

PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES

Updates on Education, Innovation, Programs and Services

A Monthly E-Newsletter

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

Self-identified, School-based Professional Learning for Teachers

You Asked For it and We Responded!!

59 teachers in grades 4-6 responded to the PD survey sent to all schools! Based on your personal choices, 17 sessions are scheduled throughout SRCE schools on the topic of choice, including balanced literacy, guided reading and writing, inquiry, assessment for learning, study and organizational skills, word study and teaching for comprehension. Special thanks to Regional Programs and Student Services staff and classroom teachers for sharing their expertise and supporting the professional learning of their colleagues!!

On December 7, 2018, teachers from East Richmond Education Centre, Felix Marchand Education Centre and Richmond Education Centre/Academy collaboratively participated in professional learning on Balanced Literacy facilitated by Cathy DeCoste-Couture, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader and Wanda Fougere, Coordinator of Programs and Policy.



On December 10, 2018, teachers from Tamarac Education Centre participated in professional learning on Balanced Literacy facilitated by Literacy Mentor Ruth Ann Organ.

Thank you to teachers and facilitators for your commitment to the continuous improvement of classroom practice to positively affect student learning! Stay tuned for additional school-based learning opportunities in the New Year!

Promoting Good Mental Health and Pro-social Skills Development Across the SRCE!

St. Andrews Consolidated School Leadership Committee

Gerarda Bonvie (YSF teacher), Kirk Johnstone (Principal), Tyler Shea (CYCP) & Scott Goyetche (HPS/French Consultant) have developed a "leadership committee" that consist of grades 5 & 6 students to lead physically active games outside at recess to help reduce discipline issues, keep students active and enjoy recess time to the fullest as a part of their environmental goal for their student success plan. There were two training sessions for 70 students to review activities, rules, modifications, expectations, safety and strategies and techniques for getting students' attention. What a great proactive initiative focused on building relationships and leadership skills, and promoting positive social contact, exercise and helping others. All key determinants of good mental health!!



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Research Partnership Results in Expanded Programming to Support the Social-Emotional Skills and Well Being of Students in the SRCE!



The goal of ***Together We Can*** is to identify how adolescent girls feel about themselves in the world and help them build positive identities and other important empowering assets. The program was officially launched at St. F.X University on December 5. Pictured are partners Dr. Kara Thompson, St. F.X.; Dr. Chris Gilham, St. F.X.; Stephanie Ruckstuhl, NBCC; Wanda Fougere, Coordinator of Programs, SRCE; and Faye Fraser, SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker, SRCE.

As a result of a research project led by St. Francis Xavier University and the New Brunswick Community College, and a successful pilot supported by Nicolle MacIntyre, Guidance Counsellor, Tamarac Education Centre and Marie Kennedy, Guidance Counsellor, St. Andrew Junior School, the SRCE will continue this partnership to expand ***Together We Can***, a program focused on strategies and activities aimed at empowering young adolescent girls. Through professional learning and support to SRCE staff, we will be working towards increasing our capacity to offer these gender-specific programs on a broader scale as part of our focus on promoting good mental health!

Supporting Good Mental Health through Evidence-based Curricula



Healthy Living 9 teachers were provided with the necessary training to deliver the Mental Health supplement of the Healthy Living 9 curriculum. Marguerite MacGillivray, Marie Kennedy and Kim Grant were all involved in facilitating the training. In addition, we were fortunate to have three presenters Christina Cox (Healthy Relationships/Sexual Health), Andrea Donovan (Substance Use & Abuse) & Nancy MacKinnon (Nutrition) to help provide additional resources to our teachers on three different components from the curriculum.

Students at EAEC/A have welcomed a therapy dog named *Bella* as an additional support to students' social and emotional learning. Bella is registered through the St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dog Program and our Community Outreach Worker, Faye Fraser, is her handler. Bella is supporting all student learning through classroom visits and programs such as *Read to Spot*, as well as interactions with smaller groups of students as necessary.



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SRCE Principals, Coordinators and Students Continue with Their Learning in Culturally Responsive Practices



As one of the priority areas in our Culturally Responsive Practices Strategy, Principals and Regional Programs staff throughout the SRCE participated in the KAIROS blanket exercise at the Community Hall in Paqtnkek. This exercise builds understanding about our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. The blanket exercise was facilitated by staff of the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre and provided in partnership with the SRCE and the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre. This exercise will further assist us in providing leadership through a culturally responsive lens. Further opportunities to experience this unique history lesson are currently being planned.

Through a proposal developed by Dr. John Hugh Gillis High School for funding through the Mi'kmaw Services Division, Mi'kmaw students and families had the opportunity to learn how to make their own hand drums in a session led by Garrett Gloade from Millbrook First Nation. The workshop shared teachings of the origin of drum making, roles and responsibilities of a drummer, and making and caring for the drum. Included in the day was a smudging and drumming songs. It was a wonderful opportunity for students and families to enrich cultural values.



Whycomomagh Education Centre Inspires Us!



Whycomomagh Education Centre was one of the successful recipients of an Inspiring Schools Grant, provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Strategies to achieve their goal of **increasing student engagement by increasing culturally-relevant approaches that effectively serve the learning needs of all students** is showcased so that students can see their accomplishments and their cultural identities as valued within the school community.



From all SRCE Regional Programs and Student Services staff, we wish you a joyous Holiday Season. We look forward to continuing our work with you in 2019!

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