



Regional School Board

Superintendent's Report Le rapport du surintendant Asset Aknutmaq

October 5, 2016

Superintendent's Monthly Report to the Board

Welcome Back!

I am pleased to welcome 6269 students back to school this year and especially the 426 new primary students and their families. Personally, I would like to thank all of our dedicated staff for their work in getting schools and classrooms ready after the summer months. Opening school each year is no small feat and by all accounts everything went very well!

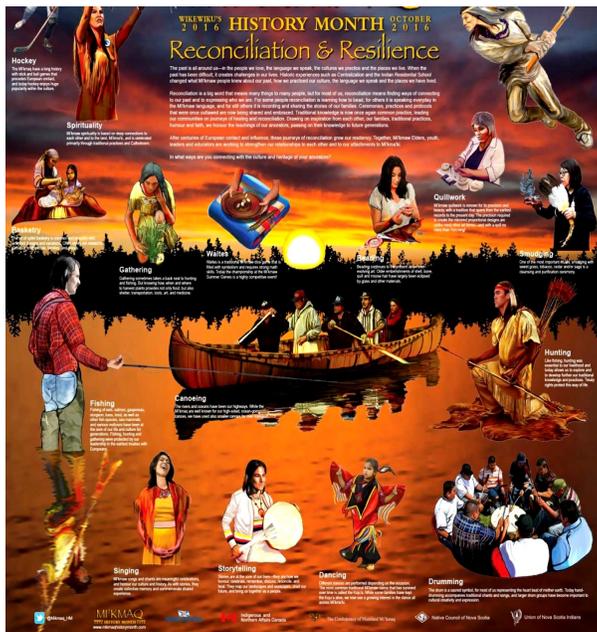
Being new to SSRSB, I would also like to thank staff from all divisions - Operations, Finance, Human Resources and Education - for helping my on-going transition, getting to know staff and my way around. My first and most important priority during this time has been getting to know the people and places that make up the South Shore. I must say, I am highly impressed by everyone's dedication to student learning and well-being, professionalism and positive spirit. I have had the pleasure of visiting Greenfield Elementary, Verge House, North Queens, Newcombville Elementary, Bridgewater Junior Senior High, Park View Education Centre, the bus garage and some drivers at Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy so far. During my travels, I have heard many say, "We are small here in the South Shore." My reply to that we may be small, but we can do mighty things! Together, along with the governing board, our cross-divisional focus on student-learning will create the learning spaces and mindset that will be the best experience for our students and families we jointly serve. This is a great place to live and work and I'm looking forward to the Fall months and excited about getting out to see more people and community.

You may notice a change in the format of this report. Our goal is to share news and provide information that allows readers to witness the excellent programs, supports and services provided by all staff and the elected Board in their contribution to the learning opportunities provided for our students.

- Scott Milner, Superintendent of Schools, SSRSB

What's Going On?

- ◆ October 3 to 7—Grades 3 & 4 Provincial Assessments
- ◆ October 5—Regular Board Meeting
- ◆ October 10—Thanksgiving Day
- ◆ October 15— School Board Elections
- ◆ October 28—Provincial Conference Day
- ◆ November 2—SSRSB Annual General Meeting
- ◆ November 9—Committee-of-the-Whole
- ◆ November 11—Remembrance Day
- ◆ November 16—Education Session
- ◆ November 23—Regular Board Meeting



October is Mi'kmaq History Month!

Mi'kmaq History Month begins each year on October 1 with Treaty Day. Treaty Day was first proclaimed when then Grand Chief Donald Marshall Senior in 1986, following the affirmation of the Treaty of 1752 by the Supreme Court of Canada. The annual ceremony reaffirms the historic presence of the Mi'kmaq who have occupied this land we are currently on for thousands of years.

The 2016 theme is RECONCILIATION AND RESILIENCE.

"The past is all around us—in the people we love, the language we speak, the cultures we practice and the places we live. When the past has been difficult, it creates challenges in our lives. Historic experiences such as Centralization and the Indian Residential School changed what Mi'kmaq people knew about our past, how we practiced our cultures, the language we speak and the places we have lived."

Compliments of <http://mi'kmaqhistorymonth.ca/>

SSRSB Stand Up Against Bullying

Stand up against bullying



September 15



<https://youtu.be/mPk4PwKQdRo> - <http://www.ssrsb.ca/ssrsb-adults-pave-the-way/>

On Thursday, September 15, the SSRSB and the rest of the province brought awareness to students through programming, discussions, curriculum and special presentations on the topic of anti-bullying and positive relationships.

This year, we took the discussion one step further and asked all staff in the South Shore to help set that example and pave the way for positive social interactions.

All staff have a collective responsibility to model for students what respectful conversation and communication, as well as digital citizenship looks like. Starting on September 15 and throughout the year, SSRSB will be posting and sharing the great work going on with adults from all across the system. This includes parents, community, teachers, custodians, administrators and administrative assistants. Really, anyone within our system. If there is a point during the year, where you have a positive example of how we as adults are working together for students, we ask that you share that with us.

Please send any positive stories to lferraina@ssrsb.ca and we will share these (without names) throughout the year. We hope that you can help us in this endeavor to shape students and make this year the best year yet!!!



Queen's County Bus Drivers at Dr. J. C. Wickwire Academy



New Ross Consolidated School



Pentz Elementary School



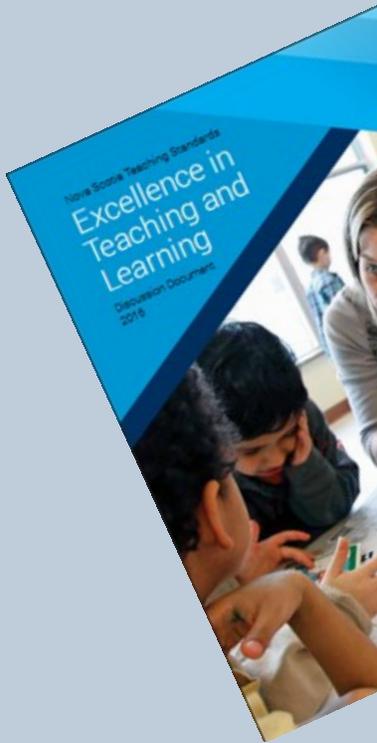
South Queens Middle School

Teaching Standards for Nova Scotia

The Teaching Standards evolved from the comprehensive review of the public education system and the associated *Action Plan for Education*. These standards were created to support effective teaching and learning in every classroom. In the SSRSB, these Standards were part of the opening professional learning days for school administrators and teachers and will continue to be part of on-going professional dialogue this school year. During this orientation year, they will also be part of the DEECD work with teacher education programs at universities and the development of a performance management system.

The Teaching Standards are:

1. Teachers know, respond to, and engage all students.
2. Teachers know their subjects and how to teach them.
3. Teachers use 'Assessment *for* and *of* Learning' to guide teaching and learning.
4. Teachers create safe and positive learning environments.
5. Teachers participate in professional learning throughout their careers.
6. Teachers model and promote professionalism in teaching.



Our Partners Working Together on PATHS

PATHS (Promoting Alternative THinking Strategies) is a curriculum that promotes emotional and social competencies and assists in reducing aggression and behavior problems in elementary school-aged children. The PATHS program is well underway in all SSRSB P to 6 schools. This past Friday, school partners came together to collaborate and better understand the competencies around social and emotional learning. Through this joint work, a common language will be strengthened and practices will be more aligned and consistent for students and their families.

Partners working together are: New Germany Early Years Centre, Better Together Family Resources, NS Early Childhood Development Intervention Services, Queens Family Resource Centre, Community Services, New Ross Family Resource Centre, SchoolsPlus and SSRSB Student Support Workers.



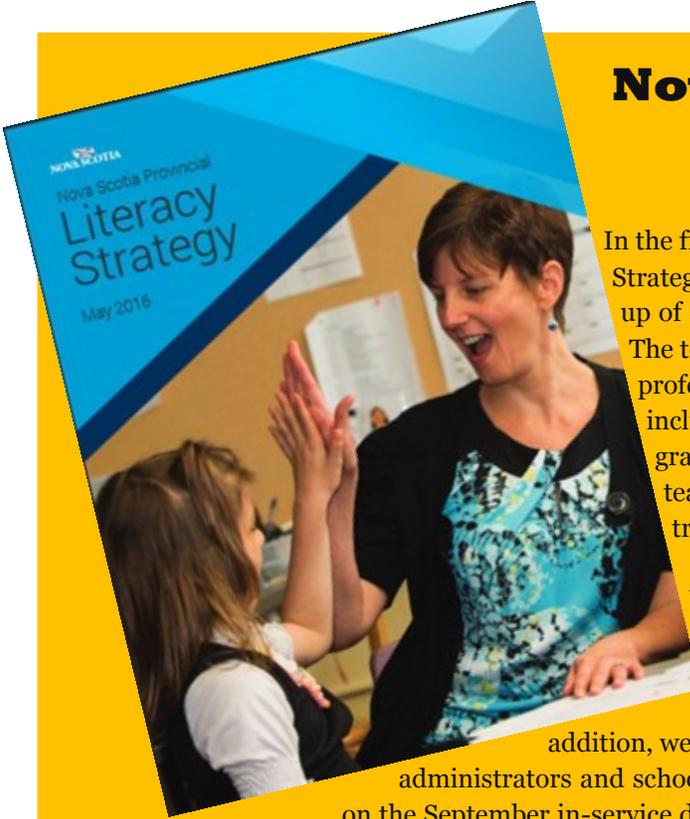
Mrs. Mitchell at Bayview Community School

Student Enrolment Data 2016 / 2017

Pre-Primary	P to 3	4 to 6	7 to 9	10 to 12	Returning Grads
21	1732	1328	1523	1630	35

The first day of school is always an exciting time for students and staff. This September, more than 6200 students returned to classrooms, including 447 Pre-Primary and Primary students. Additionally, there are 124 international students registered in the SSRSB! As of September 30, our total enrolment of 6269 is 180 students fewer than September 30, 2015. These enrollments have yet to be audited by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Nova Scotia Literacy Strategy Primary to 12



In the first year of the implementation of the Nova Scotia Literacy Strategy, SSRSB started off strong. Our SSRSB Literacy Team in made up of a Program Coordinator, an Early Literacy Lead, and two Mentors. The team began meeting in August to develop and implement professional learning opportunities for teachers. These opportunities included Observation Survey training for Grade 1 teachers, new to grade level training for Grade 1 teachers, *Joyful Literacy* for Primary teachers, new to grade level for Primary to Grade 9 teachers, and training for new Early Literacy teachers.

With a lens on culturally responsive instruction and assessment practices, we launched *Braidy the Story Grammar Marker* with Primary teachers. In addition, we showcased the Literacy Strategy with a administrators and schools, and kicked off literacy school sessions on the September in-service days. Over 90 teachers and administrators voluntarily attended these summer sessions in August!!



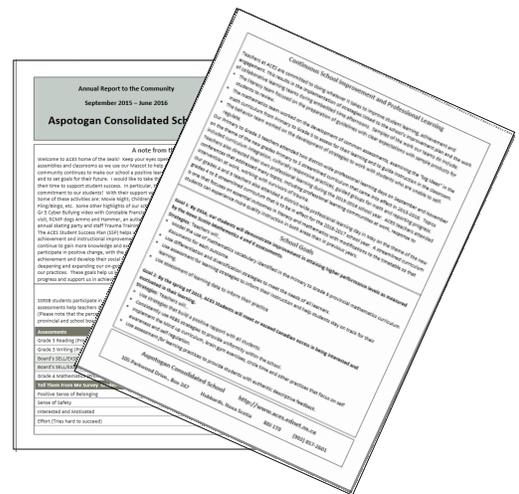
Did you know?

SSRSB has **5415** eligible students that can ride the bus each day! That's **86.4%** of our students!

Student Success Planning



Student Success Planning (SSP) is intended to guide schools, school boards and the DEECD, as all partners work together to create a learning team culture throughout the public education system in Nova Scotia. The integration of Student Success Planning, learning teams, and focused assessment and instructional practices will lead to increased growth in student learning and achievement.



As part of the SSP process, schools are required to produce an Annual Report to the Community. SSRSB schools have just posted their 2015 / 16 reports at the link shown below. Please check out the annual reports!

<http://www.ssrbs.ca/school-annual-reports-2015-2016/>

Major Maintenance

The Operations Department Has Been Busy!

Last Spring, the SSRSB received word that it would be receiving \$321,500 from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development via Tangible Capital Assets (TCA) Funding for major maintenance projects. The TCA budget was used for projects in two schools. Thanks to the TCA funding, SSRSB's Operations Department was able to schedule and complete large projects that would not have been possible otherwise. Work at Park View TCA Capital Project also continued this summer and is on-going. In addition to the TCA, the SSRSB budgets for major maintenance and repair budget and a number of other projects were completed.

Whether TCA or board budget, these ten projects are based on a priority ranking of facility need or regulatory requirements.

Dr J.C. Wickwire Academy (TCA Repair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boiler, controls, chimney upgrades Library modifications to open up the space Creation of 3 itinerant office spaces and a common area in a vacant classroom
Park View Education Centre (TCA Capital \$12.9 M)	Upgrade infrastructure and programming space: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The west wing has been completed North wing 1st floor due to open October 17th North wing 2nd floor projected to open January 30th Remainder of the school (gymnasium, change rooms, cafeteria, upper library - July, 2017.
New Ross Consolidated School (TCA Repair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portion of roof, flashings and drain First floor window re-sealing Safety rail provided for stage area/ lunch space
Chester District School (Board Funded)	Sidewalk paving (safety upgrade)
Bridgewater Elementary School (Board Funded)	Replaced exterior stairs and railing (safety upgrade)
North Queens Community School (Board Funded)	Created a learning common area (program upgrade)
Bridgewater Bus Garage (Board Funded)	Installed a new hoist (safety upgrade)
Playgrounds (Board Funded)	All school playgrounds have upgraded landing areas completed over the past 2 summers (safety upgrade)
West Northfield Elementary School (Board Funded)	Installed remote sensing controls for equipment and energy management
Technology (Board Funded)	Completed a pilot project to convert school web sites to Google Web

Congratulations!

West Northfield Elementary School (WNES) had a grand opening for their wooded trail on Thursday, September 29th. The trail was funded through a wellness grant from the community health board, in kind donations, and WNES PTA. The trail weaves through the wooded playground for over 180 metres and is wonderful addition to the school.



**THE
TERRY
FOX RUN**
for cancer research



Greenfield Elementary School



Hebbville Elementary School



New Germany Rural High School

**In September many schools
around SSRSB participated
in the Terry Fox Run**

On Friday, September 23rd the Greenfield Elementary School (GES) students, staff, parents and our Superintendent participated in the Terry Fox Run. We celebrated *Terry's Walk of Hope* by watching a short DVD about his journey. We left the school and walked 2km to the Scout Camp. The children took sports equipment and the Greenfield School Society had a barbecue lunch for everyone to enjoy. Mr. Milner spoke to the students and interacted with everyone in such a positive manner. This is a first in the history of GES. Making connections is such an important part of building ongoing relationships. GES really appreciated the impact Mr. Milner made in his presence at our wonderful community school. We look forward to his next visit!

- Dawn Uhlman, Vice-Principal



West Northfield Elementary School

North Queens Community School

A super special shout out to this crew for organizing the NQCS Terry Fox run! Excellent job! Loved the music. Loved the vibe. Loved the students covered in tattoos, stickers and bingo dauber stamps to show how many laps they did. So proud!

Courtesy of North Queens Community School Facebook Page :)



Professional Learning

September 30th was a professional learning day and students were off ... but our staff were on!
Here are a few of the things that happened around the SSRSB that day.



North Queens Community School
learning about **Culturally Responsive Teaching.**

Greenfield Elementary—
Outdoor Classroom and
Technology Integration

Aspotogan Consolidate—
Data Wall and Joyful Literacy

Hebbville Academy—Trauma
Informed Practice and Teaching
Standards

Newcombville—Student
Success Planning and action
research within CLTs

Bridgewater Jr. / Sr.—
Teaching Standards,
Professional Growth Plans and
Positive Psychology

**Chester Area Middle
School**—Provincial Literacy
Strategy and Reading Strategies



**New Ross staff worked on their
current practices on program
adaptations and IPPs.**



**New Germany Rural High working on
school culture and Growth Mindset.**



**West Northfield Elementary School—
teachers, TAs, bus drivers and playground
supervisors worked together on Trauma
Informed Practices.**

Petite Riviere Elementary - Response to Intervention and
Student Success Planning

Park View Education Centre - Student Success Planning and
Teaching Standards

Bluenose Academy - Teaching Talents, Program Planning and
Student Success Planning

Chester District School - Data Analysis Protocol and
Coding

Forest Heights Community School - Cultural Proficiency and
Student Success Planning

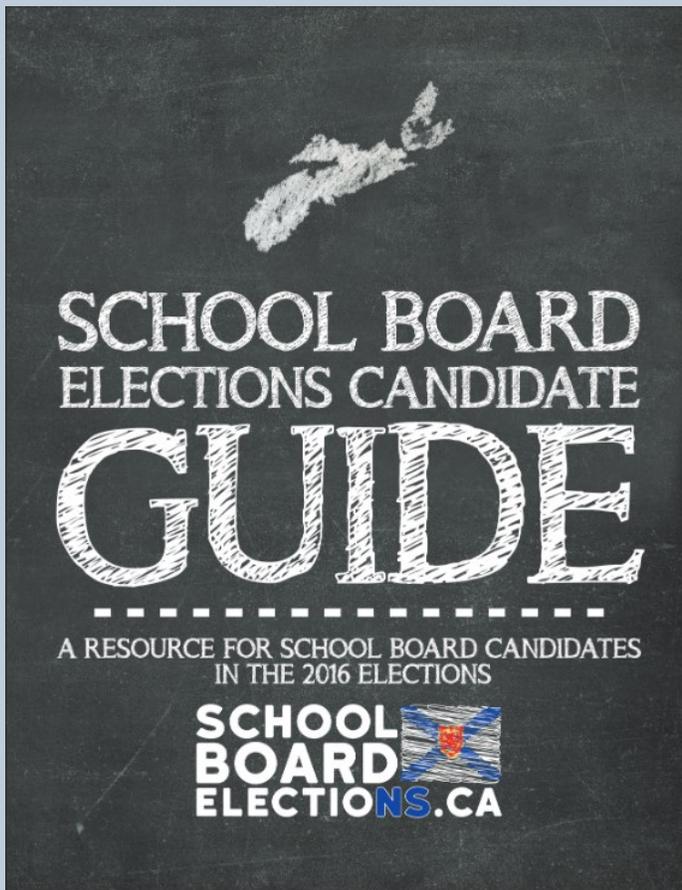
Dr. J. C. Wickwire Academy—Data analysis / data walls, RCH
Policy and Trauma Informed Practices

Bayview Community School - Teaching Standards and social
and cognitive development of elementary students

Pentz Elementary School—Technology and Data Wall



**Operations
staff were
busy as well -
painting at
New Germany
Rural High
School gym.**



Get ready to ...
Vote!

School boards in Canada have helped build a universally accessible, publicly-funded education system. In Nova Scotia there are eight school boards - seven regional school boards, and one provincial francophone school board.

In Nova Scotia, school boards play a key role in the education of our young people through leadership, prudent fiscal management and oversight of the education system. They define priorities and most importantly, hold the education system accountable for student achievement results.

Municipal and School Board elections are OCTOBER 15 /16. Make sure you get out and vote!

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.schoolboardelections.ca/>

GET INVOLVED! Join or Attend Your Local School Advisory Council

Education is a responsibility shared among teachers, students, parents, support staff, communities, school boards and the Province of Nova Scotia. The School Advisory Council (SAC) is one example of a partnership that brings together individuals who share an interest in their local community school and school board. SACs have duties embedded in the Education Act and have the responsibility of attending to the school improvement plan of the school and advising the school principal and school board on certain matters defined in The Education Act.

If you are not already involved, please consider attending or joining your community school's School Advisory Council.

More information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/novascotiaschooladvisorycouncilhandbook10-2011.pdf>

Nova Scotia
School Advisory Council
Handbook

NOVA SCOTIA

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