

Happy Holidays!

December is a time of year when a general sense of excitement, hope and cheer enters our schools and offices. I wish all members of our SSRSB community a wonderful holiday season and invite all of us to take care of those family, friends, neighbors and community members around us. We all celebrate a variety of traditions at this time of



year, whatever yours might be, please enjoy family, friendship, caring and joy that is part of your world. Have a joy filled holiday time!

What's Going On?	
◆ January 3	Schools Open After Winter Break
◆ January 11	CLT Day
◆ January 11	Corporate Services Committee Meeting Programs & Student Services Committee Meeting
◆ January 18	Committee-of-the-Whole Board Meeting
◆ January 25	Board Meeting

- Scott Milner, Superintendent of Schools

School Advisory Council Community Conversations

School Advisory Councils, governing board members, school administrators and senior team members participated in SAC Community Conversations held on the evening of November 28 at Hebbville Academy. The world café style event provided the opportunity for the 80 plus in attendance to have a conversation about the relationship between the governing Board and SAC, how to work together to make decisions and how to continue the dialogue moving forward. The SSRSB had an opportunity to review the data collected at their Committee-of-the-Whole meeting on December 7. The information has also been sent to all SSRSB SACs for their input to theme development. As the information is collated, the conversation will continue. Thanks to all that contributed in November. We look forward to additional input in the new year.

SSRSB Changes Committee Structure

The SSRSB has decided to adjust the way they do business. Starting January 2016, the governing board will establish two sub-committees, the Program and Student Services and Corporate Services committees. These public meetings will be held the second Wednesday of each month, with Committee-of-the-Whole and Regular Public Board meetings being held on the third and fourth Wednesdays respectively. This new design will allow time for a more in-depth discussion on a broader range of topics at the sub-committees through to the Regular Board Meeting. The governing board members will be working on new terms of reference for the committees and adjusting their by-laws to accommodate this new structure.

SAC Community Conversation School Advisory Council members together with administrators, board members and senior staff.





Students for Social Justice members from North Queens Community School attended We Day in Halifax. The event is a day to celebrate those who have inspired change over the past year. Students heard from speakers like Roméo Dallaire, Rick Hansen, Margaret Trudeau and Craig and Marc Kielburger. There was also a special musical performance by artists like Classified, Kardinal Offishall, Jully Black and Tyler Shaw. These are but a few of the folks that took the We Day stage.



What was the best part of the day?
NQCS students say ...

A group of NQCS students were recognized at 'The Evening of Champions' and Hayley Frail represented NQCS on stage at the main event!

Congratulations to Hayley Frail!

"Listening to the Syrian refugee tell his story."

"Gord Downie - undoubtedly"

"So many young people working together to change the world"

"It was so surreal to be so close to so many famous people who are helping affect change."

"When Gord Downie and two Wenjack sisters shared a prayer. That was powerful. I was in shock. I didn't know much about residential schools, but now I want to help."



SSRSB Educators Recognized for Excellence in Teaching

Five educators from SSRSB were recently recognized by Autism Nova Scotia with the Sheelagh Nolan Educators Award for Excellence in Teaching. This prestigious award recognizes the outstanding achievement of individual educators and teams in support of learners on the autism spectrum across the lifespan in Nova Scotia. With this award, Autism Nova Scotia recognizes the efforts of an individual or team to foster the growth and maximize the potential of a learner or learners with ASD in a collaborative and positive manner.



The 13th Annual Sheelagh Nolan Award Presented Dec. 8, 2016

Congratulations to Rebecca Smart, Pentz Elementary School Principal, Angela Gladwin, New Germany Elementary School Principal, Melanie Cousins, primary/one teacher, Nancy MacIntosh, Resource Teacher and Pat Wardell, Music Teacher.

Learning about culture ...

Sheila Porter visits grade 7/8 students at New Ross Consolidated School to talk about Mi'kmaq Culture and the importance of talking sticks. These students learned how our Mi'kmaq Chiefs used the talking stick to maintain order, to teach respect and to have good listening skills. The talking stick is used by many people today, at school, office, meetings, home and of course Mi'kmaq sharing circle.



New Ross Consolidated School students spend a day at Keji learning about Mi'kmaq heritage.



New Germany Rural High School students learning about First Nations trade



Celebrating Mi'kmaq History Month Chester Area Middle School style! 4th annual salmon BBQ and corn boil!



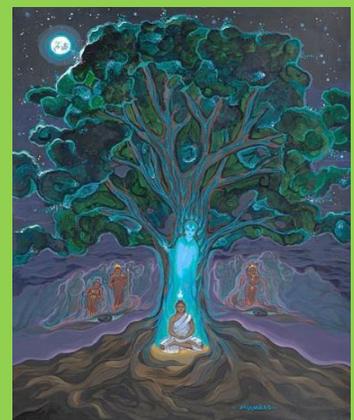
Chester Area Middle School student dancing with Maritime Bhangra Group!

Recognizing Diversity During the Holidays

Curious to learn about another culture? What kinds of foods do different cultures prepare? What traditions are shared? What does it mean? Check out the information within this package and do some research on your own. Share your learning with others, and use it as a chance to expand the conversation at parties and at the dinner table.

For a kit to allow, enable and observe all that makes us special:

http://www.ssrbs.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/FINAL_Recognizing-Diversity-during-the-Holidays.pdf



Winter is Coming

What is your back-up plan when classes are cancelled?

During the winter months, school will occasionally be cancelled due to poor weather and dangerous road conditions. The decision to cancel school is normally made by **6:00 a.m.** Decisions about school closures are made after consulting with Environment Canada, a professional subscription weather forecast centre and with Transportation and Public Works road crews located throughout the region. Inclement Weather is covered in Policy 310, Student Transportation.

Factors taken into account when making the decision are:

Current weather and road conditions, weather and road condition forecasts and, most importantly, the safety of children while walking to school, waiting for the bus or traveling on the bus.

When the decision has been made to cancel all or some of the SSRSB schools – first thing in the morning or during the school day – local and provincial media are notified first. (CKBW, HANK FM, CBC Radio, AVR/Magic 97, QCCR and Global Halifax). Information is also posted on Twitter, Facebook and our website. Alert messages are also sent through PowerSchool via email to families in the region. Please note that power outages throughout the region can affect social media. ALWAYS listen to your local radio station as they are the first to be notified of any closures.

In addition, when school is cancelled during school hours, our elementary schools have organized phone trees which are used to contact parents and/or guardians. Please ensure all contact information is current with your local school. Families should ensure their child knows what arrangements are in place if school closes early.

In some areas of SSRSB, Back Road Closure Plans will be in effect. Students and families living in affected areas are given their plans at the beginning of the school year. If you are unsure if your bus stop has a Back Road Closure Plan, please call the Bus Garage at 541-8252.

Ultimately, when weather conditions are questionable and schools are open, the final decision as to whether or not your child attends school is always up to you – the parent or guardian.

Tips for families during the winter months:

If there is any question that school may be cancelled, listen to CKBW, HANK FM, CBC Radio, AVR/Magic 97, QCCR and Global Halifax between 6:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Follow SSRSB on Twitter for all up-to-date closure announcements. The SSRSB Twitter feed can be seen on the SSRSB website home page without having a subscription. Do not drop-off your child at school unless you are certain that school is open. Make alternate arrangements for your child in case school is closed during the day. Ensure your child and/or the teacher is aware of these arrangements. If your child is in P-3, please ensure your child's teacher has written instruction regarding where your child should go if neither you nor the emergency contact can be reached by the telephone tree. For more information visit our website—<http://www.ssrbs.ca/storm-day-closure-process/>



Stay in touch!



www.ssrbs.ca

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