



South Shore

Regional Centre for Education

**November
2018**

Regional Executive Director's Report

Rapport du Directeur Général

Wi'katikn Petkitk Nikanus

Hello, Bonjour and Kwe',

The cooler air is ushering in the next season and the beauty of fall in the South Shore region. Our students have been enjoying the outdoors this past month with Terry Fox runs, outdoor classroom activities, leadership trips and more. Read further into this report for photos of those activities.

October marked Mi'kmaq History Month and was ushered in regionally through the raising of the Mi'kmaq flag and a presentation of speeches, drumming and dancing at North Queens Community School. The assembly was filmed and shared with all South Shore Schools. The speakers were very impactful and we encourage you watch the [video here](#). After, members of our RCH (Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights) team and myself also met with the Native Council of Nova Scotia to learn more about their programs and services and how they can support indigenous students in our schools. We look forward to building our relationship with them to support South Shore families.

In October communication was sent home to parents and guardians regarding Collaborative Learning Teams (CLTs) and what they mean for students. CLTs are educators organized into small groups (based on grade, subject, etc) that work together to discuss curriculum, examine teaching techniques and review student data. The benefits to teachers include learning from other teaching styles and colleagues, and problem solving through exchanging strategies and working together to grow as professionals. These professional CLTs meet fourteen times over the school year. Evidence-based research shows many benefits of CLTs to students including increased student engagement, learning and improved instruction and assessment practices. To find out more about CLTs, [please click here](#).

Coming Up This Month

November 11
Remembrance Day

November 12
Observation of Remembrance Day
No School

November 14
Embedded CLT
(90-minute early dismissal)

November 19
Grading & Classifying Day
(elementary/middle schools)
No classes for students in grades
Primary to 9

November 22
Report Cards (high schools)

November 26
Report Cards (elementary/middle
schools)

November 29
Parent/Teacher (P-12)
No afternoon classes for all
students

Most Regional Staff attended an in-service day on October 5 with Dr. Sharokky Hollie who presented on cultural responsiveness. It was a full day of inspirational teaching. Dr Hollie's messages are about positively influencing our classrooms and workplaces by changing our practices to garner engagement and learning. He says, "diversity, equity and cultural responsiveness are not interchangeable terms. Just because you are diverse and equitable does not mean you are culturally responsive." It isn't about policy; it is about action and how strategies can be used to practice this in our everyday lives. Research has found students are more engaged and academically successful in classrooms where the teacher has participated in cultural responsiveness training. These are teachings that move beyond race by validating and affirming different cultures. A huge thank you to Dr. Hollie for his time and teachings - it was a day enjoyed by all.

An important focus of the SSRCE during the school year will be support for a growing voice through School Advisory Councils (SACs). Individual SACs are strong advocates for their local school and community while at the same time have a collective impact across the whole region. SACs are currently being formed at each school and our SAC Fall Conference is coming up on November 20 in Liverpool. I'm looking forward to sharing with you the takeaways from this conference and how all SACs are working together to provide the best experience for our South Shore students.

Also coming up this month is Remembrance Day, National Child Day and report cards for all students. You can look forward to information in next month's report showing how our schools remember and honour our veterans.

Thank you, Merci and Wela'lin,



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Video Links

[North Queens Community School Mi'kmaq History Month Presentation](#)

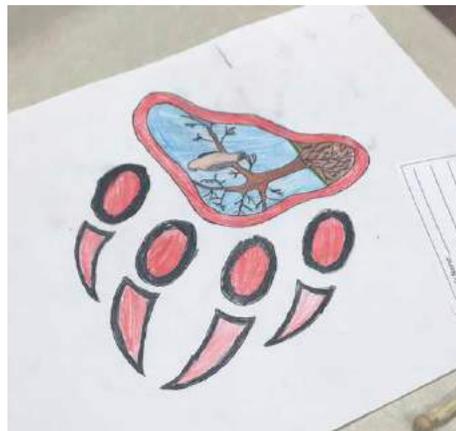
[International Students See Snow for the First Time](#)

[Celebrating Mi'kmaq History Month with drumming, dance and song at New Germany Elementary School](#)

[Math Battles at New Germany Elementary School](#)

[Raising of the Mi'kmaq Flag at Park View Education Centre](#)

In Pictures: Orange Shirt Day & Mi'kmaq History Month



Petite Riviere gets a Special Donation

Thank you to Minister Furey and the Voglers Cove Community Hall for the donation of the beautiful Jade plant that will reside at our school.



Cultural Responsiveness with Dr. Sharokky Hollie

South Shore Staff attending an in-service day on October 5 with Dr. Sharokky Hollie.



New Germany Regional High School Outdoor Education Trip

Leaving your comfort zone, accepting responsibility, physical activity, and sharing positivity. OE provides great learning experiences!



Gardening at West Northfield Elementary School



Student Attendance Matters

Attendance Awareness Week was October 29 - November 2 on the South Shore. We want our students to reach their full potential and to reach it, it's important that they come to school regularly and on time.

Every Day Counts

Missing 1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That equals about...	Which is about...	Equaling...
1 day/week	40 days/year	5.5 weeks/year	22% of the school year
2 days/week	80 days/year	11 weeks/year or 3 months	43% of the school year
3 days/week	120 days/year	30 weeks/year or 6 months	65% of the school year

What Parents Can Do

- Make school attendance a priority - discuss with your child the importance of having good attendance.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Limit technology time - many children stay up late playing games and this is a hindrance to a good night's sleep.
- Encourage your child to lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- Find out if your child feels engaged by his classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school.
- Have good communication with the school; you can always ask a teacher how things are going with respect to your child.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your child to participate in after school extra curricular activities. This is a great way for your child to feel connected with the school and staff.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Hebbsville Academy Soup Day

Students from Hebbsville Academy recently spent time harvesting their carrots, potatoes and onions in preparation for School Garden Soup Day. They then had a lovely feed of the soup thanks their work and work by staff and volunteers. Looks like it was delicious!



Teaming Up for their Community

New Germany Elementary School and New Germany Regional High School are working together to support families in their schools through a Clothing, Food and Essentials Locker.

New Germany Schools Clothing, Food & Essentials Locker



New Germany Elementary School and New Germany Regional High School are working together to support families in their schools.

A clothing, food and essentials locker can be accessed by families who need items such as non-perishable food items, personal hygiene products and gently used clothing. These spaces are located at both New Germany Elementary School and New Germany Regional High School and will be open during school hours.



Please help build our lockers to support our community by donating today. We are in need of new hygiene items and monetary contributions. Donations can be dropped off at either of the schools in New Germany.

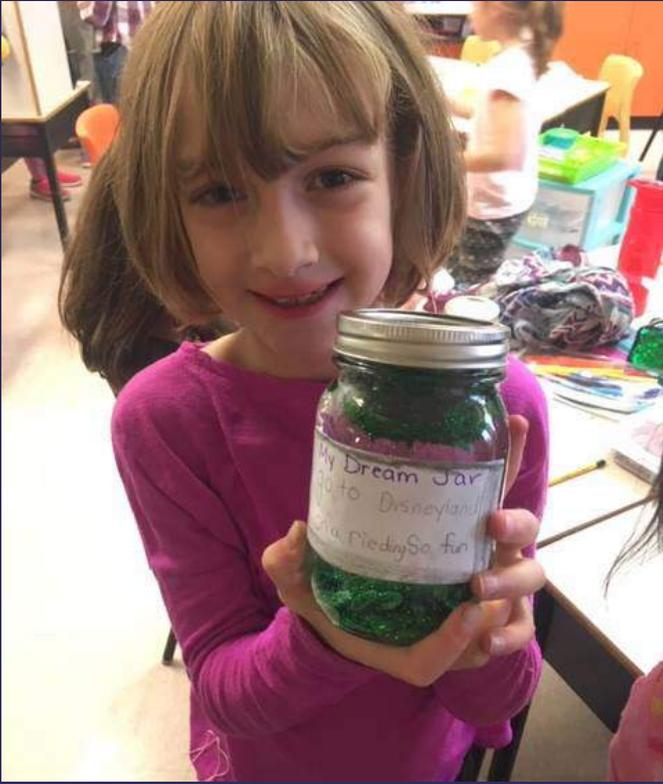
For more information please contact Angela Gladwin, Principal of New Germany Elementary School nge@ssrce.ca or 902-644-5020 or Jen McMullen, Principal of New Germany Regional High School ngrhsprincipal@ssrce.ca or 902-644-5000.



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Big Friendly Giant BFG Dream Jars

Bridgewater Elementary Gr. 3 Lawlor students create "BFG" Dream Jars. They are working on visualization to help make the story come to life!



Parent or Guardian Concern Process

If at any time during the school year you have a concern or issue to raise, please reach out to discuss it in the following ways.

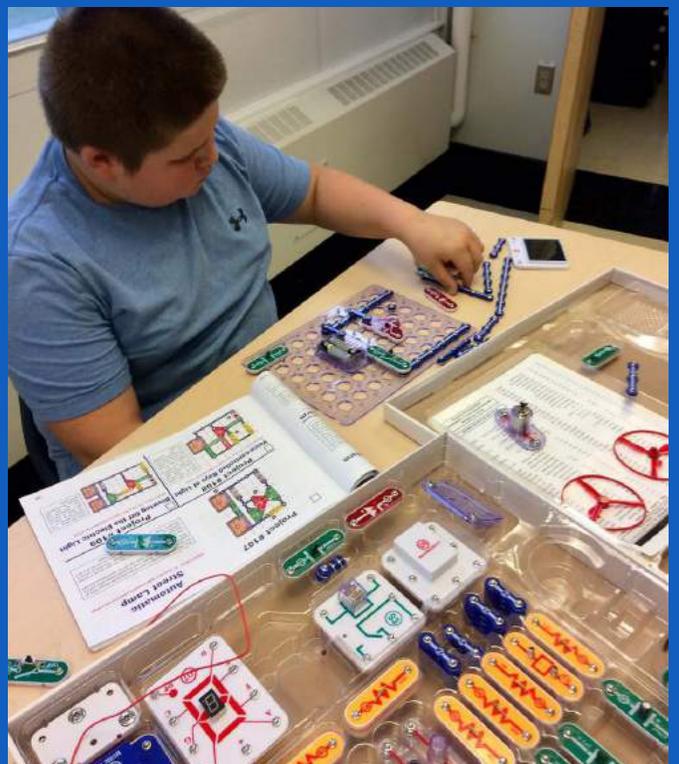
1. Please speak with your child's teacher.
2. If the teacher can't help, or if you are not satisfied with their response, you can talk to the principal of the school.
3. At that time if the complaint has not been resolved please call our office to be connected with the appropriate person to assist you.

Having Fun with Imagination Blocks at New Ross Community School



Learning about Robotics

Chester Area Middle School is engaging youth with Oculus Go, Ozobots, SnapCircuits, lego Robotics, green screening, 3D Printing and more!



South Shore Food Project

Thank you to Wile's Lake Farm Market for hosting a presentation by the South Shore School Food Project on October 11. We would like to thank the farmers, businesses and organizations including the Nova Scotia Health Authority who have helped bring this project into our schools.

The South Shore School Food Project focuses on bringing food back into education to strengthen the foundations for the future of our children and Province by working together to build healthy menus in schools and make positive changes to food culture in cafeterias, classrooms and communities starting on the South Shore of Nova Scotia.



Fire Prevention Week

A huge thank you to all our local fire departments and volunteer firefighters who visited our schools for fire prevention week and sharing their knowledge and time. We appreciate you and all that you do!



School Bus Safety Awareness Week

October 14 - 20 was School Bus Safety Awareness Week and several South Shore Bus Drivers were featured by Safety Services Nova Scotia in their campaign. We would like to thank all of our bus drivers for their work and dedication to keeping our students safe everyday.

Unfortunately we continue to have drivers who pass on red lights - five alone happened on October 19. We remind everyone that when the Stop sign with flashing lights is active drivers must stop and stay stopped until the lights finish flashing. Failure to stop & stay stopped for a school bus could result in a fine of \$410, plus six points on your license for a first offense. If you see a vehicle that fails to stop for a school bus, you are encouraged to report it to your local police or nearest RCMP detachment.

SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS

To help ensure your safety and the safety of your classmates, read these tips on how to stay safe when getting on and off the bus.

IN THE MORNING

1. When the school bus approaches, line up in single file
2. Stand back from the edge of the road
3. Wait until the bus has come to a complete stop
4. Walk a safe distance from the edge of the road to the bus and do NOT run
5. Wait for the bus driver's signal if you're crossing the road
6. Look both ways for traffic
7. **Take 10 steps in front of the school bus, where the driver can see you**

IN THE AFTERNOON

1. When you get off the bus make sure you take 10 giant steps ahead
2. Stop and look at the bus driver
3. The driver will signal when it is okay to cross
4. Walk in front of the bus and then stop
5. Look both ways to check for vehicles
6. If nothing is coming you can continue crossing the road

Remember to never walk behind the bus.

