

PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES

Updates on Education, Innovation, Programs and Services

A Monthly E-Newsletter

JANUARY 2019

Strait Regional Centre for Education Celebrates 20 Year Participation in Regional Science Fairs!



Grade 7 Students at CBHEC/A Working on Science Fair Projects

Across the world, education systems are incorporating inquiry-based learning models as ways to develop students knowledge and ability, not only in content areas, but in collaborative approaches to problem solving. In keeping with the United Nations Education Program and the mandate of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, students across the SRCE are involved in inquiry-based learning in many different subject areas through makerspaces, hours of code, Genius Hours and other opportunities provided by the educators of the SRCE. The opportunity for students to select the topics of interest and explore them as part of their overall learning strategies is a great way to encourage students to develop a love of learning and further enhance their curiosity about the world around them. Through a flexible approach to ideas in the classroom, teachers can develop flexible thinkers, who will be able to think, collaborate and create based upon their own curiosity.

Students have been participating in project-based research as part Science and Heritage Fair research for more than 20 years. This year will mark the 20th Strait Regional Science Fair. This event has celebrated student and teacher excellence in inquiry and has provided students with the opportunity to share what they have discovered with adults from across the region. Twenty (20) years of celebrating student inquiry, 20 years of shared knowledge and 20 years of excellence. The Strait Regional Science Fair Committee commends all of the teachers and students whose inquiring minds are developing new ways of teaching and learning. We hope to see some of you at the 20th Strait Regional Science Fair in April.

Teachers Continue to Participate in Self-identified Professional Learning



Teachers from across the Region selected inquiry-based learning to support their professional practice, under the leadership of Justin Fougere, Teacher at REC/A.

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Supporting Students in Oral Language Development



In June 2018, the Speech-Language Pathologists in the SRCE (Sheri Lambourne, Nicole Corkum, Stephanie Brushett and Leanne Lowther) received a PDAF grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 for their project "Talking in Two's: Setting up the Classroom for Purposeful Talk". The SLP's have noted that increasing number of children are entering the school system with weak oral language, making the focus on opportunities to promote purposeful talk in the classroom crucial. This project supports teachers by helping them set up their classrooms for greater oral language opportunities. Fifteen (15) elementary schools within the SRCE will be provided with oral language kits at the end of January for their primary classrooms. Kits contain materials targeting oral description, turn-taking, sentence formulation, question comprehension and vocabulary growth. The SLP's within the SRCE will provide training in the use of these materials which will ensure greater opportunities for "purposeful-talk" within our primary classrooms.

Resources to support oral language development have been provided to all teachers in Grades P-3. Follow this link to learn more— <https://sites.google.com/gnspes.ca/letsgettalking/home?pli=1&authuser=1>.

Self-identified, School-based Professional Learning Series—Semester 2

The SRCE Programs Team has forwarded a professional development survey to all teachers throughout the Region. A complete description of each workshop is found in the electronic survey.

Featured professional learning options include:

- ⇒ Mental Health 101
- ⇒ Math Strategies (Grades 5-8 Teachers)
- ⇒ High Impact Instructional Strategies
- ⇒ Culturally Responsive Pedagogy: Next Steps
- ⇒ Oral Language Development and Play Based Learning

Please complete and submit the survey by Thursday, January 30, 2019.

Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

Self-identified School Based Professional Learning—Teachers will be contacted directly with scheduled dates.

Neurolinguistic Approach to Teaching French—January 24—25, 2019

Know Before You Go & Girls Group: Train the Trainer—February 15, 2019

Kairos Blanket Exercise for VPs & Guidance—February 28, 2019

The 2019 African Heritage History Challenge is open to all students and classes in Nova Scotia. Further details can be accessed in the link below:

<https://dbdli.ca/events/the-2019-african-nova-scotian-history-challenges/>

Stay tuned for upcoming events to recognize African Heritage Month in February!

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**THANK YOU Students and Staff Throughout the SRCE
For Your Service to Others!**

Students and staff of all grades throughout the region have been busy cutting, sanding and drilling *OllieBots* to support Oliver Smith, a student at SAJS, and his family in their commitment to raise awareness and funds to support Ewing Sarcoma research. Through this project initiated by the Smith family, 1,260 Olliebots have been produced in one year and sales have resulted in a contribution of close to \$25,000 to the Ewings Cancer Foundation of Canada Endowment Fund. (ewingscancer.ca). Funds have also been provided through their efforts to support other local families living with serious childhood illnesses.

Donations of wood, hockey laces, helmet decals, hockey stickers from local teams and professional hockey teams have been received and now Olliebots can be made using any logo.

The help of our SRCE “family” will greatly support the Smith’s in their goal of funding further research into this rare childhood cancer. What a fantastic demonstration of citizenship!

Donate/Purchase an Olliebot: www.olliebots.com

Email: olliebots02@gmail.com

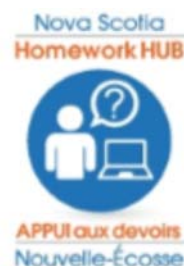


Left: Students and staff at Fanning Education Centre/Canso Academy prepare OllieBots for shipment.

Right: Oliver Smith poses proudly with the finished product!

Nova Scotia Homework Hub

The Nova Scotia Homework Hub is an online platform that offers resources and free tutoring for students enrolled in Grade 9-12 mathematics courses. Students can have a 1:1 session with a tutor, in French or English, via an online whiteboard, or by calling in on the phone at 1-844-243-9428. Tutors are available from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. Students can also access additional learning resources that include video lessons, practice exercises, quizzes with instant feedback, digital versions of the mathematics textbooks, where available, and a graphing calculator. The Homework Hub can be accessed by logging in with your gnspe account by clicking on the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon located in the Students section of the SRCE website.



Attn: SRCE STUDENTS IN MATH Gr. 9-12: Exams begin this week (Jan. 24/19). NS Homework Hub will have extended hours, 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., from January 21-30, 2019.

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