

Superintendent's Report January, 2020

ENDS #1: To provide positive, safe, healthy and inclusive learning and working environments for children, youth, and staff.

In January the middle school resource teachers will be coming together for one day of professional learning; the teachers meet in smaller groups so we have adequate supply teachers and more opportunities for interaction. Our commitment is for each resource teacher to have three days of professional learning to build capacity in our school-based Education Support Services Teams, with the focus on managing complex behavior and developing intervention plans.

The 2-day Violent Threat Risk Assessment training will be offered again in January by District facilitators to administrators and our Child and Youth Team members from Social Development, Education, police and Public Safety. This is on-going.

Public Health have been visiting all schools for a re-check of those immunizations records not marked "complete" during their September visits to each of our schools. In the fall Health sent letters to each family informing them what was missing from their child's record. They also offered some additional clinics on non-student days through the fall term. In January I will be meeting with Health to review numbers for each school and following up with a letter to parents of children whose record is not yet stamped complete. We appreciate the attention and focus of the nurses.

Middle and high schools just received the results of the NB Wellness Survey completed in spring 2019 by all grades 6-12 schools. The survey covers six domains: learning, social and emotional development, participation and engagement, healthy lifestyles, safety and health status. ASD-S had all middle/high schools participate and our population makes up close to 40% of participating students in NB. Each school receives their own report card and this is useful information to inform School Improvement Planning and to share with PSSC's. The District also receives a report which can be shared with DEC.

Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities award community development grants to sports and physical recreational programs that align with the Sport for Life Long-Term Athlete Development Framework. This fall several schools in ASD-S completed applications for funding and the following schools have received Jumpstart Community Development Grants: Centennial, Forest Hills, Glen Falls, Princess Elizabeth and St. John the Baptist-King Edward. A total of \$14 918 has been awarded to our schools for programs such as skating, cardio drumming, curling, pickleball and yoga. Students will begin these programs in January. We'd like to thank Jumpstart for their financial support in helping children develop new skills while being physically active.

The new year one schools involved in the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) initiative met for a day of learning. The schools in year 2 were given a survey in December to give feedback on their progress and to identify next steps and examine data and to begin

building their school plan – these schools are St. Stephen Elementary, Fairvale, Beaconsfield, Blacks Harbour, Apohaqui and Bayview.

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.

Congratulations to Loch Lomond School on being named a UNESCO School – Jessica Hanlon did a press release to be shared with media on the naming of Loch Lomond and celebrating the six schools in the District that are part of this initiative.

ASD-South participated in the “Hour of Code” during the week of December 9, 2019. Students in at least 28 of our schools participated in coding projects ranging from programming Microbits to students teaching their parents to code.

Science Fair season has begun. We’re working with schools to support them as they make science fair part of their assessment, rather than a separate project. Done well, science fair gives students an opportunity to pursue individual interests while developing research and critical thinking skills, as well as communication skills.

EAL Bridging Cultures Grants of \$500-\$1700 were awarded to seven schools using funds from EECD. The applications had to describe how their school-based initiative would promote cross-cultural understanding, build collaborative peer relationships and strengthen, identify and encourage a sense of belonging for students from various cultures, while connecting to the 10- year Education Plan and NB Global Competencies.

ENDS #4: To provide opportunities for staff to learn about mental health issues in children and youth and to promote school and District wide initiatives that promote mental fitness.

At the January 6 facilities PD, Jennifer Grant will be offering a session on mental health.

The three Respect and Diversity lead/coach teachers and guidance leads/coaches have received over 100 referrals/requests for service from schools and teachers to promote social emotional learning in the classroom. The guidance leads/coaches have been very supportive at the schools impacted by tragedies over the last couple of months.

ENDS #5: To expect all members of the school community to be welcomed, respected, accepted and supported and to address heterosexism and discrimination.

Two of our Guidance Leads/Coaches will be travelling to Ontario to receive more training on The Fourth R Healthy Relationships LBNTQ2+ program that allows more guided discussions for our GSA – the cost of this training is covered by Western University as part of a research project.

ENDS #7: To promote the value of education through effective partnerships and positive pro-active communication.

In December schools were invited to share with Jessica initiatives they had that focused on giving and being good citizens. We heard from forty-four schools and Jessica put these together into a document that has been posted for DEC, and will be shared on our website, and emailed to local MLA's, MP's, media contacts, and PSSC Chairs – lots of positive news to celebrate.

ASD-S has received a generous donation of musical equipment from Saint Mary's Band, Saint John's community concert band. Part of the band's mandate is to support community music in general and educational opportunities. Saint Mary's Band purchased over \$4000 worth of new musical equipment, including keyboards, stands, carrying cases and headphones. These instruments are available to be signed out by schools who wish to use them for short-term projects that will assist them in achieving their learning outcomes in music. Six schools will be using them this year: Chris Saunders Memorial Elementary School, Hammond River Valley Elementary, St. George Elementary, Forest Hills School, Sussex Elementary, and Centennial School.

Other:

Thursday, December 19 we learned of the death of grade 11 student Michael Kraszewski from Sussex Regional High School. Supports were quickly mobilized to support this school in dealing with the tragedy. On January 1, 2020 we also learned of the tragic death of grade 2 student Solange LaFlamme, who had been a Rothesay Elementary School student from September – late November 2019. Our District has experienced the death of six staff and students in the last two months and each time we have responded quickly to offer support and assist with communication.

On Monday, January 6 there is a PD Day for staff – the focus for teachers and administrators is School Improvement Planning. The 24 schools involved in the implementation of the new provincial process have a set agenda for that day, other schools are encouraged to use part of the day to review the tools available for the new process. All Administrative Assistants will meet at Bayside Middle School with topics specific to their roles, and the custodians and facilities staff will be meeting at our office for their PD which will include working through the new provincial modules on Respectful Workplace and Prevention of Workplace Violence, as well as a session on mental health. I will have an opportunity to bring some updates to both groups.

Principals and Vice Principal teams will meet together in January – Thursday, January 9 for all high school administration teams and on either January 22 or 23 for teams from our elementary and middle schools. Topics for the high school meeting include course selection process and communication, SPR Guidelines, and the beginning of a book study on implementing successful change.

High School exams/assessments will be the week of January 20, 2020. High school turnaround days are January 27-28 and second term begins on Wednesday, January 29. Monday, January 27 is a PD day for all K-8 schools.

I will be out of the District on January 16-17 attending Ed Group meetings in Moncton, and on January 30-31 in Miramichi for meetings of NB Association of School Business Officials.