



DECEMBER · KESIKEWIKU'S · DECEMBRE · 2024



# REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education



## Students Give Back

Students in Mrs. Ross's Grade 1/2 class at Clark's Harbour Elementary School are making a difference this holiday season.

They raised enough money to pack and ship 10 shoeboxes filled with gifts for children around the world.

A special thank you to Brittany Wile for speaking with the class about Operation Christmas Child and for donating some items to our shoeboxes. Another special thank you to all who so generously donated.

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# Spotlight on Schools



Students in grade 2/3 at Forest Ridge Academy recently learned about the petroglyphs created by early Mi'kmaq people at Kejimikujik National Park and explored how these sacred carvings offer valuable insight into Mi'kmaq traditions and beliefs. They then practiced drawing some of their own (pictured above).

Islands Consolidated elementary students are pictured left creating holiday-themed art. The activity strengthened fine motor skills and built friendships across grade levels.



"A Little Bit Happy" - Weymouth Consolidated School [#cbcmusicclass](#)

Weymouth Consolidated School students were recently featured on CBC's Music Class segment. Check out their performance at the link above.

Yarmouth Elementary students show off the gifts they selected at the school's Santa Shop. The school would like to thank everyone who donated items, along with numerous volunteer gift wrappers and the set-up/take down crew (pictured left).



# Spotlight on Schools



Lockport Elementary School students are enjoying the new menu from the NS School Lunch Program! Pictured above are home made burgers with crunchy veggie sticks.

Digby Neck Consolidated School students are pictured here using speed stacks in their physical education class (pictured left).



Digby Regional High School recently opened their doors for an open house and progress conferences with families. The lobby was filled with displays from Options and Opportunities (O2), Digby Area Recreation, Nova Scotia Works, Prep Academy, IMHOTEP, DRHS Youth Health Centre and SchoolsPlus (pictured above).

Drumlin Heights Consolidated School elementary students recently had a presentation on Treaty education and Indigenous ways of life. They learned about medicine, language, and had an opportunity to participate in a smudging ceremony (pictured left).



## Pilot Project to Support Student Attendance

We are now into the second year of our project aimed at improving student attendance at Shelburne Regional High School, Digby Regional High School, and Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School. This initiative is led by Don Berry, a retired principal and experienced educator from the African Nova Scotian community, who will be providing targeted support to students from historically marginalized backgrounds.

Since the beginning of the school year, Don has been working closely with school staff at each site to identify students who would benefit most from the program. The schools he is working with have identified a few students each to receive personalized, one-on-one support designed to address the barriers that have impacted their attendance.

Don works with these identified students to develop strategies that will encourage more consistent attendance and help them stay engaged in their education. This tailored approach will focus on building strong relationships with the students and addressing the unique challenges they face. As the project moves forward, we will closely monitor the progress and adjust our approach as necessary to ensure the best outcomes for the students involved. This initiative is part of our broader commitment to promoting equity and inclusion within our schools.



Don Berry leads TCRCE's Attendance Support Program

# Staff OF THE MONTH

Each month, TCRCE staff are invited to nominate a staff member who fits the monthly theme. The theme for October was Climate and Culture. We are thrilled to introduce you to our October Staff of the month recipients.



Nessim Hanna (left) with Todd Wallace, TCRCE Coordinator of Information Systems and Technology Integration (right).

### Secondary Teacher - Nessim Hanna, Saint Mary's Bay Academy

*From Nomination:*  
Nessim has spent his entire career creating a climate and culture that students and staff of all ages at SMBA enjoy. He always has a friendly smile, stops to talk and say hello and genuinely asks how you are doing. He easily makes relationships with his students from grades 7-12 and even those he doesn't even teach. There is not a single student that has gone through SMBA that doesn't remember Mr. Hanna and have a fond story to share about him being their favorite teacher.



Leah Weare (right) with TCRCE Coordinator of Literacy, Katrina Mood (left).

### Elementary Teacher -

#### Leah Weare Hillcrest Academy

*From Nomination:*

Leah is an active member of our school and local community. At Hillcrest, Leah is always willing to help where she can and effortlessly recognizes, highlights and acknowledges other's successes, gains, and hard work along the way. Leah brings a sense of positivity and calmness to every situation. She is a guiding light for staff and students, an amazing mentor to her colleagues (new and seasoned) and always brings out the best in others.



Kayla Fells, African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker.

### Non-Teaching Staff -

#### Kayla Fells, ANS Student Support Worker, Drumlin & Meadowfields

*From Nomination:*

She is extremely dedicated to her students and provides them with a safe person to talk to and a safe space to access. She goes above and beyond with the students while they are in her care. She is welcoming, kind, understanding, extremely funny, and has a larger-than-life personality.

# Become A **HOST FAMILY**



**Tri-County**  
Regional Centre for Education





Wondering what it's like to host an international student in TCRCE? Hear first-hand from students and a long-time host in this video.



## How to Contact TCRCE

### School-Related Inquiries/Concerns?



1. The first point of contact should always be the child's teacher or Early Childhood Educator (ECE) for pre-primary children.
2. If the inquiry/concern is unresolved, families should always contact the school administration.
3. If the inquiry/concern is still unresolved, families are asked to contact TCRCE and will then be put in touch with the appropriate person.

 902-749-5818  
 [info@tcrce.ca](mailto:info@tcrce.ca)



### General Inquiries

 902-749-5696  
 [contact@tcrce.ca](mailto:contact@tcrce.ca)



### Transportation

 902-749-5663  
 [bussing@tcrce.ca](mailto:bussing@tcrce.ca)

### Pre-Primary Program

 902-749-5818  
 [preprimary@tcrce.ca](mailto:preprimary@tcrce.ca)

### School Closure/Weather

 1-888-833-5287  
 [weather@tcrce.ca](mailto:weather@tcrce.ca)