

EDUCATION

Sussex students explore global approach to learning



Tanya Warman's Grade 4 class at Sussex Elementary reads a magazine created by their new friends in Latvia as part of a partnership program organized by the Multicultural Association of Sussex.
Photo: Submitted

Published 19 hours ago



Justin Samanski-Langille | Kings County Record

Students at Sussex Elementary are quickly becoming a lot more knowledgeable about life in northern Europe, as well as sparking new friendships, thanks to a new multiculturalism partnership.

The project, organized by the Multicultural Association of Sussex, has paired one Grade 4 class at Sussex elementary with a similar class at Riga 6th Secondary School in Latvia. Students on both sides of the Atlantic are exchanging videos and other projects documenting daily life.

"It's really kind of neat," said Tanya Warman, who teaches the class at Sussex Elementary. "It fits in perfectly with our social studies curriculum. In Grade 4, we talk about exploration ... the world and Canadian landforms and physical features, so this project is cross-curricular. Not only are we using our social studies skills, but also our language arts skills."

Warman said her students started off by sending videos of them introducing themselves to their peers in the Latvian capital, then a few days later they received similar videos, with the exchanges continuing regularly and expanding to show what life is like in each country.

So far, the kids in Sussex have been loving researching and learning about their own country in order to make their videos, and are amazed at the similarities between their lives and their new friends' lives in Latvia, said Warman.

"Hopefully it develops a sense of exploration where they want to learn more about different places," she said. "And they are developing their empathy skills because they are learning what other kids are like from a different place ... they are really enjoying learning how similar we are, even though we are an ocean away."

EDUCATION

UPDATE: Students shine spotlight on special teachers



Shannon Fredericks was one of the first people who bought eight-year-old Adele Wright's, above, homemade earrings during the pandemic.

Caitlin Dutt, Local Journalism Initiative reporter | Telegraph-Journal

SAINT JOHN • When eight-year-old Adele Wright started making earrings during the pandemic, she had no idea her teacher Shannon Fredericks would be one of her first customers. She also helped spread the word about Adele's business, constantly sharing her posts about earrings too.

"Even though she's not (Adele's) teacher this year, she still checks in on her and makes sure she's doing OK. She felt Mrs. Fredericks was really the type of teacher who cared about her and her learning," said Melissa Wright, her mother.

The Wright family nominated Fredericks, who works at Westfield Elementary School, for a Teacher Appreciation Day contest in early October. The contest, sponsored by Subway franchisees, awarded \$18,000 in gift cards to 180 teachers in Atlantic Canada. Ten teachers in the greater Saint John region were recognized, each receiving a gift card and a free lunch for themselves and their teaching colleagues.

Winning Saint John-area teachers are Fredericks, Anne Smith, of Lakewood Heights Elementary; Nikki Comeau, of Simonds High School; Krista Turnbull, of Seaside Elementary School; Nancy Butler, of Harbourview High School; Ashley Creamer, of Fairvale Elementary School; Kyra Marks, of St. Malachy's High School; Joanna Urdang, of Kennebecasis Park Elementary School; Cameron Badger, of Harry Miller Middle School; and Bob Fife, of River Valley Middle School.

Fredericks described the recognition as a big surprise.

"To be recognized and loved by a kid is the biggest gift you can get and when they're parents recognize it, it's kind of an added bonus," she said.

Teaching during the pandemic has been the same and different at once, she said, noting it hasn't been easy, with more workload and a little less time.

She's also missing school assemblies and hugs from students, but as a teacher who highly values connection, she's finding a way to make it work, even if it's through social media.

She said kids were lonely spending such a long time away from school and she was happy to welcome them back. She also reached out ahead of time to parents of students who would be entering her class in September 2020.

"We're doing a really good job I think," she said.

Cheryl Reid, mom to six-year-old Carter Lennan, said Fredericks convinced her to send her son back to school while she was questioning it in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Reid also nominated Fredericks in the contest.

"Before school started she personally called all the parents to let us know she was going to be our [kids'] teacher," Reid said. "She made us feel like it was going to be fine."

Reid was worried about children making fun of her son who has a speech impediment, but Fredericks reassured the family she would draw attention to herself and normalize it as a person who has a lisp herself.

"She makes you feel comfortable about anything going on," Reid said.

Fredericks said she values connecting with both parents and kids, and also teaching students to grow and learn from mistakes.

"My most important two principles are that you connect and they feel welcome and good."

EDUCATION

Spreading messages, not COVID: Students' poster campaign promotes mask-wearing



Sunny Freill, a grade eight student at Millidgeville North School, was one of the participants in the poster campaign. The artwork in this photo is not her poster.

Photo: Emma McPhee/Telegraph-Journal

Emma McPhee | Telegraph-Journal

SAINT JOHN • Colourful posters promoting mask-wearing will be coming to a Saint John Transit bus near you in the next few weeks.

Grade 4 to 8 students at Princess Elizabeth School, Forest Hills School and Millidgeville North School have been putting their artistic talents to work to create approximately 200 posters for the campaign.

The campaign was dreamed up by Saint John Transit bus driver Doug Creamer.

"When they said that masks were mandatory, I thought a good way to get that message across without being too strict was to have some artwork," Creamer said. "I thought the kids in middle school would be a good way to get some artwork and put it in the advertising space on our buses."

Pretty much all the buses will have three or four posters in them, Creamer said, and should be in the buses by next week.

Sunny Freill, a Grade 8 student at Millidgeville North, said she will definitely be looking for her poster on the bus once it gets put up.

"I did a rainbow and everything to show people that it's important to wear masks and it's for everyone," Freill said. "It's not just for certain people."

Freill said she got involved with the campaign after her art teacher told her class about it.

"We thought that'd be a cool idea," she said.

Students were given creative freedom to come up with their own designs.

"A lot of them were pretty good, pretty creative," Creamer said, adding that one of the posters had a bus that was wearing a mask.

"They loved the idea of having their artwork displayed in a public space," said Sue Moore, the middle school art teacher at Millidgeville North.

"I would say more than half of the students were really quite engaged and wanted to take the projects home because they only had two weeks to work on it," Moore said. "They put a lot of extra work into them."

Creamer said he wasn't sure how long the posters will be displayed in the buses, but that some of the leftover posters might go on display at City Hall and the City Market, with the possibility of having high school students take part as well.

Art teachers Annie McLaughlin at Princess Elizabeth and Kayla Brown at Forest Hills and their students were also involved in the campaign.

Local Transit Operator's Mask Campaign Encourages Creativity And Safety

Saint John, NB, Canada / The Wave

[Elizabeth MacLeod](#)

Nov 7, 2020 10:10 AM

Saint John Transit has collaborated with students and teachers in multiple schools to promote the importance of wearing masks on all city buses.

The idea originated from transit operator Doug Creamer. "I had the idea and was encouraged to run with it and reach out to schools," he said. "The schools were very receptive to the initiative because of the fun and educational components."

Under the current provincial Mandatory Order, masks must be worn in most indoor spaces, including all City buses.

Students from Millidgeville North, Princess Elizabeth and Forest Hills schools have created over 200 eye-popping and colourful posters, which will be displayed on City buses beginning the week of November 9.

Marc Dionne, General Manager of Saint John Transit, said compliance and feedback from riders has been positive.

"This creative partnership with local schools will add a fun new visual to our standard signage and messaging," said Dionne. "We were pleased to have one of our operators come forward with the idea, and really impressed with how quickly the students were able to produce amazing artwork. It's a true community art project."



Students from Millidgeville North School and Saint John Transit Operator, Doug Creamer (Credit: City of Saint John)

NEWS

Garden sprouts new learning opportunity for students



Hampton High School Grade 12 student Griffin Thompson, 17, centre, rakes mulch to cover the ground around a young fruit tree at the school's garden.
Photo: Justin Samanski-Langille/Kings County Record

Justin Samanski-Langille | Kings County Record

Hampton High School's garden enjoyed a successful second year, and it is well on its way to providing a sustainable source of fresh fruit for students.

Volunteer Chris Rendell said despite a very dry summer and issues with a newly built solar-powered water source, students, staff and volunteers have done a lot of good work in year two of what will ultimately be five years of building before any fruit is ready to be picked.

"All of the work that we did in the last year has been successful," said Rendell. "The investment we have made in all the fruit trees and the nut trees and the bushes has all survived the first year."

Created in 2019 and building on the success of the school's greenhouse, the garden features a mix of more than 50 fruit trees and berry bushes, all in the early stages of their lives.

Cared for by a mixture of volunteers, including Rendell and the students themselves, the goal of the garden is to provide fruit for the school's culinary tech classes and cafeteria, as well as students who happen to stroll through while on break.

While the trees and bushes are small right now and a long way from bearing fruit, the garden was filled with students on Nov. 6, who prepared the ground around the trees and bushes for winter, placing manure, lime, wood chips, and fallen leaves around them to enrich the soil.

"It's nice to get out here and do some work, it brings me home," said Grade 12 student Griffin Thompson, as he took a break from raking mulch. "I think it's good for the community to have fruit and a garden like this."

The students' work is part of the Adopt a Tree initiative the garden and school has started, which sees classes select a tree they will care for and study, Rendell said.

"Each class has chosen a tree to adopt, and they are going to care for and document that tree over the next few years," he said. "We are getting pictures and measurements for each of the trees."

In addition to ensuring important work is done to help the garden prosper, the students are also getting the opportunity to enhance their learning, said teacher Laura Myers.

"The students are learning everything from building a fence to basic gardening," said Myers.

"This Adopt a Tree Program, I think is great because they are going to get attached to the tree, they are going to track its progress, and they are going to want to care for it."

This year especially with the pandemic, Myers said the garden is offering an important opportunity for the students to simply get outside while learning.

"When you get outside and do a good job, it's a good feeling, and we all need that right now."

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Feature

This Class Is 'Entrepreneurship' On Steroids For New Brunswick Students

Nov 9, 2020 • by Cherise Letson



*Ries Van Beek, Stacey Wood and some of the students at the Idea Centre in fall 2020.
Image: Submitted*

SAINT JOHN – When Ries Van Beek was teaching entrepreneurship in a classroom at St. Malachy’s Memorial High School in Saint John, he would begin the semester by asking the students a few questions.

Link to article: <https://huddle.today/this-class-is-entrepreneurship-on-steroids-for-new-brunswick-students/?fbclid=IwAR0sZznRt1tU5f-riqaHCwM9aG4qFXfDppbtQwvBWzVxEa7WPJb1TScbL5I>

New Brunswick

Feeding a need: How school food programs keep the lunches coming amid pandemic



Forced to suspend onsite lunches, organizers set up shop in offsite kitchens to serve inner city kids



Rachel Cave · CBC News · Posted: Nov 16, 2020 7:00 AM AT | Last Updated: 9 hours ago



Ben Gilchrist, school community coordinator at St. John the Baptist, says food security is "one of the top issues" in the students' lives. (Graham Thompson)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/hub-kitchen-saint-john-1.5801942?cmp=rss>

EDUCATION

Snow-plowing compromise is in the works, say city, district officials



In total, fifteen sidewalks on the east side, five in the central region, five in the north end and 12 on the west side will be removed from plowing services, according to the report.

Photo: Brunswick News Archives

© Published 10 hours ago



Caitlin Dutt, Local Journalism Initiative reporter | Telegraph-Journal

SAINT JOHN • Since the Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) heard concerns about snow-plowing cuts, talks have begun to reach a compromise, according to city and district spokespeople.

Jessica Hanlon, the communications director for ASD-S said in an emailed statement that the district has been in touch with city staff and the district will work with the city as the snow plow plan is finalized "to avoid any possible safety issues with respect to our students and families travelling to and from school."

The 2020/21 snow plow plan was originally brought to council on Nov. 9 as part of the Winter Management Overview.

There will be a reduction of 15.75 kilometres of sidewalk being plowed this winter – a six per cent reduction city-wide – due to equipment cuts which saw three sidewalk clearing machines removed from the city's fleet.

These sidewalks reportedly see low pedestrian passage or because of infrastructure barriers that made it difficult to plow, the report said. In other cases, only one side of the road, instead of both sides, will be plowed.

In total, 15 sidewalks on the east side, five in the central region, five in the north end and 12 on the west side will be removed from plowing services, according to the report.

Dan O'Connor, a member for sub-district 7, brought up concerns for student safety at an ASD-S district education council meeting on Nov. 18. He said at Glen Falls School, there were young students who may have to walk on the road if Tim Street is not plowed due to a reconfigured parent drop-off zone.

The council then decided to look at all the other streets that the winter management overview plan proposed to cut, to see if any other schools or drop-off zones were getting plowed properly.

Rob Fowler, chair of the ASD-S district education council, said he didn't want to see kids climbing over ice and snow banks to get to school.

"We don't want kids walking on the street in the middle of winter for traffic anytime anywhere there's traffic, and we certainly need our sidewalks. That's where kids are safest."

Ward 4 Coun. Ray Stowbridge said he would definitely like to see the city reassess, and possibly reinstate a couple of the sidewalks removed from the plowing list, after hearing the city and district are in talks about snow removal. He's glad to see Tim Street – and maybe more streets – potentially back on the table.

"You're going to end up putting the pedestrians on the road. They shouldn't be on the road when they don't have to be."

- *With files from Emma McPhee*

Sussex Teacher Gets National Recognition

Saint John, NB, Canada / The Wave

Tamara Steele

Nov 23, 2020 11:06 AM

Teaching teenagers to operate a playschool with kids and how to cook is more challenging at Sussex Regional High School this year.

In a non-pandemic year, the playschool program happens in a specially-designed classroom.

Culinary technology and early childhood services teacher Stacey Stairs said 15 to 20 kids from the community take part and the students plan the snacks and the activities for them.

Stairs said her kitchen classroom is from the 1970s.

“So I refer to it as the classic homemakers training kitchen. It’s a U-shape. Some of our schools in our district have a more commercial kind of kitchens. They better prepare kids for working in a restaurant kind of situation,” Stairs said.

Students do follow a curriculum, but Stairs adds in recipes her students want to make as well.

“So that they can become independent people that can follow a recipe and change it for whatever crowd they are serving. Know how to shop at a grocery store to get a better price and be able to read labels and price stickers,” Stairs said.

Stairs said even the most disciplined students are finding this school year challenging.

“Some are still working their part-time jobs, quite a few hours. They really have a lot to balance. To try to work and come to school and do their homework at school or homework at home. They are taking on a lot,” Stairs said.

Stairs is a 2020 recipient of the [Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence](#).

She said she finds it “very overwhelming”.

“I have said I feel like a fraud because if you accumulate twenty years of anyone's career, you are going to come up with some good things, great thing but, people have told I am a deserving recipient and to just accept it,” Stairs said.



Stacey Stairs, a teacher at Sussex Regional High School, is a 2020 recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. (Photo submitted by Stacey Stairs)



Stacey Stairs' classroom prior to the pandemic. (submitted)

Parents Encouraged To Keep Sending Their Kids To School

Saint John, NB, Canada / The Wave

Brad Perry

Nov 26, 2020 1:22 PM

With several Saint John-area schools reporting COVID-19 cases in the past few days, many parents do not feel comfortable sending their child.

But the Anglophone South School District is still encouraging you to do so unless your child has been told to self-isolate.

“We recognize that some of you may not feel comfortable sending your child to school during the Orange phase,” superintendent Zoe Watson said **in a letter to families**.



Lindy Buckley / CC

“We have enhanced safety measures in place and learning is continuing face to face.”

Watson said K-8 teachers will not be providing home learning materials or meeting with students on Microsoft Teams unless they are self-isolating.

High school teachers are still posting materials online, she said, but students should still attend in-person classes on their designated days.

For parents who have chosen to keep their child at home, a Home Learning site has been made available which provides activities and ideas to support at-home learning.

“Thank you for supporting your children and our educators as we work together to ensure our students continue to receive a safe and quality education,” wrote Watson.

Information Morning - Saint John



How schools manage when a COVID case has been identified



Play Segment

9:49



Share Segment

Zoe Watson is the superintendent of Anglophone South School District.

Aired: Nov. 26, 2020

More from Information Morning - Saint John



<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-28-information-morning-saint-john/clip/15810977-how-schools-manage-covid-case-identified>

Information Morning - Saint John



Sussex teacher gets Prime Minister's Award



Play Segment

6:53



Share Segment

Stacey Stairs is being recognized for her work inside and outside the classroom. She's a teacher at Sussex Regional High School and one of this year's recipients of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

Aired: Nov. 30, 2020

More from Information Morning - Saint John



<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-28-information-morning-saint-john/clip/15811482-sussex-teacher-gets-prime-ministers-award>