

June
2018

Monthly Update

from the AVRCE Regional Executive Director of Education

Welcome to the Regional Executive Director's Monthly Update for June 2018. I am honoured to present this report as Acting Regional Executive Director of Education, following the announcement of Roberta Kubik's resignation in May. I sincerely thank Ms. Kubik for her leadership and expertise over her time as Superintendent and Regional Executive Director.

Earlier this month, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development Zach Churchill, announced a significant investment in inclusive education supports in response to the report of the Commission on Inclusive Education. The total investment is \$15 million for the province, to be implemented in the 2018-2019 school year. In our region, this investment will result in six Educational Assistant positions, three Behaviour Support Teachers, one Parent Navigator to help families learn how to access programs and assist learning at home, and two School Psychologist positions.

It was a pleasure to welcome Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, Cathy Montreuil, to our region at the end of May. During her visit, she met with all Principals and Vice Principals, to learn more about our region and share her vision of leadership.

With the end of the school year fast approaching, I extend sincere congratulations to our graduating students for reaching a significant milestone in your education, and best wishes for the next stage in your learning and growth. I congratulate all students for working hard to succeed this year, and thank every teacher and staff member for supporting our students throughout the year. Enjoy a safe, happy and well-earned summer vacation!



Dave Jones
Acting Regional Executive Director of Education

AVRCE Website, Emails

On June 4 our email addresses, website address and Twitter handle changed to reflect our AVRCE identity.

Our website address is www.avrce.ca and all "@avrsb.ca" email addresses are now "@avrce.ca." For the next year, we'll redirect you to the right place! Find us on Twitter @AVRCE_NS.

Coming Up This Month:

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| June | National Indigenous History Month | June 21 | National Indigenous Peoples Day |
| June 6 | Common Early Dismissal | June 26-27 | High School Marking Days |
| June 18 | NS Virtual School Exams | June 28 | Elementary/ Middle School Marking Day |
| June 19-22 | High School Exams | June 29 | Last Day of School |



Skilled Trades students at Bridgetown Regional Community School have been putting their knowledge into action by building storage sheds for our Pre-Primary Program sites.



Parents/Guardians Can Now Check School Bus Info Online

When report cards go home this month, families will receive a card encouraging them to check school bus information online before September 2018 using the BusPlanner Web Parent Portal at www.transportation.avrce.ca

For students continuing at the same school in September, families can check anytime. We encourage them to do so, because bus routes can change from year to year. For students moving from elementary to middle school or middle to high school, updated school bus information will be available after August 15. If you have questions or you are moving to a new address, please contact Transportation staff over the summer at 902-538-4641 or 1-800-850-3887.

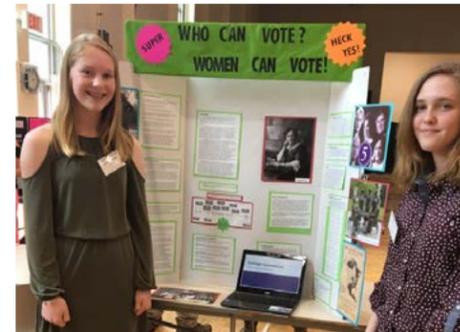


Students Explore History, Cultures at Regional Heritage Fair

The Regional Heritage Fair was held on May 4 at NSCC Kingstec, with 83 students in grades 4 to 9 taking part. Overall, 74 projects were on display, showcasing students' research on a wide range of topics related to local history, family traditions, and the cultures and heritage of Nova Scotia and Canada.

During the Heritage Fair, students share their research through displays and presentations to guest judges. Students also have the opportunity to learn from a keynote speaker and participate in educational workshops. This year's keynote address was by author Andria Hill-Lehr, speaking about Mona Parsons, a woman from the Annapolis Valley who was a member of the resistance movement in World War II.

Following the Regional Heritage Fair, participants who were selected for Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, and the Local History Award recipient were invited to take part in the Provincial Heritage Fair at St. Mary's University on May 31 and June 1. We look forward to hearing about the Regional Heritage Fair experience soon.



Administrative, Instructional and Operational Staff Service Recognition

On May 23 we honoured Administrative, Instructional and Operational staff who have attained 5 to 40 years of service, as well as those who are retiring. Thank you to the Educational Assistants, Library Technicians, Student Supervisors, Bus Drivers, Mechanics, Custodians, Janitors, School Secretaries and Tradespeople honoured on May 23 for your years of dedicated service!

MRHS Student, CK Girls B-Ball Team Receive Respectful Citizenship Award

Congratulations to MRHS student Derek Smith on receiving the Lieutenant Governor's Respectful Citizenship Award in honour of his leadership and volunteer contributions at school and in the community. The Central Kings Senior Girls Basketball team also received an award for their dedication to the Unified Basketball Team at CKRHS, which brings together players with and without intellectual disabilities to enjoy the game and build friendships.

CK and WK SSW Students Share Their Knowledge Through DBDLI Project
 This year, Central Kings and West Kings students in the Student Support Worker (SSW) Program have been part of leadership activities organized by the Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute. Starting with the Kuumba Project in the fall, students visited the Black Cultural Centre in Dartmouth to meet with elders and learn from their life experiences. Continuing with the YOUbuntu Africentric leadership and mentorship project, these students learned drumming from Dr. Henry Bishop, and spoken word poetry from Verena Rizg. To complete the project, the students facilitated a session for their elementary and middle level peers in the SSW program, focusing on dance and African descent cultures, including stomp dance lessons from musician and HRCE SSW Cyndi Cain. Thank you to SSWs Tristan Sampson and Tara Davidson, and DBDLI's Chanae Parsons for coordinating these events for our students!



MRHS Talking Stick Art Project

Working with Native Student Advisor Pam Durling, MRHS grade 6 students learned about and made talking sticks using the four sacred colours, then took part in a sharing circle using their talking sticks. Later, the students expressed thanks to Ms. Durling for sharing her knowledge by creating a dreamcatcher circle using their talking sticks, and reflecting on her message of respect and equality.



Face aux Questions Event Tests Students' French Language Skills

Central Kings Rural High School was buzzing with excitement on May 14 and 15 as more than 400 students in grades 7 to 12 gathered for the annual Face aux Questions French language trivia competition. Teams of students from across the region went head-to-head in this quiz game where all questions and answers are given in French. Teams are composed of students in grades 7 to 12 in Core French, Integrated French, Early Immersion and Late Immersion. This year featured 104 matches and over 3,300 questions!

This year's top teams are currently listed at www.avrce.ca. Thank you to the teachers who have helped students in taking part in Face aux Questions, and to parents/guardians for supporting students in learning a second language.



Four student scientists represented our region at the 2018 Canada-Wide Science Fair in May. Congratulations to Michelle Song (Horton High School) and William Ahern (Kings Edgehill School) on receiving bronze medals for their projects, and to Lucas Hilden (West Hants Middle School) and Shwetabh Jha (Horton High School) for representing the Annapolis Valley at the national level! Held at Carleton University, this trip to the Canada-Wide Science Fair gave all participants the chance to enjoy visiting and learning about Ottawa. Many thanks to the staff organizers and chaperones for making this science fair experience possible for students.