



Annapolis Valley
Regional Centre for Education

May
2019
Etquljuiku's

Monthly Update

from the AVRCE Regional Executive Director of Education



The fourth annual AVRCE@21C Innovation and Entrepreneurship Day took place on April 24, in partnership with the Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre.

This event brought together over 100 high school students from across the region to learn how 21st Century skills of creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking can combine to solve significant social issues and create opportunities through entrepreneurship and technology integration.

The main focus of the day was an innovation challenge, where students worked in teams to develop solutions to real-world challenges related to the environment, infrastructure, economy, society, education or governance. Along the way, they learned about design thinking, empathy-based approaches and idea development processes, receiving input and support from teachers and Nova Scotian entrepreneurs and innovators. The goal is for students to develop an interest in innovation and discover opportunities to build a career in their own communities.

Coming Up in May and Early June

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| May | Asian Heritage Month, Gaelic Nova Scotia Month |
| May 6-7 | Face aux Questions French Language Trivia Competition |
| May 15 | Regional Shutdown Day/Elementary Showcase for Educators |
| May 20 | Victoria Day holiday |
| May 21-31 | NS Assessments: Grade 3 Literacy and Math |
| May 27-June 7 | NS Assessments: Grade 8 Reading, Writing and Math |

What's Inside

- New Inclusive Education Positions
- New Pre-Primary Sites for September
- O2 Students at NSCC Overdrive
- Grade 3, 8 NS Assessments Coming Up
- Literacy Learning in Modern Classrooms
- Student Success Highlights

May Highlights



The month of May is always an exciting time as schools begin planning for graduations, end-of-year celebrations, spring concerts and special events. While

that is going on, school staff continue working hard to ensure students achieve a strong finish to the year.

While our focus on the ground continues to be supporting students, there is also much planning happening for the 2019-2020 school year. Thanks to principals and other school-based staff for the work you do to ensure we have the most up-to-date information to make the best decisions to support students.

We are maintaining provincial class caps and working with principals to finalize staffing for next year. All schools continue to have access to a guidance counsellor, and the recent provincial announcement of additional inclusive education positions will further increase students' access to guidance counsellor support in our region.

I invite you to read further about the additional 14.5 inclusive education positions coming to our region in September 2019 as a result of new provincial investments. These positions will provide valuable daily support to students and further help us to create the conditions that enable students to achieve success and well-being, ensuring their ability to thrive in the future.

Sincerely,

Dave Jones

Regional Executive Director of Education



Provincial Investments in Inclusive Education Will Result in New Positions Across AVRCE



On May 2, the province announced additional investments in inclusive education, in response to the Commission on Inclusive Education's report, *Students First*. As a result, 14.5 additional positions will be in place across our region in September 2019, further increasing the supports available to students. This new investment builds on the 21+ full-time equivalent inclusive education positions added in our region at the beginning of this school year.

Position	Number
Educational Assistants support students by working with classroom teachers to address learning, personal care and medical needs	2.0 FTEs
Child and Youth Care Practitioners will work with school teams and students to deliver programming for students who have difficulty coping in school settings.	3.0 FTEs
Student Support Workers/Native Student Advisors work with students of African descent and Aboriginal ancestry and their families to build engagement and create positive school environments.	2.0 FTEs
Pre-Primary Inclusion Coaches will provide on-site professional learning to strengthen Early Childhood Educators' skills in supporting young children's development.	1.0 FTE
Guidance Counsellors support the personal, social, educational and career needs of students.	1.0 FTE
Autism Teacher Specialists work with students on the Autism spectrum, teachers, resource teachers, and other specialists to develop, implement and evaluate individual program plans.	1.0 FTE
Resource Teachers work with classroom teachers to develop, implement and evaluate programming for students who require additional support.	1.0 FTE
School Psychologists/Speech Language Pathologists work year-round with students to provide individualized support.	1.0 FTE
SchoolsPlus Facilitators work with school staff, partner organizations and agencies to coordinate services and supports for students and families.	1.0 FTE
SchoolsPlus Outreach Workers work directly with students and families to link them to services they need at school and in the community.	1.0 FTE
Student Health Partnership Nurses work with school teams and health care providers to develop and implement care plans for school settings, and to train school staff when a student has a medical need.	0.5 FTE

* FTE = Full-time equivalent position

The May 2nd announcement also outlined additional funding for an assistive technology plan, specialized training in Autism and behaviour analysis, and flexible funding to address regional priorities and student needs that may arise during the school year.

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.



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Eight New Pre-Primary Sites Coming to AVRCE for September 2019

In April, the province announced new sites for the Pre-Primary program, including eight new sites in AVRCE. Starting in September 2019, the program will expand to include Berwick and District School, Dwight Ross School, Falmouth District School (hosted at Windsor Elementary School), Gaspereau Valley Elementary School, Glooscap Elementary School, Hantsport School, Windsor Elementary School and Windsor Forks District School. Families can contact these schools, as well as those currently offering Pre-Primary, anytime to register for the upcoming school year. We encourage families to get in touch as soon as possible to register!



The addition of these new sites will bring the total number of Pre-Primary sites in our region to 21. As a result, this quality, play-based early learning program will be available at over three quarters of our schools that include elementary grades, increasing access for families. For more information, visit www.avrce.ca/article/pre-primary-programs.

Nova Scotia Assessments Coming Up in May for Students in Grades 3, 8

Later this month, students in Grades 3 and 8 will complete the Nova Scotia assessments. These assessments focus on math, reading and writing, providing a snapshot of student learning at the end of the school year (Grade 3 French Immersion students will only write mathematics assessments). Students have the opportunity to practice before writing the assessments, and documented adaptations students may have are available during the assessments. Results will be shared with families and teachers in the fall. At the school level, assessment data will help inform Student Success Planning, while classroom teachers will use the results to fine-tune their lessons to focus on the areas where students may need additional support to succeed.



O2 Students to Explore Career Paths at NSCC Overdrive

On May 8 and 9, over 150 grade 10 Options and Opportunities (O2) students from each high school will take part in Overdrive at NSCC Kingstec, to gain first-hand experience of the programs offered at NSCC, and to explore skills related to numerous career paths. Some of the workshops students will try include heavy duty mechanics, business, robotics, veterinary medicine, culinary, early childhood education, tourism, policing, entrepreneurship and trades.

Overdrive has been an ongoing partnership between AVRCE and NSCC for over 10 years, providing hundreds of students with the opportunity to chart a course for future success.

How Do Modern Classrooms Support Literacy Learning?

Classroom design is an important part of students' learning experience. Particularly at the elementary level, teachers consider not only how they teach, but also how a learning space can support literacy learning. *What does a modern literacy classroom look like?*

There is dedicated space for whole-group activities, such as teacher read-alouds, class discussions and mini-lessons. For small group activities, teachers often have another dedicated space with a small table and chairs. Flexible seating arrangements allow students to transition more easily between learning activities.

Anchor charts on classroom walls give students a visual guide to the key parts of a lesson, or a reminder of the steps required for a learning task.

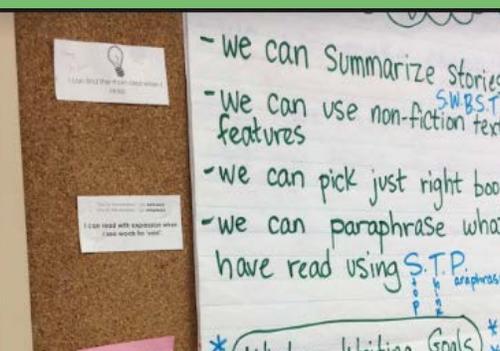
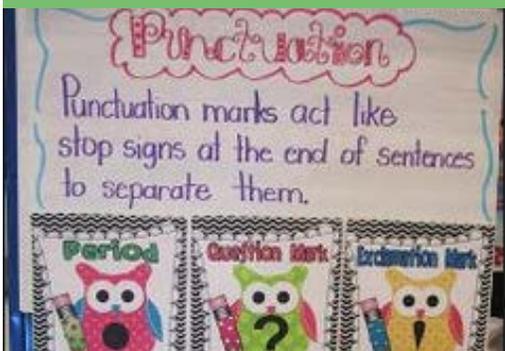
Learning targets are also posted in the classroom, giving students a clear picture of what they are learning. Often written as statements such as, "I can describe the author's message in a story," visible learning targets provide focus and motivation.

Word walls showcase alphabetic collections of frequently-used words students can refer to during reading and writing. Teachers model using the word wall to show students how they can use it, too.

Technology is part of all classrooms! Smartboards, chromebooks, tablets, digital projectors and document cameras are all part of daily learning, helping students to build skills for the future.

Of course, books are still a critical part of literacy learning! Classroom libraries allow students to explore different subjects, levels and genres. By choosing their own reading materials, students gain motivation and feel engaged in their learning.

All of these elements work together to provide the best learning experience possible and support students' literacy learning every day.



Student Success at Provincial Concours d'art oratoire

Following the regional competition in March, fifteen AVRCE students had the opportunity to put their French language public speaking skills to the test at the provincial Concours d'art oratoire at the end of April. After delivering speeches on a wide range of topics, from ice cream to climate change, seven AVRCE students placed in the top three within their respective categories. Congratulations to all provincial Concours participants for demonstrating your skills and rising to this challenge!

Grade 5/6 Core French: Isla Chiasson, AEES (Gold), Bella Selig, LESES (Silver)

Grade 5/6 Early Immersion: Claire Waterbury, KCA (Silver)

Grade 7/8 Core French: Ryleigh Lake, KCA (Gold), Casey Fraser, KCA (Silver)

Grade 7/8 Early Immersion: Carmen Peng, EMS (Gold)

Grade 11/12 Core French: Charlotte Peng, HHS (Silver)



Exploring Cultures, History at Regional Heritage Fair

On May 3, over 100 students in grades 4 to 9 took part in the annual Regional Heritage Fair. They presented 96 projects on a wide range of topics related to local history, family traditions, and the cultures and heritage of Nova Scotia and Canada.

The Regional Heritage Fair is a chance for students to explore and celebrate Canada's unique heritage and cultural diversity, and to engage in deep learning about subjects that students find interesting or personally relevant. During the Heritage Fair, students share their research through project displays and presentations to guest judges. Top projects are selected to proceed to the provincial Heritage Fair, and several awards recognize outstanding projects in specific subject areas. Regional Heritage Fair participants also take part in educational workshops on culture, language, art and local history.

Jonah Pashley (GES, "Maple Syrup"), Aubreyana Taylor (WHMS, "Run of the Mill"), Ella Cuvilier (HS, "Maple Syrup"), Ashlynn Oikle (WHMS, "Halifax Explosion"), Grady Hollis (SDES, "Hunting in Nova Scotia") and Kaylee Harding (WHMS, "Louis Riel") will be sharing their projects at the provincial Heritage Fair in June. Congratulations to all Regional Heritage Fair participants, and thank you to the organizers for an engaging day of learning!



West Kings Student Receives Minister's Entrepreneurship Award

West Kings District High School student Gabriel Baker is one of three students to receive the 2019 Minister's Entrepreneurship Award of Excellence, following a pitch event in April. Baker's company, 3dMEnow, offers custom three-dimensional portraits, statues and sculptures, and was recognized in the award's Technology category. As part of his award, Baker will receive \$1,000 and mentorship to develop his business.



Four AVRCE Students Going to National Science Fair

Following the Regional Science Fair in April, four students have been selected to attend the Canada-Wide Science Fair, taking place this month in Fredericton, NB. Lucas Hilden (WHMS, *Une Aide Pour Agnosie Visuelle*), Jack Pemberton (WHMS, *Tidal Flow vs. No Tidal Flow*), Matthew Barbour and Daniel Duke (KCA, *How Clean is Your House?*) will be among the top 500 young scientists from across Canada competing for top honours.

Lieutenant Governor's Awards Recognize Outstanding Grade 11 Students



Each year, the Lieutenant Governor's Medals are awarded to two grade 11 students from each high school, in recognition of demonstrated leadership qualities, service to the school and community, and commendable academic standing. The following students received medals from the Honourable Arthur J. Leblanc, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, at a ceremony in Halifax on May 1. For details on these outstanding medallists, visit www.avrce.ca.

Annapolis West Education Centre:
Joe Cooper, Emma Rice

Avon View High School:
Maisie Gilbert, Jayce Phillips

Bridgetown Regional Community School:
Becky Lynn Foster

Central Kings Rural High School:
Grace Hall, Sophie Keddy

Horton High School:
Charlotte Peng, Michelle Song

Middleton Regional High School:
Tyler Baker, Rebekah Wade

Northeast Kings Education Centre:
Katherine Myers, Sylvie Lloyd

West Kings District High School:
Gabriel Baker, Meagan Strickland