

OCTOBER · WIKEWIKU'S · OCTOBRE 2023



# REGIONAL UPDATE

Newsletter of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education



## Orange Shirt Day #EveryChildMatters

Students and staff at Islands Consolidated School wear orange to mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (pictured above).

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation coincides with Orange Shirt Day and on September 29, schools throughout TCRCE honoured the survivors, families, and communities impacted by residential schools in Canada. These institutions separated Indigenous children from their language, culture, identity, and communities. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is also a time to learn about the history and legacy of residential schools in Canada and to commit to the ongoing process of Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of Canada.

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## A Message from the Regional Executive Director

We've just wrapped up a great first month back to school. It was truly a great September and terrific start up. I invite you to take some time to review this monthly report to see what's new in TCRCE and what our schools have been up to throughout the last month. But first, I'd like to share with you some assessment results. It's time to celebrate!

Each October, grade six students in Nova Scotia complete provincial assessments in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. The TCRCE results in 2022-23 are impressive. Our scores improved in each category. In fact, in both Writing and Mathematics, scores increased by 5% over the previous year. Any increase is something to be proud of and these numbers are especially impressive.

The good news continues. We've also recently received the results of the grade three provincial assessments in Literacy and Mathematics, completed in May 2023. As you'll see in the chart above, each category has continually improved including a tremendous 10% increase in mathematics.

Again, I'd like to stress how significant these improvements are. This is evidence that what we are doing is working and the hard work of our TCRCE staff, students, and families is paying off. We always say everyone has a role to play in education and so, this is a proud moment for all of TCRCE!

We always have room for improvement and we'll continue working to stay on this positive trajectory. For details on how we plan to continue moving the needle, I invite you to read about our Student Success Plans and Short Cycle Planning on the next page.

All the best,

Jared Purdy  
TCRCE Regional Executive Director

### Grade 6 Provincial Assessment Results

	2021-22	2022-23	Differential
Reading	71%	72%	+1%
Writing	37%	42%	+5%
Mathematics	50%	55%	+5%

### Grade 3 Provincial Assessment Results

	2021-22	2022-23	Differential
Reading	50%	56%	+6%
Writing	19%	25%	+6%
Mathematics	55%	65%	+10%

## Upcoming Dates

### October is:

- Learning Disabilities Awareness Month
- Mi'kmaw History Month

**Mon. Oct. 9:** Schools Closed for Thanksgiving Day

**Fri. Oct. 13:** CLT Day (2 hour early dismissal)

**Fri. Oct. 27:** No School for Students (NSTU Conference Day)



TCRCE is currently putting the finishing touches on our new System Improvement Plan. We will share those details in our next newsletter. For now, we'd like to explain two terms we use in education planning. You may have heard one or both of the following terms from your child's school or teacher: Student Success Plans and Short Cycle Planning.

## What's a Student Success Plan?

The Student Success Plan is a living document, changing and improving as schools analyze student evidence of learning and choose strategies to impact the literacy, mathematics, and well-being success of every student. It's the systematic way of planning school improvement with identifying measurable goals that are rigorous yet attainable. Through the process, educators and partners are empowered to engage in collaborative efficacy that promotes a cycle of continuous improvement leading to measurable progress in student well-being as well as achievement in literacy and mathematics.

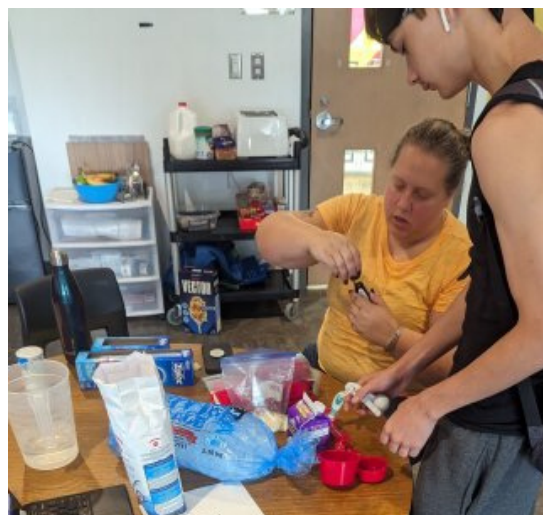
## What is short cycle planning?

Short cycle planning focuses on a flexible approach to learning that allows adjustments to teaching strategies to take place based on ongoing assessment of student progress. Short cycles occur multiple times throughout a school year and each cycle can last up to 90 days.

## Ice Cream Science Lesson

Who doesn't love ice cream?! Students in the YCMHS Connect Centre recently completed a science lesson making ice cream with their teacher, Adrienne Gould (pictured left).

The Connect Centre offers students a space to build connection, receive academic support, and identify strengths that can build toward their future career opportunities. The focus is on providing a space where students who have become disengaged from traditional classroom learning can build a connection between their aspirations and their education.



# How to Contact TCRCE

## School-Related Inquiries/Concerns?

1. The first point of contact should always be the child's teacher.
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

☎ 902-749-5676

✉ contact@tcrce.ca

## Transportation

☎ 902-749-5663

✉ bussing@tcrce.ca

## Pre-Primary Program

☎ 902-749-5678

✉ preprimary@tcrce.ca

## School Closure/Weather

☎ 1-888-833-5287

✉ weather@tcrce.ca

## Join a School Advisory Council!

School Advisory Councils play an important role in supporting student success at the school community level. Many schools are currently recruiting for SAC members. Please contact your community school for more info.



## What is an SAC?

A School Advisory Council is an advisory body to the school principal and Regional Centre for Education on a range of issues related to the school and the school system. Membership can vary, but generally consists of the school principal, parents, teachers, and other community members.

## Did You Know?

SACs have a budget of \$5,000 plus \$1 per student to support student achievement in their school.



## Happening Around the Region



A student at Digby Regional High School takes a turn at smashing away the hate for Stand Up Against Bullying Day on September 14, 2023. (pictured above).

Hillcrest Academy practices a relocation drill to Shelburne Regional High School (pictured left).



Students at Meadowfields Community School participate in the annual Terry Fox Walk (pictured above).

On September 20, TCRCE held the first regional GSA gathering. Students from GSAs (Gender & Sexuality Alliances) throughout the region attended this event that took place in Yarmouth (pictured left).



## Capital Improvements and Repairs

Our operations team is always busy working on a variety of capital repairs and improvements. Here's what they've been up to recently:

- New windows at Islands Consolidated School.
- New siding on gym at Port Maitland Consolidated Elementary School.
- New siding for Carleton Consolidated Elementary.
- New paving at St. Mary's Bay Academy & coming soon to Forest Ridge Academy.
- New boiler to be installed at Digby Elementary School.
- Sprinkler upgrades to come at Forest Ridge Academy & St. Mary's Bay Academy.
- Upgrades to heat exchangers and other units.
- Installed additional outdoor classrooms.
- Assisted Pre-Primary department on renovating some of the play areas.
- New PA systems were installed in many schools.
- Over the summer, Technology Services completed major improvements to all school networks.



Pictured above: a new outdoor learning space was recently constructed at Drumlin Heights Consolidated School.



# October is Mi'kmaw History Month

## MI'KMAW

WIKEWIKU'S 2023 HISTORY MONTH OCTOBER 2023

### Mi'kmaw Sports, Traditional Games, and Pastimes



Sport demands training not only body and mind, but heart and spirit as well. Coaching and teaching in Mi'kmaw culture are holistic and young people learn by doing. Ko'jia dancing merges movement with sound and spirit in a fun and competitive atmosphere.

**"For me, the flight of the arrow is an extension of who I am and who my ancestors were. It is still who we are today."**

Clifford Paul  
Membertou Mi'kmaw community

With deep roots in Mi'kmaw history, hockey might be the most popular sport within Mi'kmaw communities today. Two large tournaments gather teams from across Mi'kmaw and beyond each year. The Wallace Bernard Memorial Native Youth Hockey Tournament honours its namesake as a champion of Mi'kmaw sports and one of the first organizers of the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Summer Games. The Peter and Mary Agnes Julian Memorial Hockey Tournament celebrates their life-long dedication to sports within Mi'kmaw communities, including starting the Nova Scotia Indian Sports Program.







Lacrosse, known to some as the Creator's Game, grew out of a diverse group of intense and fierce ballcourt games that were known throughout eastern North America. Ballcourt games were played for several thousand years before Europeans and others arrived. Hockey, basketball and even soccer share the same form, with teams vying to move a ball or disc across a field or floor. These games connected hundreds of different nations across territories, creating opportunities to share and to learn from one another.

**"We are so lucky to have the whole community behind us. They are the ones that come together and make it possible for us to travel and compete. I definitely wouldn't be where I am today without my community."**

Sara-Lynne Knockwood  
Sipekne'katik First Nation

Mi'kmaw guides, largely from the district of Kespukwiuk, were renowned across North America in the early 20th century. With skills like hunting, fishing and canoeing rooted in traditional and generational knowledge, Mi'kmaw dominated sports show circuits. The competitions hosted a wide range of events for both men and women, including log rolling, chopping, sawing, canoe racing, shooting, fly-casting and swimming.



For generations, participation in sports and games have grown Mi'kmaw ways of knowing and being, teaching young ones how to hear, how to see, and how to move. Competition sharpens skills and builds endurance, speed and strength. Sports demand young ones predict what will happen before it has actually occurred. Using this kind of pattern recognition together with all of our senses makes great hunters and skilled warriors. These teachings carry us into ways of thinking, moving and being as adults.

Sports are not only about training and growth, but also about spirit and ceremony. Many athletes show gratitude to the Creator by continually striving for perfection. Traditional activities like archery, wakes, lacrosse, and wapnaqnq connect people to each other and to ancestors who have come before them.

Sports and games allow generations of spectators, coaches and participants to grow up together through annual events and gatherings. Food, entertainment and socializing involve everyone. Many games have elements of chance that allow spectators to join in the fun. Our value of inclusion encourages all to participate!

















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