



REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education

Community & School Unite for a Musical Extravaganza at Maple Grove Education Centre



In a partnership between school and community, a special jam session and Band information event was held at Maple Grove Education Centre on Thursday, April 10th. Community members of the Yarmouth Citizens' Band along with YCMHS Band Instruments students joined MGEC Music Teacher, Megan Snow, and MGEC students to play instruments and explore music together. Families were also invited to the event to hear about the ongoing benefits of music education and to listen their children.



The event saw the participation of about 110 musicians, including more than 80 MGEC students, 10 YCMHS students, 2 YCMHS music teachers, and 17 adult volunteers from the Yarmouth Citizens' Band. Additionally, there was support from various TCRCE staff as well as numerous parents and students. In total, approximately 160 people were involved in some capacity, making the event a remarkable community effort.

In recent years, enrollment for Band Instruments 7 and 8 at Maple Grove has been low, and this event was held to provide interested students and families a glimpse into the amazing experience it is to learn to play an instrument and be a part of a band. There is a wealth of research available showing the many benefits of learning to play a musical instrument and the long-lasting impact it can have on our youth. It is our hope to see a renewed interest in the program at all Grade 7-12 schools in the future.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Staff of the Month
PAGE 2

Student Advisory Council
PAGE 2

Mi'kmaw Student
Boat Unveiling
PAGE 3

Spotlight on Schools
PAGE 4

Regional Science Fair
PAGE 5

NSISP
PAGE 6



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Each month, TCRCE staff are invited to nominate a staff member who fits the monthly theme. We are pleased to share the winners for March:

MARCH RECIPIENTS

Theme: Cultural Responsiveness and Equity

Secondary Teacher -

Katie Doane
Saint Mary's Bay Academy

From Nomination:

Many students sing her praises as one of their favorite teachers because she was "tough, but fair." The fair part comes from her giving students many opportunities both academically and socially to make improvements, fix mistakes or right their wrongs. The tough part comes from her not EVER turning a blind eye to any injustice. She is the safe space for so many of our vulnerable students - students of different cultures, different socio-economic backgrounds, different sexual and gender orientation - as well as a safe space for our less vulnerable students.

Non-Teaching Staff -

Margaret Smith, Student Support Worker

From Nomination:

I attended WCS and SMBA as a student and Margaret was the ANS worker when I was a student and she always went out of her way to make sure that it wasn't just the month of February that, we as students, felt equal in the building. The children she works with have learned about their culture through Margaret, and they feel safe and supported.

Elementary Teacher -

Renny Cummings
Port Maitland Consolidated School

From Nomination:

Renny is a leader in our school when it comes to diversity and equity. He leads the GSA and is part of our equity team at the school, helping to come up with rich learning activities for all students. He has helped advise on challenging racialized incidents as well. He has a great way of talking about any of these issues with ease and helps others to reflect on their own bias and be better students and staff.

Regional School Advisory Council

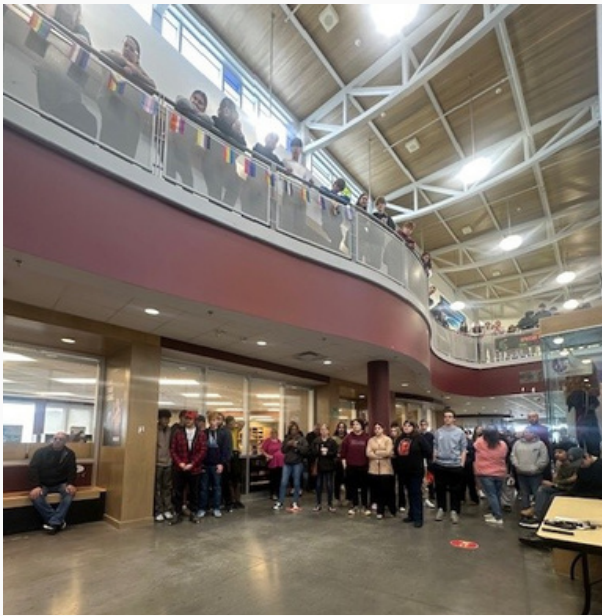
We are continuing our work to strengthen local voice in the public education system. Part of how we collaborate with our community is through the Regional School Advisory Council.

The council recently met on Monday, April 14th and discussed a number of important topics including the following:

- Collaborative Learning Days
- School Lunch Program - Phase 2
- Transportation and Bussing Concerns
- Provincial School Code of Conduct
- System Improvement Plan 2025/2026
- Staffing and Budget Updates



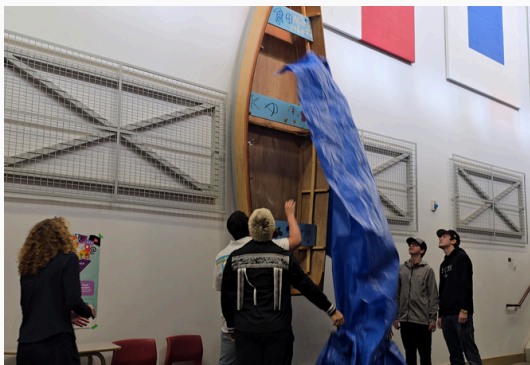
Mi'kmaw Student Boat Unveiling Ceremony at Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School



Students at YCMHS watch the unveiling ceremony.



YCMHS Students L-R: Angelo, Perry Maskine, Tanner Francis, Dawson Smith, Riley Doucette.



Students and staff participate in a talking circle.

In 2022, several Mi'kmaw students from our region participated in the Two-Eyed Seeing Project, a collaborative boat-building initiative hosted in Halifax through a partnership with Mount Saint Vincent University and the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. This meaningful project allowed students to honour their Mi'kmaw heritage while gaining valuable hands-on skills and strengthening their connection to both Indigenous and Western knowledge systems.

One of the boats crafted during this initiative has since been returned to our community and is now proudly displayed at Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School (YCMHS).

On April 23, 2025, YCMHS hosted a special unveiling ceremony to celebrate this achievement. The event welcomed students, staff, community members, and honoured guests from Wasoqopa'q First Nation, including Chief Deborah Robinson, Councillor Tom Pictou, and Councillor Jeff Purdy. The ceremony opened with a traditional welcome and land acknowledgment, followed by storytelling and reflections from knowledge holders and students, who shared the significance of their experiences and the importance of the Two-Eyed Seeing approach.

Following the unveiling, a talking circle was held in collaboration with TCRCE's Regional Education Director as a youth engagement session. Students from Wasoqopa'q First Nation were invited to share their school experiences within the provincial education system openly. The circle fostered a spirit of openness, respect, and collective understanding, emphasizing the need for continued listening, learning, and collaboration to support Mi'kmaw students better.

As part of the original project in 2022, students also participated in a ceremonial boat launch at Kejimikujik National Park. On June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day, they paddled to the sacred petroglyphs, guided by tour leaders, some of whom were members of Wasoqopa'q First Nation. TCRCE partnered with Wasoqopa'q First Nation by providing transportation to ensure students could fully participate in this culturally significant experience.

We are proud of our students' accomplishments and grateful to our partners and community for helping lift Mi'kmaw voices and traditions through this project.

Spotlight on Schools



Students in this Food Science class at Lockeport Regional High School recently experimented making play doh. This was a creative lesson in physical and chemical reactions and while it may have looked like a tasty treat, this dough was meant for learning not for snacking! (Pictured above).



Shelburne Regional High School grade 8 students recently learned about ratios and equivalent ratios in math class and it was a sweet success! (Pictured above).



Meadowfields Community School conducted a student vote on Election Day, April 28. Results will be shared with students later in the week.



Digby Neck Consolidated School students used Administrative Professionals Day to show their appreciation to the school's administrative assistant, Sandy, and thanked her for all she does to keep their school running smoothly on a daily basis.

Regional Science Fair Recap

The 2025 Regional Science Fair took place at the end of March at the Mariner's Centre in Yarmouth. The event showcased the talents and dedication of young students from Digby, Yarmouth, and Shelburne counties.

This year, the fair saw a significant increase in participation, with a total of 51 participants, which is 28 more than in 2024. The fair featured representation in all three Canada Wide Science Fair (CWSF) categories: Junior (grades 7-8), Intermediate (grades 9-10), and Senior (grades 11-12). Three participants were selected to represent TCRCE at the CWSF in May (as indicated with the asterik in the list below).

Nova Scotian universities generously donated over \$10,000 in scholarships and awards. As well, a new regional award category was introduced to recognize the outstanding work of partnership projects.

Congratulations to this year's winners:

Junior Category:

***1st Place: C. Prloux (DRHS) - "Testing Tumblers"**

2nd Place: J. Cleveland (BMHS) - "Spider Plants"

3rd Place: M. Cunningham (SRHS) - "Which Growing Light is Best for Plants"

Intermediate Category:

***1st Place: Y. Jennings (SRHS) - "Promoting Cognitive Digital Detox"**

Senior Category:

***1st Place: S. Sun (YCMHS) - "Quantum vs. Classical Computing"**

2nd Place: T. Singh (YCMHS) - "Digital Black Hole Simulation, 2-D & 3-D"

3rd Place: A. MacKenzie (YCMHS) - "Swimming Drag Force"

Partner Category:

1st Place: R. Shin & M. Rozario (DRHS) - "No Blow Balloons"

2nd Place: M. Cheschutti & S. Patel (SRHS) - "Water Test"

3rd Place: L. Pennell & C. Williams (SRHS) - "The Effect of Coffee on our Sleep"

Other Awards/Scholarships:

People's Choice: Y. Jennings (SRHS) - Chosen by public/other participants by way of counted ballots.

Engineers Nova Scotia Award (\$100): S. Sun (YCMHS) - For a project that demonstrates an innovative, creative, and well-tested solution to a real-world problem.

Acadia University Merit Award (\$1000): Z. Al Zahabi (SRHS) - Towards full-time undergraduate tuition at Acadia University.

Dalhousie Faculty of Science Scholarship (\$1500): G. Ho (YCMHS) - Given to Senior Category, redeemable upon enrollment in B.Sc. program.

St. Mary's University Dean of Science Summer Research Award (approx. \$8600): S. Sun (YCMHS) - If the student chooses to attend SMU in the academic year following high school graduation, they can accept a summer research opportunity with faculty from SMU Science Department.

**Participants indicated in bold are CWSF qualifiers, with Y. Jennings being a returning participant to CWSF.*





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nsisp@tcrce.ca



How to Contact TCRCE

School-Related Inquiries/Concerns?

1. The first point of contact should always be the child's teacher or Early Childhood Educator (ECE) for pre-primary children.
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



902-749-5818



preprimary@tcrce.ca

School Closure/Weather



1-888-833-5287



weather@tcrce.ca

