

The African Nova Scotian Literacy Support Program at Three Mile Plains District School honoured grade 5 students graduating from the program with a book shopping trip at Coles Bookstore in New Minas and a celebration lunch.

The program has supported 22 students of African descent this year. Literacy Support Worker Kate Goodwin says the goal is to increase literacy skills while having fun. This is accomplished in part by offering creative outlets and reading material that reflects characters and cultures of African descent.



Superintendent's Monthly Report

Working Together for Students

Looking back on 2016-2017,



There's a certain energy in the air when June arrives. Whether it's the final push to prepare for the end of the school year, the special celebrations that showcase learning, or the growing

anticipation of summer, June is always an exciting and busy time in schools.

That energy is evident at the regional level, too. With the provincial election complete, we will soon have firm information to proceed in our budget process, which has been based on draft figures until this point.

Annual school liaison visits have just wrapped up. These visits provide an important opportunity for senior management to meet with administrators at their schools to discuss each school's unique needs, which provides input for our budget process.

The annual Annapolis Valley Regional Representative Council (AVRRC) informal gathering took place in May. This event brings together AVRSB NSTU representatives with senior management and Board members,

to honour our longstanding relationship in working together for students.

Meetings in May have included:

- The Middle Level Showcase, an excellent day of professional learning and knowledge sharing for all Middle Level staff;
- The Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators (ANSEA);
- A tour of the NSCC Kingstec Campus with Principal Jason Clark, to build connections and future opportunities for AVRSB students;
- The Nova Scotia School Boards Association Annual General Meeting, which featured an excellent keynote address on youth mental health by Dr. Stan Kutcher;
- Principals in Focus, a joint initiative between the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium. Thank you to St. Mary's Elementary School Principal Mike Pinard, and Northeast Kings Education Centre Principal Kevin Veinot, for your part in planning Principals in Focus.

Looking back on this first school year as Superintendent in AVRSB, I am grateful to the students, staff and community members who have welcomed me to this region. Throughout the challenges of the year there have been many opportunities to build relationships, discover strengths, and connect with the people and cultures of the Annapolis Valley. I look forward to further strengthening these connections in the year ahead.

Congratulations to all of our students who have worked hard to succeed this year. To our graduating students, congratulations on reaching this important milestone! Best wishes for a bright future of further learning and growth.

Thank you, wela'lin and merci,

Roberta

Roberta Kubik, Superintendent

School Visits in May

- Horton High School
- Northeast Kings Education Centre
- Port Williams Elementary School
- Dr. Arthur Hines School

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- June 20 First exam day for high school students
- June 21 National Aboriginal Day
- June 27-28 Common marking days
- June 30 Last day of school for students
- September 6 First day of school for students

What's inside:

- Students Achieve Success in CBU In.Business Program
- NSILA Graduates
- Student Vote
- AVRSB Achieves Transportation Gold
- Six Students Tops at Provincial Concours
- Recognition of Service Events



AVRSB Students Achieve Success in CBU In.Business Program



Six students in the AVRSB Native Student Advisor Program have just returned from the In.Business Closing Conference, wrapping up a successful year in this national business education and mentorship program for Indigenous youth, facilitated by the Purdy Crawford Chair in Aboriginal Business Studies at Cape Breton University.

Ryan Corbin (HHS), Meaghan Whitman (BRHS), Sabrina Jacquard-Doucette (HHS), Maria Durling (CKRHS), Alyssa Silver (MRHS) and James Sheaves (MRHS) travelled to Fredericton, NB to take part in the event. Nelson Kruszewski (HHS) was unable to attend, as he was competing with Team Nova Scotia in the North American Indigenous Games. Overall, there are nine AVRSB students enrolled in In.Business.

Grade 12 student Ryan Corbin received the Purdy Award for his outstanding participation throughout the year. Ryan was also named In.Business Student-of-the-Month this winter, for his performance in a monthly challenge to research an Indigenous entrepreneur and culture. After graduation, Ryan plans to pursue studies in Nursing.

Sabrina Jacquard-Doucette, also in grade 12 and a past winner of two Purdy Awards, was selected as one of two national winners of a social enterprise video contest, for her idea to create a university textbook exchange for Indigenous students. Sabrina will attend Dalhousie University this fall to study Technical Theatre Arts and Business. If she has the opportunity, she hopes to make her textbook exchange idea a reality.

New Graduates from the Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Academy

The third cohort of the Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Academy will graduate from the program on June 9. The NSILA is offered through a partnership between the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium. The program extends over three years, with the aim of improving capacity for school-based instructional leadership in order to increase student learning and achievement. Congratulations to AVRSB administrators Maria Carty, Cindy Dickie, and Ruth Ann Greenough for achieving NSILA diplomas!



Student Vote Brings NS Election to the Classroom



Twelve AVRSB schools registered for Student Vote for the 2017 Nova Scotia provincial election. After researching the electoral process, parties and platforms, students cast ballots on May 29 for candidates in their riding. The riding of Kings South had the highest number of participating schools across the province, with eight schools returning ballots.

AVRSB Transportation Division Awarded Gold Status

AVRSB Transportation Division staff once again achieved gold standing at the annual Nova Scotia Pupil Transportation Awards. This rating is for high standards in bus driver and student training, accident prevention, bus and garage cleanliness, preventative maintenance and compliance with regulations. AVRSB also received the Gerald W. Buchan Award, which recognizes school boards that achieve top scores in the areas above.



School bus safety training for students is part of earning gold status.

Thank you to all AVRSB Transportation Division staff, and to the staff of Stock Transportation, for your hard work to keep students safe on their travels to and from school.

French Language Competitions Showcase Students' Language Skills



Following up on our May story about the top grade 5-12 students in the regional Concours d'art oratoire, six AVRSB students have earned gold or silver standing at the provincial Concours d'art oratoire, held in May in Halifax.

Canadian Parents for

French provides prizes for all students who achieve top standing provincially, including trips to the national Concours d'art oratoire in Ottawa for grade 11 and 12 gold recipients. Félicitations to the following students who earned top standing in their categories:

- Hana Hutchison (LESES, Silver, 5/6 Core French)
- Oliver Baker (KCA, Gold, 5/6 Early Immersion)
- Maya Thompson-Hayes (EMS, Silver, 7/8 Early Immersion)
- Emily Cottreau (WKDHS, Gold, 9/10 Early Immersion)
- Christina El Chater (AVHS, Silver, 11/12 Integrated French)
- Makayla Foster (WKDHS, Gold, 11/12 Early Immersion).

Recognition of Service Awards Honour Longstanding Staff Members, Retirees

At this time of year, employees are recognized for their service. Events honouring Non-Union, Administrative, Instructional and Operational staff members took place in May, recognizing those with five to 30 years of service. Retiring staff members were also celebrated for their dedication, including some who have nearly 40 years of service! Thank you for your commitment to working together for students.



Non-Union Recognition of Service Awards