

MARCH · SIEWKESIKU'S · MARS 2024



REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education



To mark African Heritage Month, these grade three students at Yarmouth Elementary School learned about influential African American/Canadians who helped shape the world into what we know it as today. They then compiled all their learning into quilt artwork (pictured right) and proudly shared it with the rest of the school.

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Reflecting on African Heritage Month



Jared Purdy
Regional Executive Director

February was an exciting month for us here in TCRCE, as we marked African Heritage Month.

It was a time for reflection, education, and celebration. As a system, we continue to focus on being more culturally responsive and equitable. This is a commitment that extends well beyond African Heritage Month and is a focus for us here in TCRCE each and every day. We recognize the importance of celebrating African Heritage and culture 365 days a year.

In TCRCE, our mission is to provide a safe and inclusive learning environment where every student can reach their full potential and succeed academically, socially and emotionally. In order to achieve this mission, we must continue to work on addressing systemic racism and current barriers within the education system. One way we are doing this is by listening and honouring the experiences of our students, their families, and our staff of African descent. As you'll see on the next few pages of this report, our schools honoured and celebrated African Heritage Month in a variety of ways. I was able to attend a number of the events held in our schools throughout the month and saw first-hand how our staff and students are honoured to both share and learn from the stories of African Nova Scotians.

I am proud of the education that took place across Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties over the last month, and I hope you will be too.

All the best,

Jared Purdy
Regional Executive Director



Students, staff, and community members came together at Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School for an African Heritage Month celebration.



On Tuesday February 27th, students, staff, and community gathered to celebrate African Heritage Month at Digby Regional High School. They shared education and history, as well as food, music, drumming, and fashion from several people in the Digby and Weymouth Communities.

TCRCE Celebrates African Heritage Month



Maritime Centre of African Dance visited Lockport Elementary and Lockport Regional High School (above).

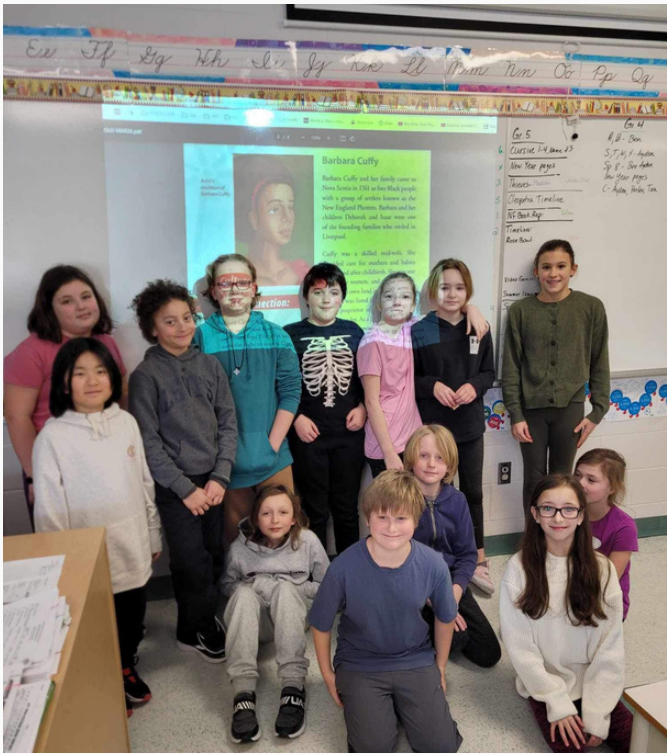


At Hillcrest Academy, the grade twos researched influential African Canadians and presented their research to the class. Students also learned about the Kente cloth and created their own, by weaving paper (pictured left, above).



Carleton Consolidated School welcomed students and staff from Port Maitland School and together, the group watched an African Dance and Drumming presentation.

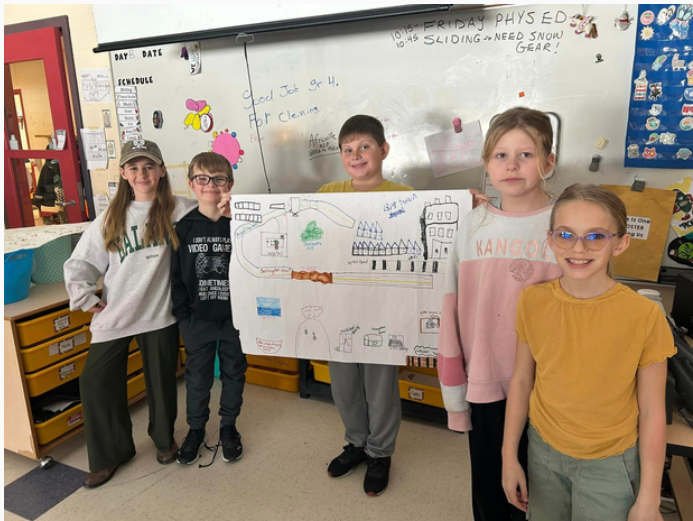
TCRCE Celebrates African Heritage Month



At Meadowfields Community School, these grade five students learned about Barbara Cuffy, the first black female landowner in Nova Scotia.



At St. Mary's Bay Academy, Mrs. T's Grade 7 and 8 classes created a canvas print to be displayed in the school lobby. The artwork represented the 2024 African Heritage Month theme - *Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians.*



Grade four students at Forest Ridge Academy explored, created and presented their maps of Africville.



Grade three students at Port Maitland Consolidated Elementary School made a construction paper quilt with the information they learned about influential people of African Descent.



Ideas for Education

Teacher OF THE MONTH

We are thrilled to introduce you to our first Teachers of the Month! Each month, TCRCE staff are invited to nominate an NSTU member who fits the monthly theme. The theme for January was Relationship-Building & Connection.



Frayne Kyte (right) with Janece McNutt, TCRCE Director of Programs & Student Services (left).

Frayne Kyte Digby Elementary School

From Nomination:

"Connections matter deeply to this teacher! Actions speak louder than words and Mr. Kyte truly is the perfect example of relationship building in education. I have seen him in very challenging situations and handle them with grace and still have that connection piece remain intact afterwards."



Amanda Digout (left) with Tracey Pothier, TCRCE Coordinator of French Second Language Programs (right).

Amanda Digout Barrington Municipal High School

From Nomination:
"I've never met anyone more caring or invested in her students than Amanda. She goes above and beyond each and everyday for the emotional, social, physical and academic needs of her students. She is much more than just a teacher. She is a counsellor, mentor, and friend to many students and colleagues."



Shannon Whittaker (left) with Jared Purdy, Regional Executive Director (right).

Shannon Whittaker Yarmouth Elementary School

From Nomination:
"Shannon is an educator who portrays many qualities in creating a positive learning environment for students, staff and families. Watching her work with students, it is evident that she is truly passionate about students achieving their goals, watching them grow as individuals- all while keeping good communication with home and staff."

REGIONAL STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

We are seeking expression of interests to join TCRCE's new Regional Student Advisory Council, which 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.

We are looking for diverse representation from grades 9-12. [More info here.](#)



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

📞 902-749-5696

✉️ contact@tcrce.ca

Transportation

📞 902-749-5663

✉️ bussing@tcrce.ca

Pre-Primary Program

📞 902 740-0006

✉️ preprimary@tcrce.ca

School Closure/Weather

📞 1-888-833-5287

✉️ weather@tcrce.ca