

Our December 2017 holiday message to staff and community partners focused on "Community, Caring and Collaboration." These themes are part of many celebrations that take place in December, and are at the heart of our work to support students. Please join us in carrying forward the spirit of "Community, Caring and Collaboration" into the new year.



Superintendent's Monthly Report

Working Together for Students

Happy New Year – Pusu'l Puna'ne – Bonne Année



Welcome back from the winter break! I hope the holidays offered a chance for everyone to rest, relax and recharge for the new year.

In December our governing board participated in change leadership professional development offered by the Nova Scotia School Boards Association. Board members, AVRSB directors and I also met with our region's MLAs last month to highlight important topics in education and governance.

The Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights (RCH) Division's Annual Report to the Board is now available on the AVRSB website, and I encourage everyone to read about the important work RCH Division staff and schools are doing to support students, promote equitable learning environments and build community connections.

Thank you to everyone who provided input to the provincial Commission on Inclusive Education. The Commission's survey and consultation sessions wrapped up in December, but videos and stories from individuals are still being accepted. More information is available at <http://inclusiveedns.ca/consultations>.

In January, AVRSB Directors and I will be meeting with principals in their schools, to gather feedback on priorities to consider as we approach our budget process over the next few months. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss practical ways we can support students and schools, and I look forward to hearing our principals' advice and perspectives.

It is anticipated that results from Dr. Avis Glaze's Education System Administrative Review will be released soon. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development announced this broad review of the education system in mid-October,

with a final report to be submitted by December 31, 2017. We will share information on Dr. Glaze's report and recommendations once available.

Until then, Happy New Year, Pusu'l Puna'ne, Bonne Année, and best wishes for a healthy and peaceful 2018.

Thank you, wela'lin and merci,

Roberta

Roberta Kubik, Superintendent

Have Your Say! Opportunities for Feedback

- Video testimonials to the Commission on Inclusive Education: inclusiveedns.ca/consultations/
- Student Attendance and Engagement Policy feedback: attendance@novascotia.ca

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- January 3 First Teaching Day after Winter Break
- January 17 Common Early Dismissal
- January 24 Nova Scotia Virtual School Exams
- January 26 High School Exams Start
- January 27 Family Literacy Day
- January 31 Last Day of First Semester for High Schools



What's inside:

- Community, Caring and Collaboration in Action
- Attendance Support Worker Pilot Program
- French Immersion Info Sessions
- Winter Weather Response Survey Receives Nearly 3,900 Entries
- PRMS Girls in Canada-Wide Hackathon

Community, Caring and Collaboration in Action

Throughout December, staff, volunteers, students, parents/guardians, service clubs, school community members and local businesses shared their time, energy and resources to make it possible for schools to hold concerts, turkey dinners, craft activities, food and toy drives, and many more celebrations to bring people together. Thank you for making December special for our students and school communities, and for carrying on the spirit of “Community, Caring and Collaboration” in 2018!



1. Avon View Yoga 11 students and teacher Sonja Bryan share holiday cheer and chair yoga lessons with seniors. 2. Community volunteers prepare holiday lunch at Berwick and District School. 3. Bridgetown Regional Community School turkey dinner made possible thanks to local business support. 4. Aldershot students and parent volunteers prep veggies for the holiday meal. 5. Volunteers help LE Shaw students wrap gifts selected from items donated for the school shopping party. 6. Cambridge and District held its first school-wide turkey dinner thanks to volunteers and staff. 7. Regional Office staff donated gifts for 50 children. 8. Thanks to community members, Kingston and District students have mittens available anytime.

Survey on Responding to Winter Weather Received Nearly 3,900 Entries



From December 6 to 20, we provided an online survey to collect input on different ways AVRSB could respond to winter weather and road conditions. In two weeks, we received almost 3,900 responses from students, parents/guardians, AVRSB staff and other school community members. We are analyzing the feedback received and will communicate our next steps in the coming weeks. To view the current process on cancellations related to weather or road conditions, visit <https://www.avrsb.ca/storm-daysschool-cancellations>. We encourage parents/guardians to ensure their child's school office has current contact information on file, in order to receive text/email cancellation notices through Alert Solutions. Staff, grandparents, childcare providers and others who do not have children enrolled in school can sign up to receive cancellation notices through the “Notify Me” link on the AVRSB website.

From December 6 to 20, we provided an online survey to collect input on different ways AVRSB could respond to winter weather and road conditions. In two weeks, we received almost 3,900 responses from students, parents/guardians, AVRSB staff and other school community members. We are analyzing the feedback received and will communicate our next steps in the coming weeks. To view the current process on cancellations related to weather or road conditions, visit <https://www.avrsb.ca/storm-daysschool-cancellations>. We encourage parents/guardians to ensure their child's school office has current contact information on file, in order to receive text/email cancellation notices through Alert Solutions. Staff, grandparents, childcare providers and others who do not have children enrolled in school can sign up to receive cancellation notices through the “Notify Me” link on the AVRSB website.

Attendance Support Worker Pilot Program

The provincial Attendance Support Worker pilot program is expected to begin soon. Hiring processes for two Attendance Support Workers are currently underway. One Attendance Support Worker will work within the Bridgetown Regional Community School and Annapolis West Education Centre families of schools, while the other will support the Avon View High School family of schools.



French Immersion Information Sessions

French Immersion Information Sessions for parents/guardians of students entering Primary (Early Immersion), grade 7 (Late Immersion) or Intensive French will be happening in February at each school offering the following programs:

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

Intensive French

- Kingston and District School: February 7, 7:00 pm
- Pine Ridge Middle School: February 13, 6:00 pm

PRMS Girls Take Part in Canada-Wide Hackathon

Members of the Pine Ridge Middle School *Hackergal* computer coding club for girls, led by teacher Ashley Abbott, took part in a Canada-wide hackathon on December 13. Students worked together all day in groups to create a festive interactive video from start to finish.



This was the first time PRMS students have taken part in a hackathon. Mrs. Abbott says this experience encourages young women to build skills and confidence in problem solving and technology, and helps to connect them with real-world jobs in technology fields.