

Superintendent's Report
May 8, 2019

ENDS# 1: To provide positive, safe, healthy and inclusive learning and working environments for children, youth, and staff. This is a very busy time for Coordinators of Education Support Services as they visit each school to discuss EA needs for next school year. In each Centre they are also collecting information on new students coming into kindergarten; this involves meetings and observations and in total we have one hundred and sixty students who have special transition meetings with close to one hundred being in Saint John Centre.

ENDS#2: To demonstrate continuous improvement toward meeting provincial targets in literacy, numeracy, science (English and French Immersion) and to improve learning in and application of the arts, trades and technology. Subject Coordinators have hosted three FSL public speaking competitions in the District, one in each Education Centre. Winners will be competing this weekend at U de Moncton. The numbers participating in public speaking for English Prime have declined and the Subject Coordinator will be looking at this initiative. We do have students moving to the provincial competition in all categories (oratorical, spoken word poetry and debate).

We had middle school students involved in The Learning Partnership's program, "Turning Points" where students write about an event that has been a turning point in their lives – we have winners from Sir James Dunn, Sussex Middle, and Harry Miller Middle who will be honored on May 15 in Fredericton.

Our FSL Subject Coordinators have been supporting provincial work on the grade 3 FI Curriculum.

We hosted our first Middle School Math League – with 9 middle schools and 67 students on their math teams. They worked through several rounds of questions, enjoyed pizza and then a tie breaker round. This initiative was brought to ASD-S by a teacher who worked in Newfoundland and it was a very successful initiative. She wants to see us expand into high school next year. On Friday, May 10 we have twenty nine middle and high schools participating in the UNB Math Competition being held at UNBSJ. This event used to be held in Fredericton, so we are pleased to see it in our District, allowing more to attend.

Grade 6 students participated in writing the District benchmark assessments and results are being prepared for our schools.

ENDS#3: To increase the engagement of children & youth by embedding competencies such as, critical thinking, citizenship, entrepreneurship, innovation, personalized learning and leadership in teaching and learning. Bayside Middle School will host a "Cyber Day for Girls," with close to three hundred participants. This event is sponsored by IBM. NBCC in Saint John is hosting a "Trades and Tech Career Day" May 28, 2019 and six high schools will be participating. ASD-S will be hosting a "Makerfaire Gala" on May 29, 2019 at Millidgeville North School; this event was held last year in Memramcook so we are pleased to be hosting – we are expecting 100-125 students and the event is open to the public from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm and awards presented at 6:00 pm. This event is sponsored by Brilliant Labs. On May 30 The Learning Partnership will host the "Entrepreneurial Adventure Showcase," at the WU Conference Centre in Fredericton – our District participates in this annual event and this year we will have St. John the Baptist/King Edward, Saint John High, Quispamsis Middle and Chris Saunders Memorial Elementary participating.

Regional Heritage Fairs will be held this month, Saint John Education Centre on May 2 at the Saint John Library, May 9 for Hampton Education Centre at Hampton Middle School and St. Stephen Centre on May 14, at St. Stephen Middle School. If DEC members are interested in attending any of these special activities, please let me know and I can provide specifics.

Many students have been participating in the NB Competitive Festival of Music – individual musicians, choirs, bands, strings and SISTEMA. Thank you to all of the staff members who have made this opportunity possible for our students. I plan to attend the final “Founders Night Concert” this evening. Please continue to review Southern Exposure for the fine arts events and musicals being held through May and June – as we focus on engaging students, I am proud of the many activities we offer with public speaking, technology, numeracy, sports, science, music, the arts, heritage fairs, entrepreneurship etc.

The 13 Moons Ceremony for which all DEC members received an invitation has been postponed until May 19 at the Saint John Marina.

Other:

Late last week we learned of the death of a long-time bus driver in the Sussex area, Susan Walsh. Mrs. Walsh worked over 30 years as a driver and would have transported many staff members who work in the area. She was driving until the March break and shortly after was hospitalized. Her service was on Monday in Sussex. The Sussex and area drivers met at Sussex Middle and a convoy of yellow buses made their way through the town to the church in honor of their colleague Susan.

On Friday, May 3 teachers will be attending provincial Subject Council at the Coliseum in Moncton – Gary Hall, Jessica Hanlon and I plan to attend. There is no school for students. On Monday, May 6 the NBTA/AEFNB Annual General Meetings will be held around ASD-S and no classes for students. I have been invited to speak to the teachers in Saint John, in the Kennebecasis Valley and after lunch in Sussex. Peter Smith will be offering an afternoon PD session for the Sussex teachers. On Monday there will also be a PD Day for all Administrative Assistants in Saint John – there will be a session on LGBTQ, as well as information on various software the Assistants use on a regular basis.

During the months of May and June there will be many retirement celebrations happening for teachers and support staff. The District will be represented at each of these events and the District gift is once again an engraved wooden box with our logo and the year, crafted by artist Brent Rourke, who resides in Bloomfield.

We have three schools to congratulate and celebrate today on being the recipients of monies for special projects!

Sir James Dunn Academy in St. Andrews had the ribbon cutting for their improved stage area last weekend with new lights, curtains, sound system and bleachers at a cost of \$124K on the upgrade. Students and staff raised \$20K, the Kiwanis Club, the Dunn Foundation gave matching grants, and the Regional Development Corporation \$60K.

Quispamsis Middle School was the recipients of a \$3K “Greening Canada’s School” grant through Tree Canada and Staples – these funds will be used to complete an outdoor classroom and basketball court.

Hampton Elementary School are again winners – from Staples a \$20K “Superpower Your School” grant. They have been finalists for the last 5 years and this year are the 2019 Atlantic Elementary School recipient. This grant is for the environmental initiatives of the school and the funds will be used to add to the technology at the school.

Today the list of offerings for Summer Learning was shared with all teachers and staff members. We have approximately thirty sessions scheduled to be offered ranging in length from a half day to three days. Sessions are facilitated by school based and District staff and many topics support our District Improvement Plan (First Nations education, Mental Health First Aid, Assessment, Numeracy, Global Competencies, Coding, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, 3D Printing, Standards Based Reporting, Innovative Ways to Demonstrate Learning, Purposeful Play, Violent Threat Risk Assessment, Physical Literacy Movement Workshop, LGBTQ+ to name a few).

Staffing will soon begin for teachers and EAs, School Intervention Workers, and Administrative Assistants. For teacher staffing we are awaiting the provincial decision on FSL entry point and also our final number of teachers and leads/coaches. Interviews are being held for some administrative positions which have been publicized externally.