



South Shore
Regional Centre for Education

REGIONAL UPDATE

November 2025

New Track and Field Facility Opens in Liverpool



(Photo credit: Queens County Track Society)

On October 8th, Liverpool Regional High School welcomed distinguished guests, students, and community members to celebrate the opening of the new state-of-the-art track and field facility. This complex is the first of its kind on the South Shore.

The \$3.5-million project features a turf soccer field, rubberized track, long- and triple-jump runway, shot-put area, and full lighting for extended play. Thanks to the Queens County Track Society, all levels of government, SSRCE staff, and local donors for making this dream a reality. This new space will help athletes train close to home and give families more opportunities to stay active together.

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A Message from the Regional Executive Director

Transportation Challenges – Working Toward Stability

Dear Families,

Over the past several weeks, we've faced significant challenges with student transportation. A shortage of qualified bus drivers has led to route delays and cancellations. We know these disruptions have been stressful and inconvenient for families, and we want to assure you that improving reliability remains one of our highest priorities.

What's Changing

We're making progress. As of last week, six new spare drivers have been licensed. These additions will help strengthen our coverage and reduce the likelihood of cancellations.

Why This Matters

We understand reliable transportation is essential for student learning and family routines. Every missed route impacts classrooms and communities, and we are committed to restoring consistency. Our team continues to review every option before a cancellation occurs. This includes reassigning drivers, adjusting routes, and seeking temporary coverage whenever possible.

Looking Ahead

Recruitment and training remain ongoing. Interviews are underway for our next driver training course, which we expect to begin in mid-November.

We are actively promoting bus driver opportunities through multiple channels, including local advertising, social media, and community outreach. Our goal is to attract more applicants and build a strong pool of drivers to ensure long-term stability. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our transportation team, please visit <http://www.ssrce.ca/employment>

We encourage families to sign up for [BusPlanner](#) notifications to receive timely information about any changes. Thank you for your understanding and partnership as we navigate this challenge. Together, we can ensure safe, dependable transportation for all students.

Sincerely,

Angela Gladwin

SSRCE Regional Executive Director



NOW HIRING SPARE BUS DRIVERS



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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
TRAINING PROVIDED
SAFETY FIRST MINDSET

SNAPSHOTS FROM SCHOOLS



[COVE](#) recently visited Park View Education Centre. Students learned about the marine technology sector, including Nova Scotia's offshore wind future and related careers.

They were then challenged to build a wind turbine that could produce the most energy.



This grade 5/6 class at Petite Riviere Elementary School created turtles to learn about the Mi'kmaw moons based on Cathy LeBlanc and David Chapman's book. The activity also connected to their Science unit on Space when they learned about the moon cycles.



Students at Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School recently experienced an electrifying Mad Science presentation featuring dry ice experiments, fiery demonstrations, and an exciting rocket launch.

Weather Notifications



With winter weather upon us, families are encouraged to notify their school office of any changes to home contact information.

Closure notifications 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.

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

Reflecting on Remembrance Day



In the days leading up to Remembrance Day, our schools have been reflecting on the importance of honouring those who served and continue to serve for our freedom.

As part of this tribute, we invite you to watch a special [video](#) featuring students from Hebbville Academy reciting the poem "In Flanders Fields."

What's a CLT?

On seven days throughout the school year, students are dismissed two hours early to allow educators to participate in collaborative learning time. A professional learning community, or CLT, is a group of educators who meet regularly to share expertise, look at student data, work collaboratively to improve teaching practices, and support the academic performance and well-being of students. There are seven CLT days in SSRCE this school year and to ensure your child doesn't miss any instructional time, all other school days have been extended by a few minutes each day.

We are pleased to share highlights of work that's been happening during CLT time at a few of our schools.



A group of teachers at BJHS during a CLT day last school year.

At Pentz Elementary:

At Pentz Elementary, teachers have been using CLT to explore evidence of student learning and plan next steps in math. Focusing on counting skills in grades primary to four, teachers reviewed unit one assessment data, and classroom observations to celebrate student strengths and identify areas for growth. Together, they set a short term, but immediate goal, and planned the strategies necessary for achieving this goal, such as daily counting practice, routine use of hands-on counting materials, including engaging counting games and experiences in classrooms. They also shared ideas, built on previous professional learning experiences, and connected families with ways to support counting at home. Their next step will be to reassess and measure impact, while continuing to help every child build strong number sense and confidence in math.

At Bluenose Academy:

Bluenose Academy's French Immersion team looked at writing samples from students in grades 3-6. Based on this information, they grouped students by skills they need to focus on and are doing targeted intervention during literacy time based on skills rather than grade level.

Bluenose Academy's grade 2 team looked at short cycle #1 results and regrouped all students into three groups focusing on lagging skills. They will provide targeted intervention to the three groups every day during the literacy block.

At Bridgewater Junior High School:

Teachers have been busy looking closely at student work and data from the first month of school. During a recent CLT meeting, they focused on students who are *almost* meeting grade-level expectations. The goal was to find common challenges and plan simple, effective ways to help these students take the next step in their learning.

Grade 8-9 teachers noticed that many students have great ideas in their writing but sometimes struggle to end their pieces smoothly. They planned short, focused lessons to help students write stronger conclusions using our school's writing framework. Grade 5-6 English Language Arts teachers explored ways to help students come up with ideas for their writing. They looked at samples and data together to plan strategies that build confidence and creativity in young writers. Grade 5 math teachers identified that some students who are close to meeting expectations could use extra practice with mental addition and subtraction. They planned fun, hands-on activities to help strengthen those foundational skills.

These conversations help teachers better understand where each student is in their learning and ensure we're supporting every learner to grow and succeed.

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 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](#).



Samuel Restrepo Zafra Colombia



Samuel Restrepo Zafra arrived in Nova Scotia October 6th from Medellin, Colombia, as part of a two month short-term program. Samuel has adjusted nicely to his family and attends Bridgewater Junior High School. His host brother is a great big brother; playing games and helping with his English.

Samuel is also a golf prodigy and is only 12 years old. He won a National tournament in Antioquia in 2024 at the age of 11. He had the

opportunity to play a couple of games at Osprey Ridge golf course recently in preparation for another national tournament when he arrives home.

Izmir Zeynep Gokturk Turkey



Izmir initially arrived in Nova Scotia from Turkey in September of 2024 as a short-term (one month) student. She enjoyed her time in Nova Scotia so much that she decided to come back again this year and has returned for the full school year!

Izmir is a player on the Park View Education Centre's girls volleyball team and played high level in her school in Turkey, having won many awards. Additionally, Izmir has completed Bronze Level Duke of Edinburgh Award and is currently working on the Silver Level.

Izmir recently celebrated her 17th Birthday and was overwhelmed by the love and presents from her Nova Scotia family!

SSRCE Leadership Learns Through Kairos Blanket Exercise



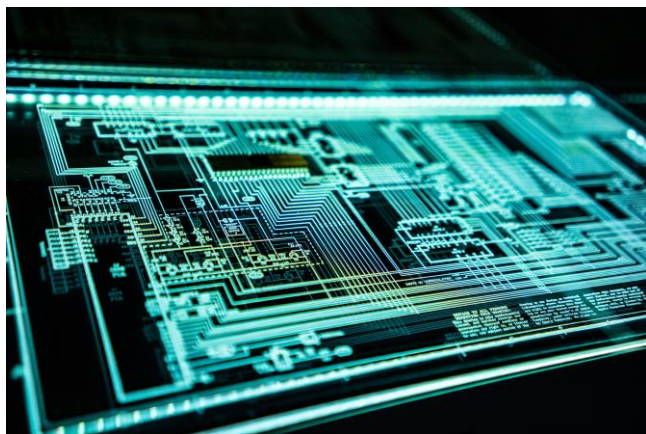
Image credit: KBE

As a step toward SSRCE's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and an important learning experience related to the Truth of our shared history here on Turtle Island, school Administrators attended a Kairos Blanket Exercise lead by Santele's Healing Circles. We were fortunate to have Council members from Wasoqopa'q First Nation, Wildcat Community Members, Mi'kmaw Services Branch representatives, our regional Jordan's Principle Services Coordinator, and a representative from our Student Support Worker program stand beside us as we learned more about lived experience of Indigenous Peoples of North America and the policies, acts, and decisions made that impact how we live here in Mi'kma'ki. We appreciate and are grateful to the members of Wasoqopa'q First Nation who shared this opportunity with our regional leadership, who are supporting SSRCE in growing our ability to support all students and in our commitment to continue this integral work here in Mi'kma'ki. Wela'lioq/Thank you all,

More about the Kairos Blanket Exercise - "Created in 1997 by the Aboriginal Rights Coalition (ARC), a precursor to KAIROS, the KBE was initially meant to introduce Canadians to the major themes and findings of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP).

The Coalition brought together Elders, Indigenous educators, and allies who wanted to make sure that RCAP and its recommendations were not shelved and forgotten. The KBE is built on the foundation of these long standing, collaborative initiatives and relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to raise awareness of continuing injustices and impacts of colonization, and to promote further learning. For over two decades, ARC and now KAIROS have guided its ongoing development with the leadership of Elders and Indigenous facilitators across this land."

Safeguarding Student Data: Cyber Security Training



We are pleased to share that our Cyber Security training program, which began its pilot phase in November 2024, has been successfully rolled out to regional staff early in 2025. Following the positive feedback from the pilot, we have now extended this training to all teaching and administrative staff in our region.

This initiative is crucial in helping us understand how to protect our systems from compromise and safeguard student personal information. Although it is a challenging landscape with malicious actors constantly evolving, we are committed to implementing suitable technologies and best practices to ensure we meet our security goals.