



**Annapolis Valley**  
Regional Centre for Education

October  
2018

# Monthly Update

*from the AVRCE Acting Regional Executive Director of Education*

With September complete, the school year is well underway, with much to look forward to in October.

Over the last four weeks, our Transportation Division has been working hard to refine routes and make adjustments to our busing system. While this work is ongoing throughout the year, it is especially important early in the school year and I thank them for their extra efforts. At any time during the year, please call 902.538.4641 if you have busing questions.

The month ahead includes many special events and observances. October is Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia, beginning with Treaty Day on October 1. It is also Women's History Month. Please watch our Twitter account throughout the month for highlights of school activities around these observances.

I'm pleased to share that Derick Smith, a teacher from Annapolis West Education Centre, has recently been named the new AVRCE representative on the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions. I thank outgoing representative Reagan O'Hara his work on the Council.

I would also like to congratulate Maria Carty, Principal of Pine Ridge Middle School, on being selected as a representative to the newly-founded Public School Administrators Association of Nova Scotia.

At our September regional school administrators' meeting, we distributed items donated through the 89.3 K-Rock school supply drive. Thank you to 89.3 K-Rock, all who donated, and campaign sponsors Greenwood Mall, Kentville Nissan, R.D. Chisholm, Victory Credit Union, and Foodland in Middleton, Coldbrook, Berwick, and Kentville for supporting students.

Across the province, families of Pre-Primary-age children who live in an area that does not yet have a Pre-Primary Program can now access available spaces in neighbouring programs. Families can register for Pre-Primary anytime; for out-of-catchment families interested in Pre-Primary, please contact Amie DeLeavey, Pre-Primary Facilitator, at 902.538.4629. Inside, you'll see more information on available spaces for out-of-catchment families.

In the coming weeks, school communities can look forward to learning more about the recently announced provincial review of school busing, including opportunities to share your input. Also, schools are sharing information to help parents/guardians talk with children about cannabis, with the aim of reducing harm.

Dave Jones  
Acting Regional Executive Director of Education



St. Mary's Elementary students in 1-Cameron/Upton took math class outside, searching for patterns on the playground and making their own with found objects.

## Coming Up This Month

Mi'kmaq History Month  
Women's History Month

October 1  
Mi'kmaw Treaty Day

October 8  
Thanksgiving Day Holiday

October 9-19  
Nova Scotia Assessments: Grade 6  
Reading, Writing and Math

October 11  
International Day of the Girl

October 18  
Persons Day

October 19  
Common Early Dismissal

October 26  
Provincial Conference Day

## Get in Touch

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## New Positions in Place to Support Inclusive Education, Classroom Conditions, Pre-Primary and SchoolsPlus

In May, the province announced an investment in inclusive education, in response to the Commission on Inclusive Education's report, Students First. All positions resulting from that investment have been filled, and are actively supporting AVRCE students.

Position	Allocation	Assigned
Educational Assistants	6.0 FTEs	School-Based
Child and Youth Care Practitioners	4.0 FTEs	System-Based
Program Planning Specialists:		
• Autism	1.0 FTE	System-Based
• Resource	1.0 FTE	
• Behaviour	1.0 FTE	
Resource Teachers (Behaviour Support)	3.0 FTEs	School-Based
Parent Navigator	1.0 FTE	System-Based
School Psychologist	1.0 FTE	System-Based
Speech Language Pathologist	1.0 FTE	System-Based
Student Health Partnership Nurse	More time added to existing position	System-Based
West Hants Education Centre Middle Level Experiential Program		
• Teacher	1.0 FTE	School-Based
• Student Outreach Worker	1.0 FTE	

\* FTE = Full-time equivalent position

In addition, **11 new FTE high school teaching positions** have been filled as a result of investments made by the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions.



Other positions added through increased government support include **eight FTE Lead Early Childhood Educator positions and 11.5 FTE Early Childhood Educator positions** to staff Pre-Primary Programs, as well as **two SchoolsPlus Student Outreach Workers**.

## Access to Pre-Primary Programs Increased Through Out-of-Catchment Availability

Families who live in an area where the Pre-Primary Program is not offered can now apply for available spaces in neighbouring programs. To apply, please contact Amie DeLeavey at 902.538.4629.

School	Spaces
Cambridge & District Elementary	6
Clark Rutherford Memorial School	7
Dr. Arthur Hines School	2
Lawrencetown Consolidated School	3
L.E. Shaw Elementary School	2
Three Mile Plains District School	1

\* As of October 2, 2018

## Did You Know?

In 2018-2019, there are 12,861 students enrolled in AVRCE schools, supported by 467 part-time and 1,451 full-time staff members.



## CES School Garden Harvest

Potatoes and squash were on the menu at Champlain Elementary School recently, as students helped prepare vegetables harvested from the school garden.



## Calling All Grandparents! SchoolsPlus Group for Grandparents Raising or Helping to Raise Grandchildren

Grandparents who are raising or helping to raise grandchildren are invited to drop in for coffee, tea and discussion about the important role you play!

The SchoolsPlus Grand Love group meets every second Tuesday (next meeting October 9), 10 am -12 pm at the Berwick Town Hall. If you need childcare or have questions, call 902.538.4726.

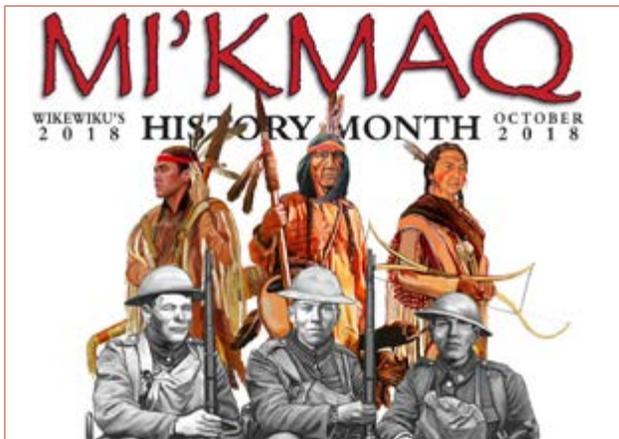
## Culturally Responsive Pedagogy Training: AVRCE Staff Ready to VABB!

On Tuesday, September 18, AVRCE teachers, educational assistants, school secretaries, administrators, cafeteria workers, consultants, mentors, APSEA and regional staff met for a day of Culturally Responsive Pedagogy (CRP) training with Dr. Sharroky Hollie at the Acadia University Arena.

This training encouraged staff to examine how we relate to students, families and school communities. Supported by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, similar sessions are taking place across the province.

Throughout the day, Dr. Hollie discussed how validating and affirming cultural elements—including deeper, invisible elements like values, attitudes, and communication patterns—opens a path to building connections with school and classroom culture. The goal of this Validate-Affirm-Build-Bridge (VABB) approach is to engage students, create a sense of belonging at school, and give students the love and care they deserve.

Our regional CRP team, made up of teachers and regional staff, began this work last year. The knowledge staff have gained will benefit our daily interactions with students, families, colleagues and others in our school communities, to advance our goals of supporting student achievement and ensuring schools are inclusive, equitable and welcoming places for everyone.



## October: Treaty Day and Mi'kmaq History Month

October is Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia, starting with Treaty Day on October 1. During October, schools will hold special events to recognize this month, in addition to learning about Mi'kmaq culture throughout the year. Mi'kmaq History Month 2018 commemorates *sma'knisk*, the Mi'kmaq warriors and soldiers who fought in World War I. More than 200 Mi'kmaq *sma'knisk* from across Atlantic Canada enlisted to serve; at least 89 were from Nova Scotia. They chose to serve a country that did not recognize them as citizens, and risked their First Nation status during enlistment, as one could not be a Canadian citizen and have status as a First Nation person at this time. *Wela'liek sma'knisk*, we honour you for your courage and dedication that protected generations to come.

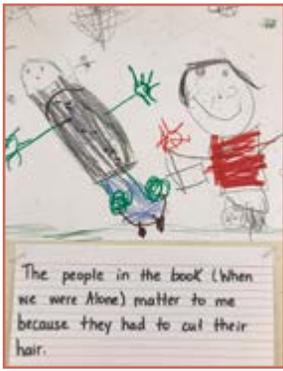
## Pink Shirt Day: Standing Up for Safe, Inclusive Schools

Thursday, September 13 was Stand Up to Bullying Day in Nova Scotia. Students and staff across our region wore pink to show their support for safe, inclusive schools, and to demonstrate that kindness and respect matter not just on this special day, but all year long.

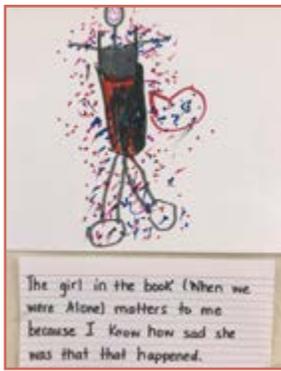


## Women's History Month in October

Women's History Month is recognized in October across Canada. This year's theme is #MakeAnImpact, celebrating the women and girls in Canada who have made an impact as leaders, activists, academics and decision-makers. This month includes the International Day of the Girl on October 11, and Persons Day on October 18, marking the day in 1929 when Canada's highest court of appeal handed down a decision to include women in the legal definition of "persons" (although not all women were afforded the same legal rights after this, notably Indigenous women who did not have voting rights until the 1960s).



The people in the book (When we were Alone) matter to me because they had to cut their hair.



The girl in the book (When we were Alone) matters to me because I know how sad she was that that happened.

## Orange Shirt Day: Recognizing the Impact of Residential Schools

Orange Shirt Day is held nationally on September 30, an annual recognition of the impact of Canada's residential school system, including the Shubenacadie Residential School in Nova Scotia (1929-1967), on Indigenous children and families. Schools honoured this important day on Friday, September 28, and in some cases, on October 1. Orange Shirt Day is one way schools support Truth and Reconciliation by honouring survivors and those who were lost, listening to their stories, and affirming that "Every Child Matters" even if they are now adults.



## School Bus Safety Training

Throughout September, school bus drivers and Transportation Division staff delivered school bus safety training to all elementary students in our region.

This training includes a presentation and bus evacuation practice, so students are familiar with these procedures in case of emergency.



## Three Mile Plains Students Meet Nova Scotian Authors

Three Mile Plains Elementary School students who take part in the school's African Nova Scotian Literacy Program had the opportunity to meet two notable authors on a recent trip to Africville.

The students, who also participate in the Student Support Worker Program, attended the launch of Shauntay Grant's book, *Africville*. Each student received a signed copy of the book, then had the chance to talk one-on-one with Ms. Grant.

During the book launch, the students also met former Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Mayann Francis, who is also a children's book author.

## NSISP-AVRCE Welcomes 204 Students from 21 Countries

The Nova Scotia International Student Program (NSISP) in AVRCE welcomed 204 students to our region in September, representing 21 countries.

To help new international students get acquainted, NSISP hosted two orientation sessions at Camp Brigadoon last month. This gave students an opportunity to get to know each other, and to try some activities—like kayaking and canoeing—for the first time. Many students even braved the cool fall weather for a swim in Aylesford Lake!

A warm welcome to all international students, and thank you to homestay families and NSISP-AVRCE staff for providing an excellent educational and cultural experience!



## Questions/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](http://www.avrce.ca/parentguardian-concerns).