

Superintendent's Report Le rapport du surintendant Asset Aknutmaqñ



Monthly report to the Board

Oct. 25, 2017

October is Mi'kmaq History Month - Proclaimed in 1993 on Treaty Day (Oct. 1) by then Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy, Mi'kmaq History Month provides us the opportunity to improve our knowledge and awareness of Mi'kmaq culture, history and heritage.



Across the SSRSB, students, teachers and staff celebrated in a variety of ways, such as the class at North Queens Community School practicing Mi'kmaq drumming (pictured at left). During our Regular Board Meeting on Sept. 27, Mi'kmaq History Month was recognized and we all

sang and/or drummed with Elder Peggy Wentzell as she sang The Honour Song.

Class Caps Posted - Class caps define the maximum number of students enrolled in a class. These caps are mandated by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. In SSRSB, of the 831 reported classes, four are over cap for the agreed upon reasons as per the guidelines. For additional information, visit <http://www.srsb.ca/class-room-caps/>.

October is National Principals' Month - As we know, the principal, as instructional leader in the school, has a profound impact on the success of students and teachers and is the key contact for the community and School Advisory Council. I invite you to celebrate the work and achievements of your school's principal on social media using the hashtag **#SSRSBOutstandingPrincipals**. Additional information can be found at <http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/news/october-is-national-principals-month>.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to help with a community BBQ at North Queens Community School on Oct. 3 and then at Pentz Elementary School on Oct. 14. Both communities came out to support their teachers and staff, learn more about the school and raise a little money for student activities and events. Thanks for the invitation!!



On Oct. 11, I was invited to join a provincial panel exploring ways to strengthen the services of SchoolsPlus. SchoolsPlus is a collaborative interagency approach to support students and their families with the school as the center of service delivery. Its aim is to improve coordination and collaboration in our delivery of programs and services. SchoolsPlus began in 2008 with four sites and is now in every school board in the province.

The School Advisory Councils for Bridgewater Elementary School and Bridgewater Junior High School met on Oct. 17 to discuss how to work collaboratively to best serve students and their families. Some items previously discussed in the community were on the agenda, including the catchment area review and governing board motion to reconfigure the grade 6 and possibility the grade 5 students for September 2018. I was happy to be part of their discussion.

As many of you are aware, an Education System Administrative Review of N.S. school boards and the Department of Education has been announced. Dr. Avis Glaze has been hired as an independent consultant to complete consultations and provide recommendations to the Minister. I had an opportunity to meet privately with Dr. Glaze on Oct. 18 and then she met with the senior management and governing board. Dr. Glaze will be collecting information in the same manner from all school boards and is requesting ideas and suggestions from the general public. Her submission to the Minister should be made before the end of December. Additional information can be found on page 3 of this report and at <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/adminreview>.



The SSRSB is pleased to be able to attend the New Germany Health and Wellness Expo on Oct. 25. This is a great opportunity to meet the community and discuss the wellness of our students and their families. For more information, visit <http://lunenburgregion.ca/index.php/entries/festival/new-germany-health-wellness-expo/>.

Scott Milner, Superintendent of Schools



School Bus Safety Awareness Week: Oct. 16-20, 2017

This year's School Bus Safety Awareness week was from Oct. 16-20. The primary goal of the campaign was to educate the public of the dangers of illegally passing a school bus that is stopped with its red lights flashing. Another goal was to remind students of school bus safety rules in a fun way.

The SSRSB hosted an event at Hebbville Academy to promote the importance of school bus safety. SSRSB Board Member Jennifer Naugler, Vice-Principal Janet Dornan, Operations Coordinator Denise Crouse, OHS Director with Safety Services N.S. Joe Treen and Buster the Bus - as seen in the picture to the left - spoke to students and other attendees about the importance of school bus safety and what they could do to keep themselves safe.

Preparing for Snow Days

We're soon heading into that time of year when the snow starts to fall. The SSRSB is already preparing for the stormy weather and all the arrangements that need to be made. Although we do a lot of work preparing for the season and determining when to close schools due to stormy weather, we all need to be prepared. Plan early. Prepare your alternative routes. There will be days when schools remain open but you may live on a road that doesn't get plowed right away. Determining what you're going to do

beforehand will make these days easier on everyone. To find out if your school has been cancelled, listen to your local radio station, check your email and/or check the SSRSB website at www.ssrbs.ca.



The importance of Collaborative Learning Teams (CLTs)

To improve teaching quality, which has been proven to improve student engagement and learning, the SSRSB has adopted a collaborative learning structure in our schools. This allows teachers to enhance their professional learning by being organized into small groups (based on grade, subject, etc.) that work together to discuss curriculum, examine teaching techniques and review student data.

Teachers benefit greatly from this approach but even more important, students and their families benefit:

- Improved student engagement

- Increased student learning in all areas
- A classroom environment where students can work using their preferred learning styles and talents
- Decrease in the number of times teachers are away from their students for professional development
- Enhanced examination of student work so supports are in place sooner
- Improved instruction and assessment practices
- Improved relationships and social emotional competencies

To better describe CLTs, we are producing a fact sheet for parents and a video of a CLT in action at one of our schools.

Building Futures for Youth

The Building Futures for Youth program gives high school students the opportunity to experience work in the construction industry, while earning high school credits, apprenticeship hours and more. The SSRSB partners with the Construction Association of Nova Scotia to offer this to our grade 10 and 11 students. We had four schools participate this year and nine students completed the program!



Four of the nine students who completed the program.

Harvest time in our schools

Several SSRSB schools are participating in the Nourish Your Roots fundraiser to raise funds to support their school's healthy food programs and initiatives. The boxes of fresh farm food sell for \$30 and have been a huge hit! The deadline to buy a box is Friday, Oct. 27. To see what schools are still selling, visit <https://nourishns.ca/nourish-your-roots/nyr-how-do-i-buy-a-box>.



Thanks for supporting healthy eating in our community!

Education System Administrative Review

The Honourable Zach Churchill, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development confirmed the selection of Dr. Avis Glaze to conduct a full, transparent and research-based approach to the review of school boards, administration and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The purpose of the Education System Administrative Review is to provide effective and efficient delivery of education for students in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Avis Glaze is an internationally known expert in education systems. She has extensive experience in system and school improvement and has worked with education systems across the world.

Dr. Glaze met with board members, the superintendent and other senior member of the SSRSB on Oct. 18, the first of her meetings with N.S. school boards. Her questions and feedback were thought-provoking and honest.

We are very confident that Dr. Glaze will conduct a thorough review and propose changes that will strengthen our education system. The review will consider several aspects of the education system, including the cultural, linguistic and geographic contexts within Nova Scotia. The terms of reference for the review can be found at <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/adminreview>.

Dr. Glaze's final report is due to the Department by Dec. 31, 2017 although Dr. Glaze has indicated that she intends to take the time to "get it right".

Did you know? Free online math tutoring is available for grades 9-11 at www.gnspecs.ca.

South Shore Food Project

The South Shore School Food Project is a partnership between health and education to change how we deliver cafeteria services in our schools. The goal is to put healthier, locally-sourced lunches in front of our children.



The first year is a pilot year that includes six schools (South Queens Middle School, West Northfield Elementary School, Bluenose Academy, Chester Area Middle School, Chester District Elementary School and New Ross Consolidated School).

The Advisory Committee of the South Shore School Food Project was formed with the future goal to establish a

non-profit society to oversee the food project. The hope is to expand it to all school cafeterias in stages.

Consultants Claire-Louise Osmond and Rosie Gair are leading the project. They are helping to update the menus in the cafeterias and are spending time with students to show them how to incorporate healthy eating into their lives and educate them on where their food comes from. Currently, meals with a main dish, a side and a healthy treat are \$4.

The South Shore School Food Project has three mandates: meet provincial and food nutritional guidelines, provide locally-sourced food and ensure it is delivered in an equitable manner so all students have the ability to access it.

Cross-curricular learning: the science behind kombucha

Great things are happening at New Ross Consolidated School! Ms. Gates and Ms. MacLeod have teamed up to bring grades 7 and 8 together in cross-curricular learning. Clare and Gabrielle from Solas Kombucha came in and

started a batch of kombucha with the students. The students are learning the science behind how it's made and how it is a healthier alternative to many sugary



beverages. The students can't wait to come up with their own brand names, their labels, slogans and advertisements!



PROFILE | Elliott Payzant

SSRSB Board Chair Elliott Payzant has been a school board member since 1994. Since then, he has been in a number of different roles and has seen quite a bit of change!

From 1996-2000, Elliott served as chair of what was then called the Southwest Regional School Board. He served as vice chair of SSRSB from 2005-2007 and again from 2012-2014. He served as chair from 2008-2011 and again from 2016 to present. He also served as president of the Nova Scotia School Board Association from 2006-2008.

Elliott also spent many years in education outside of the SSRSB. For seven years, he was a science teacher at Emerson School in Exeter, N.H. From 1971-1992 he was Associate Headmaster and Head of the Upper School at Berwick Academy in South Berwick, Maine.

Back in Nova Scotia, Elliott took a job in the lumber business as an operations manager at Douglas Lumber in Caledonia, N.S. until 2005.

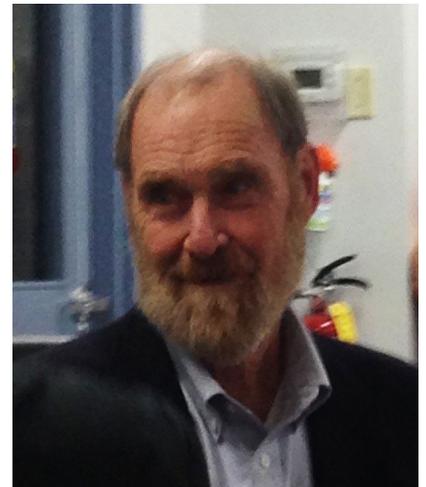
Elliott says his favourite thing about being part of the SSRSB is looking back and seeing the positive changes and achievements that have been made for a better educational system for our students. Being part of this progress in public school education really motivates him to continue working as a school board member.

Elliott believes the SSRSB is a great school board that

works hard to improve student achievement at all levels. If he could change anything, he'd like to improve how we communicate with the public. "Making the public aware of the good things that are happening in our schools and our relationship with community groups are areas for improvement." He hopes "we can continue to improve and develop our relationship with municipal and town councils...and to work more closely with our School Advisory Councils in each school."

Always mindful of doing a good job, Elliott believes time and commitment as well as dedication to improvement and knowledge of current trends are very important. He prefers to give careful consideration to all points of view before making a decision. This careful consideration, as well as research, have been invaluable to him over the years as he's faced obstacles.

In his spare time, Elliott loves gardening and wood-working. He has also been very involved in youth hockey over the years, both as coach and referee. He served as Director of Coaches for the Amateur Hockey Association of the United States in New Hampshire and was Referee in Chief for the Dover, N.H. Amateur Hockey Association. For several years, he served as counsellor at the Bowdoin College Elite Hockey Camp in Brunswick, Maine.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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| Nov. 7 | SAC conference (Forest Heights Community School) |
| Nov. 11 | Remembrance Day (observed/ no school on Monday, Nov. 13) |
| Nov. 8 | Programs & Student Services Committee meeting |
| Nov. 8 | Corporate Services Committee meeting |
| Nov. 15 | Committee of the Whole meeting |
| Nov. 22 | Regular Board meeting
Annual General meeting |

Connect with us!



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