



REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education



Ms. Tibert's grade 5/6 class at Islands Consolidated School has been learning about surveys and graphs. The class used the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program menu to create survey questions and compiled various data sets.

The survey results showed the favourite overall lunch item at ICS was a tie between beef taco and french toast. The favorite pasta was the chicken Alfredo.

What a great collaboration between teaching staff and lunch staff to help understand student lunch preferences while improving math skills.

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Strengthening Local Voice



We are continuing our work to strengthen local voice in the public education system. Part of how we collaborate with our community is through the Regional Advisory Council and the Student Advisory Council. We thank everyone who volunteers their time to participate on these committees.

Here's a recap of recent meetings.

Regional Advisory Council

Membership:

- Nancy Mwangi - Shelburne Co.
- Andrea Mood-Nickerson - Shelburne Co.
- Amy Mackinnon - Shelburne Co.
- Amy Tudor - Digby Co.
- Tiffany Trefry - Digby Co.
- Courtney Phillips - Digby Co.
- Richard Gosling - Yarmouth Co.
- Stephanie Doane - Yarmouth Co.
- Tanya Maillet - Yarmouth Co.

The committee met on February 10, 2025, at TCRCE offices to discuss several important topics. They focused on student achievement and well-being, while discussing the NS School Code of Conduct Policy, capital planning, the school lunch program, and attendance. They also set the group's priorities, strategically reviewed attendance and provided valuable feedback on education from a family perspective.

Student Advisory Council

Membership:

- Kesiah Phillip - Grade 11 - YCMHS
- Dawson Smith - Grade 12 - YCMHS
- Angelo Maskine - Grade 12 - YCMHS
- Bryan Weir - Grade 12 - DRHS
- Max MacDonald-Comeau - Grade 11 - SMBA
- Nova Tudor - Grade 10 - ICS
- Zaynab Zahabi - Grade 12 - SRHS
- Cadence Rankin - Grade 11 - SRHS
- Katelyn Brown - Grade 11 - LRHS

The committee met on February 24, 2025, to discuss several key topics from the student perspective. They also explored possible changes in instruction and assessment for grades 10-12, provided updates and feedback on TCRCE's partnership with NSCC, addressed violence in schools and overall safety and well-being.

Safe & Inclusive Spaces - Cameras on Buses

In response to recent feedback in Public Engagement Sessions and from students on the Student Advisory Council, the TCRCE's Operations Department has made a significant investment towards enhancing safety on school buses.

In the near future, each of our TCRCE buses will be equipped with a surveillance camera. Installation has already begun and is moving forward nicely.

As a region we've heard loud and clear that our students are not feeling safe on buses, and this is a step forward to addressing this issue.

We're extremely proud of our students for advocating for this change and appreciative of our families for sharing their passionate perspective on this.



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

JANUARY RECIPIENTS

Theme: Responsiveness and Innovation

Secondary Teacher -

Timothy Henneberry
Shelburne Regional High School

From Nomination:

Mr. Henneberry is in his final year of teaching and has been at SRHS for his entire career. He continues to adapt lessons and projects based on the needs of students. Mr. Henneberry teaches classes such as skilled trades, construction and design, and he always ensures that students learn the right way to do things no matter their ability.

Elementary Teacher -

Stephanie Johnson
Carleton Consolidated

From Nomination:

For 18 years, Stephanie has consistently demonstrated exceptional responsiveness and innovation in her work with every student she has encountered. She goes above and beyond to meet the unique needs of her students and is unwavering in her determination to help them succeed.

Non-Teaching Staff -

Donna Wood, Child and Youth Care Practitioner

From Nomination:

At Hillcrest Academy, Donna brings a positive energy to our building and goes above and beyond every day. She has established amazing relationships with our students by making herself visible and by providing a warm welcome that so many of our students look forward to.

Update NSCC - TCRCE Joint Collaboration

As we shared last month, staff from both NSCC and TCRCE are working together to develop innovative ways for secondary students to connect differently with education. We are pleased to share an update on a number of projects we will be implementing:

Project 1 - Module-Based Learning for grade 10-12 students

Description: The creation of modules to be taught to 10-12 students as a part of the shift within the Teachers Professional Agreement as it relates to preparatory time.

Project 2 - Open Houses

Description: A collaborative plan to provide 'open house' opportunities for grade 10-12 students, and possibly families, to visit NSCC campuses to experience "a day in the life of...".

Project 3 - Test Drives/Friday "Trades" Visits

Description: A collaborative plan to provide grade 10-12 students with an opportunity to visit NSCC campuses and take part in 'test drives' to get earlier exposure to the trades.

Project 4 - Parent Information Sessions

Description: A collaborative plan to address current gaps in the system where students are entering post-secondary without the necessary tools and habits to succeed. This will focus on families.

Project 5 - Join Professional Development

Description: Create short, focused professional learning opportunities where NSCC staff and TCRCE staff can collaborate around a joint effort to bridge the existing gaps together.



Staff from NSCC and TCRCE meet to discuss new partnership.

Spotlight on Schools



Here's the Maple Grove Party Band performing for the first time in public at a recent basketball game. Many of these students have only been playing their band instrument for five weeks! Bravery and teamwork are just two of the many life skills they are learning as part of the band.



Students in Grades 3-6 at Digby Neck Consolidated School took advantage of the snowy winter by participating in outdoor Physical Education classes, including learning to walk with snowshoes.



Pre-primaries at Lockeport Elementary were staying cool, learning how to make snow ice cream.



Thank you to Logan O'Connell from Brilliant Labs, for working with classes at Port Maitland Consolidated Elementary School and integrating technology into classes. Students are working with Ozobots in the above photo.



A number of our teachers recently participated in a Treaty Education professional development session (pictured left).

Celebrating African Heritage Month



At Shelburne Regional High School students enjoyed the music of a string quartet from Symphony Nova Scotia. The performance was made possible with support from the Black Loyalist Heritage Society. Music composed by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and other composers of African descent was performed.



At Carleton Consolidated School, classrooms were alive with learning, creativity, and meaningful discussions as they recognized and celebrated African Heritage Month! Pictured above is an African drumming session with Chris Kennedy, where students had a blast learning and playing the drums.

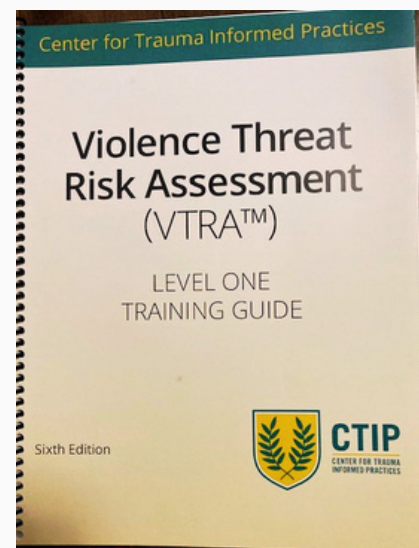
Commitment to Safe Schools: VTRA Training for Staff

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring safe and supportive school environments, a number of our staff are participating in professional development training focused on Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA).

VTRA is the trauma-informed threat assessment framework that aims to identify and intervene within potential pathways to violence. VTRA Training instills the perspective that serious violence is an evolutionary process, meaning that pre-incident data is often available to help proactively identify and prevent the occurrence of violence.

Participants will be trained to work as teams, considering the role of trauma in individuals and systems where violence potential may be intensified. VTRA also provides professionals with a shared language and a structured, system-wide process. This proactive, comprehensive approach helps prevent situations from escalating and increases the capacity for identifying and mitigating potential violence before it occurs.

All Principals, Vice Principals, School Counsellors, and identified regional staff will complete two levels of VTRA training. Level one of this training took place throughout February and March and level two is upcoming.



Take a Bow!



Congratulations to Brandy Jarvis-Nickerson, TCRCE's Coordinator of Mi'kmaq Services, on recently being awarded one of the Inclusive Education Awards from Inclusion Nova Scotia.

Nominations were submitted by members of the Inclusion Nova Scotia community and reviewed by their Inclusive Education Committee.

Brandy consistently goes above and beyond to create meaningful opportunities for connection, collaboration, and understanding among students, teachers, and families. Brandy actively promotes inclusivity through initiatives like inclusive education and accessible extracurricular activities, transforming school culture.

Brandy's leadership empowers staff, parents, and students to embrace diversity and build a welcoming, equitable community.

We are very lucky to have you here in TCRCE!

Cultural Fair

NSISP students and ambassadors recently hosted a Cultural Fair at Hillcrest Academy. Students had the opportunity to meet students from several different countries, learn about those countries, and ask questions. Each student was given a passport and received a sticker from each country.

The Cultural Fair included:

Brazil taught the students a Brazilian dance. Japan gave each student origami and wrote their names in Japanese. Mexico and Spain played capture the gold in the gym. Germany served chocolate cake. Italy served chocolate sausage (a chocolate dessert that looks like sausage). Türkiye served a traditional yoghurt drink. China told about the Chinese New Year.

Here are some photos from the day.




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

Attention staff:

Applications Now Being Accepted

Aspiring Leaders Program

The Nova Scotia Aspiring Leaders Program (ALP) is a professional learning program for teachers, mentors, and department heads who are interested in becoming effective school principals and vice principals.

www.tcrce.ca/alp



Tri-County
Regional Centre for Education