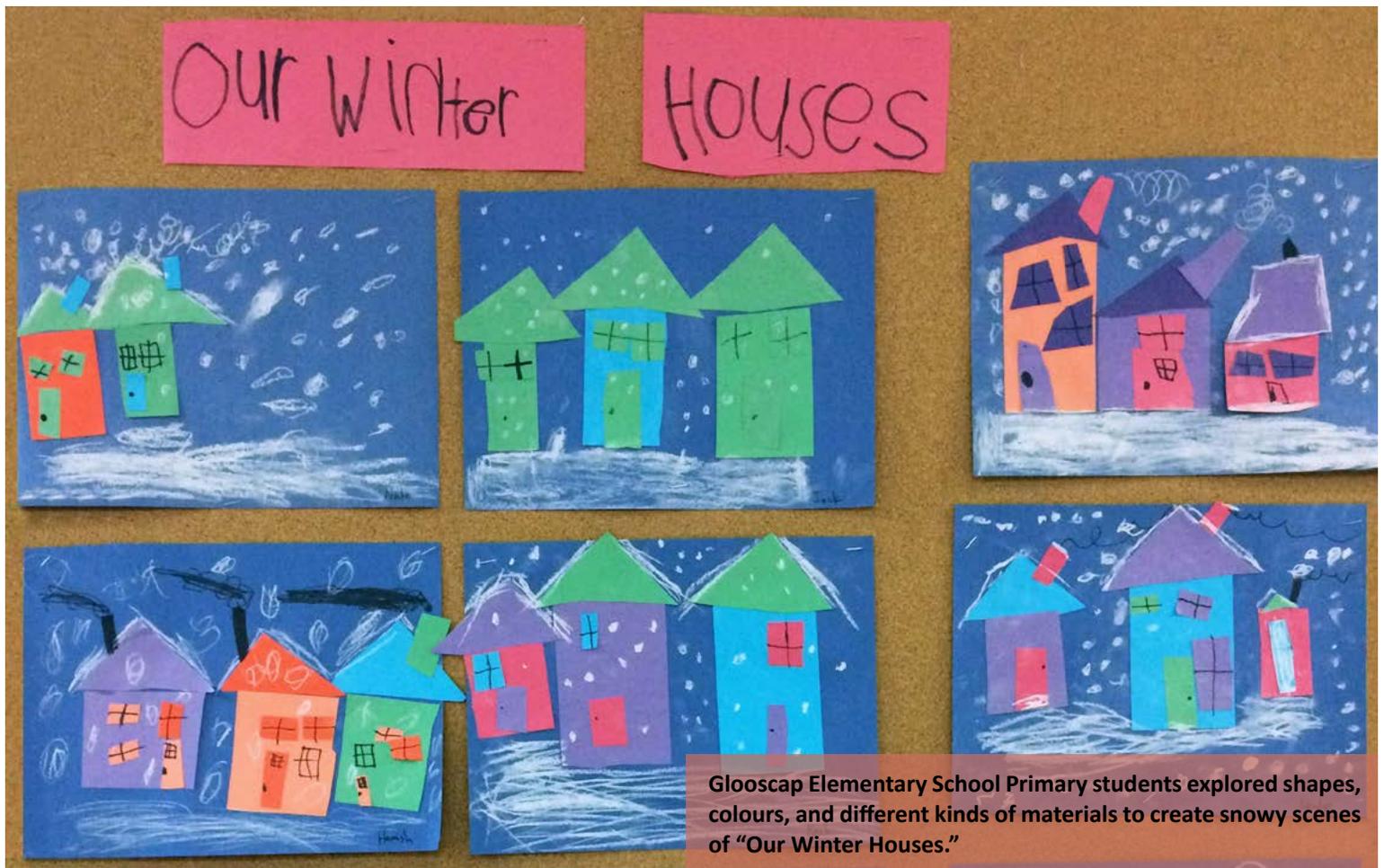




Monthly Update



Coming Up in December and Early January

- December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- December 5: Last day to participate in Provincial Bus Survey
<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/bussurvey>
- December 11: Common Early Dismissal
- December 21: Last teaching day before Winter Break
- January 3, 2019: First teaching day after Winter Break

Get in Touch

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December News



Throughout the month of December, many schools will hold special events in support of local organizations such as food banks and shelters. We thank all students, staff and school community members for supporting these initiatives. Your generosity brings joy and light to the season.

Winter weather hit us earlier than expected in November. Families are encouraged to notify their school office of any changes to home contact information at any time during the year, in order to continue receiving text and email Alerts in case of school cancellations.

Parent-Teacher appointments have been taking place in late November into

December, and we thank parents and guardians for attending and taking an active role in education.

A Provincial Busing Survey was launched in November, inviting parents/guardians and school community members to provide feedback on school busing services. The survey remains open until December 5 at <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/bussurvey>.

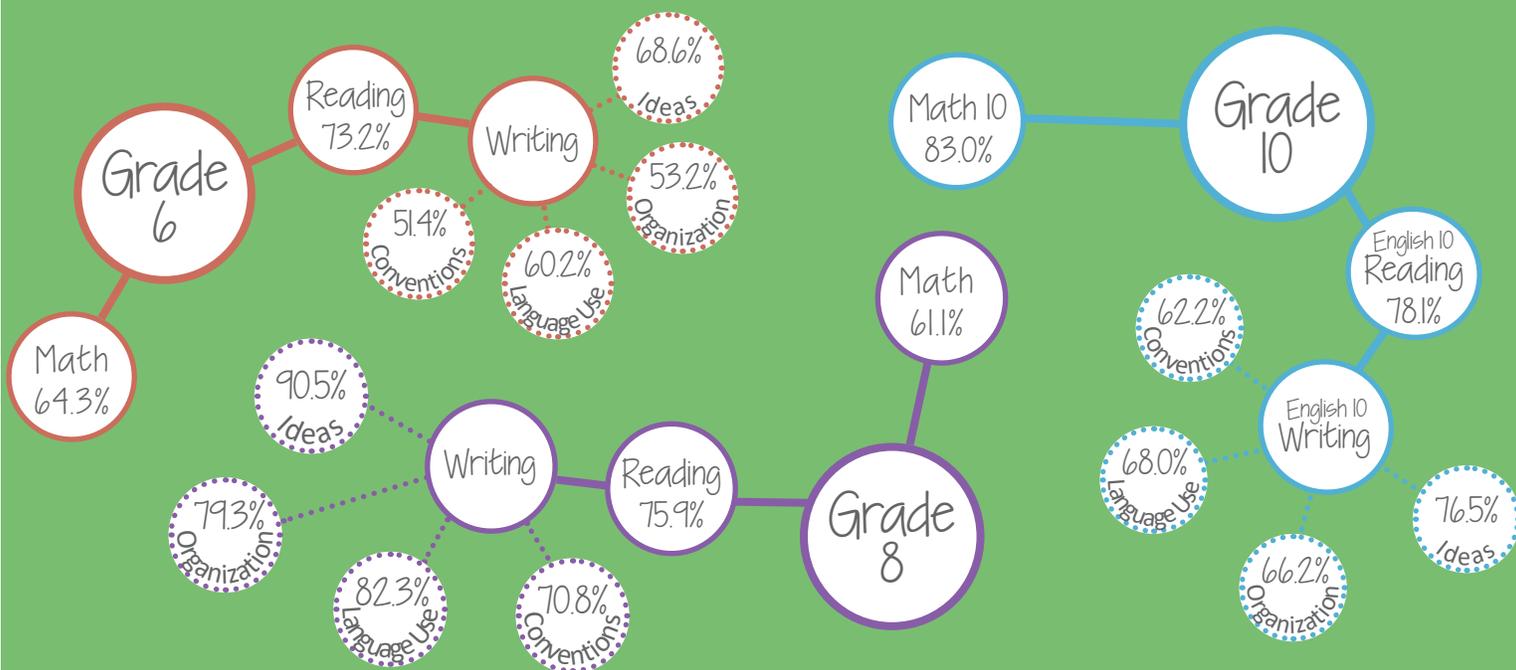
Also in November, the Province announced that Coldbrook and District School will be one of 10 Pre-Primary locations to pilot on-site before-program and after-program care for children enrolled in Pre-Primary. This service will focus on physical activity and outdoor play, and will improve access to

Pre-Primary for families who may not have enrolled otherwise due to childcare availability. The pilot program will run until the end of June when Pre-Primary Programs close for the summer.

This week, we will be publishing our Annual Report to the Community online, providing an overview of our goals, priorities, accomplishments and operations in the previous school year. We invite you to view this report at www.avrce.ca.

Best wishes to all for a safe and happy holiday season shared with family and friends.

Student Achievement Last year, students in grades 6, 8 and 10 took part in provincial assessments, and the results were released this fall. These “snapshots” of student learning help teachers and administrators measure the effectiveness of curriculum delivery, and determine how best to help students achieve learning outcomes. At a regional and provincial level, assessments provide data that guides education decision making. The numbers below show the percentage of AVRCE students **meeting provincial expectations in math, reading and writing**.



Parent/Guardian Questions or Concerns?

If you are a parent/guardian and have a question or concern about something at your child's school, we want to work with you to resolve it.

Please start by speaking with your child's teacher. The next step is to follow up with the principal, if needed. If more action is required, contact AVRCE at 902.538.4617. For more information, please visit www.avrce.ca/parentguardian-concerns.



Changes to Grade 4-6 Report Cards

Report cards have recently gone home with students, and **parents/guardians of grade 4 to 6 students** may have noticed some changes. These changes reflect an increased focus on connecting different subjects and areas of study.

Term 1 report cards use a developmental scale to show progress in Language Arts and Mathematics.

Physical Education, Music and Core French teachers will report in **Terms 2 and 3** using the developmental scale, allowing more time to assess students' strengths and challenges. A letter grade scale will be used in **Terms 2 and 3** to report progress in Language Arts and Mathematics.

As part of the integrated approach to curriculum, you will see references to Information and Communication Technology, Health, Visual Arts, Science and Social Studies in the comment areas for Language Arts and Mathematics.

The comments on your child's report card are focused on their strengths, areas for improvement, and ways to help learning at home. If you have questions about your child's report card, contact your child's teacher or principal.

Developmental Scale

Well Developed
Developing as Expected
Needs Development
Insufficient Evidence



Developing a Growth Mindset

You may be hearing about "growth mindset" from your school or classroom teacher. Developed by psychologist Carol Dweck, it is an approach to teaching and learning that can be applied in many different situations. Here are some differences between "fixed" and "growth" mindsets:

Fixed Mindset

- Intelligence is fixed
- I can learn, but there are limits
- There are some things I cannot learn

Growth Mindset

- Intelligence develops
- I can always improve
- Some things might be hard, but I can get better

Parents/guardians and educators can help children develop a growth mindset by recognizing our own thinking and the messages our words and actions send to children, praising children when they work hard to do something difficult, and showing that adults sometimes fail but can learn from setbacks. For more information, check out the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrdKuDGQEOQ>



School Remembrance Day Events Honour Veterans

In the days leading up to November 11, schools across the region held assemblies and special ceremonies to mark Remembrance Day, honouring veterans and those who currently serve. These ceremonies featured artwork, such as the collaborative piece above by Aldershot Elementary students, as well as poems, songs and performances that students developed in their classes, to share with their school communities.

Community Activity Park Coming to Wolfville School

Wolfville School is the successful recipient of a \$10,000 Aviva Community Fund award, in support of an Activity Park to be developed in collaboration with many school community partners. The vision is to redesign the recreational space next to the school to promote community health, offering a variety of fitness and recreation options for students and community members of all ages and abilities.

64 Students Complete DELF Exams

Sixty-four grade 12 students from five high schools travelled to AVRCE's Regional Office in late November to complete the Diplome d'études en langue française (DEL F) exams.

The DELF is an international diploma by the Ministry of Education of France, to prove the French-language skills of non-francophone students. Congratulations to all students who took part!



STEMFest 2018

Sixty-six grade 7 and 8 students and eight teachers from AVRCE were among 600 students from across Nova Scotia taking part in STEMFest 2018 in Halifax. STEMFest is an opportunity for students to explore the world of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and related career paths. Students participated in hands-on STEM activities, many of which focused on oceans, while teachers took part in curriculum workshops.



Halifax and Hockey a Highlight for NSISP Students

International students from across our region travelled to Halifax recently for a Mooseheads hockey game, and shopping for a special holiday gift for their homestay families. A real Canadian experience!

SchoolsPlus Annapolis Crockpot Cooking Classes Equip Students with Healthy Skills for Life

For the last three years, SchoolsPlus Annapolis has been supporting students and families one crockpot at a time through cooking classes.

“It all started to meet a need in the areas we serve, to address food security and healthy choices,” explains Leah Marshall, SchoolsPlus Annapolis Community Outreach Worker. “We wanted to address food security in a positive way.”

Marshall explains that the program began three years ago as an after-school class for boys in Bridgetown. Since then, the Crockpot Cooking Class has been held at Bridgetown Regional Community School (BRCS), Annapolis West Education Centre and Middleton Regional High School, returning to BRCS this year. Over that time, the program has expanded to include more students.

“We made it an after-school group for middle school and high school students,” says Marshall. “It’s open to anyone who wants to learn to plan, prep and cook healthy, filling meals.”

Each Crockpot Cooking Class session involves eight to 10 students, meeting once a week over four weeks. Marshall prepares the day’s recipe ahead of time in her own slow cooker, then brings it to the class the next day. Students enjoy a meal together and talk about the recipe and its ingredients. Then, they prepare their own version to take home to their freezer, ready to cook. Students also receive transportation to and from the classes, if needed. At the end of the four weeks, each student receives their own crockpot, paring knife, and a gift bag full of kitchen supplies.

SchoolsPlus Annapolis has also offered Slow Cooked Dreams, a food preparation and support program, to entire families in the Annapolis East Elementary School school community.

Marshall says the response from schools, staff, and community partners has been outstanding. Teachers, Student Support Workers, Native Student Advisors and the area’s Attendance Support Worker have taken part in a class to support the students they work with, and to be part of the fun in the kitchen.

