



South Shore

Regional Centre for Education

REGIONAL UPDATE

JUNE 2026



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A Message from the Regional Executive Director

As we come to the close of another school year, I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible work happening across our schools and communities here on the South Shore. It has been a privilege to visit classrooms, attend school events, and connect with students, staff, and families throughout the region. Whether in our smaller rural schools or our town centres, what stands out most is the strong sense of care, connection, and pride that defines our school communities. Thank you for making our schools places where students feel welcomed, supported, and inspired each day.

To our dedicated staff, thank you for the professionalism, care, and commitment you bring to your work. Each day, you go above and beyond to support high levels of student learning and well-being, often in ways that are unseen but deeply impactful. Your ability to adapt, collaborate, and build meaningful relationships is at the heart of what makes our schools strong. I am sincerely grateful for all that you do for students and for one another. You are making a difference.

To our families and caregivers, thank you for your ongoing partnership and trust. Your support plays a vital role in your children's success, and the connection between home and school is something we value deeply. Whether you are helping with homework, helping your child get out the door each morning, attending school events, or simply encouraging your child to do their best each day, your involvement makes a lasting difference. You are of course their first teachers and lifelong support.

To our students who are advancing to the next grade level, congratulations on a year of growth and achievement. Each step forward reflects your effort, resilience, and willingness to learn. As you move ahead, I encourage you to continue asking questions, trying new things, and supporting one another. We look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish in the year ahead.

To the graduating class of 2026, congratulations. This milestone reflects years of hard work, perseverance, and personal growth, supported by your families, teachers, and communities. You leave our schools with more than just credits—you carry friendships, experiences, and a strong sense of belonging that will stay with you wherever your path leads. Whether you are continuing your education, entering the trades or workforce, or pursuing opportunities close to home or beyond, know that you represent the very best of our region. We are proud of you, and we look forward to seeing the contributions you will make in your communities.

As summer approaches, I wish all our students, staff, and families a safe, restful, and enjoyable break. Thank you for another successful year on the South Shore—we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the fall.

Warm Wishes,
Angela Gladwin
SSRCE Regional Executive Director



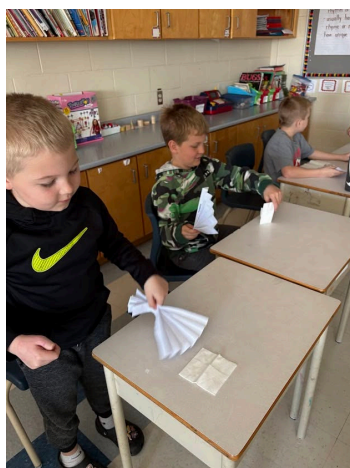
SNAPSHOTS FROM SCHOOLS

NGES Pre-Primary artwork was celebrated in the community at the Hummingbird Café. Ten pieces of student artwork were put on display for community members to enjoy! (Pictured right)



As part of the Connect Centre programming at South Queens Middle School, under the guidance of Mr. Surrette and teacher assistants, students have been working on projects throughout the school and community. At the beginning of the year, students worked on a mural in the school's cafeteria to make it look more appealing. After a conversation with the local Sobeys manager, it was decided that the Connect Centre students would do a mural at Sobeys as well! This has been a great way for students to be involved in their community. (Pictured left)

BES Grade 2 Wrightly: The Super Nova Science Team from Dalhousie University came to Grade 2 Wrightly to teach us about states matter (liquid, solid, gas). The students had a blast being mini chemists and watching a liquid and powder mixture turn into a solid. I am sure you will hear about their alien eggs! They were so engaged and excited! (Pictured right)



In 2 Faulkner today students were learning about the physics of air, using fans to push objects, and learning that air is everywhere even though we can't see it. They were also being scientists and created new species of insects! (Pictured left)

SNAPSHOTS FROM SCHOOLS

Mrs. Chandler's Culinary Trades 11 class at Forest Heights Community School prepared a beautiful selection of food to celebrate Asian Heritage month. The lineup was out the door and down the hall, and the food was delicious! (Pictured right)



Sometimes our learning takes us outside! First Grade Rafuse at DJCWA have been strengthening their science skills by learning the life cycle of butterflies and growing beans from seed, observing each step closely. Using magnifying glasses helped them notice textures on the plants, which inspired many strong descriptive words for their creative writing.

When students released the butterflies, they went to the wikuom for a story and to watch the butterflies settle into their new home! (Pictured left)

Park View Education Centre O2 students put their skills to use by designing and building multiple picnic tables for various schools within the South Shore region.

Pictured right is an accessible picnic table that was designed and built for Hebbville Academy.

A big THANK YOU to the O2 students!



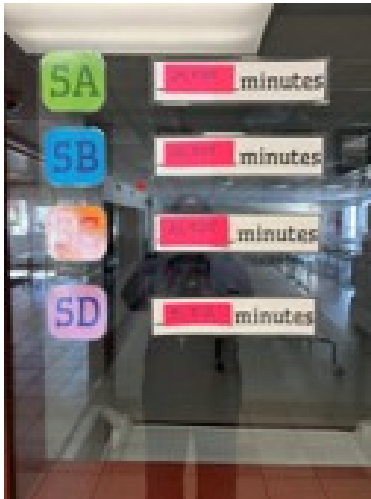
Literacy Spotlight

Family Literacy Day - January 30

Family Literacy Day highlights the importance of developing literacy skills in our students through the joy of reading.



West Northfield Elementary School celebrated family literacy day and it was a huge success with 3 generations of family joining the event for quality reading time with their students!



At Bridgewater Junior High School students celebrated Literacy for the entire month of February! Students were given extra time in their Language arts classes, and they had theme games, and special activities to promote reading.

This year, the Grades 5 & 6 students voted on their favourite books to be entered into a Battle of the Books. The school SAC provided funding for copies of the 8 books that were selected and students were able to borrow them

through the new lending library. Each class kept track of their reading minutes for the month with the top reading class winning an ice cream sundae party!



Provincial Remembrance Day Writing Award

Audrey Wilson, a grade 6 student at West Northfield Elementary School, got a huge surprise at the schools' monthly assembly when she received an award at the provincial level for her essay she submitted to the Legion Remembrance Day Contest back in November.

New Germany Legion President Howard Gibson, Former President John Ryan and Zone Commander Darryl Cook presented Audrey with a certificate and check. Audrey's essay has been sent to Ottawa to be judged at the national level.



Literacy Spotlight

The Storm Whale in Summer

The Grade 4 class at New Germany Elementary School took inspiration from two heart-warming stories *The Storm Whale* and *The Storm Whale in Winter* to write and illustrate their own original sequel titled **The Storm Whale in Summer**. This project allowed students to strengthen narrative writing skills, make meaningful text-to-text connections, collaborate creatively with peers, and share their writing with a real audience.

Read the students' book here: [The Storm Whale in Summer](#)



A promotional banner for the South Shore Regional Centre for Education. On the left, a dark blue banner contains the text "REGISTER NOW" and "PRE-PRIMARY & NEW REGISTRATIONS" in large, bold, white letters. Below this, the website "www.ssrce.ca/register" is listed, followed by the center's logo (an anchor inside a circle) and the name "South Shore Regional Centre for Education". On the right, a photograph of a smiling young girl with dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt and a pink backpack, is shown. The background of the banner features faint, stylized line drawings of buildings and trees.

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](#).



In early September, Liverpool, Nova Scotia, welcomed two international students, **Maria Sole Lastilla from Italy** and **Clara Lamas Meire from Brazil**. At school, both students have immersed themselves fully in student life. They joined the volleyball team and quickly made new friends. Maria has since joined the cheer squad, while Clara is actively involved in student council.

Maria and Clara's host family has introduced them to local traditions such as pumpkin carving, Halloween decorating, surfing, and cooking. Both students have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm. They have also helped with outdoors projects, learning how to use power tools, and harvesting vegetables from the garden. The host family shares that Maria and Clara are "fitting in exceptionally well with their family and have formed sister-like bonds with the host families daughter, building connections that will last a lifetime."



As the first semester came to a close, Maria returned to Italy with a suitcase full of memories, while Clara will continue her stay with her Host family for the remainder of the year. The cultural exchange has enriched everyone involved, fostering understanding, connection, and lasting friendships.



Bilen Su Tuksal is a full year student **from Turkey**. She is in Grade 12 at Park View Education Centre. She has said that she is enjoying her year as an NSISP student, and enjoys her Host Family very much. Bilen is a cheerful, smiley, friendly person who doesn't hesitate to say a cheerful hello. She has made many friends since she first arrived to PVEC, and is well liked by her peers. She enjoys playing on the rugby team at her school with her host sister. Her host parents have said that Belin has greatly improved her English since being here as a NSISP student. They also describe Belin as having a great sense of humour, and also that she loves to go shopping.

Welcoming the World:

Stories from NSISP Students

Marit Bremerman is an enthusiastic Grade 11 international student **from Germany** who has fully embraced her time in Nova Scotia. Over the past few months, she has explored many of the province's beautiful beaches, finding peace and inspiration as she walks along the shore listening to the rhythm of the ocean. To her, the coastline reflects the natural beauty and calm spirit of Nova Scotia — a big part of why she has grown to love it so much. During her time here, Marit has also made many wonderful friends and built a strong, meaningful relationship with her host family. Her positive energy, openness, and excitement for new experiences make her a truly valued member of the school community.



Maria Eduarda is a Grade 11 international student **from Brazil** who has shown incredible growth and courage during her time here. Arriving with very little English, she was initially worried about making connections, but she bravely stepped outside her comfort zone and embraced every opportunity to improve. Over the months, her English skills have grown tremendously, and so has her confidence. By putting herself out there, Maria Eduarda has formed many meaningful friendships and become a valued part of the school community. Known for being sweet, kind, and considerate, she brings warmth wherever she goes and especially enjoys spending quality time with her host family.

Loyola Mena Abreau is a full year student **from Spain**. She is in Grade 11 at Park View Education Centre. She has said that she is enjoying her year as an NSISP student, and enjoys her Host Family very much. Loyola is a cheerful, friendly, and sincere person, who doesn't hesitate to say a cheerful hello to everyone she meets. She has made many friends since she first arrived in September. Her host parents have spoken very well of her and describe her as a very upbeat person who gets along well with others including her host family. Loyola is on the rugby team at PVEC, and has also tried many sports in school. As well, she has gone hiking with her host parents.



Pau arrived **from Spain** in September and is living with Brianne Rhodenizer and her son Tate where both boys attend Hebbville Academy. Pau and Tate share several common interests and both played on the school basketball team as well as separately on the boys U-14 Surf team. Pau was a great addition to both teams. He has now joined the school Softball team and attends the YMCA. Recently his Mom came for a visit and was able to cook his favourite meal which was enjoyed by the entire family. We look forward to Pau's return in September to start high school at PVEC.

Celebrating our Students

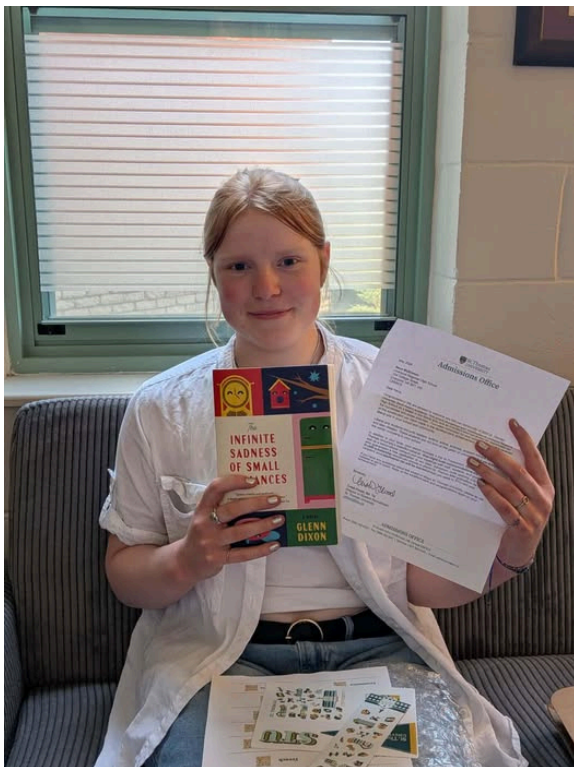


Concours d'art oratoire régional

Our Concours d'art oratoire régional/Regional French Speaking Contest was held on Thursday, April 9th at Hebbville Academy. Seventeen students, representing eight categories and four different schools (LRHS, PVEC, BJHS and HA), participated in the regional event. All students did an excellent job presenting their topics and delivering their speeches – we are so proud of each and every participant!

Special Mention Certificates were awarded to the following recipients: Zayla Haughn Stevens, Maysa Belyea, Soraya Sanoe, Elizabeth Smart, and Daniel Losier. The following students won the Grand Prize for their category and attended the Provincial French Speaking Contest at Mount Saint Vincent University on Saturday, April 25th to represent SSRCE: Amber Hur, Isabella Bryson, Kalu Sanoe, Onyu Lee, Mascha Jung, Maria Bryson, Kathleen DeCaire, Josie Munro, and Mary Jacobs.

St. Thomas University Book Award



Congratulations to Neve McKinnon who was named as a 2026 St. Thomas University Book Award recipient! This award recognizes Neve's contribution as a leader in the liberal arts, and as a student who has shown an appreciation for the humanities and social sciences. They were nominated for this award because of the contribution they have made to the development, enhancement, and promotion of the liberal arts in our school and community. Way to go Neve! So deserving!

Celebrating our Students

Canadian National Science Fair

An Attractive Solution: An Innovative Way to Clean Up Oil Spills

Max Comstock, Bridgewater Junior High – Grade 7

An Attractive Solution: An innovative way to clean up oil spills
How can we clean up oil spills with nano technology? Using small scale experiments with ferro fluid, testing was done to see if it could remove oil from water. The results looked promising as the oil was successfully separated from the water with magnets that pulled the ferro fluid and oil up. These results are important as it shows this may work on a larger scale and possibly even on land spills and oil that has sunk to the bottom of oceans or lakes. This could be important because oil spills are a relatively common occurrence that have environmental risks and can devastate ecosystems, which is why it needs an efficient and effective solution.



Clearly Contaminated: Using Phase Contrast Microscopy to Reflect Microplastic Reality

Lucy Bishop, Bridgewater Junior High – Grade 8

This project examines the presence of microplastics in drinking water, including methods for their identification, potential impacts on human health, and comparisons with other research findings. Microplastics, which often aren't visible to the naked eye, pose a growing environmental and public health concern. The data from this experiment shows the presence of microplastics in tap water from a local residence, a local school and in high purity lab water. Given the essential role of safe drinking water, understanding the extent of microplastic contamination is critical. Further investigations may include testing microplastic levels in well water, bottled water, and water from the local watershed; thereby retaining a more complete picture of how microplastic levels compare in different areas/stages of the treatment process. Increased awareness and scientific investigation can support the development of effective long-term solutions, educate communities, and inform environmentally responsible decisions for our health and the environment.

Icy Interference: Investigating Snow's Effect on Solar Panels

Dylan De Veerde, Bridgewater Junior High – Grade 7

Solar panels are increasingly prevalent across Canada; however, their performance during long winter conditions remains a concern. This study examined the effect of snow accumulation on solar panel energy production at a condominium in Bridgewater, NS. Measurements were conducted in January and February 2026 to record snow depth on panels, followed by snow removal to assess changes in output. Results indicated that power generation ceased when snow accumulation reached 5cm. Following snow removal, energy output increased by a factor of ten or more. However, winter power production in this study was only 26% compared to the previous summer's production. The maximum annual energy gain from clearing snow off these panels was only 10.3%, assuming complete snow coverage for 3 months. Findings from this study offer guidance to homeowners to help them assess whether clearing panels might be justified: financial savings, practicality, snow accumulation, and availability of battery storage.

Celebrating our Students



Beats vs Brains: A Study on Binaural Beats

Ifechukwu Nwatu, Bridgewater Junior High – Grade 8



Have you ever wondered if certain sounds could affect memory or efficiency in studying? This project tested how the two highest binaural beats-Beta and Gamma- would affect student's short-term memory and used white noise for the Control group. Binaural Beats are an auditory illusion created in the brain when you hear two slightly mismatched frequencies. The brain highlights that difference and molds the brainwaves temporarily to match the frequency difference. The effect is dependent on the magnitude of the difference between the beats. This illusion is interesting as it's not a physical vibration or a sound that can be tested rather something perceived in the brain. Binaural beats are important because they showcase how the brainwaves can adapt and mimic outside frequencies which is interesting. With further research, binaural beats could be used for diagnosis of neurological disorders or aid certain individuals with their lifestyles.

Awards:

Each student received a \$1000.00 entrance scholarship from University of Alberta

Ifechukwu Nwatu won a bronze medal

\$1500.00 entrance scholarship from University of Alberta

\$1000.00 entrance scholarship from Western University

Lieutenant Governor Awards

The Lieutenant Governor's Education Medal was established in 1961 and is the oldest award presented by the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. The award is administered by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Students are nominated based on their academic performance and qualities of leadership and service demonstrated in their school and community.

The recipients for the 2025-2026 school year were:

Daniel James - Forest Heights Community School

Daniel is an enthusiastic, kind, and respectful student who is often seen helping out during school events. He is an active volunteer in both his school and community. He has participated in the school play both as a stage crew and actor for the last three years and is an active member of the Students' Council. Daniel is an active volunteer at his church and was a Leader in Training with the Municipality of Chester summer programming in 2025. Daniel strives for excellence and despite being very skilled in his classes, is still always looking for ways to improve.



According to his teachers, he is an "all around great student", a pleasure to teach and an exemplary citizen of our school community.

Celebrating Our Students

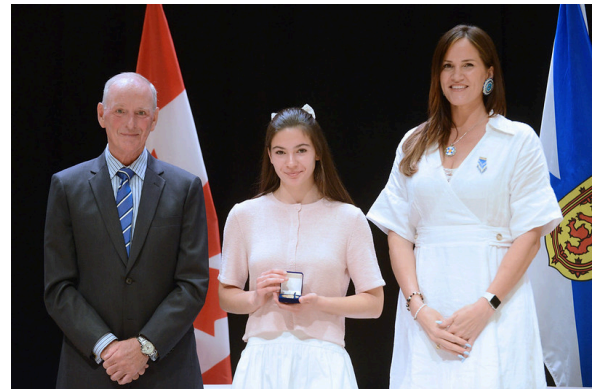
Jessie-Lynn Sawler - Forest Heights Community School



Jessie-lynn is a student-athlete. She has been a member of the school's soccer and basketball teams since Grade 9 and is a great citizen of Forest Height Community School. She is hardworking, kind, personable and welcoming of all students... a bright light. On multiple occasions, she welcomed International students with baked goods so that her class could celebrate their birthdays since they were away from home. Academically, Jessie-lynn always goes above and beyond. She strives to do her best and grow from academic experiences.

Pheobe MacVicar - Liverpool Regional High School

Phoebe is an outstanding student who gives tirelessly to her academics as well as school community. Revered by students and staff alike, Phoebe is a wonderful example of how discipline and commitment pay off. She maintains the top average in grade 11, while also giving her time to extracurricular activities and sports. She serves on Student Council, is a member of our schools Key Club, is a Nova Scotia International Student Program Ambassador, competes in track and field as well as cross country and looks for any opportunity to contribute to the growth and well-being of our school and community. She is an incredibly deserving recipient of the Lieutenant Governor Award as she encompasses the values and requirements of such a prestigious honor. Her work ethic, morals and confidence will take her far into a very bright future. Congratulations Phoebe!



Beth Wamboldt - Liverpool Regional High School



Beth is a shining example of the qualities, skills and intellect required of the Lieutenant Governor Award. A stellar academic student, Beth has maintained a high 90's average this year and is enrolled in our top academic classes. She works diligently in class, has a full schedule and is a committed student who understands the value of education. Not only does Beth excel in the classroom she also stands out in our school community. She is a star athlete who competes on our school's soccer, basketball, volleyball, badminton and softballs teams. She is an active member of Key Club as well as Student Council and is currently running as our next year co president. Beth is dependable and dedicated and consistently looks for opportunities to challenge herself. She is a leader of our school community and has a very bright future. Congratulations Beth!

Celebrating our Students

Rachel Lowe - New Germany Rural High School

Rachel's achievements extend well beyond her outstanding academic average in the high 90s. She consistently strives to be her best—demonstrating compassion, respect, and integrity in all that she does. This is evident in the care she puts into her work, her thoughtful interactions with both peers and staff, and the warmth she brings to our school community. Rachel is the Treasurer for our Student Council and also for her community 4H Club, Livewires. In 4H she is a strong leader and role model for the younger members. Through her leadership work in student government, she has shown initiative and a strong commitment to representing and supporting fellow students. Rachel's maturity, kindness, and respectful communication set her apart as a role model among her peers. Her strong focus and motivation toward her future goals are truly inspiring. We wish her luck and know that she will reach for her full potential in the years ahead. Congratulations, Rachel!



Ethan Lipsett - New Germany Rural High School



Ethan has been an enthusiastic and highly motivated student throughout his time at New Germany Rural High School. His positive energy brightens the spirits of students and teachers alike and has been referred to as an accomplished young man. Ethan goes out of his way to say hello, start a conversation, and shows he cares as he walks through the hallways. As Dance Committee Chair for Student Council, he shows outstanding dedication and leadership. He organizes and ensures each dance is thoughtfully prepared and welcoming for all

students. As a member of the yearbook team, he has shown creativity and a commitment to documenting and celebrating the experiences of his peers. Ethan's academic performance is equally impressive, with an average above 98% across all courses. His commitment to excellence, leadership, and kindness prove he is a truly deserving recipient. We are confident that Ethan will continue to achieve great success in life.

Aiden Donelle - North Queens Community School

Aidan is an engaged and curious student who consistently shows a genuine love of learning. His inquisitive nature drives him to ask thoughtful questions and explore ideas more deeply, helping him grow both academically and personally. A natural leader, Aidan sets a positive example through his kindness, respect, and strong work ethic. He is also highly athletic and brings enthusiasm and energy to all that he does, both inside and outside of the classroom. Aidan works exceptionally well as part of a team, encouraging others and contributing to a supportive and inclusive environment. His positive attitude and willingness help make him a role model for younger students within our school. Aidan demonstrates responsibility, integrity, and perseverance in everything he undertakes. His ability to lead, collaborate, and inspire those around him makes him a very deserving recipient of this award.



Celebrating our Students

Violet Bennett - Park View Education Centre

Violet has been an important part of student life throughout her high school years, demonstrating both leadership and school spirit in a wide range of activities. She has contributed to student council and social justice initiatives, while also energizing the school community in her role as the PVEC mascot. Violet is a dedicated multi-sport athlete, competing in volleyball, basketball, badminton, and track and field, and extending her passion for volleyball through club play, Volleyball Nova Scotia, and selection to a Provincial Volleyball Excellence Team.

Her commitment to athletics is matched by her dedication to service. Violet volunteers as a coach for a local junior high volleyball team and gives her time to organizations such as the Mahone Bay pool and Chill Volleyball. She has also gained valuable work experience at the Mahone Bay Marina and Boathouse Bites, balancing employment alongside her many commitments. Despite her demanding schedule, Violet maintains an exceptional academic average, reflecting her ambition, discipline, and ability to excel in all areas. Congratulations, Violet!



Keaton Lipsett - Park View Education Centre



Keaton is an outstanding student whose strong academic performance and commitment to service make him a deserving recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Award. He has maintained a high academic average, consistently demonstrating dedication and a strong work ethic. Outside the classroom, Keaton has been an active member of the school hockey team, showing leadership, teamwork, and sportsmanship. He has also given back to the community by assisting with minor hockey try-outs and tournaments, supporting the development of younger athletes. In

addition, Keaton has worked part-time for the past three years, balancing employment with academic and extracurricular commitments. He further contributes to his community by completing odd jobs for seniors, demonstrating kindness, responsibility, and a willingness to help others. Congratulations, Keaton!

Celebrating our Staff



PANLST Graduates

The **Program for Aspiring and New Learning Support Teachers (PANLST)** is a professional development initiative designed to equip South Shore Regional Centre for Education (SSRCE) teachers with essential skills in **Program Planning and TIENTET**. By providing specialized knowledge to Resource, Learning Centre, and Behaviour Support Teachers, the program ensures that educators are highly competent in managing the documentation and individualized strategies required for student success. This directly helps SSRCE students by ensuring

their learning support plans are evidence-based, accurately tracked, and implemented by well-trained professional's.

Pictured above is the last class of PANLST graduates. From August to February this group of employees came to the Regional Centre to learn all about Program Planning with our Program Planning Consultant, Connie Bird and our Consultant for Autism & Learning Centres, Denise Burgess.

Education Week Award Recipients

Education Week offers a chance to celebrate members of Nova Scotia's public education community who demonstrate exceptional dedication to the annual theme. For 2026, the theme was **Fostering Empathy: Learning and Leading with Kindness**. Recipients of the award were nominated by colleagues who felt that they consistently show empathy and kindness in their daily work, help students succeed at school and positively impact their communities and inspire students to form meaningful friendships, collaborate effectively, and develop into compassionate leaders. Recipients of the award were celebrated at a ceremony in Halifax with fellow recipients from around the province.

This years recipients were:



Ann Wentzell: PSAANS

Ann models Fostering Empathy: Learning and Leading with Kindness through compassionate, student-centered leadership. She is thoughtful in her support of students, families and staff - especially in complex situations - ensuring people feel heard, valued, and respected. Ann's collaborative approach to coordinating services helps remove barriers to learning, while her relationship-focused leadership strengthens school cultures where empathy, cooperation, and kindness are prioritized.

Celebrating our Staff

Education Week Award Recipients continued...

Ashley Buckle: NSTU Queens County

Ashley was highlighted for her exceptional ability to foster a welcoming and inclusive school environment through genuine compassion and unwavering support for students. Her nomination noted her dedication to empowering student leadership, building strong relationships, and consistently modeling empathy and kindness in all interactions. Ashley's leadership in organizing activities that celebrate diversity and promote well-being has helped shape a positive and caring school culture. (Pictured Right)



Ali Kramer: Non-Teaching Student Support

In Ali's nomination she was highlighted for her kindness and patience with everyone in her school community, creating a welcoming and positive environment. Her professionalism and dedication to her students was described as being above and beyond. To just meet Ali would leave you inspired, empowered and just...better! (Pictured Left)



Leah Seamone: Early Childhood Educator

Leah was highlighted for her commitment to an inclusive environment where every child and family feels valued. She builds strong partnerships, welcomes input from families, and celebrates their cultures in her pre-primary program. Leah's ongoing professional development, promotion of empathy and self-regulation, and collaborative approach contribute to positive outcomes for all.



Shawn Feener: Mi'kmaw-Indigenous Education

Shawn was highlighted for his kind and positive impact which are widely recognized throughout the school community. He is recognized for his meaningful engagement with students, particularly through teaching Mi'kmaq culture and history. Shawn's empathetic approach fosters inclusive learning environments, inspiring both academic and personal growth among students.



Celebrating our Staff

Education Week Award Recipients continued...

Patrick Henderson: African Nova Scotian Student Support

Patrick is being highlighted for his ability to foster empathy by building trusting, kind relationships that ensure students feel seen and supported, even in challenging moments. What sets him apart is his desire to form deep, authentic connections, even under the most challenging circumstances by drawing on his own personal experiences and professional knowledge. Through dedicated mentorship, Patrick consistently turns difficult situations into opportunities for restorative learning and leadership.



Vanessa Miller: NSTU Lunenburg County

Vanessa was highlighted for her remarkable ability to unite diverse groups of students and foster a welcoming, supportive environment. She consistently goes above and beyond - whether coaching sports, organizing events, or leading field trips - to show genuine care for her students. Vanessa's mentorship empowers students to be kind, responsible, and eager to help others, making a positive and lasting impact on the entire school community.



Teacher Celebrations - January

Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Theme: Culturally Responsive

Mena Evans
Bridgewater Adult High School
Teacher

Mena Evans fosters a safe, inclusive environment by building strong personal connections and supporting English language learners through culturally responsive practices. She cultivates deep engagement and community by integrating meaningful experiences, such as themed celebrations that allow students to explore diverse cultural contexts. By amplifying various voices and honoring student identities, Mena ensures every learner feels empowered, valued, and central to a collaborative classroom culture.



South Shore
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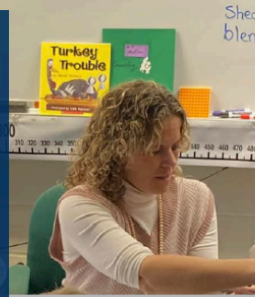
Celebrating our Staff

Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Theme: Culturally Responsive

Angela Hartlen
Dr. J.C. Wickwire Academy
Grade 3 Teacher

Angela always ensures her materials are culturally representative of her students as well as the growing diversity in the community. One of the highlights in her class each year is her unit on Africville in which students learn about this important part of Nova Scotian history with engaging and hands-on learning activities!



South Shore
Regional Centre for Education

Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Theme: Culturally Responsive

Julie Chandler
Forest Heights Community School
African Canadian Studies/Service Trades/Food Science Teacher

Julie is deeply dedicated to creating safe, inclusive spaces at FHCS through culturally responsive practices. She fosters authentic community connections by centering experiential learning and shared meals around various heritage months. Furthermore, Julie champions anti-racist education and was instrumental in reintroducing African Canadian Studies to the school.



South Shore
Regional Centre for Education

Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Theme: Culturally Responsive

Alison Levy
Bridgewater Elementary School
Grade 4 Teacher

Alison Levy, a Grade 4 Teacher, weaves cultural understanding into her curriculum by learning from her students' diverse backgrounds. She uses their experiences and identities to enrich discussions, creating an inclusive space where students feel respected and proud. This approach builds a deep sense of belonging and teaches students to appreciate diversity as an essential part of learning.



South Shore
Regional Centre for Education

Celebrating our Staff

Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Theme: Culturally Responsive

Rowan Wilson-Henkelmann
New Germany Elementary School
Speech Language Pathologist

Rowan Wilson-Henkelmann exemplifies culturally responsive practice by building authentic relationships and leveraging her diverse skills—such as her German fluency—to ensure every student feels seen and supported. She balances her clinical expertise as a Speech Language Pathologist with school-wide leadership, from implementing evidence-based language programs to directing the school choir. A dedicated collaborator, Rowan's unconditional positive regard and commitment to student advocacy make her an invaluable pillar of the school community.



South Shore
Regional Centre for Education

Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Theme: Culturally Responsive

Phil Prendergast
Queens Adult High School
Teacher

Phil Prendergast fosters a safe and inclusive learning environment by integrating culturally responsive and antiracist practices centered on African Canadian history. Through immersive experiences like visiting the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre, he connects students to the profound contributions and challenges of African Nova Scotian communities. By encouraging critical conversations among diverse learners, Phil ensures his classroom is a respectful space where all voices are empowered and valued.



South Shore
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Teacher Celebrations - March

Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Theme: Time to Learn

Jessica Joudrey
South Queens Middle School
Grade 7/8 Science, Grade 8 Math and Social Studies

Ms Joudrey provides diverse ways for students to demonstrate mastery. Stepping into Social Studies this year, she proactively adapted her curriculum to fill school-wide gaps. By balancing rigorous lessons with meaningful relationship-building, she ensures every minute is spent on diligent work, thoughtful conversation, or deepening student understanding of complex topics.



South Shore
Regional Centre for Education

Celebrating our Staff

Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Theme: Time to Learn

Kristen Lawlor
Bridgewater Elementary School
Grade 1

Ms Lawlor excels in "Planning for All Learners" by combining meticulous organization with a compassionate, student-centered environment. She maximizes instructional time through innovative community connections, inviting local mentors to inspire students. Her thoughtful design ensures diverse needs are met, fostering a sense of belonging while making learning deeply relevant and meaningful.



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Elaine Freeman
Bridgewater Elementary School
Grade 3/4

Ms Freeman excels by designing lessons that cater to diverse learning styles in her Grade 3/4 classroom. She maximizes instructional time through creative, high-energy activities that foster curiosity. By balancing "organized chaos" with strong behavioral management, Ms Freeman creates a lively yet structured environment where students remain deeply engaged and thrive.



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Laura Wilson
South Queens Middle School
Grade 6 Music & Band, Grade 7/8 Phys Ed & Band

Ms Wilson is a passionate educator who maximizes instructional time through expert subject knowledge and meticulous daily planning. By setting high standards and providing dedicated coaching, she ensures every activity is purposeful. Her commitment to meeting diverse student needs daily creates a high-achievement environment where every minute of instruction counts.



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Lisa Symes

Bridgewater Junior High School

Grade 5 Math & Integrated Learning

Ms Symes excels at maximizing instructional time through a structured 90-minute mathematics block featuring clear instruction, practice, and reflection. By using efficient, ongoing assessments to drive re-teaching and integrating math into broader learning blocks, she ensures every minute is purposeful, significantly enhancing student achievement and instructional depth at Bridgewater Junior High.



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Theme: Time to Learn

Wendy Allen

South Queens Middle School

Grade 7 FLA, Frade 7/8 IMM Math

Ms Allen maximizes student time through diverse activities, constant observation, and constructive feedback. Her scaffolded lessons build seamlessly upon one another, ensuring consistent growth. A knowledgeable and compassionate educator, Ms Allen is a vital asset to the SQMS community, fostering an environment where every student feels supported and encouraged to excel.



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Mackenzie Wentzell

New Germany Elementary School

Grade Primary

Ms Wentzell excels in maximizing instructional time through intentional, highly structured planning tailored to diverse needs. By establishing strong routines and clear expectations, she minimizes transitions and keeps 22 students consistently engaged. Her professional commitment to purposeful design protects learning time, ensuring all students thrive in a predictable, high-growth environment.



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Matt Morash

**Forest Heights Community School
Grade 9 Science, Sr. High Math**

Mr. Morash optimizes learning by blending structured routines with purposeful, hands-on activities. He balances direct instruction with collaborative inquiry, ensuring students remain deeply engaged. By seamlessly integrating outdoor movement breaks, he minimizes disruption while boosting focus and productivity, allowing every minute to contribute to a high-energy, effective learning environment.



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Sarah Tutty

**South Queens Middle School
Grade 7/8 IMM Science, Grade 8 FLA**

Ms Tutty executes diverse, multi-modal activities, holding every student to the highest standards. She provides constant encouragement, extra help, and tailored adaptations to ensure success. Every minute of her class is dedicated to teaching and support, fostering an environment where students are pushed and empowered to do their best.



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Theme: Time to Learn

Sheri Jackson

**Forest Heights Community School
Sr. High English, Learning Strategies & LST Teacher**

Ms. Jackson optimizes instructional time through meticulous organization and clear routines, such as a daily class agenda. By streamlining transitions and setting precise learning goals, she ensures every minute is purposeful. Her proactive support and engaging strategies minimize downtime, creating a focused environment where students consistently maximize their learning potential.



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Celebrating our Staff

Teacher Celebration - May

Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Theme: Balanced Assessment Practices

Angela Burke
Dr. J.C. Wickwire Academy
Grade 2 Teacher

Grade 2 teacher Angela Burke uses detailed record-keeping and balanced assessment to understand her students' strengths and challenges. She expertly translates this data into responsive, small-group instruction tailored to diverse needs. Angela's thoughtful approach fosters a supportive environment where all learners confidently succeed.



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Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Theme: Balanced Assessment Practices

Adrienne Welch
Dr. J.C. Wickwire Academy
Grade 4 Teacher

Grade 4 teacher Adrienne Welch uses ongoing, balanced assessments to clearly identify student strengths and challenges. Her thorough, intentional record-keeping tracks progress over time, allowing her to design responsive, targeted small-group instruction. This data-driven approach ensures all students reach their full potential.



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Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Theme: Balanced Assessment Practices

Ryan Vallee
Park View Education Centre
High School Band, Guitar, Music 10-12 and Choir

Ryan has designed an inclusive, thriving music program at Park View Education Centre. By using balanced assessment practices, he helps students identify strengths, set individual goals, and explore their musical passions. His dedicated approach creates an enriched learning environment for all students.



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Celebrating our Staff

Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Theme: Balanced Assessment Practices

Patti Conklin
Bridgewater Elementary School
Grade 2 Teacher

Bridgewater Elementary teacher Patti Conklin carefully reviews student work to identify individual strengths and guide her daily instruction. She creates an inclusive Grade 2 classroom where all learners feel valued and supported. Patti's commitment to collaborative, equitable assessment practices ensures student success and continuous growth.



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Recognizing Excellence: Inside SSRCE Schools

Theme: Balanced Assessment Practices

Krista Weagle
Bridgewater Elementary School
Learning Centre Teacher

Krista Weagle creates a caring, inclusive Learning Centre environment with high expectations for growth. Through her commitment to equitable assessment, she gathers ongoing insight into student needs to guide instruction and provide meaningful feedback. Her thoughtful approach builds confidence and ensures every learner succeeds.



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Instructional Leadership Academy (ILA) Graduates

On May 29th we had 6 participants from the South Shore Regional Centre for Education who graduated from the 13th Instructional Leadership Academy cohort. The ILA program is a 3 year diploma program designed specifically for Nova Scotia school-based and regional leaders.

Congratulations to Connie Bird, Elizabeth Burrige, Elizabeth Corkum, Kaitlyn Smith, Marina Stewart and Sarah Drake!

