

# Superintendent's Report for DEC

## May 10, 2023

**ENDS #1: Provide a safe, healthy, and welcoming educational environment for learners, staff, families, and partners.**

**ENDS #2: Improve student engagement and achievement by embedding research based best practices in a variety of learning environments.**

- Outdoor and Environmental Professional Learning session for Middle and High School Teachers, April 19 (K. Parsons) – 8 participants. Elementary Teachers, April 26 – 22 participants.
- Ends 2 will be covered in the DEC Presentation.

**ENDS #3: Engage system's leaders in improving mental health and resiliency for both learners and staff through proactive strategies such as Positive Education and Social Emotional learning.**

- LGBTQ2S+ support to some middle schools to instruct on "Why Words Matter".
- Training for Bee Me Kids on "Social Emotional Learning and connecting with agitated youth through a trauma informed lens".
- Anti-Racism and Social-Emotional Professional Learning with Curriculum Coaches and Subject Coordinators.
- Bridging program visits at Early Learning Centres – Anti-Racism Coach attended with Curriculum Coaches.
- N.B.T.A. Branch 0820 Supper Seminar Series presentation: "How to be an Anti-Racist in everyday situations in everyday ways".
- Co-development of a local option course for high school "Anti-Racism 110".
- New Resource Teacher training / coaching continued of Education Support Services processes.

**ENDS #4: Ensure all members of the school and district community are welcomed, respected, accepted, and supported.**

First Nations:

- First Nations District Improvement Plan group meeting: Mi'kmaw Knowledge Keeper, Greg Mansfield shared Mi'kmaw teachings (ceremony, drumming, singing, Q & A) and participants made a shaker.
- District Heritage Fair, May 4: Greg Mansfield did an opening smudge.
- Drum Making workshop with Greg Mansfield for grades 6-12 teachers.
- Book Study on True Reconciliation: "How to be a Force for Change" by Jodi Wilson-Raybould 19 teacher participants, K-12.

English as an Additional Language:

- Critical Reflections in Decolonization Professional Learning with Dr. Wendy Mackay, Professor of Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, St. Francis Xavier University in collaboration with Education Canada (Ed Can). 16 teachers from Simonds and Forest Hills and coaches / Subject Coordinators attended.
- The Science of Reading Workshop for the English as an Additional Language mentors in collaboration with the K-5 Literacy Team.

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- Holocaust Workshop with Anna Morneault (EAL Mentor from Israel).
- Supported Saint John Jewish Historical Museum partnership to bring Holocaust Survivor Leonard Vis to four high schools for presentations.

### Other:

- Every year ASD-S recognizes students with the Turnaround Achievement Awards in each of our education centres. Nominated by their schools, recipients are students in grades 6-12 who have shown great efforts to make positive changes in their lives, such as improving their behaviours or academics. Because sometimes our nominees have shown perseverance through challenges or overcome obstacles which may be of no fault of their own, we received feedback that “turn around” does not always reflect these students’ accomplishments and may not embody the spirit of the award.

We reached out to all staff for suggestions of a new name, and ultimately the award committee selected the *Inspire Awards*. A new logo was also designed to accompany the rebranding, and will be featured at this spring’s awards, where we will continue our tradition of honouring students who have demonstrated perseverance, commitment, and determination in the face of challenges.

- Superintendent participation on the EECD Executive Steering Committee for Engagement (April 27).
- ASD-S Student Leaders Council first meeting – one (1) leader nominated by each high school (May 3).
- 39 Elementary / Middle Schools volunteered to pilot the new Holistic Curriculum in 2023-2024.
- St. Stephen Education Centre Inspire Awards (May 9).