

Orange Shirt Day took place across AVRSB on September 28, to recognize the impact of Canada's residential school system on Indigenous people.

Left: Central Kings Rural High School students Aubrey Pinch and Mackenzie Bell Copage designed orange t-shirts for students and staff to wear on this important day.

Right: Students in Ms. Graves' class at Pine Ridge Middle School wore orange and learned about the history of residential schools



Superintendent's Monthly Report

Working Together for Students



September has been an action-packed month, with a focus on learning and supporting students and families.

Bridgetown Regional Community School

(BRCS) officially opened on September 25. Thank you to BRCS students and staff for hosting this event while you continue settling in to your new school and to the Province of Nova Scotia for investing in this school community.

A new provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy was announced in September, and will take effect starting October 1, 2017. The policy is intended to support student success and engagement by providing clear definitions, actions in response to absences, and roles and responsibilities for all partners in education. Feedback on the policy can be sent to attendance@novascotia.ca. A review of the policy will take place at the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

To view the policy and operational guide, visit www.ednet.ns.ca/student-attendance-and-engagement-policy.

In September, I was honoured to attend the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action Symposium in Membertou, organized by the Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative. This was an excellent opportunity to learn and share ideas on Treaty Education.

Fire drills and other emergency drills are some of the most important start-of-year activities that schools carry out, and I am pleased to report that every AVRSB school has completed and reported a successful fire drill within the first two weeks of school! Other emergency drills have also been underway in schools throughout September.

At our September regional school administrators' meeting, we were pleased to distribute school supplies donated through the annual 89.3 K-Rock School Supply Drive. School administrators are ensuring these items reach the students

who need them. Thank you to 89.3 K-Rock, campaign sponsors R.D. Chisholm Ltd, Kentville Nissan, Victory Credit Union and Greenwood Mall, and all who donated—your support of students is appreciated.

As you will read inside, October is a month with many observances. October 1 is Treaty Day, and special events will happen throughout the month in celebration of Mi'kmaq History Month. It is also Women's History Month. Please watch our Twitter account throughout the month for Mi'kmaq History Month and Women's History Month facts and information.

Thank you, wela'lin and merci,

Roberta

Roberta Kubik, Superintendent

School Visits in September

- Horton High School
- Wolfville School
- Bridgetown Regional Community School

Upcoming Events and Important Dates



- October
Mi'kmaq History Month
Women's History Month
- October 1
Treaty Day
- October 9
Thanksgiving Day Holiday
- October 27
Provincial Conference Day
(no school for students)

What's inside:

- First Pre-Primary Classrooms Open
- BRCS Officially Opens
- Treaty Day and Mi'kmaq History Month
- Thank You to Transportation Division Staff
- Nourish Your Roots Across AVRSB
- Women's History Month

First Pre-Primary Classrooms Opened



In September, the first AVRSB Pre-Primary classrooms opened for four-year-olds in the catchment areas of St. Mary's Elementary School, Dr. Arthur Hines School and Three Mile Plains District School. The existing Early Years Centre at Clark Rutherford Memorial School opened on September 6, while September 27 and 28 marked the beginning of new Pre-Primary programs at the remaining three schools.

Thank you to Pre-Primary Facilitator Amie DeLeavey, our new Early Childhood Educators and staff of these four schools and regional staff for their dedication to making Pre-Primary classrooms ready to welcome children and families.



Bridgetown Regional Community School Officially Opens

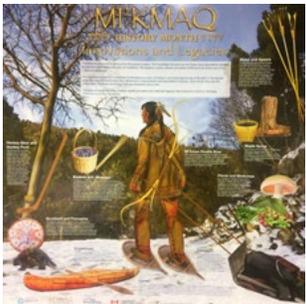
Bridgetown Regional Community School is now officially open, following a ceremony on Monday, September 25. The Hon. Stephen McNeil, Premier of the Province of Nova Scotia (and a BRHS grad) was welcomed by Principal Bill Reid to perform the official opening duties. Premier McNeil was joined by AVRSB Chair Lavinia Parrish Zwicker, student representatives Hailey Saunders and Jonathan Saunders, and AVRSB Board Member Peter Cromwell for the official plaque unveiling.



Premier Stephen McNeil with BRCS student leaders, Inglewood community members, Board Member Peter Cromwell and Krishinda McBride, Coordinator of Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights.

Mr. Cromwell closed the ceremony with special remarks about his mother, Dr. Edith Hope Cromwell, O.N.S., LL.D., the namesake of Cromwell Court, the road on which BRCS is located. An influential teacher, school administrator, school board member and community organizer, Dr. Cromwell was instrumental in establishing access to Bridgetown Regional High School for students of Inglewood, a historic African Nova Scotian community. Several Inglewood community members were honoured guests at the BRCS opening—Hazel Johnson (sister of Dr. Cromwell), Timothy Jackson, Elaine Mitchell, and two of the first students from Inglewood to graduate from BRHS, Elnora Lake and Jean Jackson.

Treaty Day and Mi'kmaq History Month



Treaty Day is October 1 and October is Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia. This year's Mi'kmaq History Month theme is *Innovations and Legacies*, highlighting Mi'kmaq knowledge that has grown over many generations, resulting in a sophisticated relationship with the seasons, cycles, animals and plants of Mi'kma'ki, which are at the core of Mi'kmaq culture and language.

Schools will be acknowledging the importance of Mi'kmaq history, culture and language with learning opportunities this month and throughout the year.

Grade Primary to 5 music teachers will take part in an inservice with noted Mi'kmaq artist and craftsman Todd Labrador, focusing on language and drumming. Mr. Labrador will also lead workshops with students in the Native Student Advisor Program, and in several middle level and high school classrooms across the region.

Several schools will be taking part in a flag-raising ceremony at Acadia University on October 4, where the Mi'kmaq Grand Council flag will be flown permanently. Students will join with musicians and drummers to sing the Mi'kmaq Honor Song.

October
2017

WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

October is Women's History Month in Canada. Status of Women Canada is promoting #ClaimYourPlace on social media to recognize everyone's part in the quest for equality and inclusion in Canadian life, and to honour and celebrate the stories of courageous women and girls who have made a positive difference.

Thank You to our Transportation Division Staff!

Thank you to all bus drivers, mechanics, foremen, regional Transportation Division staff and the staff of Stock Transportation for working together to provide safe, reliable transportation to students every day.



Three Mile Plains District School students practice bus evacuation procedures with Scott Condon, Transportation Foreman.

The first few weeks of the school year are a very busy time for everyone in Transportation—new students are added to routes, bus stop locations and timing are fine-tuned, and school bus safety training is rolled out to every elementary school. Thank you for your hard work over the past several weeks and throughout the year!

Nourish Your Roots Across AVRSB



From mid-September to the end of October, 25 of our schools are participating in Nourish Your Roots, a provincial fundraising initiative organized by Nourish Nova Scotia in partnership with local farms. The program provides participating schools with a portion of sales

of boxes of fresh, local and seasonal produce, directly supporting healthy school food programs. Thank you to our local farmers for supporting Nourish Your Roots and other healthy school food initiatives during the school year.