

The New Minas Elementary School Imani Drummers, supported by Educational Assistant Phyllis Currie and Student Support Worker Lawrence Parker, shared their drumming talents and knowledge with members of the Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights Committee in February. The group also visited several schools in February to demonstrate the beats and patterns they've been practicing, after learning the basics from Dr. Henry Bishop.



## Superintendent's Monthly Report

*Working Together for Students*



It was an honour to take part in African Heritage Month celebrations across the region in February, including the annual African Youth Talent Show. The skills of

the student performers were impressive and very much appreciated by the full house at the Horton High School Performance Centre. Thank you to our Student Support Workers and Native Student Advisors for helping students prepare for this event, and special thanks to Kelly Holleman and Lawrence Parker for coordinating the show.

Board Chair Lavinia Parrish Zwicker, Board Member Peter Cromwell and I were invited to attend the Annapolis County Council meeting at the Inglewood Community Hall in Inglewood, in recognition of African Heritage Month. Students from Bridgetown Regional Community School were also at the meeting: Bryonna and Taylor Gannon performed Lift Every Voice, the Black National Anthem, and Daevon Gannon

and Student Support Worker Carmelita Johnson performed a reading. Other students attended to learn more about Council business. At the meeting, the Board Chair recognized the special connection between BRCS and Dr. Edith Hope Cromwell, an advocate for race relations and equity in public education who successfully lobbied for her students in Inglewood to be bused to school in Bridgetown. Plaques were presented to Hazel Johnson, sister of Dr. Cromwell, and Elnora Lake, Jean Jackson and Elaine Mitchell, who were among the first students from Inglewood to attend school in Bridgetown.

It is anticipated that the provincial Commission on Inclusive Education will announce its report on later this month, following consultations with numerous groups across the province.

In late February, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development visited AVRSB to meet with teachers and principals, School Advisory Council members, and senior management. These meetings were in response to

Dr. Avis Glaze's "Raise the Bar" report. Stemming from this report, government introduced the *Education Reform Act* on March 1. This legislation, once passed, calls for the dissolution of governing school boards as of March 31, 2018.

I want to acknowledge our current and former board members for their dedication to students and families. In their governance role, they have not only provided a strong voice for the communities they represent, but have made prudent, informed decisions that consider the region and system as a whole. Thank you for the collaboration and professionalism you have brought to our organization. We are stronger because of your diversity, collegiality and thoughtful approach to supporting education.

*Thank you, wela'lin and merci,*

*Roberta*

Roberta Kubik, Superintendent

### Upcoming Events and Important Dates



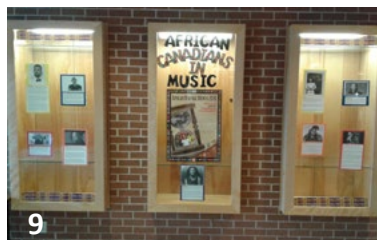
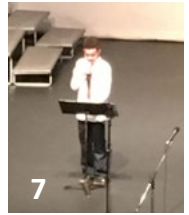
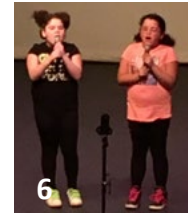
- March 8 International Women's Day
- March 12-16 Spring Break
- March 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- March 21 World Down Syndrome Day
- March 30 Good Friday Holiday

### What's inside:

- African Heritage Month Highlights
- RCH Division and Communities Meet to Build Connections
- Great Big Crunch
- GOMI Day at Acadia
- DEECD Rep Meets with Admin to Discuss Draft PSP Changes

# African Heritage Month Highlights

In February, students and staff celebrated African Heritage Month through special events, celebrations and school activities in honour of this year's theme, *Educate, Unite, Celebrate Community*.



1. Three Mile Plains District School P/1 students designed necklaces inspired by the patterns and colours of African art. 2. Students had many questions about the cultural artefacts Vanessa Fells from the Black Loyalist Heritage Society discussed in her presentation at Port Williams Elementary School. 3. Kingston and District School students learned some new moves from members of the Maritime Centre for African Dance. 4. Student art inspired by many different African art styles was on display at Kings County Academy. 5. In keeping with the theme of African Heritage Month, Central Kings Rural High School grade 6, 10 and learning centre students worked together to create an educational display for their school community. 6. Maesha and Maliyah from Glooscap Elementary School performed a song at the African Youth Talent Show. 7. Coltrane from Wolfville School wrote and delivered a speech on important historical figures of African descent at the African Youth Talent Show. 8. A highlight of the African Youth Talent Show is the choir, comprising students from Evangeline Middle School, Aldershot Elementary School, Kings County Academy, New Minas Elementary School, Wolfville School and Port Williams Elementary. To open the show, the choir performed the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." 9. Student Support Worker Tristan Sampson and Library Technician Perrine Rozee created a display on African Canadians in Music for West Kings District High School. 10. L.E. Shaw Elementary School students made art in the style of Korhogo cloth, a hand-painted cloth art form originating from the Senufo people of Korhogo, Côte d'Ivoire.

## RCH Division and Communities Meet to Highlight NSA Program, Build Connections



On February 28, Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights Coordinator Krishinda McBride and Mi'kmaq Education Consultant Carrie Gloade welcomed representatives from Glooscap First Nation, Annapolis Valley First Nation and the Native Council of Nova Scotia to a lunch and informal meeting. The event was held to strengthen connections between AVRSB and communities, and to highlight the Native Student Advisor (NSA) Program. NSAs Kelly Holleman, Katelyn Melanson, Lisa Hurlburt and Pam Durling gave a presentation outlining the supports and cultural activities they offer to students.

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## KCA, NKEC and Horton Students Take Part in GOMI Day at Acadia University



On February 23, 48 students from NKEC, KCA and Horton High School took part in a day of environmental education with the Gulf of Maine Institute, hosted at Acadia University. Students learned about the threats that plastics and invasive species pose to marine ecosystems. They also learned about water and a sense of "place" from a Mi'kmaq cultural perspective, through artist Gerald Gloade. Horton teacher Tracy Webb facilitated a "Climate Cafe"

where students reflected on their "place" and the impacts climate change may have on it now or in future. Students say they gained many insights and inspiration to take action on important environmental issues.

## Great Big Crunch Promotes Healthy Eating, Local Food

The Great Big Crunch is a national event to promote healthy eating and highlight local produce. On March 1, students at Port Williams Elementary, L.E. Shaw Elementary, Evangeline Middle School (March 2), Three Mile Plains District School, plus elementary and middle school administrators, AVRSB staff, and Nova Scotia Health Authority staff with Healthy School Communities all took a bite of delicious local apples at the same time as part of a cross-Canada "crunch". Thank you to Stirling Fruit Farms and Noggins Corner Farm for donating apples!



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Diane Racette from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development met with school administrators on March 1 and 2 to share proposed draft changes to the provincial Public School Program.