

In January, students in Tammy Eveleigh's Grade 4/5 class at Kingston and District School collaborated to create a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. mural and poetry display for the school.

This creative project honours Dr. King's legacy and integrates aspects of art, math, history, social studies and English language arts.



## Superintendent's Monthly Report

*Working Together for Students*



We have made it through some difficult weather recently, which has meant making careful, informed decisions when it comes to school

closures in response to weather and road conditions. We recognize these decisions have an impact on families. We have always considered student safety first, and will continue to do so. However, I do hope that the remainder of the winter will bring more clear days and fewer storms!

Looking ahead, February is African Heritage Month. This year's theme is *Educate, Unite, Celebrate Community*. This month and throughout the year, schools will strive to honour and celebrate the contributions of African Nova Scotians, both past and present. Further in this report, you will find information about two special events this month, an AVID Series presentation

of "Rhythms of Life" and the annual African Youth Talent Show, highlighting the skills and talents of students in the Student Support Worker and Native Student Advisor Programs.

February 11-17 is Staff Appreciation Week. Every staff member demonstrates caring, collaboration and community-building in their work every day. We appreciate everyone's contribution to our shared vision of working together for students.

The past few weeks have brought news of many changes ahead for education in Nova Scotia. Dr. Avis Glaze's "Raising the Bar" report was released, containing many recommendations that many in our system, including school board members, have advocated for, but also calling for the dissolution of governing school boards. The Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development has responded by accepting Dr. Glaze's recommendations in spirit and intent, and has indicated the province will

begin working on 11 recommendations immediately.

I offer sincere thanks to our board members for continuing to put the best interests of students first, demonstrating professionalism and respect for all partners in the education system. I know their focus will remain on their important governance role, providing a voice in education for communities, and working together for students until further direction is received from the province.

*Thank you, wela'lin and merci,*

*Roberta*

Roberta Kubik, Superintendent

### Have Your Say! Opportunities for Feedback

- Student Attendance and Engagement Policy feedback: [attendance@novascotia.ca](mailto:attendance@novascotia.ca)

### Upcoming Events and Important Dates



- February African Heritage Month
- February 7 AVID Series: Rhythms of Life
- February 7, 21 French Immersion Information Sessions at Schools Offering Programs
- February 11-17 Staff Appreciation Week
- February 19 Heritage Day Holiday
- February 21 African Youth Talent Show

### What's inside:

- African Heritage Month
- Annual African Youth Talent Show
- AVID Series: Rhythms of Life
- West Kings Family of Schools Start Time Information Coming Soon
- French Immersion Information Sessions
- LEC Big Chill Snowshoe Marathon
- News from Schools

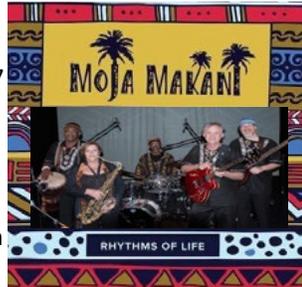
## African Heritage Month: Educate, Unite, Celebrate Community



February is African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia. This year's theme, *Educate, Unite, Celebrate Community*, embraces education and encourages all Nova Scotians to educate themselves about African Nova Scotian history. Together, we can unite and ignite the culture and heritage we share as a community as we observe the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent.

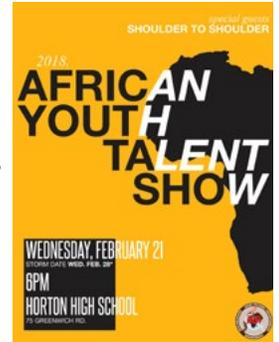
## AVID Series to Feature Rythms of Life

The Annapolis Valley Initiatives in Diversity (AVID) series is back with a performance by Rythms of Life on February 7, 7 p.m. at Horton High School. Admission is free, with food bank donations welcomed. AVID is a series of guest lectures and presentations on Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights related issues, providing opportunities to engage with diversity issues. This year's presentation features Rythms of Life, a musical documentary that presents our shared history through music, spoken word, imagery, costume and colours. It will take you on a journey from the Gerrish Street Hall in 1925 Halifax back to the Mississippi Delta, the Caribbean, and Africa. The performance weaves culture and history and will provoke questions about how cultures have become divided.



## Annual African Youth Talent Show Set for February 21

The Annual African Youth Talent Show takes place Wednesday, February 21, with a storm date of February 28. The show starts at 6 p.m. at the Horton High School Performance Centre. This all-ages event showcases the amazing talents and skills of students in the AVRSB Student Support Worker and Native Student Advisor Programs. The show features singing, instrumental music, dance, comedy, sports skills and more, plus special musical guest Shoulder to Shoulder! All welcome, admission by freewill offering.



## LEC Big Chill Event Promises Big Fun in Support of Students



Lawrencetown Education Centre is working with Give to Live to present The BIG CHILL snowshoe marathon on February 17. Proceeds from this event support the experiential programming offered at LEC and initiatives for at-risk youth. In addition to supporting LEC students, The Big Chill also promotes healthy active living and offers LEC students the chance to learn hands-on about planning, organizing and implementing a special event. Anyone can sign up to collect pledges for completing a five kilometre, 15 kilometre or 30 kilometre trek on snowshoes. Superintendent Roberta Kubik looks forward to completing the five kilometre course! Thanks to Give to Live, the Rotary Club of Middleton and Scotiabank for supporting students through The Big Chill.

## West Kings Family of Schools Start Times: Information Coming in Report Cards



In preparation for start time changes planned for September 2018 for most schools in the West Kings Family of Schools, we have started communicating with families to let them know when they can expect to receive important information about school and bus schedules. A letter has been sent

home with a timeline, and an insert for report card envelopes is being created. The insert will provide information on how to use the BusPlanner Web Parent Portal, encouraging parents/guardians to become familiar with the system now so they can use it to access new bus information at the end of the current school year.

## French Immersion Information Sessions

French Immersion Information Sessions for parents/guardians of students entering Primary (Early Immersion), grade 7 (Late Immersion) will be happening in February:

### Early Immersion

- Kingston and District School: February 7, 6:15 pm
- New Minas Elementary School: February 21, 7:00 pm
- Kings County Academy: February 26, 6:30 pm

### Late Immersion

- West Hants Middle School: February 27, 6:30 pm

## News from Schools

As part of the grade 9 Healthy Living course and school WE Day commitment, Middleton Regional High School students raised over \$4,000 in funds and food bank items for three local charities. Through their "Helping Hands" initiatives, students were able to present significant donations to the 12 Baskets Food Bank, the Companion Animal Protection Society and Elderdog Canada at a special ceremony in late December. Helping Hands has been a holiday season tradition at MRHS for 13 years, with more than \$40,000 in funds and food bank donations raised over that time. Congratulations to the grade 9 students for making a difference through creativity, dedication and enthusiasm!



On January 10, students and staff of Windsor Forks District School welcomed Drake Batherson, one of Canada's World Junior Hockey champions (who is also a former AVRSB student and son of Windsor Forks grade 3/4 teacher Deeann Batherson)! With nearly everyone in school wearing red and white, students were excited to visit with Drake and have their hockey sticks, shirts, photos, lunch bags and more autographed by a gold medal-winning athlete.