

May  
2018

# Monthly Update

*from the AVRCE Regional Executive Director of Education*

Welcome to the Regional Executive Director's Monthly Update. At the beginning of each month during the school year, I look forward to sharing student achievements, news from schools, and developments at the regional level.

As of April 1, our region took on a new name, the Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education. Over the next several weeks, we will transition our website, social media accounts, email addresses and more to our new regional name and an updated visual identity. Stay tuned for updates!

This spring, new provincial Pre-Primary Program sites were announced for Aldershot Elementary, Bridgetown Regional Community School, Cambridge and District Elementary, Champlain Elementary, Coldbrook and District School, Kings County Academy, Lawrencetown Consolidated School, L.E. Shaw Elementary and Port Williams Elementary. The KCA program will be offered off-site, in partnership with a licensed child-care provider in the community. These schools join Clark Rutherford Memorial School, St. Mary's Elementary, Dr. Arthur Hines School and Three Mile Plains District School in offering Pre-Primary programs to four-year-old children living within these school catchments. We encourage parents/guardians to contact these school offices to register.

The province marked Education Week from April 16-20, highlighting "The Entrepreneurial Spirit: Collaboration, critical thinking, innovation and idea generation." Thank you to all educators and partners who are supporting the entrepreneurial mindset in students. Inside, read more about AVRCE student entrepreneurs who took part in the Minister's Entrepreneurship Award of Excellence competition last month.

I welcome your feedback and ideas for future editions of the Monthly Update. Get in touch anytime at [communications@avrsb.ca](mailto:communications@avrsb.ca).

Thank you | Wela'lin | Merci  
Roberta Kubik

## By the numbers...

*84* water bottle filling stations have been installed in schools recently!

Our aim is to have one of these stations in every school to help reduce waste and encourage healthy hydration.

## Coming Up This Month:

May	Asian Heritage Month
May 3	Lieutenant Governor's Medal Awards
May 4	Regional Heritage Fair
May 23	Administrative, Instructional and Operational Support Staff Recognition of Service Awards



On April 11, we honoured non-union staff members who have attained 5 to 35 years of service, as well as staff who have recently retired, or will be retiring soon. Thank you to our honourees for your years of dedication to students!



### Turnaround Achievement Awards Recognize Students for Overcoming Challenges

On April 10, eight West Hants-area students received a Turnaround Achievement Award for their resilience and determination to succeed at school in spite of past challenges. Congratulations to Isaiah Fraser (WHMS, Grade 6), Isaac McLeod (WHMS, Grade 7), Brayden Hood (WHMS, Grade 8), Ally Murphy (AVHS, Grade 9), Kendra Carr (AVHS, Grade 10), Chase Hiltz (AVHS, Grade 11), Jessica Lloyd (AVHS, Grade 12) and Jake Gibbons (WHEC, Grade 11) on your accomplishments!

An award was also presented to Avon View High School teacher Ashley Connors for her dedication to students and significant support of school clubs, sports and social justice initiatives.



### Regional Science Fair Features 76 Projects from Young Scientists

This year's Annapolis Valley Regional Science Fair featured 76 projects by P-12 students on a wide range of topics, such as innovations to improve our world, data mining, experiments about human behavior and health, and research on the solar system. Projects by Lucas Hilden (West Hants Middle School), Shwetabh Jha (Horton High School), Michelle Song (Horton High School) and William Ahern (Kings Edgehill School) were selected for the Canada-Wide Science Fair. These four students will be among the top 500 young Canadian scientists to compete at Carleton University in May.

Congratulations to all regional science fair participants and thank you to organizers, volunteers and sponsors. For a complete list of award winners, visit <https://sites.google.com/gnspes.ca/avr/fair/awards>



### Students Share Their French Language Skills at Concours d'Art Oratoire

The annual AVRCE Concours d'art oratoire (French public speaking competition) took place on Wednesday, April 18. Thirty-one students in grades 5 to 12 presented speeches en français, showcasing their language and public speaking skills in 11 competition categories. Nineteen participants will now have the opportunity to represent the region at the provincial Concours d'Art Oratoire, scheduled for Saturday, May 5 at Mount Saint Vincent University.

Félicitations à tous nos participants for coming forward to share your skills, and best of luck to students taking part in the provincial competition!

Grade 7/8 French Immersion participants at Concours.



### Minister's Entrepreneurship Award of Excellence

On April 25, three AVRCE students took part in a Dragon's Den-style business pitch competition for the first Minister's Entrepreneurship Award of Excellence.

Caelyn Parker from Berwick and District School pitched her established business, Caelyn's Creations. She operates a unique arts and crafts business that offers wood products decorated with custom designs.

Mike Rawding and Cody Weighers represented a group of NKEC students that has been working with a local food bank over the last 12 months to process food donated from local farmers' fields. Their business idea, "Eggs for Life," involves raising chickens for eggs in support of school and community food initiatives.

The Minister's Entrepreneurship Award of Excellence was created through a partnership between the province and the Business Education Council, to encourage students in grades 6 to 12 to develop innovative business ideas.

To learn about the finalists' business pitches, visit <https://bit.ly/2vJVYVA>.



Congratulations to all AVRCE students recognized at the Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation (NSSAF) provincial awards ceremony! Thank you to the staff and volunteers who make school sports possible throughout the year.

### RCH Collaboration with Equity Education on Professional Development

In April, the Race Relations, Cross-Cultural Understanding and Human Rights (RCH) Division collaborated with Equity Education consultant Nolan Pike to provide professional development on gender identity and sexual orientation to school RCH advisors and GSA advisors. We will build on this work again in the fall, with a focus in elementary schools. These sessions help build knowledge and capacity for supporting GSAs and diversity clubs, use of gender neutral language, and creating safe and inclusive school environments.

### Horton Students Support Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

Horton students recently attended "An evening of storytelling and performance with Evelyn Amony and Emmanuel Jal" hosted by the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative at Dalhousie University. On behalf of Ms. Verri's Global Geography 12 class, Darcy D'Entremont and Chantel Munroe presented Dr. Shelley Whitman, executive director, with a donation of \$200.00 from their fundraising efforts to support the Initiative's mission to end the use of children as combatants.



### Central Kings Skilled Trades Addition

The Skilled Trades addition project at Central Kings Rural High School is taking shape, with a foundation in place and walls and roof under construction. This new learning space is expected to be ready for September 2018. Once completed, Central Kings will join Avon View High School, Annapolis West Education Centre and Bridgetown Regional High School in offering hands-on Skilled Trades programming and training to high school students.