

In August, 27 new teachers took part in New Teacher Support Program Orientation, offered by Programs and Services staff.

Orientation included presentations by RCH Division staff on equitable practices and supports available for students and families.



Superintendent's Monthly Report

Working Together for Students

Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year!



The beginning of September is always an exciting time for students and staff as we reconnect with friends and colleagues after the summer break, and

look forward to a successful year of learning and new connections.

There has been much happening over the summer in preparation for the 2017-2018 school year. Operations Division staff have been busy with projects to refresh and upgrade schools, and to ensure Bridgetown Regional Community School is ready to welcome P-12 students. Regional staff prepare and plan for the year ahead, and many teachers and support staff have taken their own time to upgrade their knowledge and skills. I invite you to take a look in this report for details on these initiatives.

The AVRSB Education Business Plan was

approved by the governing Board in June 2017, and has been submitted to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. We continue to focus on three goals:

- To improve student achievement
- To strengthen safe and inclusive school environments
- To enhance race relations, cross cultural understanding and respect for human rights.

All Nova Scotia school boards share goals on student achievement and safe and inclusive school environments. Our RCH goal is specific to AVRSB. Our Education Business Plan can be viewed at www.avrsb.ca/governance.

In late August we welcomed Pre-Primary Facilitator Amie DeLeavey, and our hiring process for Early Childhood Educators is well underway. We will have four Pre-Primary sites across the region: Clark Rutherford Memorial School's Early Years Centre is now a

Pre-Primary site, with programming set to start in early September, while three new sites at St. Mary's Elementary School, Three Mile Plains District School and Dr. Arthur Hines School are expected to be ready to welcome four-year-olds and their families by the end of the month.

We are looking forward to the fall sitting of the legislature and possible passage of a provincial budget, which will enable us to move forward in our own budget process. The work of the provincial Council to Improve Classroom Conditions will resume soon, and the Commission on Inclusive Education will begin its consultations with Nova Scotians in the fall. We will share information on these initiatives as it becomes available to us.

Thank you, wela'lin and merci.

Roberta

Roberta Kubik, Superintendent

Upcoming Events and Important Dates



- September 14 Provincial Stand Up Against Bullying Day
- September 20 Common Early Dismissal
- September 29 Regional Shutdown Day (no school)
- September 30 Orange Shirt Day: Recognizing the Impact of Residential Schools

What's inside:

- Orange Shirt Day: September 30
- Meet AVRSB's SSWs and NSAs
- Summer Maintenance, Renovations and Projects
- School Administrators Meet at Annapolis Valley First Nation
- BRCS Opening, Wolfville School Reopening
- Summer Institutes

Orange Shirt Day: September 30



For the first time across the province, **Apiksiktuqñ (Orange Shirt Day)** will be recognized on September 30. Everyone is encouraged to wear orange in recognition of the harm caused to Indigenous children by Canada's residential school system. To learn why the colour orange was chosen, read the story of Phyllis, a residential school survivor: www.orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story.html.

This day is an affirmation of our commitment to the well-being of all children. It is also an opportunity to open up conversations around Treaty Education and how each of us is part of the reconciliation process. Information on the date of Orange Shirt Day observances in AVRSB will be shared with schools and on www.avrsb.ca.

Stand Up to Bullying Day will be on September 14. This is a date to highlight our goal of safe and inclusive schools and communities for everyone.

Meet AVRSB's Student Support Workers and Native Student Advisors

The Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights (RCH) Division, under direction of RCH Coordinator Krishinda McBride, has welcomed a new Native Student Advisor. Lisa Hurlburt will be working with students, families and staff in western Annapolis County. There are now four Native Student Advisors (NSAs) in AVRSB, supervised by Mi'kmaq Education Consultant Carrie Gloade, and eight Student Support Workers (SSWs). Native Student Advisors are Lisa Hurlburt, Kelly Holleman, Pam Durling and Katelyn Melanson. Student Support Workers are Tracey Clements, Carmelita Johnson, Sharmay Beals-Wentzell, Tristan Sampson, Tara Davidson, Lawrence Parker, Shawn Johnson and Corlette Mullings.



Summer Maintenance, Renovations and Projects

Our dedicated Operations Department staff have been working hard all summer to ensure schools are well maintained and thoroughly cleaned for returning students and staff. The complete list of summer projects is too long to include here, but some highlights include deep cleaning and floor stripping and waxing in all schools; painting in various schools, grounds work at Lawrencetown Consolidated School, Coldbrook and District School and Wolfville School, fencing at West Kings District High School; cafeteria upgrades at Clark Rutherford Memorial School and Brooklyn District Elementary, office renovations at Coldbrook and District and Falmouth District, brick repair at Annapolis West Education Centre, wireless upgrades in several schools, and much more. Thank you to all Operations Department staff and contracted service providers for your excellent work this summer!



Falmouth District School office renovations.

School Administrators Meet at Annapolis Valley First Nation

Our first Administrators' Meeting of the 2017-2018 school year was held at Annapolis Valley First Nation (AVFN). It was an honour to be welcomed by AVFN Education Counselor Tassa Kennedy and to connect with the community. The day included a cultural presentation and dreamcatcher-making session led by Sarah McDonald, Mi'kmaq Cultural Educator. Wela'liq, thank you and merci to Annapolis Valley First Nation for welcoming us as we start the new school year!



Top photo: Sarah McDonald (seated) demonstrates how to make a dreamcatcher.

BRCs Opening and Wolfville School Reopening Ceremonies



Bridgetown Regional Community School

An official opening ceremony is being planned for Bridgetown Regional Community School, the new P-12 school opening to students on September 7. The school community will be invited to take part in these opening celebrations this fall once a date is confirmed.

A re-opening ceremony will take place for Wolfville School, following 18 months of extensive renovations to this P-8 school. Students, staff and families have been very understanding as classes continued throughout the renovation period. We look forward to welcoming the school community on October 20.



Moving electrical supplies out of Wolfville School to prepare for September.

Further details on both events will be shared via school websites and the AVRSB website.

Summer Institutes

In August, 118 teachers took part in 15 Summer Institute professional development sessions at Regional Office, to offer new approaches and practices for the classroom. Many more teachers participated in professional development sessions offered at the provincial level. AVRSB's New Teacher Support Program Orientation session also took place at the end of August, to give 27 new teachers a strong start to the school year.

Many thanks to all teachers who volunteered their time to increase their skills this summer, and to the session facilitators, coordinators and support staff who made these learning opportunities possible.



Hands-on collaboration at the Classroom Management session, August 30.