



REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education



February is African Heritage Month

Each February, Nova Scotia celebrates African Heritage Month, recognizing the important contributions and vibrant culture and history of African Nova Scotians.

This year's theme, Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance, highlights the achievements and resilience of African Nova Scotians, who have shaped the province's history for more than 400 years. The month-long celebration includes events and activities designed to educate, inspire and build connections across the province.

Schools throughout TCRCE will join in these celebrations and learning experiences. While we use February as an opportunity to highlight African Nova Scotian Heritage, we recognize that our responsibility to be culturally responsive and equitable, extends beyond this month and is a priority throughout the year.

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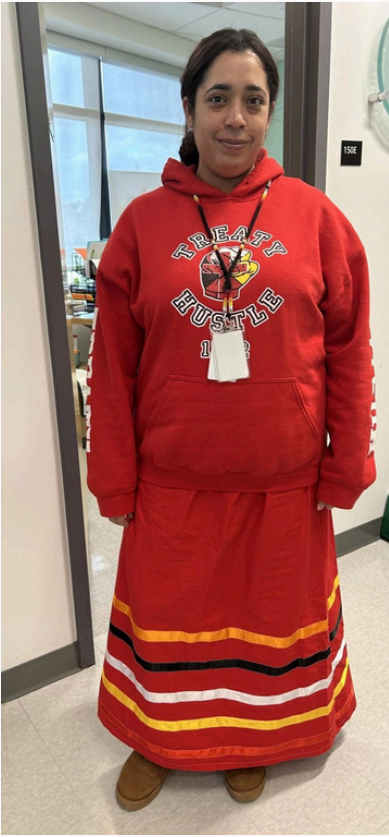


@TCRCENS



@TCRCE_NS

National Ribbon Skirt Day



National Ribbon Skirt Day, took place on January 4, and on January 3, staff and students were invited to honour Indigenous culture, resilience, and identity by wearing ribbon skirts.

This day originated from the 2020 incident involving Isabella Kulak, a young girl shamed for wearing a ribbon skirt, which led to the creation of National Ribbon Skirt Day through Bill S-227 in 2021.

Mi'kmaq Student Support Workers (Shantel Berry on the left and Kaylee Blair on the right) are shown here displaying their beautiful ribbon skirts.

Ribbon skirts are symbols of womanhood, strength, and connection to Indigenous traditions.



Members of the Yarmouth Junior A Mariners hockey team recently paid a visit to Plymouth School. The players spent time outside with the Primary-grade two students at recess and spoke to the upper grades about well-being, growth mindset, and never giving up!



YCMHS Co-op Program

Over the course of the first semester of school this year, 55 co-op students from Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School were able to experience and explore career options.

Thanks goes out to all the hosts for allowing students in their workplaces.

Pictured here are some YCMHS students in their co-op placements and exploring career opportunities.



NSCC - TCRCE Joint Collaboration

Senior staff from both NSCC and TCRCE have created a joint collaboration group with a goal of providing innovative ways for secondary students to connect differently with education. Some of the key themes being discussed include the following:

- Develop a sub-committee to plan joint professional learning opportunities between NSCC and TCRCE staff.
- Enhanced Test-Drive development for students in Grades 11 and 12 with the goal of providing a "day in the life of..." for each program.
- Pilot modules offered to YCMHS/SRHS and DRHS students, where faculty could provide modules either in the High School or have groups attend a day on campus (transportation was also discussed).
- Earlier access to the trades.
- Connecting with SACs regarding building awareness and understanding for parents regarding how postsecondary is different from public school.
- Digital Literacy and the importance of learning skills before leaving High School and entering post-secondary study.
- Sharing information about opportunities for students in schools and community connections (i.e., Summer Camps in the trades).

We look forward to expanding our partnership and sharing information on future developments.



Strengthening Local Voice

We are building on our commitment to strengthen local voice in the public education system and are pleased to share information on a number of upcoming community sessions designed to engage and collaborate with our local stakeholders.

Invitations to the following events have been sent to the local community and to members of the advisory councils.

- Community Connection Session 1- TBD (previous date was cancelled due to weather) Weymouth Fire Hall
- Community Connection Session 2 - Friday, February 7th, 2025 - 10:30am Rose Purdy Centre in Yarmouth
- Regional School Advisory Council - Monday, February 10th, 2025 - 6:00pm TCRCE Offices
- Student Advisory Council - Monday, February 24th, 2025 - 12:00pm (Virtual)

Staff OF THE MONTH

Each month, TCRCE staff are invited to nominate a staff member who fits the monthly theme. We are pleased to share the winners for November and December.

NOVEMBER RECIPIENTS

Theme: Relationships and Connections

Secondary Teacher -

Erin Emond, Yarmouth High

From Nomination:

Erin Emond, a dedicated teacher at YCMHS, recently co-organized an unforgettable Remembrance Day service that deeply resonated with the entire school community. Her leadership not only honored Canadian veterans but also provided an opportunity to highlight the contributions and experiences of Korean students, many of whom are international students, as well as members of the local Korean community.

Non-Teaching Staff -

Kara Cromwell, Teacher Assistant at MGEC

From Nomination:

Kara's dedication to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment at Maple Grove has a lasting impact on the lives of everyone around her. She is a shining example of what it means to build strong, meaningful relationships and create a community where everyone feels seen and supported.

Elementary Teacher -

**Alyssa Chetwynd
Lockeport Elementary School**

From Nomination:

Alyssa knows her students very well. She is able to connect with them personally and is an incredible asset to her school and community. She is able to make her students laugh but is also able to motivate them to do their best and to work to their full potential. Her students know she has high expectations for them and she challenges them every day.

DECEMBER RECIPIENTS

Theme: Empathy and Understanding

Secondary Teacher -

**Susann d'Entremont
Barrington Municipal High**

From Nomination:

Susann is one of the resource teachers at our school. She builds strong relationships with her students. She celebrates with them when they reach their goals and helps with any barriers to their goals. Susann doesn't just look at the surface of the behaviors of her students, she knows them on a deeper level and is able to better support them because of this foundation.

Non-Teaching Staff -

Lois Hamilton, TCRCE HR Manager

From Nomination:

Lois has been working for the TCRCE since 1995, this October will be 30 years! In her role as Human Resources Manager, she has to have Empathy and Understanding with all TCRCE staff. Lois receives calls or visits almost daily from employees who are ill and they do not know what the next steps are for them when it comes to their job and sick/medical leave. She has to listen to their stories and handle this with care. She has a heart of gold.

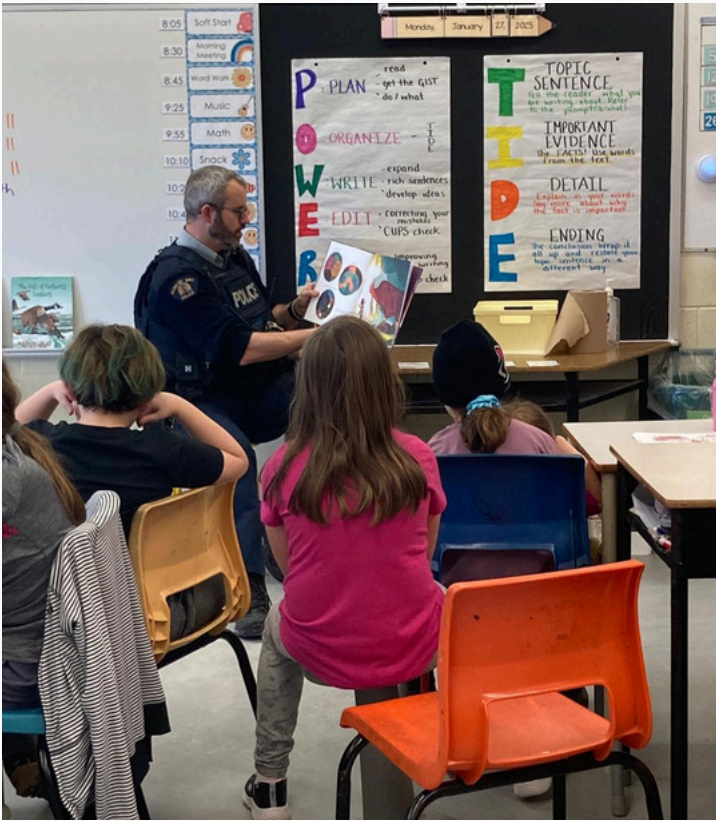
Elementary Teacher -

**Jessica Campbell
Digby Elementary School**

From Nomination:

Jessica always goes above and beyond to make connections with students. She is incredibly skilled at empathizing with these students in our building, giving them lots of opportunities for empowerment and agency. She is a phenomenal member of our staff.

Spotlight on Schools



Students at Digby Neck Consolidated School enjoy a visit with local author, Joanna Jarvis. During her visit, Joanna shared her experiences as an author, discussed the writing process and read her new book “Josiah Wigglewart” (pictured above).

Pictured left: family and special guests joined students and staff at Lockeport Elementary School for Family Literacy Day. They shared stories, explored new books, designed bookmarks, and the older grades participated in a spelling bee.



Students at Port Maitland Consolidated Elementary School participate in STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) exploration activities (pictured above).

Snowy days mean outdoor physical activity at Islands Consolidated School. Lots of fun was had by all! (pictured left).

Recent Reading Data from Grades P-6

Reading progress is collected every six weeks with our short-cycle data analysis. Through this short-cycle planning and data analysis, educators and support staff are able to identify strengths along with areas for growth.

When reviewing the chart below, it's important to note that as the school year progresses, the expectations for students increase. Although it may look like students in grade 3 and above are regressing, that may not necessarily be the case. It could be that they have maintained their reading levels, but the criteria for measuring those levels changed. This is particularly significant in the upper grades, where each level change represents a substantial shift, so there are fewer levels to progress through within that grade span.

For a detailed list of reading levels by grade, please visit page three of a previous monthly report [here](#).



Our teachers and administrators will continue to review these results to ensure that all students have appropriate literacy supports based on the evidence of reading data.

GRADE	JANUARY 17/25 MEETING EXPECTATIONS
P	256 STUDENTS/65.8%
1	213 STUDENTS/56.5%
2	252 STUDENTS/62.5%
3	286 STUDENTS/67.1%
4	273 STUDENTS/70.7%
5	285 STUDENTS/78.7%
6	244 STUDENTS/77.7%
ALL P-6	1,810 STUDENTS/68%

Minister's Entrepreneurship Award of Excellence 2025



Do you know a student with a great idea? Do they want to start their own business?

Encourage them to apply for the Minister's Entrepreneurship Award of Excellence! Three winning submissions will receive \$1,000 to help support or start their business.

<https://careerpathways.ednet.ns.ca/entrepreneurship-award>

The award is open to students in grades 6–12 in Nova Scotia public school.

Deadline for submissions is February 28!

2025-2026

PRE-PRIMARY & NEW PRIMARY REGISTRATION

Registrations are now being accepted for Pre-primary, along with NEW Primary students for September 2025.

Please share with anyone you know who has a child(ren) ready to start Pre-primary.

www.tcrce.ca/registration



PASSPORTS & PARTNERSHIPS

PODCAST

WEEKLY SPOTLIGHT

Sharing Tri-County's NSISP Stories that Connect Us

@TCRCE_NSISP

TCRCE's Nova Scotia International Student Program has just launched a new podcast, "Passports and Partnerships"!

This weekly podcast is all about sharing Tri-County's NSISP stories that connect us, celebrating cultural connections and global learning.

Tune in for exciting interviews with students, hosts, and community members who are making the NSISP experience unforgettable. Whether you're looking for inspiration, laughter, or a deeper sense of community, this podcast has something for everyone!

[Check out the podcast here.](#)

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

General Inquiries

902-749-5696

contact@tcrce.ca

Transportation

902-749-5663

bussing@tcrce.ca

Pre-Primary Program

902-749-5818

preprimary@tcrce.ca

School Closure/Weather

1-888-833-5287

weather@tcrce.ca