

## **Superintendent's Report November 6, 2019**

There are two student-free days in November. On November 8 the high schools have Parent Teacher for half day and school based PD for half, at K-8 half the day is for the preparation of report cards and half for school based PD. There will also be first aid offered for the drivers from Hampton Centre and a day for the library workers.

On November 22 Parent Teacher is held for K-8 schools and this is a high school PD Day. The focus for half of this day is on assessment – the Hampton Centre teachers will gather in Quispamsis for a video conference session with teacher/author Myron Dueck, this is a continuation of the journey the teachers have had with this well known and respected facilitator. Other centres will join via technology. On November 22 there will be PD for our 800 Education Assistants and 35 School Intervention Workers – several topics have been identified for EA professional learning and this has been a large undertaking for the Education Support Services team as they will oversee nine sites from Sussex to St. Stephen to minimize travel and cost.

**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.**

The K-5 numeracy coaches have been very busy with 45 requests for service from Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in October. The coaches are offering monthly professional learning (Grab and Go) sessions. Four of the numeracy coaches attended the NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) conference in Nashville recently. Some of the coaches have also participated in “Fierce Conversations” training. The numeracy coaches had a wonderful opportunity to engage in an exchange of professional learning with ASD-West coaches – South offered a session on “math running records,” and West on hands on math activities and use of manipulatives.

ASD-S has received support from the Department to have retired Subject Coordinator Johanne Austin travel this month to France and Belgium to recruit FSL teachers and offer conditional contracts. She will be participating in the federal program called “Destination Canada.” Two years ago we did recruit FSL teachers from overseas, and need to repeat this process as we are in need of more teachers to fill leaves this school year and vacancies for next year.

The FSL team will facilitate a PL for new FI Language Arts and Social Studies teachers, focusing on best practices, grade-level standards, assessment planning and intervention strategies. The FSL coach teachers are very busy working with new FSL teachers across the District, targeting curriculum outcomes, assessment opportunities and language development.

In November there will be two team Math League Competitions offered in partnership with UNBSJ. We have 10 middle schools and 10 high schools currently registered for November 28 and 29<sup>th</sup>. Last year was the first for this new initiative in the District and it is growing!

ASD-S will be sponsoring students to attend the Girls STEM Up Discovery Conference in Fredericton on Saturday, November 23, 2019.

There are many professional learning opportunities happening for early learning educators in our “designated facilities,” – it is important to note that for these educators the learning happens on Saturdays and evenings. For example, one session is on “Documentation,” and participants view a 2-hour webinar, attend a 6-hr Saturday session and have two follow-up evening sessions and this is offered in each of our Centres by Krystal Hanson, Early Learning Consultant. Book studies happen as well on evenings/weekends and a third opportunity, which is very similar to our Professional Learning Communities, called Community of Practice.

**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.**

Several First Nations education initiatives are taking place – we are offering a new 120 Indigenous Studies course at Rothesay High and Fundy Middle and High, and second semester at Hampton High, St. Malachy’s, Harbour View High, Kennebecasis Valley High School, Grand Manan and COMPASS. A committee with 24 members is in place planning the Wabanaki Powwow on June 6 at Seaside Park Elementary School. The theme will be “we will gather where the rivers and the bay meet,” aligning with the UN Decade on Rivers and Oceans. Dancers and drummers from all three First Nations Communities in the province will be attending. Several schools are incorporating First Nations education (Fairvale, Rothesay Park, Sir James Dunn Academy).

As we gear up for 2020 Heritage Fairs a new tool resource guide has been developed to enhance the heritage fair experience for students.

The annual AARRO tour (Atlantic Association of Registrars and Admissions Officers) was held in late October for high school students to tour displays offered by post-secondary institutions. This is offered at St. Stephen High, Sussex Regional and at the HMCS Brunswicker in Saint John, there is a dedicated evening for families to visit and once again the turn-out was very small. At this time of year many schools have special activities and presenters to recognize Atlantic Canada Career Week (November 4-8) and November as Canadian Career Month.

**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.**

On November 12 we will host a Mental Health Youth Forum for all high schools, and the focus is on resources and resiliency.

ASIST Training (suicide) will be offered on November 27 – 28 for guidance counsellors.

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

We were well represented (approximately 100) at the annual Pride in Education Conference on November 2-3 in Fredericton, the District covered the cost of two buses to transport students and staff.

On November 5, 2019 there was a Middle School GSA Day at the District Office in Saint John with approximately 70 students and staff advisors from 15 middle schools in attendance. T-shirts were presented to the students and many opportunities for sharing, discussions and to hear from presenters.

**Other:**

Several schools will be having Remembrance Day ceremonies this week.

Flu shots are available at our schools and offices this fall.

ASD-S has been nominated for a Diversity Award in the category of heritage and education by PRUDE Saint John. There are several individuals and organizations that have been nominated across the identified categories, we are pleased to have been nominated by a member of our facilities staff, and we will attend the special evening on Friday, November 22, 2019.

Last weekend Saint John High School teacher Susan Ellis Leparcos was inducted into the NB Sports Hall of Fame in Saint John for her involvement in sports as a participant and a coach.

Chess Tournaments will be held in each Education Centre – Saturday, November 23 in Saint John at Millidgeville North, Thursday, November 28 at St. George Elementary School and Saturday, December 14 at Kennebecasis Valley High School.