

# PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES

Updates on Education, Innovation, Programs and Services

A Monthly E-Newsletter

MAY 2018  
ISSUE 6

## Supporting Excellence in Teaching

### SRCE Literacy Strategy

The five Speech-Language Pathologists of the Strait Regional Centre for Education have much to celebrate during Hearing and Speech Month! Sheri Lambourne, Nicole Corkum, Leanne Lowther, Paige Cameron and Allyson Trainor have just been awarded a \$5,000.00 PDAF grant entitled: *Talking in Two's: Setting up the Classroom for Purposeful Talk*. This project responds to the need to support the oral language skills of many students entering Grade Primary, and addresses one of the priority areas in the SRCE Literacy Strategy. Creating more opportunities for speaking and listening by promoting purposeful talk in the classroom is crucial. All elementary schools within the SRCE will be receiving "oral language kits" comprised of materials targeting oral description, turn-taking, sentence formulation, question comprehension and vocabulary/word knowledge growth. These materials may be used in small group settings or in centers. Teachers may monitor the progress of their students by completing qualitative speaking and listening profiles (via a checklist), thereby tracking the efficacy of this project. Thanks to all for initiating this innovative approach and for supporting the literacy development of our students!

### SRCE Mental Health Strategy



Dr. Stan Kutcher presented a session to all Principals, Vice Principals and Regional Programs staff focusing on mental health literacy and promoting mental wellness with our students. Having a common understanding and using appropriate terminology related to mental health will serve as a foundation as we continue to develop priorities for the SRCE Mental Health Strategy in the 2018-2019 school year.

SRCE will be partnering with Dr. Kutcher and Dr. Chris Gilham, St. F.X., next year in expanding the implementation of "*Know Before You Go*", which was piloted in Dr. JH Gillis and EAEC/A this school year. This will enhance our support to high school students in maintaining good mental health as they transition from high school.

### Culturally Responsive Practices Strategy



All teaching and support staff at EAEC/A participated in a full-day training session focusing on *Restorative Approaches in Schools*, facilitated by Heather McNeil, Director of Island Community Justice Society and Lee-Ann Burke, Lead Team, Restorative Approaches for Schools. This training provided staff with culturally responsive strategies in facilitating positive relationships among students, peers and staff. Similar training will be offered throughout the Strait Region in the new school year.

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## What's New in Curriculum

### Four Schools in the SRCE to Pilot the Renewed Grade 7 and 8 Curricula

#### 2017-2018: Design Process

Teachers throughout the region committed significant time this school year to work on the redesign of grade 7 and 8 curricula in all subject areas (except mathematics). In addition, two teachers piloted Citizenship 9 prior to broad implementation of this new subject in September 2018. Special thanks is extended to the following teachers, whose knowledge and dedication will result in curricula that is accessible, responsive and engaging for all students:

Jeremy Samson—EREC  
Scott Mombourquette— EREC  
Kristen Ross—CBHEC/A  
Shawn Whitty—TEC  
Shari MacGillivray—SAJS  
Anthony MacPherson—SAJS  
Vicki MacLellan—WEC  
Laurie Baccardax—FMEC  
Lisa McNamara—TEC  
Deanna Martell—RECCA (Citizenship 9 Pilot)  
John Hendsbee—DA (Citizenship 9 Pilot)

#### 2018-2019: Pilot Year with Selected Schools/Teachers

The individual teachers involved in curricula renewal this year will also be piloting the renewed curriculum in their subject area in the 2018-2019 school year.

Additionally, administration and grade 7 and 8 teaching staff in four SRCE schools have also committed to piloting the renewed grade 7 and 8 curricula. During the 2018-2019 school year, pilot teachers/schools will be supported with workshops on the new curricula design, professional learning on inquiry based learning/project based methodology, online support networks, resources, collaborative teams, and online/in-person support from EECED. This exciting opportunity will enable many teachers in the SRCE to gain professional support, as well as provide further feedback on curricula design, resources, evaluation and reporting of the renewed outcomes prior to broader implementation in the 2019-2020 school year. We look forward to supporting the work of teachers in East Richmond Education Centre, Bayview Education Centre, St Andrew Junior School and Chedabucto Education Centre/ Guysborough Academy, and appreciate their commitment!

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## Supporting Student Achievement

Under the leadership of Deanna Martell and Justin Fougere, Discovering Opportunities 9 students at REC/A celebrated with residents and new friends from Richmond Villa as part of a student-led, inter-generational initiative that was launched in January. The objectives of increasing the ability to improve communication skills was far surpassed in this successful service learning project!



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