



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024



# REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education



The Hillcrest Academy Choir performs at the African Heritage Month Proclamation ceremony at the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre in Shelburne.

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@TCRCENS



@TCRCE\_NS

In 2023, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development asked teachers for input through [Ideas for Education](#).

A number of the ideas provided through the survey are now being implemented throughout TCRCE. This month, we have updates to share on the teacher mentoring and teacher appreciation initiatives.

## Teacher Mentoring Pilot Program

Three retired teachers have been contracted to mentor current teachers. The mentors have extensive experience in classroom procedures including student programming, providing high-quality, evidence-based classroom instruction, as well as culturally responsive pedagogy.

### How does the teacher mentoring work?

Neila Ferguson, is providing virtual support to various teachers from grades three to high school, meeting with individuals or small groups. She prepares for every mentor session by researching, planning, and finding resources that best meet the needs of her mentees. She meets with each group every two weeks to follow up on how the teaching strategies they've worked on are being implemented.

Nicole Jacquard has recently joined the teacher mentor team in TCRCE. Currently based in Yarmouth Elementary School, she is supporting at the early elementary levels.

At Lockeport Elementary School, Stephanie Reashore is a teacher mentor and works in-person with numerous new educators. She models lessons, supports in analyzing data, develops schedules, and fine-tunes classroom management.

## Teacher Appreciation

We have started a new teacher appreciation program. Each month, TCRCE staff can nominate an NSTU staff member who best fit the monthly theme. Then, a committee reviews the nominations and choose one recipient from each county.

The theme for January was **Relationship-Building & Connection**.

Please join us in congratulating the January Teacher of the Month recipients.

Teacher  
OF THE  
MONTH

- Yarmouth County - **Shannon Whittaker** (Yarmouth Elementary School)
- Shelburne County - **Amanda Digout** (Barrington Municipal High School)
- Digby County - **Frayne Kyte** (Digby Elementary School)

“  
Mentoring is very rewarding work. The teachers are extremely grateful for the support I give.” - Stephanie Reashore  
”



Mentor Stephanie Reashore with mentee, teacher Nicola Hines, dressed up for Lockeport Elementary's pajama day.



# December Reading Data

## Grade P-6

Student Group	December 2023	Overall Growth
All P-6 TCRCE Students	1578/ 58.1%*	97/3.6%
African Descent	116/56.3%	5/2.2%
Indigenous Descent	142/51.4%	2/0.5%
English Program	1315/58.6%	95/4.2%
Immersion Program	263 / 55.6%	2 / 0.2%

\*Total number of students & the % reading at grade level or above.

## Grade 3

Student Group	December 2023	Overall Growth
All Grade 3 Students	243/ 60.9%*	25/6.1%
African Descent	23 / 63.9%	1/1.0%
Indigenous Descent	28 / 63.6%	4/8.2%
English Program	198 / 60.4%	17/5.0%
Immersion Program	45 / 63.4%	8 / 11.3%

\*Total number of students & the % reading at grade level or above.

## What does this data mean?

- Reading progress is collected every six weeks with our short-cycle data analysis. Through this short-cycle planning and data analysis, educators and support staff are able to identify strengths along with areas for growth.
- The data above is our December data.
- There is demonstrated growth in each area, including our disaggregated data for African Descent and Indigenous, as well as across English and French students.

## Reading, Writing, Mathematics Provincial Assessment Results - Grade 6

RWM6	2022-2023	2023-2024	GROWTH
Reading	63%	68%	5%
Writing	42%	48%	6%
Mathematics	55%	63%	8%

The Nova Scotia Assessment: Reading, Writing, and Mathematics assessments in Grade 6 is administered over four days in October. TCRCE results from this school year are shown above, along with the growth over last year.

This assessment includes the following: reading and writing tasks that reflect the end of grade 5 curriculum outcome expectations, reading passages in the narrative, information, poetry/song, and visual text genres, reading comprehension questions in selected response format, reading comprehension questions that are designed to provide a broad range of challenge, thereby providing more information about individual student performance, one letter writing task and one story writing task, mathematics questions that reflect the end of grade 5 curriculum outcome expectations, selected response (multiple choice) mathematics questions in all mathematics domains.

# Spotlight on Schools



Grade 3/4 students at Weymouth Consolidated School work on their research projects in Writer's Workshop (pictured above).

Yarmouth Elementary School students joined Deputy Mayor and Yarmouth High Student Support Worker, Steve Berry, to raise the Pan-African flag at Yarmouth Town Hall (pictured left).



St. Mary's Bay Academy O2 students recently visited the Irving Shipyard in Halifax to learn about the variety of careers required in shipbuilding. The students were amazed to see the massive scale of the facility (pictured left).



Primary students at Hillcrest Academy recently enjoyed a visit from a snow plow and operators while learning about snow safety (pictured left).

# Ignite & TCRCE Launch “Igniting Success Youth Entrepreneurial Program” to Foster Innovation Amongst Junior High and High School Students

Ignite and TCRCE are thrilled to announce the launch of the **Igniting Success Youth Entrepreneurial Program**. This exciting initiative aims to introduce junior high and high school students to entrepreneurship and innovation, by providing them with the unique opportunity to develop and pitch their business ideas.

For the kickoff program, students working individually or in groups, will conceptualize and develop innovative business ideas from any sector or industry. Potential topics include, the ocean, technology, health innovation, and tourism. Those participants will be guided to develop their concept from idea stage through to a comprehensive business plan, and then present it in a five-minute pitch video. Those videos will be scored by a panel of judges on March 7th.

The NSCC is providing prize money to the top three finishers – \$500 for first, \$300 for second and \$200 for third. Additionally, Ignite will offer 6 months of mentorship to the winner and 3 months of mentorship to the second and third place finishers, giving them a unique opportunity to build their concept further and to learn the basics of putting a business together. Find [more info here](#).



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# Strengthening Local Voice

In December, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Developed announced a number of new initiatives to strengthen local voice and improve the flow of information from TCRCE in to school communities.

## Public Engagement Sessions

TCRCE will be holding three Public Engagement sessions this school year. There will be one session in each county and all meetings will cover the same topics.

### Dates & Locations:

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024 at YCMHS

Monday, Feb. 26, 2024 at Barrington Municipal High School

Monday, March 4, 2024 at Digby Regional High School

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**What:** Sessions will be led by the Regional Executive Director, with senior staff providing break out information sessions on the following topics: Student Achievement, Student Well-Being, and Capital Planning.

**RSVP:** For planning purposes, we ask that you please [RSVP here](#) and indicate which session you'd like to attend.



## Regional Advisory Sessions

This committee will allow members of the school community to provide advice directly to the Regional Executive Director, ensuring the School Advisory Councils are more connected to the regions, and will create another resource for the regions to tap into local voice. This committee is mandated to provide advice to the RED, share community issues, and discuss potential solutions.

## Student Advisory Council

This committee will provide the Regional Executive Director with information and advice on topics such as achievement and well-being, and other aspects of student experiences, especially as it relates to the Student Success Survey. TCRCE will seek out membership through an expression of interest from current students in grades 9-12, with plans to include four students from each of the county, with diverse representation.

## 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](mailto:info@tcrce.ca)

### General Inquiries

902-749-5696

[contact@tcrce.ca](mailto:contact@tcrce.ca)

### Transportation

902-749-5663

[bussing@tcrce.ca](mailto:bussing@tcrce.ca)

### Pre-Primary Program

902 740-0006

[preprimary@tcrce.ca](mailto:preprimary@tcrce.ca)

### School Closure/Weather

1-888-833-5287

[weather@tcrce.ca](mailto:weather@tcrce.ca)



TCRCE Optional French Programs  
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

2024-2025

**PRE-PRIMARY  
REGISTRATION**

Registrations are now being accepted for Pre-primary, along with NEW Primary students. Please share with anyone you know who has a child(ren) ready to start Pre-primary. In order to be eligible to attend Pre-primary:

Your child must be at least 4-years-old on or before December 31, 2024 and families need to live in the catchment area of the school for which they are registering.

Children are also eligible to attend if they will turn 5 years old on or before December 31 and had not attended Pre-primary previously. The online registration form can be found [here](#).

