

PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES

Updates on Education, Innovation, Programs and Services

A Monthly E-Newsletter

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Supporting Student Achievement

English As An Additional Language: Shelley Gillingham has been hired for the 2017-18 school year as a Teacher Leader to support teachers of students who are English as an Additional Language Learners. Her priorities are to support and collaborate with teachers of EAL Learners by identifying resources and effective instructional practices. She also works with students from P-12 in one-on-one and small group settings to offer a variety of language learning opportunities. Students who would benefit from the support are identified by Program Planning Teams, who may submit a Referral for Services. Shelley may be contacted with questions, and requests for consults and student assessments at shelley.gillingham@srsb.ca or 902-631-4730.

Innovations to Support 21st Century Learning: Makerspaces are spaces in schools where making, creativity and innovation is encouraged. Makerspaces can look very different from school to school and contain materials and technology identified by the school to celebrate and grow students' interests. Through a partnership between the Strait Regional School Board, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and Brilliant Labs, schools are invited to submit applications early in the school year on an annual basis. This school year, Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre/Academy was awarded a grant to establish a school Makerspace, which will be developed by the school with support from the Board, EECD and Brilliant Labs in the form of materials, professional development, and assistance in developing and leading activities. Makerspace sites awarded previously through this partnership within the SRSB have included St. Andrew Junior School and Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough Academy, and are supported annually through grants to refurbish or replenish materials.

Supporting Excellence in Teaching

Effective January 12, 2018, teachers may apply through SRISDs to attend one or more conferences, workshops, seminars, webinars, institutes, clinics, certifications or modules to a maximum of \$1500 per school year. This change in process is in recognition of the varied models of professional learning that are available to teachers to support their professional growth. The professional development section of the SRSB Literacy Website has also been expanded to include "Opportunities for Online Professional Development." Many options are free and support balanced literacy instruction in the 21st century.

Strengthening Safe and Inclusive School Environments

Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy: In response to Recommendation #15 in the Commission on Inclusive Education report, *Turning Point*, a focus group of SRSB Teachers, School Administrators and Programs and Student Services staff participated in a regional consultation session with DEECD staff to provide feedback on ways the code could be expanded into a Safe and Inclusive Schools Policy. The broad perspectives shared by SRSB staff will help shape some necessary updates to the current policy.

Commission on Inclusive Education: Following a number of focus sessions within the Strait Regional School Board, feedback on inclusive education in Nova Scotia was submitted to the Commission on Inclusive Education on behalf of the following partner groups: Principals, Coordinators and Directors, Vice Principals, Regional Student Services Staff, Teacher Assistants and the Strait Regional School Board Governing Board. Additional feedback was also provided through Regional Consultation sessions in Stellarton and Sydney, and through individual submissions through an online survey. We appreciate our feedback being considered in the Commission's final recommendations.

What's New in Curriculum and Assessment?

CBHEC/A Teachers to Take Part in Pilot: French Immersion Teachers in grades primary to three at Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre/ Academy will pilot test the revised French Immersion P-3 curriculum in the Winter and Spring of 2018. Teachers will collaborate with staff from DEECD to make recommendations for revisions prior to introducing the revised curriculum to all P-3 teachers in Nova Scotia in September 2018. The participation from staff and administration of CBHEC/A is greatly appreciated!

The Nova Scotia Assessment: Reading, Writing, and Mathematics in Grade 8 is scheduled for May 2018. In preparation for this assessment, 146 grade 9 students from the SRSB are working with the Student Assessment and Evaluation Division of DEECD by taking part in a mathematics field test activity from December 4-20, 2017. Thank you to the following schools for supporting this initiative: Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough Academy, Dalbrae Academy, Dr. J.H. Gillis Regional High School, East Antigonish Education Centre/Academy, Fanning Education Centre/Canso Academy and St Mary's Education Centre/Academy.