student voices in shaping Well-Being centred Student Success Planning (SSP). To implement these school-wide goals, youth and staff collaborated on meaningful, impactful initiatives such as improving playgrounds to reduce incidents of dysregulation, forming student well-being action groups, leading conversations to address discrimination, and redesigning school spaces to facilitate belonging. Moving forward, SSRCE will continue to support well-being teams in our middle and high schools, as we deepen youth engagement through pilot projects that empower elementary students to help shape school well-being action plans.

Together, we are building schools where every student belongs, contributes, and thrives.

Pre-primary Registration

Pre-primary is a play-based early learning program that supports young children's development and welcomes children and families into the school community. It is an inclusive program that helps lay the foundation for school success and lifelong learning.

Children turning 4 years of age on or before December 31, 2025, are eligible to attend for the 2025-2026 school year. If your child will be attending in September 2025 and you have not yet registered, please do so either in-person at the school they will be attending or online at www.ssrce.ca/register.



The pre-primary class at Greenfield Elementary School show their nature inspired artwork.

Registration Now Open for 2025–2026 Nova Scotia Before & After Programs!

We're excited to share that our NS BAP (Nova Scotia Before & After Programs) have expanded to 13 schools across the region this year, offering quality care and engaging programming for children ages 4–12. These programs provide a safe and enriching environment for children outside of regular school hours, supporting busy families in our communities.

To learn more - or to find out who to contact to register your child - please visit: <http://www.ssrce.ca/bap>

Moving? Please update your student's info

Do you have upcoming plans to move? If your family is relocating to a new school catchment area, please let your current school know as soon as possible.

Providing advance notice allows our schools and transportation department to plan for staffing, class schedules, bus routes, etc. You are also encouraged to contact your new school to start the registration process.

We understand the decision to move can sometimes happen unexpectedly. If your move is finalized throughout the summer (when our schools are closed), please register online at <http://www.ssrce.ca/register>.



SPOTLIGHT ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Building Confident Writers with thinkSRSD

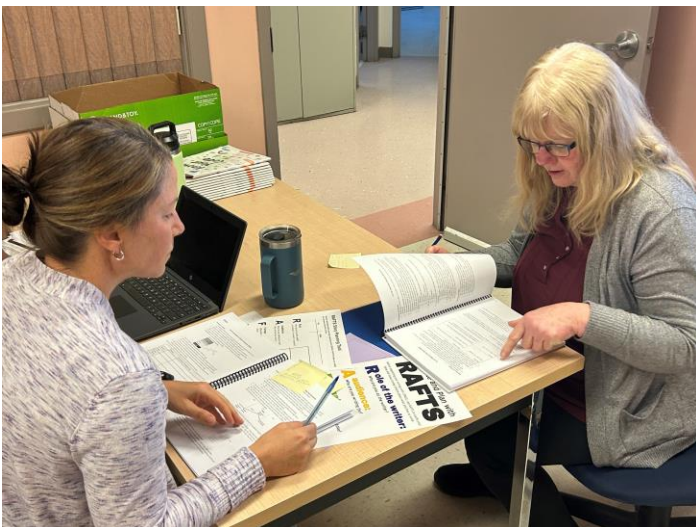
This year, SSRCE teachers in Grades 3–8 have been strengthening writing instruction through the Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD) approach using thinkSRSD resources.

Teachers have attended multiple professional development sessions to deepen their understanding and learn how to apply this research-based framework in their classrooms.

Backed by years of research, SRSD is a proven approach that helps all students develop into confident, capable, and independent writers. It combines two key pillars: **Explicit Strategy Instruction** (POWER, TIDE, CSPACE) and **Self-Regulation Development** (goal-setting, self-monitoring, and reflection).

SRSD gives students the confidence and independence to take ownership of their writing. It has been inspiring to see this work grow across our classrooms and to watch teachers develop a shared language for writing instruction—one that not only builds skills, but also nurtures confidence and a love of writing.

Here are some photos of recent professional development session led by SSRCE Literacy Coach, Tanya Veinotte Frowd. This PD will help strengthen writing instruction - an important priority for us as we work to enhance student success in writing.



Grade 11 Lieutenant Governor's Education Medal Winners

The Lieutenant Governor's Education Medal is awarded annually to grade 11 students throughout the province in recognition of academic performance and qualities of leadership and service that have been demonstrated in their school and community. Congratulations!



Avery Snair, Forest Heights Community School



Oakley Webb, Forest Heights Community School



Marcella Wentzel, New Germany Rural High School



Naudia Barkhouse, New Germany Rural High School



Zoe Wamboldt, North Queens Community School



Esme Reinhart-Smith, North Queens Community School

Grade 11 Lieutenant Governor's Education Medal Winners



Brooke Dickie, Liverpool Regional High School



Daniel Losier, Liverpool Regional High School



Riley Dixon, Park View Education Centre



Ella Ernst, Park View Education Centre

Celebrating a Year of Growth and Success!

Our schools are engaged in Student Success Planning that involves reviewing student assessment data in short cycles every 6 weeks to plan and respond to student needs. The goal is to intervene and prevent gaps early and maximize learning, as well as celebrate the impact that our staff are having on student success.

With the school year drawing to a close, SSRCE regional and school-based administrators recently gathered to highlight the incredible achievements of their schools in a final year-end reflection. Each school proudly showcased its journey with a dedicated table display, highlighting milestones, innovations, and student-centered successes. From creative classroom initiatives to community partnerships and academic growth, the gallery was a vibrant reflection of dedication and progress. Principals spent time visiting their colleagues who shared stories of resilience, collaboration, and impact.

Sharing successful ideas and learning from one another across our region is a key to increasing student success. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this celebration a meaningful and memorable way to close the year.



Signing of New NSTU Local Agreement

On June 17, 2025, SSRCE staff and NSTU members gathered to sign the new local collective agreement.



Teacher Celebration

In partnership with the NSTU, join us in recognizing the following individuals for their excellence in effective and equitable instruction and assessment!

Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Effective and Equitable Instruction & Assessment

Vanessa Miller
Forest Heights Community School
O2, Co-operative Education & Science 10 teacher

Vanessa is a dedicated teacher who consistently plans for all learners, ensuring their engagement and understanding through clear success criteria and a three-part lesson structure where she provides individualized support. Her commitment to student success is evident in her constant availability and support beyond scheduled class time.



Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Effective and Equitable Instruction & Assessment

Shane Eno
Park View Education Centre
Biology Teacher

Shane is an exceptional leader who actively supports new staff and designs high-quality, diverse programming, including unique experiential learning opportunities in biology like trips to the Huntsman Marine Science Institute and Dalhousie. His dedication exposes students to real-world science and future study possibilities.



Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Effective and Equitable Instruction & Assessment

Alison Williams
Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy & Greenfield
Elementary - Music Teacher

Alison is a dedicated educator who ensures every student's needs are met through diverse learning methods and culturally rich materials, demonstrated in her inclusive holiday concerts and individualized assessments. Beyond regular instruction, Alison provides music therapy.



Education Week Recipients

Each year, school staff are recognized for Education Week. This year's theme was Empowering Futures: Innovation in Education. We are thrilled to introduce you to SSRCE's recipients who were honoured at a ceremony in Halifax on May 12th. We thank you these outstanding educators and support staff for embracing innovation to meet the evolving needs of our students and preparing them for a rapidly changing future.

Education Week
May 11-17 2025

Empowering Futures:
Innovation in Education



Penney's philosophy of support provides a space that is inclusive of all students, regardless of cultural, racial, and gender identity. Penney authentically integrates student knowledge, student culture, and classroom curriculum in the student programming she leads in a way that stimulates critical thinking. Her calm demeanor, enthusiasm, and welcoming attitude creates the environment that encourages students to become active participants in their collective education.



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**African Nova Scotian/African
Ancestry Educator/Student
Support Award &
Mi'kmaq/Indigenous
Educator/Student Support Award:**

Penney Brown

**Child and Youth Care Practitioner
North Queens Community School**

Education Week
May 11-17 2025

Empowering Futures:
Innovation in Education



Brooke is the Learning Centre teacher at SQMS. No matter the background or ability of the student, Brooke always incorporates lessons, activities, and conversations that aide in fostering the development of life skills to help the student when they are not in the building. Brooke is a team player and works tirelessly to make sure the needs of her students are met.



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NSTU Queens Local Award:

**Brooke Connors
Teacher, South Queens Middle School**

Education Week
May 11-17 2025

Empowering Futures:
Innovation in Education



Vicki has recently stepped into the role of principal and is exploring meaningful ways to connect students in a real-world application. Vicki is working to support the International Baccalaureate Career Pathway (IB CP) program as a candidate school. Vicki also leads the grade 10 mathematics team in monthly meetings to review students' math development, examining classroom evidence to identify instructional opportunities.



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PSAANS Member Award:

Vicki Crozier
Principal
Park View Education Centre

Education Week
May 11-17 2025

Empowering Futures:
Innovation in Education



Teresa is constantly thinking about new ways to encourage literacy, numeracy, as well as social, emotional, and language development, in ways that are not only fun but meet the children where they are at in their learning growth. She also has a special connection to each family. Teresa goes above and beyond to ensure each child is included in their classroom and builds connections within the community.



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Early Childhood Educator Award:

Teresa Mulé
Early Childhood Educator
Bayview Community School

Education Week
May 11-17 2025

Empowering Futures:
Innovation in Education



Ms. Issie has worked tirelessly to bring theatre back to FHCS. Last year, for the first time in over a decade, a high school performance returned to the Chester Playhouse, thanks to her hard work and supportive team. She is also a strong advocate, resource, and ally for 2SLGBTQIA+ students.



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NSTU Lunenburg Local Award:

Isabel (Ms. Issie) Patterson
Teacher, Forest Heights
Community School

Education Week
May 11-17 2025

Empowering Futures:
Innovation in Education



Travis has been the custodian at BES for the past 6 years. Even more remarkable than his outstanding work performance in maintaining the building, is his dedication to caring for others. Travis directly supports the school's most vulnerable students, taking time to mentor many students. He has taken several students under his wing, while they work alongside him as a custodian. Travis's efforts have been instrumental in the success of some of the most challenging students.



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**Non-teaching School/Student Support
Staff Award:**

Travis Zinn
Custodian, Bridgewater Elementary School