

In October, 20 grade 7 to 10 students in the Native Student Advisor program took part in a cultural workshop with artist and birch bark canoe builder Todd Labrador to learn about the Mi'kmaw peoples' connections to Kejimikujik.

Students designed and painted mini canoe paddles based on what they learned in the workshop as inspiration. Using the four sacred colours (red, black, yellow and white), each student created a paddle that represented their own unique understandings and identities.



Superintendent's Monthly Report

Working Together for Students

Have your say: Opportunities to shape education



This month and beyond, there are several provincial processes happening that present opportunities for all partners in education to help shape our system.

On October 1, the provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy came into effect. As we gather experience from the application of this policy, we encourage all partners in education to provide feedback on the policy any time by email to attendance@novascotia.ca. A link to the policy can be found on the AVRSB website at www.avrsb.ca/policies. Government will review the policy and related operational guide at the end of the current school year, taking into account any feedback received.

Following an interim report issued in June 2017, the provincial Commission on Inclusive Education is now consulting with teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, students and associations. To help guide its work, the Commission is inviting public input on the interim report

recommendations, questions the Commission should address, and ways to make its process as inclusive as possible. To provide input to the Commission on Inclusive Education, please visit <https://inclusivedns.ca/consultations/>.

Recently, the province announced that internationally recognized education expert Dr. Avis Glaze will lead an Education System Administrative Review, with a final report to be completed by the end of December. This review will examine Nova Scotia's education system administrative model, including governing school boards, regional administrative offices and administration at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Details on the review are at <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/adminreview>.

AVRSB senior staff, Board members and I met with Dr. Glaze in late October to provide an overview of how AVRSB supports students, and we look forward to further supporting her work. All parents/guardians and members of the public are invited to share feedback for Dr. Glaze's consideration

via a three-question online survey. The survey is available at <https://novascotia.ca/adminsurvey/> until Friday, November 3.

This is an exciting time in education, with many opportunities for all partners to share their thoughts. Your input is valuable, and I encourage everyone to get involved.

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
- Input to the Commission on Inclusive Education: inclusivedns.ca/consultations/
- Education System Administrative Review survey: novascotia.ca/adminsurvey/

Upcoming Events and Important Dates



- November 10 Regional Shutdown Day
- November 11 Remembrance Day
- November 13 Remembrance Day Holiday Observed
- November 14-30 High School Reporting Period: Report cards sent home, parent-teacher conferences
- November 21 Wolfville School Opening Ceremony
- November 30 Regional Shutdown Day, WE Day

What's inside:

- WE Day: Students Celebrate Making a Difference
- Wolfville School Opening
- High School Showcase
- Provincial Conference Day
- Harvest Time for School Gardens

WE Day: Students Celebrate Making a Difference Locally and Globally



Hundreds of AVRSB students take part in WE Day Atlantic each year.

On November 30, hundreds of AVRSB students will travel to Halifax to be part of WE Day Atlantic, a celebration of youth making a positive difference in their own communities and at a global level. WE Day tickets are earned by participating in WE initiatives throughout

the year. Students choose to work on one local issue or cause, and one globally-focused one. Many groups are focusing on hunger and anti-poverty initiatives locally, by organizing food drives and fundraisers to support local food banks and shelters. On a global level, topics such as clean drinking water, access to education and health and hygiene are among the causes students have selected, raising awareness and funds to support youth in other countries.

Thank you to Stan MacVicar, Vice Principal of Central Kings Rural High School, for coordinating AVRSB participation in WE Day and WE initiatives throughout the year. Thank you as well to AVRSB Transportation staff for organizing buses for students to attend WE Day events.

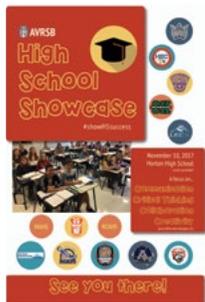
Wolfville School Opening: November 21



Following two years of extensive renovations, Wolfville School will be officially opened at a ceremony planned for November 21. The Hon. Zach Churchill, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development is expected to be a special guest at this event, joining students, staff, AVRSB Board members and the school community to celebrate the many opportunities a refreshed school building offers. Since renovations began in 2015, there have been significant changes to the building, including a refurbished gymnasium, a new music room, open plan library and cafeteria, updated specialty areas and refreshed classrooms.

Wolfville School has a very active alumni and historical group that worked with the school and AVRSB staff to preserve the school's memorabilia and artifacts ahead of the renovations. Sincere appreciation to David Sheppard and all group members for their dedication to Wolfville School, and for contributing a full history of the school for the opening ceremony program.

High School Showcase: November 10



The AVRSB High School Showcase is happening on November 10. Similar to the Middle Level Showcase held in May 2017, the High School Showcase will be a day for all staff involved in supporting high school students to connect with colleagues, to share professional knowledge and to celebrate successes in our work.

The theme of the High School Showcase is Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration and Creativity—these represent cross-curricular competencies that are essential in our work, and are core skills we encourage in students. Through professional learning sessions and a keynote address, participants will come away with new approaches and best practices to support our high school students' success academically, personally and socially.

Provincial Conference Day: October 27

The provincial conference day is a chance for school board employee groups to gather for professional development, to receive up-to-date information on best practices, new resources, technologies and approaches that help each of us work together for students.



One of the many sessions offered on Provincial Conference Day was a Pre-Retirement Seminar, led by HR staff.

Thank you to the staff involved in planning and facilitating these sessions. For everyone who participated in a session, thank you for being open to learning and new ideas, and for applying new knowledge in your work.

Harvest Time for School Gardens

At this time of year, many students and staff are gathering fresh vegetables from their school gardens. Some schools have held Harvest Lunches to enjoy the harvest, while introducing students to food preparation skills and healthy, local foods. Dr. Arthur Hines Elementary School recently hosted a meal for students and staff, with expert help from Chef Velden of the Flying Apron. At Somerset and District Elementary School, school community members, bus drivers, Board member Donna Johnstone and I joined students and staff for a veggie pasta lunch prepared with help from Jenny Osburne, chef and cookbook author, and Sean Peori.



Photos:
1 & 2 Harvesting and preparing kale and carrots at Somerset and District School with Chef Jenny Osburne.

3 & 4 Raised garden beds at Dr. Arthur Hines School produced lots of veggies for students to chop!