

Cover photo: Central Kings and West Kings Unified Basketball teams after an inter-school game on April 10. Unified teams bring together people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team to enjoy the challenge and excitement of sports. Horton High School, Middleton Regional High School and Northeast Kings Education Centre also have Unified Basketball teams.

AVRSB was the first school board in Canada to have Unified Basketball teams, beginning in 2016 through an initiative of Special Olympics Nova Scotia.



Superintendent's Monthly Report

Working Together for Students

Spring Planning for the Year Ahead



April has certainly been a busy month, and the momentum will continue building throughout May as we approach the end of this school year and start looking ahead to the next.

Much planning and decision-making is underway following the release of the provincial budget on April 27 and a report from the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions on April 28. We have been reflecting on our priorities, keeping our focus on student learning and support. The Regional Leadership Team, which consists of the Superintendent and Directors, has been receiving feedback from school administrators throughout the staffing process, culminating in the governing Board's acceptance of the 2017-2018 Staff Allocation Plan pending budget considerations. Planning around the 2017-2018 budget continues, with our governing Board members continuing to consider input from staff throughout this process.

Over the last month there have been several opportunities to build relationships that are foundational to our goal of working together for students.

It was an honour to meet with Chief Sidney Peters and Council Members of Glooscap First Nation. This first meeting was a great introduction and I look forward to meeting again in the future.

Staff of our Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights Division held a day-long workshop on Restorative Communication for Student Support Workers and Native Student Advisors, and I thank the organizers for inviting me to take part. Restorative communication is about building trust, working together and taking action. It is part of culturally responsive education and pedagogy, and I look forward to bringing this approach to our relationships with students, families and schools.

At the provincial level, the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions has

released a second set of recommendations, focusing on student attendance. Until May 9, 2017, members of the public may submit feedback on a draft provincial *Student Attendance and Engagement Policy*. A final policy is expected to be in place for September 2017. We have shared information on this feedback opportunity with students, families and schools, and we are supporting the Council in its research on best practices and measures to support students and school attendance.

Thank you, wela'lin and merci,

Roberta

Roberta Kubik, Superintendent

School Visits

April and early May school visits took place at:

- Port Williams Elementary School
- Somerset and District Elementary School
- West Kings District High School

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- May 8 Regional Shut-Down Day, Middle Level Showcase
- May 9 Deadline to submit feedback on draft *Student Attendance and Engagement* policy
- May 22 Victoria Day Holiday

What's inside:

AVRSB@21C
 BRHS SAVE Conference
 Turnaround Achievement Awards
 Skills Canada-NS Competitions
 Middle Level Showcase
 Concours d'art oratoire



AVRSB@21C Encourages Student Innovation, Entrepreneurship



More than 80 AVRSB high school students took part in the second annual AVRSB@21C student innovation conference on April 26.

Students interacted with entrepreneurs, tech experts and innovators as they developed ideas to address challenges such as clean energy, rural internet access, and chang-

ing demographics. The goal of the conference is to have students explore skills that can lead to careers and opportunities in their own communities. Later on, they will receive feedback on their business ideas or solutions, and will have opportunities to work with entrepreneurial coaches and business incubators to continue the development process.

Thank you to the AVRSB Educational Technology team for organizing this event, and to all guest speakers and partners for their support.

Turnaround Achievement Awards Honour West Hants Students



Seven students were recently honoured at the Turnaround Achievement Awards, a program sponsored by Terra Firma Development Corporation to recognize West Hants students in grades 6 to 12

who have overcome personal and educational challenges.

Congratulations to Ethan Schnare-Mullen (Grade 6, WHMS), Braeden Reade (Grade 7, WHMS), Hunter Saunders (Grade 8, WHMS), Shiane Rehberg (Grade 10, AVHS), Traykiea Grandy (Grade 11, AVHS), Garrett Nathan Rines (Grade 12, AVHS) and Jessica Osmond (Grade 11, WHEC) on your accomplishments!

Congratualtions also go to West Hants Middle School teacher Rob Davies, recognized for his outstanding dedication to students and his passion for teaching.

En français, s'il vous plaît! Results from concours d'art oratoire

On April 19, 30 students in grades 5 to 12 took part in the annual AVRSB *concours d'art oratoire* (French public speaking competition) at Berwick and District School. After everyone's speeches *en français*, 14 students were selected to move on to the May 6 provincial competition in Halifax. *Félicitations à tous nos participants pour vos efforts*, and best of luck to the following students at the provincial competition:

5/6 Core French: Hana Hutchinson, Lydia Coldwell, Alex Mott

5/6 Early Immersion: Oliver Baker, Carmen Peng, Rylee Bennett

7/8 Early Immersion: Claire Zettler, Sophie Bezanson, Maya Thompson-Hayes

9/10 Early Immersion: Gabriel Baker, Sam Cadrian, Emily Cottreau

11/12 Integrated French: Christina ElChater

11/12 Early Immersion: Makayla Foster



BRHS "Students Assist in Violence Education" Conference

On May 10, every student at Bridgetown Regional High School will take part in a one-day violence prevention conference called SAVE (Students Assist in Violence Education).



BRHS students designed the SAVE Conference logo

Working with SchoolsPlus Annapolis and local RCMP, the SAVE student planning committee has helped to plan this conference, including selecting workshop topics that aim to empower and educate students on issues they deal with daily—mental wellness, online/social media safety, healthy relationships, gender stereotypes, domestic violence, and more.

Thank you to SchoolsPlus Annapolis, Annapolis RCMP, Family Matters Resource Centre, Atlantic Youth, the SAVE Student Planning Committee, and BRHS staff members for supporting the conference.

AVRSB Students Put Their Skills to the Test



AVRSB students participated in the Skills Canada -Nova Scotia competitions recently. CKRHS student Cameron Clarke earned silver in Public Speaking. Other competitors were Ian Oliver (AWEC, Electrical), Logan Ward (BRHS, Welding) and Austin Whitehead (AVHS, Welding). Congratulations to all for putting your skills to the test!

Middle Level Showcase an Opportunity to Learn, Inspire and Grow

An exciting professional learning day is happening on May 8. The Middle Level Showcase will bring together all Middle Level staff to share knowledge, reflect on best practices and celebrate their important work in supporting students. The event will take place at Kings County Academy and will feature a keynote address by renowned middle level educator Jack Berckemeyer, plus numerous workshops on a wide array of topics. Thank you to our Programs staff and all organizers for planning this great event.

