



South Shore

Regional Centre for Education

REGIONAL UPDATE

October 2025

Marking the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



On Friday September 26, members of our school communities wore orange in recognition of Orange Shirt Day—a time to honour the children who never returned home, the Survivors of Residential Schools, and their families and communities. This moment of reflection leads into the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** on September 30, which honours those impacted by residential schools and calls on all of us to reflect, learn, and commit to meaningful change.

Pictured left is a pre-primary class from Bayview Community School.

What's Inside:

- A Message from the Regional Executive Director - Page 2
- Snapshots from Schools - Page 3
- Strengthening Foundational Literacy - Page 4
- NSISP Profiles - Page 5
- Updated Code of Conduct Policy – Page 6
- Teacher Celebration – Page 8



A Message from the Regional Executive Director

As we settle into the rhythm of a new school year, I want to extend a heartfelt welcome back to all students, staff, and families across SSRCE. September was filled with energy, learning, and reconnection—and October brings even more opportunities to grow together.

This month, our focus remains on student success. Whether it's in the classroom, the cafeteria, or the community, we are committed to creating environments where every learner can thrive.

In this month's newsletter, you will see examples of that commitment to student success, including:

- Updated Code of Conduct information
- Expansion of the NS School Lunch Program
- Intervention work supporting student achievement
- And much more!

October is also Mi'kmaw History Month, a time to honour the rich culture, language, and contributions of the Mi'kmaq people.

Grade 10 Visual Arts students at North Queens Community School recently created this powerful art installation on the school's front fence for Orange Shirt Day. Featuring orange triangles with handprints representing personal promises to listen, learn, and support reconciliation, the display honours residential school Survivors and reminds the community that Every Child Matters. Across SSRCE, you'll

see activities and learning opportunities like this, that celebrate Mi'kmaw heritage—but our commitment to Indigenous education goes beyond this month. We recognize the importance of Mi'kmaw learning all year round and continue to embed it meaningfully throughout our classrooms and communities.

Thank you for being part of our SSRCE community. Let's continue working together to make this school year a successful and inspiring one for all.

Sincerely,

Angela Gladwin

SSRCE Regional Executive Director



SNAPSHOTS FROM SCHOOLS



On September 11, these students at Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy proudly wore pink in support of Pink Shirt Day, standing together to promote kindness, inclusion, and a commitment to ending bullying.

This day reminds us that every act of kindness matters and that we all play a role in creating safe and respectful spaces for one another.



The Grade 10 Art class at North Queens Community School, along with the NSISP Team and international students, recently took an unforgettable trip to Kejimikujik National Park! It was an incredible day spent exploring the petroglyphs — powerful stories etched in stone by the Mi'kmaw people on the traditional lands.

One of the true highlights of the day was the rich cultural exchange — experiencing the deep history of Mi'kma'ki alongside our international students was a meaningful reminder of how valuable global perspectives are to our school community.



Options and Opportunities students at Park View Education Centre recently completed the Food Handler Course. This course teaches essential practices for maintaining food safety and hygiene standards. It covers proper handling, storage, and preparation techniques to prevent contamination and ensure safe consumption. The course is required in preparation for working in the food lab and to build their credentials. Additionally, it provides great food safety knowledge to have for everyday food handling!

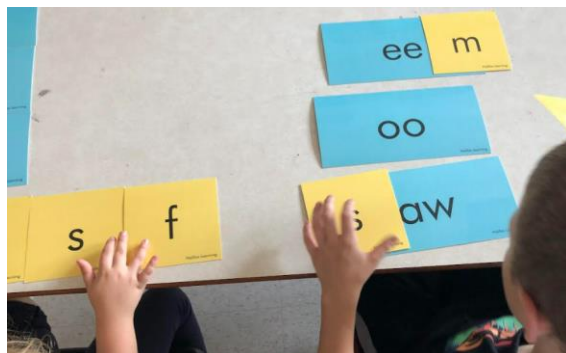
Strengthening Foundational Literacy: P-2 Literacy Intervention Program

Nova Scotia has launched a new early literacy intervention through the P-2 Structured Literacy Intervention Program. This initiative provides targeted support for students in Primary to Grade 2 who may need extra help in foundational reading and spelling skills.

The program is designed to identify students early and provide evidence-based interventions, ensuring that every student builds strong word recognition, decoding, and comprehension skills. The program components emphasize phonemic awareness, phonics, and spelling, alongside guided practice and progress monitoring.

SSRCE recently hired Early Literacy Interventionists who are being trained in a universal screening tool to identify at-risk students and deliver the intervention program. Working closely with administrators and classroom teachers, they help select students for support and implement structured, systematic instruction. Since August, the team has completed five days of professional development, assessed all Grade 1 and 2 students, and started teaching daily small-group lessons.

By prioritizing early literacy and providing targeted support, SSRCE remains committed to helping all students reach their literacy benchmarks.



From Scratch to Success: School Lunch Program Keeps Growing

This year in SSRCE, we were able to expand the NS School Lunch Program to include middle schools. This allows us to now include Bridgewater Junior High School, Chester Area Middle School, New Germany Rural High School, Queens Adult/Alternate School, and South Queens Middle School. We have continued to provide the NS School Lunch Program in all of our elementary schools. We look forward to including our remaining high schools when Phase 3 begins.

Throughout SSRCE, we are proud to provide high quality, nutritious lunches in our cafeterias. We follow a model that includes fully self-operated services, where all food is prepared from scratch and made on site at our schools by our wonderful Food Service Workers. A lot of care goes into the preparation of food in our region, and staff love to see the smiles on the faces of students when they enjoy a healthy lunch. A major goal of the NS School Lunch Program in SSRCE is to provide all students with lunch that is nutritious and delicious so that they can focus on learning and achieving. Students are enjoying the opportunity to try new foods, enjoy old favourites, and to eat with friends and classmates. This school year the menu has expanded based on student, staff, and family feedback to include more highly requested recipes. Some big hits include picnic plates, roast chicken dinner, sweet and sour meatballs, and of course, tacos!



Samples of SSRCE School Lunch Program meals.



Welcoming the World: Stories from NSISP Students

As part of the Nova Scotia International Student Program (NSISP), SSRCE is proud to welcome students from around the world into our schools and communities. These students bring diverse perspectives, rich cultural experiences, and inspiring stories that enhance learning and foster global connections.

In this special series, we'll introduce you to two of the international students currently studying in SSRCE. Through their profiles, you'll learn about their journeys, passions, and what life is like for them here in Nova Scotia.

We are always looking for host families to help make these experiences possible—if you're interested in opening your home and heart, you can find the application [here](#).



Kuzey Öksüz
Turkey

Kuzey Öksüz, a Grade 10 student from Turkey, recently spent a month at Park View Education Centre. Known for his sincerity and politeness, Kuzey has thoroughly enjoyed his time as an NSISP student, expressing a desire to stay longer. He is eager to reapply and hopes to return in February.

During his stay, Kuzey participated in the school's D1 soccer team, which he found very fulfilling. He also enjoyed having three international host brothers and engaged actively in host family activities. His host mom praised his willingness to participate and remarked that his laughter is infectious, noting he will be missed by everyone.



Jaime López Rojo
Spain

Jaime López Rojo, a Grade 12 student from Spain, is spending a full year at Park View Education Centre. As an NSISP student, he has expressed that he is thoroughly enjoying his time, particularly with his Host Family. Jaime has developed a special bond with their American Bulldog, Charli.

His Host Mom speaks highly of him, describing Jaime as a kind and fitting addition to their home. The family enjoys having him and considers him a happy part of their lives. Jaime is a cheerful and friendly individual who has made friends and balances social activities with his academic responsibilities.

In his free time, Jaime enjoys watching hockey games and trying new foods.

Updated Provincial Code of Conduct Policy

This school year, our schools are implementing Nova Scotia's updated Provincial School Code of Conduct as part of the Provincial Safe Schools Strategy. The policy outlines clear expectations for student behaviour and provides consistent, fair guidelines for addressing unacceptable actions.

To ensure a strong and unified rollout, SSRCE school staff participated in targeted Professional Learning (PL) designed to bring the Code of Conduct to life in our schools. This training was not only about understanding the policy—it was also about equipping staff with the tools needed to apply the policy consistently across all school communities.

Professional Learning Highlights

On September 3rd, all schools engaged in a full-day session focused on the updated Code of Conduct. Staff explored how the policy connects to everyday school practices and student support strategies. Following the session, a ThoughtExchange survey gathered staff reflections and surfaced key areas for deeper discussion:

- Clarifying incident reporting language
- Addressing how the Code applies to students with special programming/needs
- Differentiating major vs. minor incidents
- Reviewing the behaviour matrix
- Navigating the technology side of reporting

These themes have since guided ongoing conversations in staff meetings, which have become essential spaces for unpacking the policy and refining school-wide approaches.

The September 29th Professional Development day provided a second wave of learning, focusing on reviewing Tier 1 behavioural practices, exploring alternative schedules and spaces to support diverse student needs, and sharing additional resources to strengthen school-wide expectations. This follow-up session helped staff deepen their understanding of how the Code of Conduct integrates with broader student support systems and inclusive practices.

This work will be continuing throughout the fall to support staff and families in best understanding the implementation of the Code of Conduct, ensuring that our schools remain safe, inclusive, and responsive learning environments. We invite parents and guardians to [learn more](#) about the Code of Conduct.

Navigating Social Media: A Visit from Madison Cameron

Madison Cameron recently visited South Queens Middle School to speak with our students, staff, and parents about the impact of social media. With students, Madison emphasized the importance of staying true to themselves in a digital world. Her message to parents and guardians was clear: technology is here to stay, and it's essential that we guide our youth through their experiences with empathy and understanding—giving them space to talk about what's happening in their lives.

Madison is a Youth Specialist with the Center for Trauma Informed Practices.



We have an updated parent/guardian protocol to help you reach the correct person when you have a concern. Please follow the steps below.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONCERN PROTOCOL



What to Expect From the SSRCE Concern Resolution Protocol Process

Your concern matters to us and you can expect problems to be resolved in a collaborative conversation rather than via emails.

School Supervisor

- Follow up phone call to gather critical information.

Director of Programs and Student Services:

- a collaborative in-person meeting.
- A summary of meeting minutes will be taken.
- Audio/video recording will not be permitted by any party.

Parent/Guardian
(of Pre-primary to Grade 12 child/student) has a concern.

The first point of contact is **your child's ECE* or teacher**
*Early Childhood Educator

If your concern is not resolved, contact **the school principal**

If your concern is not resolved, contact **the South Shore Regional Centre for Education** at 902-543-2468 who will: provide information, direct access to SSRCE supports; and/or refer your concern to the School Supervisor.

School Supervisor
who will work with you to find a solution.

If your concern remains unresolved, you can **initiate a formal process** by contacting

Director of Programs and Student Services
who will investigate the concern.

If your concern remains unresolved, contact the **Regional Executive Director of Education** who will make a final decision.

SSRCE Supports Include:

- RCH Team
 - Coordinator of Mi'kmaw Education Services
 - Coordinator of African Canadian Education
 - Equity Consultant
- Programs Coordinators
- Student Services Coordinator/Staff

Please do not contact the Regional Executive Director until all other steps have been followed

NOW HIRING BUS DRIVERS

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
TRAINING PROVIDED
SAFETY FIRST MINDSET

JOIN OUR TEAM!
WWW.SSRCE.CA/EMPLOYMENT



Teacher Celebration

Nova Scotia teaching standards require teachers to create safe, equitable, and inclusive learning environments where all students feel valued, supported, and can succeed. This is achieved by maintaining positive relationships, following the Provincial School Code of Conduct, promoting culturally responsive practices, working collaboratively with families and community partners, and ensuring students see themselves reflected in their learning. In partnership with the NSTU, join us in recognizing the following teachers for creating a Safe and Inclusive Culture of Learning for all learners.

Safe and Inclusive Culture of Learning

Jennifer Langford Bluenose Academy Grade 7 Mathematics and Behavior Support

Jennifer Langford is the heart of Bluenose Academy and a role model for students and staff alike. She builds strong, caring relationships, creates a safe, inclusive environment, and inspires every child to thrive. Her dedication extends beyond the classroom through coaching, volunteering, and school events. Trusted, compassionate, and dependable, Jennifer uplifts everyone around her and makes a lasting impact on her school community.



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Regional Centre for Education



Safe and Inclusive Culture of Learning

Ceili Sims New Ross Consolidated Grade 7/8 Math and Science

Ceili has created a positive and inclusive classroom environment where students feel a personal connection to every learning experience. Her impact extends well beyond academics; through coaching, school events, and everyday interactions, she pours her heart into building lasting relationships that continue long after students graduate. Ceili is a vital part of the school community, whose warmth, dedication, and joy shape the culture and lives of everyone around her.



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Safe and Inclusive Culture of Learning

Sheila Wamboldt Bridgewater Elementary School Grade 3

Sheila is deeply committed to building authentic relationships with her students, taking time to know them as both learners and individuals. Her classroom is a caring space where students feel valued, respected, and supported. Through practices like Prime Minister of the Day speeches, she fosters student voice, confidence, and community, while also developing essential skills. Her instruction is intentionally designed around student interests, making learning relevant, engaging, and memorable. Sheila's dedication to personalizing her teaching strengthens both student well-being and achievement.



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Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Safe and Inclusive Culture of Learning

Stephanie Hunt and Melissa Hallett Bluenose Academy Grade 5

Stephanie and Melissa co-teach Grade 5 with a dynamic approach that fosters lasting connections and student success. They quickly learn each student's strengths and interests, set high expectations, and celebrate growth with meaningful feedback. BA is fortunate to have their leadership in the classroom.



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Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Safe and Inclusive Culture of Learning

Jessica Kaulback Bluenose Academy Grade 1 French Immersion

Jessica has worked tirelessly to create a welcoming, positive and structured space for her students. She engages all her learners with warmth and a high expectation for kindness, hard work and cooperation. Her class completely agrees that she deserves recognition.



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Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Safe and Inclusive Culture of Learning

Brenda Brown Mid-Level Connect Centre Teacher

Brenda Brown fosters a safe, inclusive learning environment where every student feels a sense of belonging. Through her calm presence, empathetic support, and personalized connections, she builds trust and equips students with the social, emotional, and behavioural skills needed for success.



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