



Regional School Board

# Superintendent's Report

## Le rapport du surintendant

### Asset Aknutmaqn

April 26, 2017

Superintendent's Monthly Report to the Board

#### From the Superintendent's Office ...

##### Happy Spring!!!

It is great to see the weather turn more refreshing these last few days. When the weather gets warmer, it seems school life gets busier with anticipation of end of school year transitions, celebrations and graduation excitement. There are still many school days left, but I can tell spring-fever is in the air!!

##### 2017 – 2018 Budget

The governing board has been working to establish their 2017 – 2018 budget. Senior Team has been consulting with principals, program coordinators and other support staff and providing information and balancing scenarios for consideration of the board. As previously reported, the board is facing a significant funding shortfall compared to 2016 – 2017. The value of supporting the teacher—student relationship is at the forefront in decision making. As future expenditures are planned, the system will experience some change as priorities are matched with available funding. SSRSB is required to provide a balanced budget.

#### Upcoming Events ...

- ♦ May 1—In-service Day (no school for students)
- ♦ May 5—Regional Heritage Fair (LCLC)
- ♦ May 10—Embedded CLT Day
- ♦ May 10 —Education Committee @ 2:30 pm
- ♦ May 10 —Corporate Services Committee @ 5:30 pm
- ♦ May 17 — Committee of the Whole @ 6:30 pm
- ♦ May 22—Victoria Day
- ♦ May 24—Regular Board Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- ♦ May 31—Embedded CLT Day

#### School, School Advisory Council and Community Visits

On May 24, I had the opportunity to attend a turkey dinner for Pentz Elementary School students sponsored by the volunteer fire departments of Pleasantville, Conquerall Bank and LaHave. These organizations come together each year to provide a delicious meal and show care and support for the children of the Pentz community. Here is a picture of the kitchen crew in action.


On April 20, I had the pleasure of spending time in the grade 6 classroom at New Ross Consolidated where students had prepared diorama scenes of Mi'kmaq communities. Here is a wonderful example of the Tufts Cove Community. The grade 6 students were showing their work to the Grade P/1 class.

I also had the opportunity to spend time at Bayview Community School and Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary this month.

As preliminary work in preparation for catchment area consultations planned for September 2017 begins, the Director of Operations, Mr. Smith and I have been attending School Advisory Council meetings in catchment areas bordering the Town of Bridgewater to share preliminary information and seek advice on the best communication processes moving forward. This is work flowing from the School Options Committee of the BJSBS and PVEC School Review. We have made presentations to Bayview, Hebbville, and Bluenose SACs to date. I also had the pleasure of attending the Parkview SAC meeting to discuss student transition among other topics.

#### Teacher / Management Meeting

Several times each year, NSTU leader representatives and senior management members meet to discuss items of mutual interest. On April 11, we met to discuss our organization as it transitions from the recent labour dispute between the Union and the Government of Nova Scotia. These meetings are always productive and useful to our common focus on student learning.

Scott Milner, Superintendent of Schools  @smilner\_scott



Inspiring students to reach their full potential.

## ASPIRING LEADERS PROGRAM

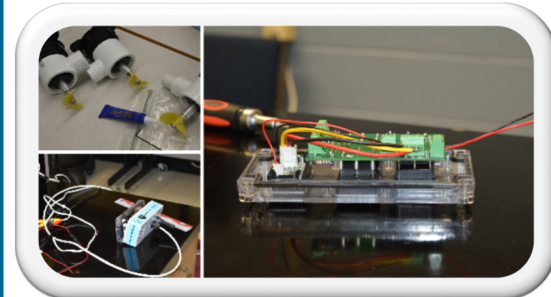
Strong school leadership is a cornerstone to advance student achievement and school effectiveness. It is second only to the relationship between the teacher and student. The Nova Scotia Aspiring Leaders Program (ALP) is a provincial program supported by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and facilitated by the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium (NSELc). It is designed to provide a coherent and integrated learning experience for all educators who aspire to be principals and vice-principals. The program offers a balance of theory and practice and consists of two summer institutes, seven seminars, a residency experience with an experienced principal, and a culminating assessment, all over the course of 14 months. Program participants are accepted through an application and selection process conducted at the board level. Participants who successfully complete the program receive a certificate from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

A special congratulations to the most recent SSRSB ALP graduates Rebecca Smart, Cameron Strong, Stacy Thorburn and Beth Woodward-Collins.



## Bridgewater Junior Senior High School Underwater Robotics Team

Members of the Bridgewater Jr./Sr. Underwater Robotics team are currently practicing the assembly of two Pufferfish Kits from the MATE (Marine Advanced Technology Education) organization. The kit does not include a frame or power supply and requires the creation of a circuit board, set up of motors, and connecting of tethers. Their goal is to upgrade to the Triggerfish kit and enter the regional competition in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.



Team members list many benefits of being in this club such as: learning new skills; creating innovative technologies; working within a group on engineering projects; solving real world problems; becoming a team member; attending the regional MATE competition in Dartmouth (April); and potentially attending the international MATE competition (June). The 2016 competition was held at NASA in Houston, Texas.



## At Bayview Community School, everything is coming up tomatoes!

Through their Home & School, Bayview Community School has been given a grant to build some raised beds in which to grow herbs and veggies. They will be starting a Garden Club very soon so that students, teachers, parents, and volunteers can join in the fun of planting, tending, and harvesting the garden... And eating the produce, of course!





## Celebrating the Accomplishments of SSRSB Students!

### Boat Building in Mahone Bay

Bayview Community School grade 7 students, Charlie Harris and Sam Congdon have been recognized by the Mahone Bay Founders Society for their Heritage Fair project Boatbuilding in Mahone Bay.

Charlie and Sam have been invited to attend the *2017 Heritage Recognition Awards* dinner in April and will each receive the Youth Award for 2017.

Congratulations to Charlie and Sam for their well-deserved efforts and interest in Boatbuilding in Mahone Bay!



### Nova Scotia Skills Competition

Congratulations to Park View Education Centre student Will Sesula! Will won a GOLD medal in welding at the Skills Competition at NSCC Port Hawkesbury on April 5, 2017!

The event included six competitions: automation and control, carpentry, electrical installations, welding, workplace safety, and steamfitter-pipefitter. Bronze, silver and gold medals were awarded in each competition area and most gold medalists will advance to a national competition in Manitoba in June.

Skills Canada-Nova Scotia is a not-for-profit organization that provides opportunities for Nova Scotia youths to explore skilled trades and technologies. Throughout March and April, almost 300 students and apprentices compete in more than 40 skilled trades and technologies to improve their skills and gain recognition from some of industry's best.



### 2017 Regional Science Fair

The 2017 Regional Science Fair took place on Thursday, April 6 at the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre (LCLC) with a total of 48 projects on display. The Science Fair is open to any students from grades 6-12 who have taken part in the development of a science fair project. Thousands of dollars were awarded in cash prizes and scholarships. Projects covered such topics as: How Much Grease is in Potato Chips; Lyme Disease; Your Brain on Nature; How Stress Affects Memory; and Stimulation of the Vagus Nerve Through Targeted Temperature Therapy.

Each member of Team South Shore received \$100 for Best in Fair:

- Soheil Ghaffari: Bit by Lime Disease
- Stella Bowles: The LaHave River: Are Straight Pipes the only Contributor of Fecal Contamination?
- Amber Barkhouse: Protect Your Well from Drought
- Jessica Vaszily: Whodunnit, Mom or Dad?



"Team South Shore" will be representing the South Shore at the Canada-Wide Science Festival in Regina, Saskatchewan from May 18 – 20.

Team South Shore: Amber Barkhouse, Gr 9 BCS;  
Stella Bowles, Gr 8 BJSHS; Jessica Vaszily, Gr 12 PVEC; & Soheil Ghaffari, Gr 9 BCS



# BLUENOSE ACADEMY



## Did you know?

The new Bluenose Academy School in Lunenburg will serve Lunenburg and surrounding areas educational needs for years to come.

In addition, it is an environmentally sustainable building designed as a learning/teaching space for the community and is targeting LEED Gold certification.

We invite you to take a closer look at the GREEN features; here are a few building highlights...



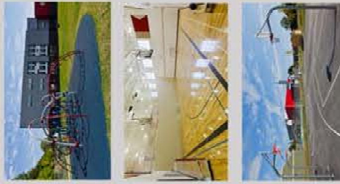
## Indoor Environmental Quality

- Natural daylight throughout the building contributes to overall improved student performance and general well-being.
- Using finishes and products (e.g., paint, green furniture) with low VOC content (volatile organic compounds) and incorporating an indoor air quality plan during construction benefited air quality, the environment and human health.
- Entrance mats protect the school from contaminants being tracked throughout the spaces.
- Scent Free Policy



## Energy Efficiency

- 48.8% energy used by the building is produced through renewable energy sources
- High-efficiency wood pellet furnace (pellets produced from NS sawmill waste) and
- Photo-voltaic Solar panels which turn sunlight into electricity that can be used by the building. As well as solar heated hot water.
- Sidewall preheats the air for the air handling unit.
- CO2 detectors conserve energy for the fresh air supply while motion sensors on the lights ensure electricity is not wasted.



## Light Pollution

To ensure excessive or obtrusive artificial exterior lighting, full cut-off light fixtures were used, designed to ensure the output is directed down (not sideways or upwards) to prevent as much direct light as possible from leaving the site

## Water Efficiency and Storm Water Collection

Use of potable water has been reduced by over 54% through the use of:

- Low-flow bathroom fixtures; toilets, urinals, showers and electronic faucets.
- A cistern is used to collect storm water from the rooftop for non-potable water uses, such as flushing toilets, (non-potable = non-drinking water)



## Promoting Active Healthy Living

- Bluenose Academy believes in promoting active healthy lifestyles from an early age. The inclusion of program amenities, hard and soft landscaping allow sports functions, as well as general active play including:
- Playground structures
  - Gymnasium
  - Basketball Court
  - Sports Fields
  - Ball Hockey Court
  - Walking Track



## Pollution Reduction and Transportation

- Secure bike racks storage for at least 5% of building users,
- Shower/change room access after a run or ride encourages healthy choices.
- To reduce the number of single-occupant vehicles and the pollution associated with commuting, preferred carpooling parking spaces are located at the front of the school.
- Car Charging Station available for electric vehicles



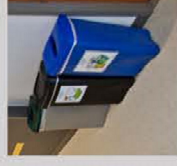
## Heat Island Effect - Roof

- To reduce the heat island effect, dark heat-absorbing roofing materials were replaced with a combination of light coloured roofing and green roof systems which use native plants and a reflective roof.
- Green roof systems also assist with rainwater management and provide insulation reducing heating and cooling requirements saving energy.



## Materials and Resources

- Use of FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) Certified wood ensures all wood was harvested responsibly
- Products used on this project have a high recycled content and where possible have been manufactured and sourced locally.
- 69% of the waste from the construction site was sorted and recycled or reused.



## Landscaping

Landscaping using hardy drought tolerant, native Nova Scotia shrubs and vegetation eliminates the need for watering and reduces general upkeep



## What is LEED?

LEED - which stands for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design - is like an environmental report card for buildings. LEED uses a point-system to score five key areas linked to human, environmental and sound building design including:

- water conservation
- energy efficiency
- indoor air quality
- materials & resources
- innovation in design

To achieve a Gold level of certification, the building must achieve 39 out of 70 points. The higher the points, the less of an impact the building has on the environment.