

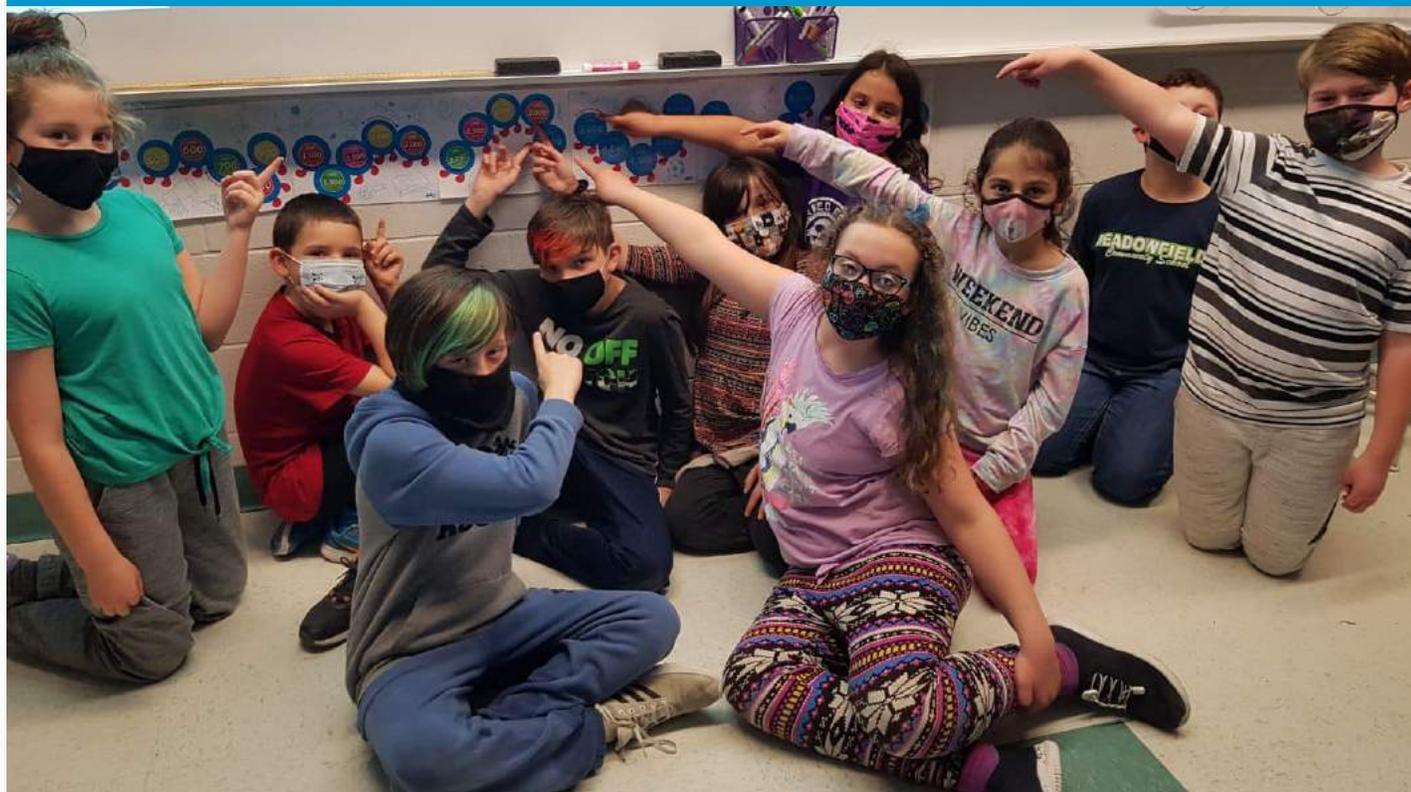


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# REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education



## Congratulations Readers!

Grade four and five students at Meadowfields Community School celebrated a huge accomplishment this month. They've read 3,000 books online at GetEpic.com and achieved this in less than seven months.

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## A Message from the Regional Executive Director

In this monthly report you will find a number of items related to literacy. On the cover, students from Meadowfields Elementary are featured for their recent accomplishment of reading a total of 3,000 books in less than seven months. On page 3, you'll find a story about TCRCE's first ever Teen Readers' Choice Awards. I personally took the opportunity to read one of the nominated books: 'No Fixed Address' by Susin Neilsen. It was a powerful read about hidden homelessness and I highly recommend.

Literacy is the cornerstone of learning. It's not only the foundation for success in school, but also for success in life. That's why literacy is one of the three pillars of TCRCE's System Improvement Plan (well-being and mathematics are the others).

Students will demonstrate significant improvement in their reading and writing when educators grow in providing precise and individualized literacy instruction. Our goal is to develop readers and writers who are skilled, inquisitive, and resilient learners who will continually grow in their reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

## An Intensive Literacy Initiative for Grades 1 & 2

You'll remember, this time last year, we were at the start of the pandemic and students were learning from home. While we are currently compiling data to examine how the pandemic may have impacted literacy rates in elementary aged students, we are proactively taking measures to address any possible decline. This is especially important for students in grades one and two, who we know are in their most formative years when it comes to developing long lasting literacy skills. That's why we've made this age group the focus of a short and intensive project that will address any possible decrease in literacy rates as a result of the pandemic. We are creating targeted instructional supports for the groups who need it the most. The six week project will aim to improve literacy rates among identified students.

We are committed to focusing on literacy in TCRCE. By laying the groundwork now, we can develop well-rounded students who are set up for future success.

Dr. Chris Boulter  
Regional Executive Director of Education  
Twitter: @drboulter

"Literacy is the cornerstone of learning. It's not only the foundation for success in school, but also for success in life."

-Dr. Chris Boulter



*Pictured above: one of the books nominated in TCRCE's Teen Readers' Choice Awards and recently read by Dr. Chris Boulter, TCRCE Regional Executive Director.*

"I liked the book because it got me back into reading. It was a page-turner."

- Jordan Boudreau,  
grade 12 at YCMHS



## Book it to the Library:

### Teen Readers' Choice Awards Creating Literacy Excitement

Last month, we told you about our region's first ever Teen Readers' Choice Awards. This is a student driven book award for grades 7-12, where students are invited to vote on their favourite books from a suggested reading list.

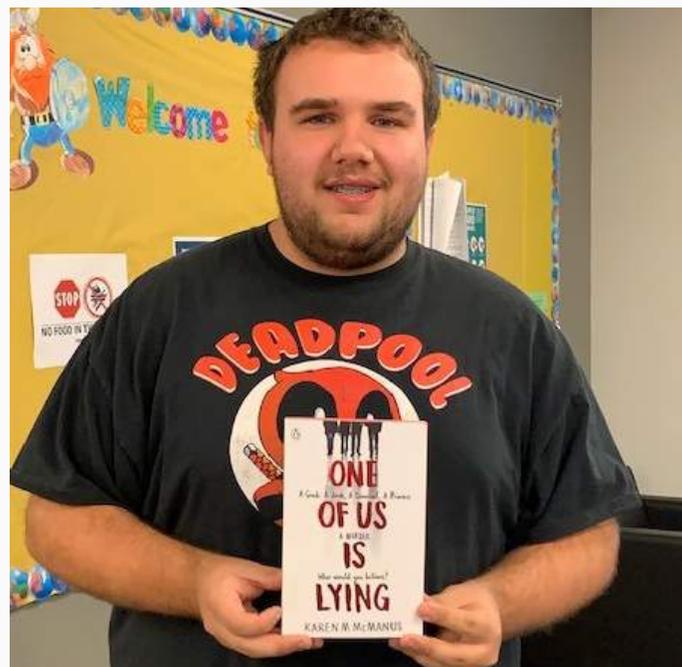
Voting takes place in May, but the initiative is already creating excitement and engagement among students. One of those readers is Jordan Boudreau, a Grade 12 student at Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School. Jordan recently enjoyed, *One of Us Is Lying*, a young adult, mystery/suspense novel by American author, Karen M. McManus. Jordan says the book changed his life because it has re-ignited his interest in reading, something he hasn't done since starting high school.

"I liked the book because it got me back into reading. It was a page-turner," says Jordan. "Every second I could visualize in my head. I could visualize the characters and could feel the tension and stress in the novel. It got me into a new genre of books, murder mystery. I loved that book."

Jordan shared his thoughts on the book with his class and his passion was contagious. Melanie Challoner-Muise, YCMHS Library Technician, says soon after his review, a classmate who was intrigued by Jordan's experience, visited the library to borrow the book.

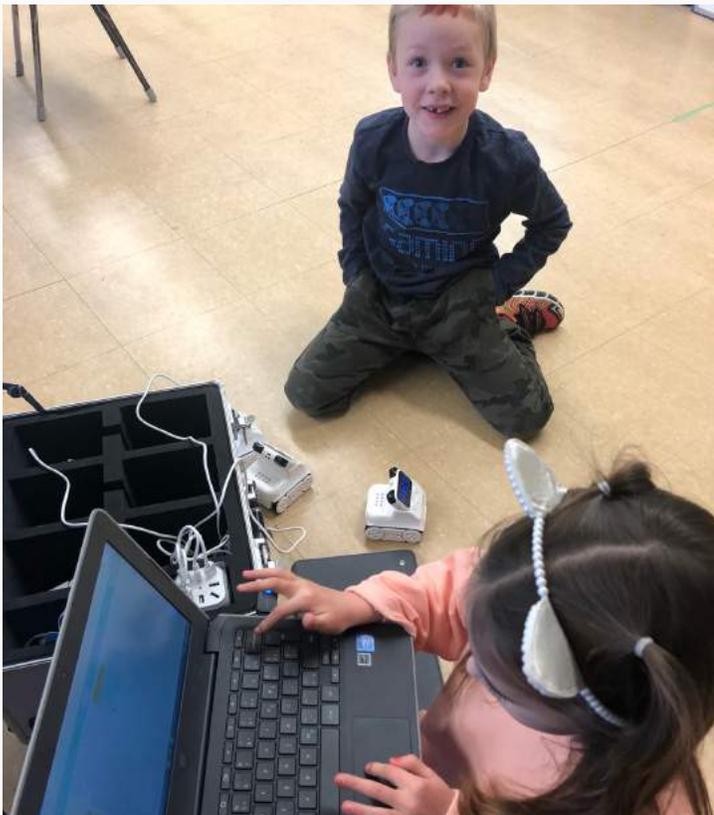
"Jordan has since come in to reserve the sequel, do a book recommendation for the library page, suggest other books for the library, and brought a friend who hadn't read a book for pleasure since attending Maple Grove," says Melanie. "This is a terrific example of exactly what we had hoped to achieve through the Teen Readers' Choice Awards."

For more details on the Teen Readers' Choice Awards and book choices please [click here](#).



Grade 12 student, Jordan Boudreau shows his pick from the Teen Readers' Choice Awards.

# Spotlight on Schools



Students at Digby Neck Consolidated School received these new bikes as part of the Health Promoting Schools initiative. The bikes will provide students with the opportunity to learn & improve cycling skills through their physical education classes (pictured above).

The tech team at Carleton Consolidated Elementary School has been busy getting their new Codey Rocky Smart Robots ready for learning activities (pictured left).



Shelburne Regional High School recently received a MOBO Triton, an adaptive recumbent bike. It was purchased through a grant & will allow Luke (and others) to develop greater independence while being physically active with their peers (pictured above).

Grades 2/3 at Lockport Elementary School are practicing their desk drumming skills (pictured left).

# MEET OUR TEAM

EACH MONTH WE WILL INTRODUCE YOU TO  
OUR TCRCE STAFF MEMBERS

**Monte Morrison**  
Bus Driver



## IN HIS OWN WORDS:

I've been driving a bus since 2015. I enjoy seeing the students that I drive grow and move through their school careers.

I have 4 children and have had the privilege of driving all of them to school along with many of their friends. My oldest graduated in 2020. I was able to drive her throughout her high school years and I have been my youngest child's only bus driver for four and a half years.

As bus drivers, we are the first staff that the students see and have interactions with in the morning and then the last person they see before they get home. I always try and say, "good morning," to each student when they get on the bus and "see you later" or "have a good day" when they get off the bus. I try and be positive with the students. Maybe their day will be better.

Being a bus driver is an important job in the community as we transport such precious cargo.



Healthy recipes for an easy family meal.  
Cooking. Learning. Together.

[www.tcrce.ca/cook](http://www.tcrce.ca/cook)



## TCRCE Launches "Literally Nutritious"

Tri-County Regional Centre for Education (TCRCE) has partnered with Nourish Nova Scotia to launch "Literally Nutritious."

The new virtual nutrition literacy program highlights simple and delicious slow cooker recipes for the whole family. "Literally Nutritious" is made possible with the assistance of a community food grant through the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

This program provides a slow cooker, a fresh food box, pantry items, and recipe cards to 30 families throughout TCRCE. The step-by-step recipe cards support many facets of literacy, including reading skills along with the knowledge and skills to cook and enjoy food. A video series has also been created to teach introductory cooking skills using minimal equipment and is available to everyone on the TCRCE website.

"We have brought together some of our region's "Celebrity Chefs" to participate in the video series," says Lori Munro-Sigfridson, TCRCE Active Healthy Living Consultant. "Many of our students and families will recognize our chefs because they are administrators from a number of TCRCE schools. The videos guide viewers through each stage of the recipe, from preparation to serving, as well as provide you with a little insight into the cooking talents and traditions of the chefs."

The creation of this project was the result of a collaboration between a number of partners including, SchoolsPlus, Active Healthy Living, Nourish Nova Scotia, and TCRCE regional staff.

"Nourish is pleased to be involved in this exciting initiative," says Kayla Thomas, Program Development Coordinator at Nourish Nova Scotia. "Our team has developed and tested delicious recipes for families to enjoy. Cooking together builds resiliency and literacy in children and youth. We are looking forward to learning how participating families have grown together in the kitchen."

Literally Nutritious aims to increase literacy skills through reading text in recipes, promote healthy eating, and create opportunities for families to spend time together. According to the new Canada's Food Guide, mealtime is a great opportunity to bring the family together. Eating together as a family benefits everyone and children can especially benefit from regular family meals as they are starting to develop their eating habits and behaviours.



**Videos are posted on our website at [www.tcrce.ca/cook](http://www.tcrce.ca/cook). Stay tuned for next month's newsletter when we will begin to share montly recipes.**

# Tips for Improving Literacy at Home

## Talking

Talk to your children. This idea seems simple but many children and adults alike, are engrossed in their electronic devices, that real conversation involving a back and forth exchange is limited.

- Talk with your child(ren) about daily tasks.
- Ask lots of questions and engage in conversation by asking them to describe or explain things.
- Sing songs, make up stories and play.

## Reading

Helping your child become a reader is the most important thing you can do to help them have success in school.

- Make reading a daily habit, a routine (read aloud and have the child read).
- Allow your child to select the books to be read.
- Be interactive:
  - Ask questions about the reading
  - Make predictions about the reading
  - Read with great expression to bring the story alive
- Read stories again and again.
- Model reading behavior and talk about yourself as a reader.
- Play word games.
- Keep it fun!

## Writing

- Provide children with different tools for writing including pencils, pens, crayons, chalk, etc. along with paper, journals, notepads etc.
- Encourage them to write for different purposes: journaling, stories, thank you notes, cards, lists, etc.
- Encourage writing often and focus on the ideas not the correctness.



# HOST FAMILIES NEEDED



When you host an international student you may be surprised by how your family will grow.



**Tri-County**  
Regional Centre for Education

Host families receive financial compensation.

Families needed NOW for September.



[www.tcrce.ca/nsisp](http://www.tcrce.ca/nsisp)

## Pre-Primary Registration Now Open

Now accepting registrations for Pre-Primary and new Primary to Grade 12 students.

Please register by April 30, 2021

Register online:

[www.tcrce.ca/registration](http://www.tcrce.ca/registration)



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## All Public Schools to Receive Automated External Defibrillators



It is my hope that the defibrillators will never have to be used, but seconds count in a cardiac emergency and having these devices available may save someone's life.

Derek Mombourquette,  
Education and Early Childhood Development Minister

NOVA SCOTIA

On March 16, 2021, the Rankin government announced a \$700,000 investment to equip all public schools in Nova Scotia with automated external defibrillators.

"A school building is the heart of its community, often used on evenings and weekends by a variety of organizations and people of all ages. Everyone who enters one of our schools should be confident that a life-saving defibrillator is nearby," said Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Derek Mombourquette. "It is my hope that the defibrillators will never have to be used, but seconds count in a cardiac emergency and having these devices available may save someone's life."

Defibrillators are used to help those in cardiac arrest. The portable electronic devices analyze the heart's rhythm and deliver an electric shock to help it return to a more effective rhythm. Defibrillators include audio and visual prompts, making them easy and safe to use.

To ensure each school in the province has a device, the province will purchase up to 350, for a total investment of about \$700,000. About 70 schools already have a defibrillator – most of those have students with specialized health-care plans requiring access to a defibrillator, while others have one as the result of fundraising, donation or based on a school community decision.

Once school-based automated external defibrillators are installed, they will be added to the provincial registry – a database linked to the Emergency Health Services (EHS) Medical Communications Centre software that allows EHS staff to direct people who call 911 to the closest defibrillator during a cardiac emergency.