



REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education



The Shelburne Regional High School Class of 2025 visited Hillcrest Academy on June 13th for the annual grad march. You can view the visit by clicking the link above.

Congratulations, graduates!

As this school year comes to a close, we celebrate the achievements, growth, and resilience of this year's graduates. The Class of 2025 has shown determination and spirit, and we wish each graduate continued success and fulfillment in the journey ahead.

As you step into your next chapter, know that your future is bright and full of possibility.

We're proud of all you've accomplished—well done!

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Building Skills, Connections, and Culture

Recently, a group of Mi'kmaq and African Nova Scotian students from Digby Regional High School, alongside their dedicated Mi'kmaw and African Nova Scotian Support Workers, came together for a meaningful day of water safety, cultural learning, and community connection.

In collaboration with Public Health partners, Laura Comeau and Ian Surette, the day began with a water and surf safety skill-building session at Université Sainte-Anne's pool, where students not only participated but also helped plan and lead the day. After sharing lunch, the group travelled to the ocean for a land-based cultural learning session led by Mi'kmaw Student Support Worker, Sara. She shared teachings about the importance of giving in Mi'kmaw culture — a tradition deeply rooted in community, reciprocity, and care for one another and the land.

To end the day, each participant reflected on their personal highlights and what they were grateful for, followed by a thoughtful student-led Smudging Circle for the whole group. It was a beautiful day of leadership, learning, cultural sharing, and connection — leaving everyone carrying a little more knowledge, gratitude, and community spirit.

Wela'liog to Sara Swinamer and Ginger Miller Leblanc for all you do for your students, school, and community!



Powwow Drum Teachings with Michael R. Denny

This month, TCRCE hosted Michael R. Denny, a respected Mi'kmaw cultural educator, for a meaningful Powwow Drum Teachings session.

Michael shared the sacred role of the powwow drum, a drum used by many Indigenous Nations, and its connection to ceremony, song, and spirit. While not specific to the Mi'kmaw Nation, the teachings offered deep insight into how the drum brings people together in unity and respect.

Each drum used during the session will now be placed in a school within each county, where student drum keepers and an identified staff member will care for them and carry the teachings forward.

These sessions are vital, and we look forward to welcoming Michael back to continue this essential work in the fall.



Provincial Leaders visit Islands & Drumlin



Last month, Islands Consolidated School welcomed a number of Nova Scotia Cabinet Ministers and Ministerial Assistants.

The honourable guests were greeted with a welcome station that gave an explanation of their roles in Cabinet so students understood the roles and responsibilities of their guests.

The group included:

The Honourable Brendan Maguire, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, the Honourable Trevor Boudreau, Minister of Energy, the Honourable Fred Tilley, Minister of Public Works, John White, Deputy Speaker and the ministerial assistant focusing on housing to the Minister of Growth and Development, Susan Corkum-Greek, ministerial assistant to the Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, focusing on tourism, and Nick Hilton, ministerial assistant to the Minister of Health and Wellness.

The group got a full tour of ICS and spent some time in classrooms speaking with students and staff. Thank you for your visit.



Thank you to the Honourable Brendan Maguire, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, and the Honourable Colton LeBlanc, Minister of Growth and Development & Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie, for their recent visit to Drumlin Heights Consolidated School.

They are pictured in the photo above (left) with Drumlin Principal, Jordan Pierce. The photo to the right shows Minister Maguire joining in on a game of dodgeball.

Staff OF THE MONTH

Each month, TCRCE staff are invited to nominate a staff member who fits the monthly theme. Here are the May/June winners.



MAY/JUNE RECIPIENTS

Theme: Empowerment and Advocacy

Elementary:

Carol Arthurs - TCRCE

From Nomination:

Carol continues to advocate for the students of the TCRCE, especially those at the elementary level, for the past 20+ years. She invests time in sharing resources with educators to ensure they have the most evidenced-based information to support their students. Students are provided with an empowered sense of self because she supports the demystification of why they may be struggling in their academics.

Secondary:

Joan O'Neil

Digby Regional High School

From Nomination:

Joan embodies this month's theme. By offering choice in her classroom, she allows students to take ownership of learning. She shows students how to advocate for themselves but also gives them opportunities to explore different strategies to be successful in their learning. Joan is also a safe space for both staff and students to share feelings and be validated. She cares for the school community at large and wants what is best for DRHS.

Non-Teaching:

Amy Tudor

Islands Consolidated School

From Nomination:

Amy is a force to be reckoned with at ICS. Amy took on the role of office administrator this September. She is currently excelling at her new position. Amy is the smiling face you meet every morning, she is the friendly voice behind the phone. Amy's cheerful voice comes across the speaker for morning announcements. She is willing to fight for the rights and opportunities for our students. She is constantly advocating for the well-being of our students. Amy makes sure that all of our students are taken care of on a daily basis.

Elementary:

Ashley Purdy

Yarmouth Elementary

From Nomination:

Ashley always goes above and beyond to help students see their greatness. She encourages them to speak up for themselves in healthy positive ways. Ashley is always encouraging her students to do their best and advocate for themselves, and when they don't have the words or feel they can't, she supports them and helps them get their words and feelings out!

Secondary:

Amanda Cooke

Lockeport Regional High School

From Nomination:

Amanda Cooke is an outstanding educator whose work as a resource teacher at Lockeport Regional High School exemplifies dedication, compassion, and innovation in education. She consistently empowers students to take ownership of their learning by fostering a safe and supportive environment where every student feels heard and valued. Amanda encourages student voice, ensuring that learners are active participants in their educational journey rather than passive recipients.

Non-Teaching:

Valerie Atwood

Lockeport Elementary School

From Nomination:

Val has a natural gift with children, effortlessly connecting with them and creating a joyful, nurturing environment. She encourages all students to work to their full potential and fosters independence. Val is a team player, always willing to lend a hand and support others. Val empowers students at all grade levels, to take ownership of their learning and voice their opinions. She puts great effort into getting to know each student so she can tailor her approach.

Spotlight on Schools



On May 29th, students from Weymouth Consolidated School took part in a cultural community tour organized by Margaret and Sha-Ron. The tour explored several local areas, including Weymouth Falls, Old Yarmouth Road, Hassett, Havelock, Hilltown, Langford Road, Southville, and Riverdale. The day wrapped up with food and fun at the Southville Fire Department.

Joining the group was David Phillips, TCRCE's Coordinator of African Nova Scotian Education, who came along to learn more about the history, homes, and families of the students. It was a fantastic initiative—students were beaming with pride as they shared their communities.



Maple Grove's Cheer Squad recently visited Meadowfields Community School to provide students with an excellent introduction to Cheer. Students watched a routine, then participated in some basic skills (pictured above).



TCRCE's Active Healthy Living Consultant, Lori Sigfridson, recently joined students at Digby Neck Consolidated School to help with a lesson. Students learned how to find a compass bearing, read a map, and follow an orienteering course to find various checkpoints as part of Physical Education. Thanks to Lori for setting up this fun learning experience!

Recent Reading Data from Grades P-6

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.

Our teachers and administrators review results on a regular basis throughout the school year and determine appropriate literacy supports based on the evidence of reading data.

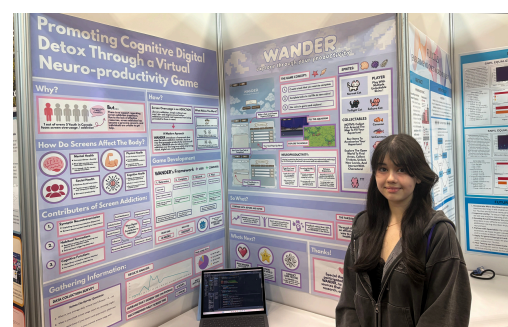
Here is the data collected at the beginning of the school year and at the end of the year.

GRADE	% OF STUDENTS MEETING EXPECTATIONS IN OCTOBER	% OF STUDENTS MEETING EXPECTATIONS IN MAY
P	66.25%*	62.2%
1	30.4%	58.0%
2	52.9%	72.9%
3	67.4%	72.6%
4	67.4%	80.4%
5	76.0%	82.5%
6	71.3%	76.1%
ALL P-6	66.2%	72.2%

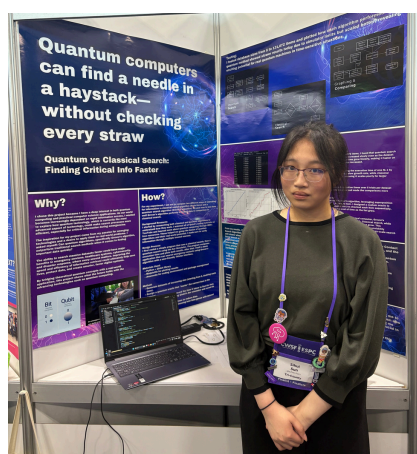
* Grade Primary Baseline is taken from January

Canada Wide Science Fair Participants

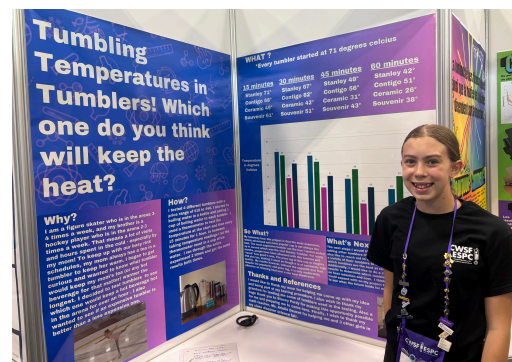
Congratulations to these TCRCE students who competed in Canada Wide Science Fair at the NB Fredericton campus earlier in June.



Yui Jennings (SRHS)



Sihui Sun (YCMHS)



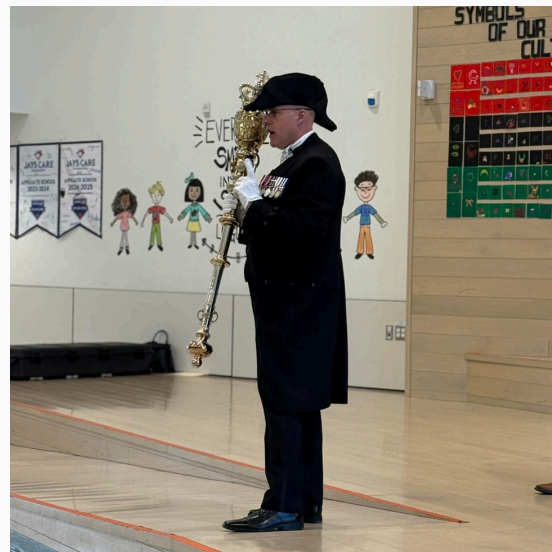
Charly Proulx (DRHS)

Speaker of the House Visits TCRCE

Earlier this month, Meadowfields Community School, Yarmouth Elementary School, and Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School, welcomed the Speaker of the House, the Honourable Danielle Barkhouse, accompanied by the Chief Clerk of the House, James Charlton, and the Sergeant-at-Arms, David Fraser, bearing the Mace.

Students learned about the roles of their guests as well as the importance of the Mace. Students were fully engaged and asked thoughtful questions, demonstrating their curiosity and growing understanding of how government works.

Photos below are from the visit at Yarmouth Elementary School. Thank you to the honourable guests mentioned above and also to Yarmouth MLA, Nick Hilton, along with TCRCE Regional Executive Director, Jared Purdy for attending the event.



Healthy Choices Fun Day

On June 10th, our Wasoqopa'q First Nation and community students — Angelo Maskine, Perry Maskine, Atreyu Morningstar, Tanner Francis, Luxey Earle, Riley Goodwin, and Ellie Pyne, visited Plymouth Elementary School to host a Healthy Choices Fun Day with Grade 5 students who are preparing to enter middle school.

The youth-led a morning filled with fun activities, healthy snacks, and meaningful conversations about making positive choices and living a healthy lifestyle. Everyone had a great time!

This initiative was a collaborative effort between the students at YCMHS, our Mi'kmaq Regional Coordinator, and Livinus' Mental Health Program.

What makes this event even more special is that it was entirely youth-led. Our Mi'kmaq students came up with the idea as a prevention initiative, a way to say "no" to drugs and vaping. They felt reaching students before they enter middle school was important, recognizing the value of early education around peer pressure and healthy choices. Each student stepped into a leadership role, turning their ideas into action and making a powerful impact through community and connection.

