

# MONTHLY UPDATE

From the AVRCE Regional Executive Director of Education



**Annapolis Valley**  
Regional Centre for Education



## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

High school graduation is a significant milestone for students. Congratulations to all graduates for working hard to reach this moment, and thank you to the families, friends and communities who have supported their journey.

Although this year's grad events will be different than usual, many schools are working with parent/guardian groups and students to organize meaningful, safe ways to honour grads and their accomplishments. Our goal is to celebrate grads in ways that are creative, and honour the individual and their accomplishments. Grads can bring up to four guests with them to their school's grad event.

We look forward to a time when the Class of 2020 can come together in-person to celebrate, when it is safe to do so.

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## COMING UP

- June: National Indigenous History Month
- June: Pride Month in AVRCE
- Beginning June 8: Appointments to pick up belongings/drop off school equipment
- June 19: Juneteenth/Freedom Day
- June 21: National Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 22-26: End-of-year reports distributed
- July 7: Last day school offices open

# LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD



The end of the school year is always a time for celebrating, looking back on how much students have learned and grown and looking ahead with excitement to new beginnings in the fall. This has been a school year like no other. We certainly have much to reflect upon; teachers and school staff will be taking time this month to do this as they complete report cards and engage in professional development.

While end-of-year celebrations look different than usual this year, the success of our students is always worth celebrating, no matter where or how learning happens.

Graduating students and families, we know this year's graduation events are not what you were expecting to cap off your high school years. Please know that we are all proud of your hard work to succeed, and that staff at our high schools recognize how important graduation is for you. They too are disappointed we are unable to hold traditional graduation ceremonies right now, but are excited to bring the Class of 2020 back together for in-person celebrations in the future, when it is safe to do so.

To all students, parents/guardians, family members, and supporters who have been doing their best to make learning happen at home, thank you. You have stepped up during a very challenging time and we know you are balancing many priorities. We appreciate all your efforts to connect with your school to continue learning. School staff miss seeing you in person, and are looking forward to a time when we can be together at school again.

Although we do not yet know what school may look like after the summer, we know that we will continue moving forward and working together for student success, wherever and however learning occurs. We will keep in touch with you as we know more. Until then, best wishes for a safe, healthy and relaxing summer.

Sincerely,

Dave Jones

Regional Executive Director of Education

@DaveJones\_AVRCE

#WorkingTogetherforStudents

#AVRCEProud

We affirm Black Lives Matter.

To all students, families, and school community members of African descent, we are listening.

We will continue working toward school environments that are inclusive, supportive, and equitable.

Educating about racism and speaking out when we see it is important, but we recognize there is more to do.

We must address and eliminate racism in our schools and workplaces.

We must do more to hear, reflect, amplify, and value the voices, lived experiences, history, languages, and home cultures of students and families of colour.

We must acknowledge racism within our communities, systems, and society, with the understanding that it impacts the lives and well-being of all students, families, and staff every day in our region.



Raising the Pan-African flag at Aldershot Elementary School, June 8.

## CELEBRATING PRIDE

Many schools celebrate Pride Month in June, to honour LGBTQ2+ students, families, staff, and community members, and to build understanding and allyship through education.

We believe all students deserve to grow in their sense of identity, belonging and personal empowerment in a school environment that is safe, respectful, supportive and student-centred.

Celebrating Pride contributes to school environments where students feel valued and see themselves reflected in their learning.

## NEW HOME FOR

### HEC/KCAHS & NMES PRE-PRIMARY

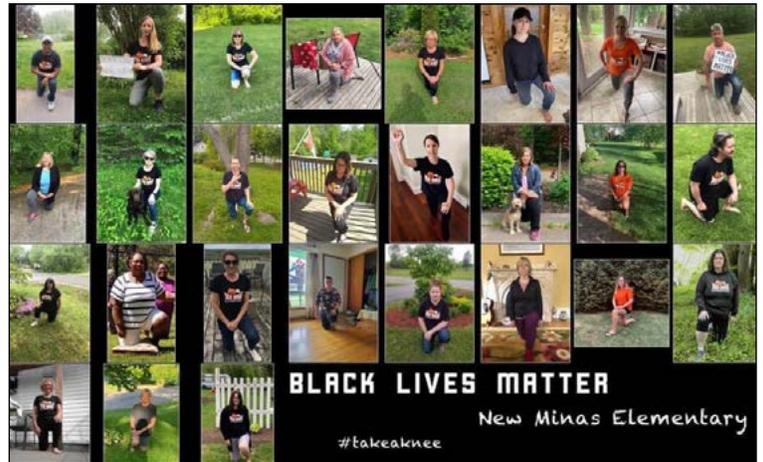
The province has purchased the former New Minas RCMP station to house three separate school facilities: New Minas Elementary School's Pre-Primary Program, Highbury Education Centre and Kings County Adult High School.

Renovations are now underway and expected to be complete for September. Each program will be self-contained, with its own entrances. Located next to New Minas Elementary, Pre-Primaries will have access to the NMES playground and school activities; HEC and KCAHS will benefit from a permanent home to offer programming and support to students.

# TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT RACE

For many families, talking about race and racism is not new. It is part of reality every day. For other families, race may be something you have never discussed with your kids. It can be uncomfortable to talk about if you have never done so before, but difficult conversations are necessary for change. Here are some resources to help you get started:

- CNN/Sesame Street racism town hall: [www.cnn.com/2020/06/06/app-news-section/cnn-sesame-street-race-town-hall-app-june-6-2020-app/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2020/06/06/app-news-section/cnn-sesame-street-race-town-hall-app-june-6-2020-app/index.html)
- Debunking the most common myths white people tell about race, by Dr. Robin DiAngelo: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjHg65JORi8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjHg65JORi8)
- Before you declare Canada is not a racist country, do your homework, by Vanmala Subramaniam: <https://nationalpost.com/opinion/vanmala-subramaniam-before-you-declare-canada-is-not-a-racist-country-do-your-homework>
- How to talk to kids about race, and why you should start now: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/how-talk-to-kids-about-race-1.5596169>
- Nova Scotia still faces a disturbing problem with racism, a problem that can be traced back centuries in the province: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-nova-scotia-still-faces-a-disturbing-problem-with-racism/>



## THE HOME STRETCH

Students, families and teachers have continued to connect with creative ideas for learning at home

1. SMES Grade 3-4 students in Ms. Howe's class show what hope means to them.
2. A thank you note to nurses by a DRS student in Ms. Spencer Lutz's grade 4-5 class.
3. An AVHS grade 10 student's creative novel study project focusing on symbolism.
4. PRMS CONNECT students are baking online together with behaviour intervention specialist, Mr. Mainwaring.



This is HOPE  
to us...  
By: 3/4 Howe



## KEEP ON LEARNING!

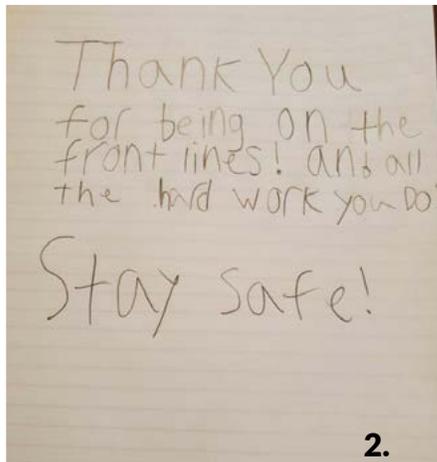
Learning doesn't have to end when the school year comes to a close.

If you are looking for learning ideas over the summer, you can find links to all of the Nova Scotia At-Home Student Learning Packages at [www.avrce.ca/LearningAtHome](http://www.avrce.ca/LearningAtHome).

These packages include a range of activities focused on math, literacy and well-being for grades P-9.

Consider revisiting activities your child may not have completed yet, or review topics that were challenging the first time. Or, try some learning activities that are a grade level below or above your child's current grade.

Also, watch for more At-Home Student Learning Packages coming this summer—one in July and one in August. These will feature some "just for fun" activities and ideas for well-being.



2.



4.



5.

5. Windsor Elementary School has traditionally held a speech festival every year for grade 4-5 students. Teacher Ms. Parker wanted students to have the same opportunity this year to write and perform speeches, so with some perseverance and collaboration, the first ever WES virtual speech festival was a success! Fifteen students took part, with medals awarded to Natalia, Isaac, Malcolm and Beatrice.



**Nova Scotia  
At-Home Student  
Learning Packages**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JUNE & BEYOND

Formal learning has wrapped up for this year, and you have probably heard from your school about arrangements to pick up belongings and return equipment. So what happens after that?

School office staff will be working until July 7, and will resume work on August 26.

This is a great time to get in touch if you have moved recently. Over the summer, you can contact our Transportation staff to update your address by emailing [transportation@avrce.ca](mailto:transportation@avrce.ca) or calling 902-538-4641.

We also encourage families with a little one ready to start Pre-Primary or Primary who have not yet registered for 2020-21 to contact their local school or to register online ([www.avrce.ca/article/primary-registration](http://www.avrce.ca/article/primary-registration)) as soon as possible to help us plan for the new school year.

From June 8 and for the remainder of the school year, teachers are reflecting on their experiences of teaching and supporting students at home, and they are preparing for the new school year.

Many teachers are also taking part in professional development and skill-building opportunities in June and throughout the summer.

All summer long, our Property Services staff will be working on important school building maintenance, cleaning and upgrades.

Although it is too early to know what September may look like, our staff in schools and across the region are planning for the new school year and looking forward to welcoming students in person when it is safe for everyone.

We will keep you updated on new information as it becomes available. Watch [www.avrce.ca](http://www.avrce.ca), @AVRCE\_NS on Twitter, and check for emails from your school and [information@avrce.ca](mailto:information@avrce.ca).

## DBDLI AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN HISTORY CHALLENGE AWARDS

Students from three AVRCE schools have earned African Nova Scotian History Challenge Awards from the Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute. Open to all students in Nova Scotia, these awards recognize student projects that highlight African Nova Scotians' contributions to history, heritage and culture in our province and country. Congratulations award recipients!

- **Three Mile Plains District School** students Jahmira Brown, Kaiah States, Adonia Sampson, Hayzen Small and Derrick Schofield, with Literacy Support Worker Kate Goodwin, performed and recorded a play about Viola Desmond at the Roseland Theatre.
- **Dwight Ross School** students in Mr. Hughes’s grade 4-5 class created collector cards about notable African Nova Scotians.
- Abigail, Violet and Roseanna in Ms. Parlee-Elmore’s grade 7 class at **Middleton Regional High School** submitted a project on African Nova Scotian sports heroes.

## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MEDALISTS

The Lieutenant Governor's Medals are awarded annually to outstanding grade 11 students across Nova Scotia. High schools select two medal recipients who have demonstrated qualities of leadership and service in the school and community, as well as commendable academic performance. Congratulations to this year's medal recipients!

<b>Avon View High School</b>	<b>Horton High School</b>
• Kerensa Johnson	• Kate Barr
• Christina Margolian	• Aidan MacLeod
<b>Annapolis West Education Centre</b>	<b>Middleton Regional High School</b>
• Emma Bishop	• Colby Connell
• Grace Law	• Jenna DeWolfe
<b>Bridgetown Regional Community School</b>	<b>Northeast Kings Education Centre</b>
• Jessie Bruce	• Sarah Parsons
• Martin Conrad	• Rylee Pearl
<b>Central Kings Rural High School</b>	<b>West Kings District High School</b>
• Emmalee Harvey	• Nathan Gray
• Lance Keddy	• Molly McCoy

### Questions or Concerns?

If you have a question or concern about your child's learning, please get in touch. Start by contacting your child's teacher. If Then, follow up with the principal if needed. If more action is required, contact AVRCE at 902.538.4617. [www.avrce.ca/parentguardian-concerns](http://www.avrce.ca/parentguardian-concerns).

### Get in touch with AVRCE

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902.538.4600 or toll-free 1.800.850.3887  
[www.avrce.ca](http://www.avrce.ca) | @AVRCE\_NS  
Media Contact: 902.538.4614

## Grads! If you have a TRANSCRIPT REQUEST

or need other documents for your post-secondary studies, email or call your school office. Staff are checking messages in July and August and will follow up with you.