

Telegraph-Journal

SAINT JOHN • The Anglophone South School District will be hosting a question-and-answer session on the coronavirus.

Hosted by the “It Takes a Village” committee – which is made up of the four Saint John Area High School PSSCs – Dr. Kimberley Barker, Medical Officer of Health for the south region, will be hosting an information session and Q&A about the virus.

“There have been many media reports on the coronavirus and some misinformation and myths around this contagious virus which affects the respiratory system,” states the event description. “In Dr. Barker’s session, she will help dispel these myths and answer questions from the public about the virus.”

All are welcome to attend the event, which will take place on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in Saint John High School’s Dennis Knibb Auditorium.

ASD South To Host Coronavirus Q&A

Saint John, NB, Canada / The Wave

Tamara Steele

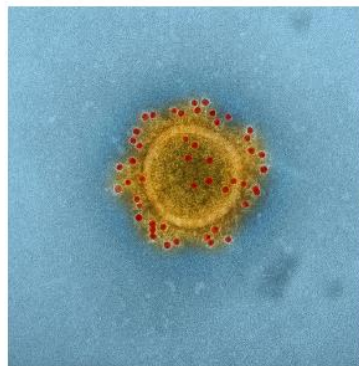
February 06, 2020 07:09 am

A lot of your questions about the coronavirus can be answered during a question and answer session at Saint John High School.

Dr. Kimberly Barker, medical officer of health for the south region, will dispel some of the myths and misinformation surrounding the contagious virus which affects the respiratory system.

Anglophone South School District Superintendent Zoe Watson says they thought it was a proactive move to hold this session with the parent group “It Takes A Village”, which represents all four high schools in the city.

“They were in touch in with Dr. Kim Barker on Friday and we collectively decided it would be a proactive initiative to offer a public session,” Watson said.



NIAID / CC

Local act of great sportsmanship gains national attention

By Sari Green - January 14, 2020



Submitted photo Southern Vic goaltender TJ Sullivan took a few minutes to help an inexperienced goalie from St. Stephen High School during a recent game. Sullivan offered up some tips that would help Davan Cloney, who had never played goal before, in an act that coach Don McCallum called, "classy". During this game, these players showed everyone what true sportsmanship really is.

St. Stephen – At a time when the sport of hockey seems to be getting negative attention, a bright light shone on one game between the St. Stephen High School boys' hockey team and Southern Vic. The St. Stephen team was without a goalie for a recent game, and had to throw in a player who had never played net before. Not only did the opposing team support the last minute add, the Southern Vic goalie, TJ Sullivan, offered up some help to the inexperienced goaltender.

Sonics hockey team shows support for suicide prevention



The men's Sussex Regional High School Sonics hockey team will be hosting a game that will help raise awareness about suicide prevention in partnership with the Sussex Suicide Prevention Committee.
Photo: Submitted/Sussex Sonics Mens Hockey Facebook

Nathalie Sturgeon | Kings County Record

As the men's Sussex Regional High School Sonics hockey team vies for the last playoff spot, the team is making time to raise awareness for suicide prevention.

Carol Green, a hockey mom and the team's social media manager, said the idea was brought to them by the Sussex Suicide Prevention Committee.

"They wanted to reach a large group of people just to create awareness," she said.

The Suicide Prevention Committee will sponsor the game, meaning it covers the usual entrance fee for the game in exchange for the promotion of the committee's cause — suicide prevention. This allows everyone to attend the game for free.

People will be encouraged to wear yellow, Green said, which represents the U.S.-based Yellow Ribbon for Suicide Prevention Program. She added those who wear yellow will be entered for a prize.

According to the prevention program's website, it has members of communities around the world who empower people to raise awareness and prevent youth and teen suicide. It was created in 1994 and estimates that over 25 years it's saved the lives of 114,370 people.

Green said it's important for young people to be aware and to be able have a conversation about suicide prevention.

"Mental health is important," she said. "My personal opinion is everyone has times when people are feeling down, and they need help. I guess it's important for younger people to know it is okay to talk about it, it's okay to be aware of it."

The game takes place on Feb. 8 from 7:15 to 9:45 p.m. at the 8th Hussars Sports Centre. The Sonics take on St. Malachy's Memorial High School. Admission is free.

Sonics help suicide prevention group boost reach



Some booths were set up at the 8th Hussars Sports Centre by the Sussex Suicide Prevention Committee.

Photo: Crystal Gray/Submitted

Nathalie Sturgeon | Kings County Record

One of the organizers of a suicide prevention awareness night with the Sussex Sonics high school men's hockey team says the partnership was a success.

The Sussex Suicide Prevention Committee set up a booth at the team's Feb. 8 game at the 8th Hussars Sports Centre, which was designated Suicide Awareness Night. Crystal Gray, a volunteer with the group, said they wanted to figure out a way to reach a large number of people and thought of the arena.

"We had announcements throughout the weeks at the school," she said. "We reached out to the leadership team [and] set up a booth [on] game night. They provided hot chocolate and cookies, which was donated by [Mrs.] Dunsters."

She said they also had the Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) program set up a table. According to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, ISD is an approach that involves close collaboration among team members and participating departments. It helps children with emotional, behavioural, and mental health issues.

Gray said involving youth and children in the conversation about suicide prevention is important.

"[It] provides an opportunity to discover resources ... explore support systems and sending the message that it is OK to ask for help."

The players also had ribbons made for their helmets, and coaches were given some information they could read to players.

'It adds up to awareness': teacher shares success with entire community



Some plants inside the greenhouse built at Hampton High School.
Photo: Submitted/Laura Myers

Published 6 hours ago



Nathalie Sturgeon | Kings County Record

Laura Myers knows every sustainability and climate change project she undertakes is a team effort.

Myers, a Hampton High School mathematics teacher, was recently featured in the Canadian Geographic online blog and is grateful to be sharing her work.

She said it all began with the movie *Before the Flood* featuring actor Leonardo DiCaprio, who travels around the world to look at the effects of climate change.

"After watching that movie, it was very clear that [climate change] was dire," she said in an interview. "Afterwards I just wrote on the board, 'what now?'"

The movie, she said, generated a discussion among students about what they could do to help promote sustainability and battle climate change. Myers said when the topic of building a greenhouse came up, it originally seemed out of reach, primarily due to costs.

However, the idea not only became a reality, but spurred several other projects which led to Hampton High becoming the province's first UNESCO school. Her husband, Chris Rendell, has been instrumental in helping support the school in their efforts to build a greenhouse and a food forest. They held a climate change rally and

Australia fundraisers gets overwhelming support



The handmade cards were done by students at Sussex Middle School to send to those working to save the animals who were injured in the wildfire.
Photo: Submitted

Published a day ago



Aaron Sousa | Kings County Record

Dr. Sara Pridham, of the Stoneybrook Veterinary Clinic, said after a month of collecting donations for veterinarian clinics in Australia she has found herself overwhelmed by the region's generosity.

"We were expecting that people would help out as much as they could," she said. "But we weren't necessarily prepared for how overwhelming the support has been in such a short period."

Since Jan. 10, Pridham said the clinic had received enough donations to fill a 10 feet by 12 feet trailer and the flatbed of her truck. By Feb. 4, the fund has raised about \$1,100.

Jeanne LeBlanc, a Grade 8 French immersion teacher leading the fundraiser at the school, said students began fundraising on Jan. 28. She said students gained interest after Terri Peck from CARMA Sussex gave a presentation about it. She works at Vogue Optical in Sussex.

"We have a student leadership team here, and the kids are involved in the community," LeBlanc said. "So they've been following the news, but we didn't realize how bad it was, so when Terri came to do her presentation, we knew that there was no way that we could not do something."

"We're a difference-making school, and this was just another opportunity," she said.

By Feb. 5, the middle school raised \$850 through packing groceries at Sobeys. The leadership team often does this throughout the year for other causes like cancer research, stray animals and people in need.

'We're fully prepared': N.B. medical officer speaks on coronavirus



Dr. Kimberley Barker spoke about the coronavirus at an information session in Saint John High School on Monday night.
Photo: Sean Mott/Telegraph-Journal

Sean Mott | Telegraph-Journal

If the coronavirus were to hit New Brunswick, Dr. Kimberley Barker, Medical Officer of Health in the South Region, is confident her team has the necessary tools to tackle it.

"We're fully prepared," she said. "We're in good hands with the leadership we've got in the Department of Health."

Barker spoke about the risks of the coronavirus with a small group of concerned citizens at an information session in Saint John High School on Monday night. Barker offered updates of the virus' current status and safety precautions people should take, acknowledging that it's a "dynamic situation.

"By midnight tonight we could have a whole new conversation," she said. "There's evolving evidence."

The coronavirus, which originated in the Chinese city of Wuhan more than a month ago, has raged across the world, killing more than 800 people. There are currently seven confirmed cases of the disease in Canada, primarily in Ontario and British Columbia.

Barker said one infected person can spread the coronavirus to more than 15 people. She said the virus, which has a two per cent mortality rate, travels by droplets, usually infecting surfaces. She encourages people to wash their hands before touching their faces to minimize the possibility of infection.

Great Foodbank Challenge underway for third year



A single donation from a Grade 4 class at Rothesay Elementary school during the 2020 Great Foodbank Challenge, which is taking place from Feb. 3 to 27.
Photo: Submitted

Published an hour ago



Telegraph-Journal

KENNEBECASIS VALLEY • The Great Foodbank Challenge among elementary schools in the Kennebecasis Valley is now underway.

The challenge, running from Feb. 3 to 27, has kids from all six elementary schools in the valley collecting items for food banks, due to a shortage in February, a press release says. Last year, the challenge brought in 18,000 items and this year their goal is 20,000.

"Competing between classrooms as well as between schools, the students are vying for bragging rights and the challenge plaque, award for collecting the most non-perishable food items. Banners are up, leader boards are out, and collection has begun. Pep rallies, assemblies, trips to the food banks, visits from volunteers, and more have taken the competing schools by storm – not to mention the creative 'can-structions' built from donations."

There will be an event on Feb. 19 at 11 a.m. at Rothesay Elementary school with donation activities and presentations by the students, along with a representative of the KV Food Bank. This year marks the third consecutive year for the food drive.

The donations will be tallied and transported to the food banks on Feb. 27 and 28.

COLUMN: 'She is selfless, kind and always there for anyone and everyone in need'



Stairs studied home economics at the University of New Brunswicks in Fredericton, pursuing an education degree. The program is no longer offered.

Photo: Submitted/Alexis Moffett



Published 3 days ago

Community Contribution

Stacey Stairs teaches home economics courses at Sussex Regional High School, but her involvement extends far beyond her classroom.

Stairs grew up in Fredericton. She'd always wanted to be a teacher. Growing up, she gave her dolls quizzes which she would mark in red pen. At 14, she fell in love with Wayne Gretsky, but her marriage plans failed after he made his own. In high school, she decided to run for prime minister after joining student government. In the end, she pursued her plans to teach despite her others.

Stairs studied home economics at the University of New Brunswicks in Fredericton, pursuing an education degree. The program is no longer offered.

Stairs, with the help of her culinary classes, prepares a free meal for more than 700 students every month, helps run the breakfast program, and cooks suppers for the fifty plus students involved in drama when the spring musical showtime approaches, amongst other endeavours. Beyond cooking, she cleans up and buys groceries.

Stairs frequents grocery stores three to four times a week, coupled with an occasional trip to Costco. Sometimes, she'll buy all of the stock of a particular item. She knows what day the supply truck comes and when stock will be most plentiful. She knows the grocery managers and who to talk to in the bakery to ensure that there will be enough of what she needs.

To fund initiatives, Stairs applies for grants. She has earned countless, including nearly \$88 000 from the Brewer Foundation in October to combat childhood hunger. Stairs applies for non-culinary grants as well. She's received \$60 000 from the Canadian Welding Foundation, which was used to refurbish the school's welding lab, \$25 000 from the Staples Superpower Your School Evocator Grant for technology, and money from the Construction Association of New Brunswick for construction courses. In total, she's earned nearly a quarter of a million dollars. Stairs believes that schools should receive more funding.

"I really wish that schools were just funded ... and that teachers had access to the things that they needed to run the classes they wanted to," she said. "Being responsible for the technology department the last few years, it is so annoying when you think, 'Well, we need money for welding rods.' If we're offering a welding course, we should just be able to have the materials we need."

Stairs' portfolio fills several binders. She is currently involved with the Bridging New Waters 4H group, her church, Model United Nations, and the Grad Class Committee.

"I just feel like there's always something, no matter what stage of life you're in, you could be helping with, and I just try," she said.

Others recognize Stairs' hard work.

"What differentiates Stacey is her passion for others and the community as a whole," said Stacey Hayes, a fellow teacher. "She is selfless, kind and always there for anyone and everyone in need ... She works tirelessly for the betterment of all students."

Mind reading, magic to raise money for mental health



Magic and Mind Reading in support of Mental Health will take the stage of Saint John High School on Feb. 25 to raise money for mental health support. From left: Todd Robertson, Kiefer Sullivan, Sawyer Stanley, Tabraze Sheikh, Robin Sheikh and Michael Whelton.

Photo: Submitted

SAINT JOHN • Robin Sheikh knows what you're thinking: You're a mind reader? Prove it.

Sheikh and her husband, Tabraze, are the duo behind Modern Mind Readers when they're not at their Naan-ya Business booth in the Saint John City Market. And on Feb. 25, they are taking the stage at Saint John High School with magician Sawyer Stanley to entertain hundreds and raise thousands with their show Magic and Mind Reading in support of Mental Health.

Sheikh said 100 per cent of the proceeds from the event will support mental health initiatives.

"We've been seeing this trend of people not feeling comfortable in their skin," she said. "And we wanted to help start a conversation about understanding it's okay to feel this way."

Sheikh said she first noticed she had a special gift to connect with people when she was just a child. After meeting her husband, someone who had been training himself in the discipline, she said she started to understand that she might have a special ability.

"When I started telling him about how I was connecting with people, he told me that it wasn't normal, and that I have something special inside me."

February Food Drive In Full Gear

Saint John, NB, Canada / Country 94

Stephanie Sirois

February 21, 2020 09:30 am

A month-long food drive is stirring up some friendly competition in the Kennebecasis Valley.

The Great Food Bank Challenge is when schools and classrooms compete to collect the most non-perishable food items.

Becky MacKay, community schools coordinator, says it's all about community members helping with the shortages food banks typically face in February.



"Three years ago, Rothesay Elementary wanted to do something for the greater community, so we came up with the idea of a food drive," she said.

Now the challenge has grown to include all six elementary schools in the Quispamsis/Rothesay area: Rothesay, Lakefield, Quispamsis, Kennebecasis Park, Chris Saunders Memorial and Fairvale.

Schools and classrooms compete to collect the most non-perishable food items, all to help with the shortages food banks typically face in February.

"Last year we collected 18,000 items. This year we have another school on board, so we are projecting over 20,000," said MacKay.

She says more than 2,000 people help with the food drive and this year eight different food baskets will benefit from the drive.

"On the final day of February, I get to go to the food banks myself and do the delivery and it's significant. We have hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of boxes of food, and they're overwhelmed," said MacKay.

The challenge runs until Feb. 27, and the winners get bragging rights and possession of the challenge plaque.

Hampton High wins first provincial basketball championship



The Hampton High School JV Boys basketball team brought home its first banner last week after playing Woodstock High School at the NBIAA AA Junior Boys Championship on Feb. 17. Hampton won the game at a very close 50-48.
Photo: Submitted/Celeste McPherson

Published 3 hours ago



Aaron Sousa | Kings County Record

When Hampton High School athlete Wil McPherson realized his high school basketball team had won its first provincial championship, he was filled with complete excitement.

“Our whole team ran and jumped on each other, it was pretty crazy,” he said. “I was really excited; I was jumping up and down.”

The Hampton High School JV boys brought home its first banner last week after beating Woodstock High School 50-48 in the final.

“It was a pretty crazy experience because. It’s like the first time Hampton has ever really made it that far,” McPherson said. “And we made it all the way to the finals and then as a team, and we actually won the whole thing which was pretty cool.”

Coach Craig Titus said he’s very proud of the team’s hard work this season.

“It was great to see the guys out there so emotional and how hard they worked all season to get to that point,” he said. “It was quite a happy day for them.”

Sussex Middle School girls win Division 3 championship



Back row: Jenna Bateman asst coach, Kirstyn Campbell, Ella Thorne, Morgan McCollum, Reese Whitters, Ashley Robinson, Hailey Madden, Ellie Smyth, James Carpenter-Tonning coach. Front: Keira Dunfield, Erin Anderson, Abby Carpenter-Tonning, Ani Shaw. The Sussex Middle School girls basketball team won a Division 3 championship from Basketball New Brunswick.

Photo: Submitted

© Published 14 hours ago



Kings County Record

The Sussex Middle School Varsity girl's basketball team won Basketball New Brunswick's Division 3 Championship held at Rothesay Park School this past weekend.

The girls competed in two-day tournament with teams from Perth Andover, Rothesay Park School, Sussex and Grand Manan.

Bus driver remembered through gift of literacy



Daniel Walsh, Susan Walsh's son, pictured with principal Bettel after the books were donated in Walsh's name. Susan Walsh was a bus driver for 37 years before she passed away.
Photo: Submitted/Apoahqui Elementary School

Nathalie Sturgeon | Kings County Record

Susan Walsh is being fondly remembered through the gift of literacy.

Walsh drove a school bus in Anglophone School District South for 37 years, getting kids back and forth to Apoahqui Elementary School. She died in 2019.

Staff, kids and her family gathered for a dedication ceremony in January 2020, which saw several books chosen by the students at the elementary school to bare a sticker with her name on it.

The sticker also includes a bright yellow school bus.

Principal Jayne Bettel recalled what the students loved most about Walsh.

They loved, she said, being able to eat on the bus and the special treats she would hand out for holidays and the last day of school.

"Susan liked to laugh and always kept the kids amused," Bettel said in her address to the students. "One of the students recalled how she liked to make them laugh. They would get a warning before they drove through puddles and over bumps."

Bettel said Walsh loved to read.

"In her memory, titles of books were chosen by students to place in our school library," Bettel said.

In each book, the dedication reads: "Placed in memory of Susan Walsh, bus driver #818, by the students and staff of Apoahqui Elementary School. January 30, 2020."

Belleisle Regional High School secures 300 winter items for homeless



Last year Belleisle Regional High School raised around 100 donations of socks and this year, it doubled the amount with over 200 donations of socks, as well as over 100 other winter items such as hats and mittens.

Photo: Submitted

© Published a day ago



Aaron Sousa | Kings County Record

Belleisle Regional High School just completed its second year of 20K Sock Day, an initiative started by Toronto-based organization We Be Us Community.

The campaign's goal is to collect socks for people facing homelessness in the wintertime. Anika O'Neill, the co-president of the school's Student Representative Council, said the school took part in the initiative last year and wanted to do it again.

"Socks are the most needed and least donated item for people facing homelessness," she said.

The collection of goods started at the beginning of the semester in mid-January and wrapped up on Feb. 21. The donations were sent to Outflow Ministries in Saint John last week for their Coldest Night of the Year event.

Last year the school raised around 100 donations of socks and this year, it doubled the amount with over 200 donations of socks, as well as over 100 other winter items such as hats and mittens.

This year, O'Neill said the school changed its incentive to get more students involved.

Last year, we just had a general donation box and we got lots of donations that way," she said. "With this being the second year, we wanted to keep the momentum, so we did a friendly competition where each grade had a donation box in an assigned classroom."

For the love of reading



Give Love Feel Good, an initiative by local marketing agency, Duke Creative Collective, wrapped up on Wednesday with book deliveries to priority neighbourhood schools around the city. The books were collected with the help of the Saint John Police, the City of Saint John, The Feel Good Store, Moosehead Breweries and Innovatia. Here, Sgt. David Hartley-Brown, left, and Cst. Cory Jamieson, right, wheel a trolley of books into Hazen White-St. Francis School with the help of Grade 5 students Mohamad Badenjki, Adam Painter-Chiasson and Marah Alkhalaf.
Photo: Courtesy of Duke Creative Collective

Telegraph-Journal

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Here, Sgt. David Hartley-Brown, left, and Cst. Cory Jamieson, right, wheel a trolley of books into Hazen White-St. Francis School with the help of Grade 5 students Mohamad Badenjki, Adam Painter-Chiasson and Marah Alkhalaf.

Teachers reaching out to students with messages

Social Sharing

Teachers and students across the province are exchanging updates and photos and lifting spirits

[Mia Urquhart](#) · CBC · Posted: Mar 31, 2020 8:00 AM AT | Last Updated: 10 hours ago



Teachers at Dr. A.T. Leatherbarrow Primary School in Hampton sent messages to their students via a YouTube video. (Submitted by André Landry)

Now in week three of no school, seven-year-old Ryan Haines sure is missing his friends at Dr. A.T. Leatherbarrow Primary School in Hampton.

In fact, the list of things he's missing keeps growing — gym, art class, playing outside with his friends, the library, choir, Lego club.

"I miss everything," he said by phone from his Bloomfield home.

He also misses his Grade 2 teacher, Mary Kierstead. That's why he was so happy to see her face and her message to students as part of a YouTube video from school staff.

"It really brightened his day," said his mom, Katie Haines. "He had a huge grin on his face" as he called out the names of those he knew.

Haines and other parents are praising teachers who are reaching out to home-bound students and re-establishing connections that were lost when schools were closed more than two weeks ago in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19.

When Dr. Leatherbarrow teachers got together online last week, they tried to come up with a way to let the students know they were thinking about them.

Principal Lisa Jardine said they decided on a video message on YouTube with each of them holding up a message. The teachers were so eager to get the message out that the video was ready to go the following day.

Teacher using 3D tech to support front line workers



Jenn Hickey and her son Owen pose with some of the mask hooks she's made using Bayside Middle

Emma McPhee | Telegraph-Journal

SAINT JOHN • Schools may be closed for the rest of the year, but Jenn Hickey is showing that the hearts of the students and staff at Bayside Middle School are open wide for those on the front lines of the pandemic.

The self-proclaimed "techie-based" teacher is using the school's two 3D printers to make mask hooks for healthcare workers and others working in essential services. The mask hooks, placed at the back of the head, provide hooks to hold the elastics of medical masks.

"It takes the pressure off the back of the ears from having to wear a mask all day," Hickey said.

So far Hickey has printed 250 masks. Her initial Facebook post has received requests for about 800 masks. "The reception has been overwhelming," she said. "I started out thinking I could do it all myself and it's been amazing how many people are interested."

Hickey said she's received requests from truck drivers and grocery store workers and people working at hospitals and nursing homes and "all kinds of different career paths." She's been trying to find other local people with 3D printers to help meet the demand, and so far two other schools, Princess Elizabeth School and Hampton High School, have offered up their 3D printers to help out.

Each delivery of mask hooks is accompanied by a card with the school logo and the message thanking front line workers from students and staff. Hickey said she wanted to acknowledge where the mask hooks were coming from.

'It was heartwarming!': Student's Nova Scotia flag picture goes viral



Robin Grant | Telegraph-Journal

A young Saint John student made people's day in Nova Scotia last week.

Belleisle Elementary School and Island View School teacher Heather Robinson came up with the idea to have her students draw a picture of the Nova Scotia flag for an at-home school assignment during the pandemic.

The aim was to show support after the mass shooting in Nova Scotia that killed 22 people more than two weeks ago.

Robinson's Grade 4 student, Jaxon Ward, of Island View School, took the assignment to the next level with his family.

On April 29, his mother posted a picture of the 10-year-old holding his drawing in the Facebook group, Nova Scotia Strong.

With almost 23,000 members, the group is full of people showing support for the province, from pictures of blue-and-white sprinkle doughnuts from Tim Hortons from across the country to photos of the flag hanging on backyard fences and Nova Scotia-themed artwork.

Robinson, who has strong family ties to the province, was completely taken aback by their reaction.

After a few minutes, people in the group began reacting and commenting on the picture – so much that the post received more than 2,000 reactions, hundreds of comments and shares.

"It was heartwarming to see," Robinson said. "I feel like one of my kids made people who are going through a difficult time right now smile.

"To read the comments and to know that people in Nova Scotia were loving it, and they really appreciated what he did – it was the best feeling I could have,"

Virtual masterpieces: Students' work exhibited in online gallery



This illustration by Lexi Lofstrom is just one of more than 100 drawings and pieces of artwork on Anglophone South School District's virtual student art gallery.
Photo: Submitted

Caitlin Dutt, Local Journalism Initiative reporter | Telegraph-Journal

Anglophone South School District has organized an online virtual gallery for its students.

ASD-S fine arts coach Andrea Lewis, who is managing the submitted artwork and helping with the website, said she's received great feedback from kids.

"[The kids] are very excited. The parents are excited as well. One little girl said she feels like she's famous."

TJ.news

N.B.'s history is here.
Digital Archive dating back to 1874.

TRY IT NOW

Any student from kindergarten to Grade 12 can submit photos of their artwork. They can either send it through their art teacher or click the interest button on the website. Lewis, who then receives the request about the program, sets them up with a permission slip and publishes the work on the website.

The site has been live for approximately 24 hours and Lewis said they've already received 100 submissions and 40 inquiries about submissions.

Lewis said they'll probably continue the project after the kids return to school.

Super Mario-themed classroom setup earns inclusive education award



Rhonda Magee and Ellen Higgins, two kindergarten teachers at Hazen White-St. Francis School in Saint John, took inspiration from Super Mario Bros. to encourage their kids to meet their goals.
Photo: Submitted

Caitlin Dutt, Local Journalism Initiative reporter | Telegraph-Journal

Inspiration from a popular video game has helped Rhonda Magee and Ellen Higgins level up their classroom – and win a national award in the process.

With a few bits of construction paper and some creativity, the kindergarten teachers at Hazen White-St. Francis School in Saint John created a Super Mario-esque landscape, with pipes, the familiar pixelated characters and question blocks.

"It's really been a success," Magee said, adding this not only applied in the classroom. It also helped them to win one of the 2020 National Inclusive Education Awards presented by the New Brunswick Association for Community Living, in partnership with the Canadian Association for Community Living.

Winners were announced on Thursday.



Caitlin Dutt, Local Journalism Initiative reporter | Telegraph-Journal

Halfway through the second month of online schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic, Cody Hamilton, a social studies and modern history teacher at Harbour View High School, asked his students to contribute to history.

His students, ranging from Grade 9 to 12, wrote a letter for his class about their experiences during the pandemic – how they felt about school and their personal life.

He submitted the letters to the New Brunswick Museum, so they could be kept in the archives and examined by future curious eyes.

Here are some of their stories:

Emma Lomax, Grade 9

Emma Lomax is a primary caregiver for all four of her siblings, aged seven to 13. Her mother is a health-care professional working at the Saint John Regional Hospital's emergency room and works 12 hours shifts, which leaves Lomax in charge of caring for her siblings without the usual help from her grandmother, who lives in a different household.

"I make them go outside for at least an hour just to keep them sane and active."

She said she worries about her mother who is at the hospital, who usually works for five days and then has five days off. But she said she's more worried about the people she's treating.

She usually keeps herself occupied by reading or playing the piano.

But school has been difficult. Even as a straight-A student, she's felt her grades slip.

"It's been awful because they've kind of gone way down because I just can't learn the same way because I'm a visual and audio learner and when I don't have that face to face contact or don't have the outlets to ask questions in a manner that is easy to comprehend, it's just hard to get used to really at all."

She said she hopes the situation improves.

"I did not think it was going to be this bad and it kind of worries me but it's become a lot better, especially in New Brunswick."