

Regional Executive Director's Report to School Communities in the Strait Region

January 2023

As I present my first report for 2023, it is hard to believe we also mark the mid-way of the 2022-2023 school year. I continue to be very pleased with how the school year is going and, as I have shared many times before, it is due to the fact that everyone is doing their part to ensure a successful and productive year including students, staff, families and community partners.

As I highlighted in a previous report, our continued focus is on supporting the goals and strategies identified to improve student well-being and student achievement in math and literacy through the creation of positive, safe and inclusive learning environments, the pillars of the SRCE [System Improvement](#) and [Educational Business Plans](#).

At this time of year, we also turn our attention to upcoming activities including, but not limited to:

SRCE Literacy Month and Family Literacy Day

A literacy campaign was launched at all schools during the month of January in preparation for Family Literacy Day on January 27. The campaign is focused on further developing and strengthening students' reading and writing skills at all grade levels and continues throughout the year. Please refer to Page 2 for more details.

Registration for the 2023-2024 School Year

Registration week for Grade Primary and the Pre-primary Program for the 2023-2024 school year is January 23 to 27, 2023 and continues throughout the year. We encourage families to register children during this week to assist us with school planning and staff for the 2023-2024 school year. Please refer to Page 3 for more information.

Final Assessment Week

Final assessment week in high schools is taking place this week, January 23 to 27, 2023. We wish students success and thank staff for preparing students for their assessments.

February is African Heritage Month 2023: Seas of Struggle: African Peoples from Shore to Shore

We look forward to sharing the celebrations to mark this month at schools in the SRCE. Stay tuned for more highlights through school and SRCE social media and in my February Report to school communities.

Most of all, I want families to know we are here to support you. I encourage anyone who needs more support or has questions to reach out to their school so staff may provide assistance and/or connect you with the right help.

As always, I encourage you to watch for information on our school and regional celebrations in print, on our website (www.srce.ca) and the SRCE twitter (@SRCE_NS).

Sincerely,



Paul Landry
Regional Executive Director of Education



Paul Landry
Regional Executive Director
of Education

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Upcoming Dates/Events

February

African Heritage Month 2023

February 6 to 10, 2023

Canadian School Counselling Week

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

National Flag of Canada Day

Monday, February 20, 2023

Heritage Day Holiday

Strait Regional Centre for Education
304 Pitt Street, Unit 2
Port Hawkesbury, NS B9A 2T9;
www.srce.ca; srce@srce.ca;
902-625-2191/
1-800-650-4448 (P)
902-625-2281 (F)



Follow us on Twitter
@SRCE_NS

Inverness Education Centre/Academy @InvernessECA - Jan 12
Buddy reading allows you and a friend to share in the experience of reading the same book together and discussing it.

Buddy reading with the class next door is so much fun!
#SRCEForTheLoveOfLiteracy2023 #SRCECatchAReader



2 2 246

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS - Jan 12
#SRCECatchAWriter
#SRCEForTheLoveOfLiteracy2023

Whyocoomagh Education Centre @WhyocoomaghEC - Jan 11
Daily writing is one of our school goals. Here are some grade 2 and grade 6 students practicing their writing skills.



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SRCE Launches Literacy Month Campaign and Celebrates Family Literacy Day

The Strait Regional Centre for Education invites students, staff, families, volunteers, and community partners to celebrate SRCE Literacy Month and Family Literacy Day on Friday, January 27, 2023, and throughout the year, by setting aside time to read with children and youth and inspire them to become lifelong readers.

Family Literacy Day is a national awareness initiative created by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 and held annually on January 27 to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. This year's theme is "Celebrate Your Heritage". As shared on the ABC Life Literacy Canada website, *Canada is a great diverse country full of different cultures. Take time to explore and learn about your heritage. Celebrate what you've found and share your culture with others.*



Literacy skills are essential for lifelong success. Encouraging reading and writing together as a family helps students develop good listening, speaking, vocabulary and language skills, imagination and creativity, and contributes to their future success and well-being.

There are many ways to develop and strengthen literacy skills while enjoying outdoor activities, reading a book together, playing a word game, writing, making a list, using a recipe, surfing the web, or just simply having a conversation.

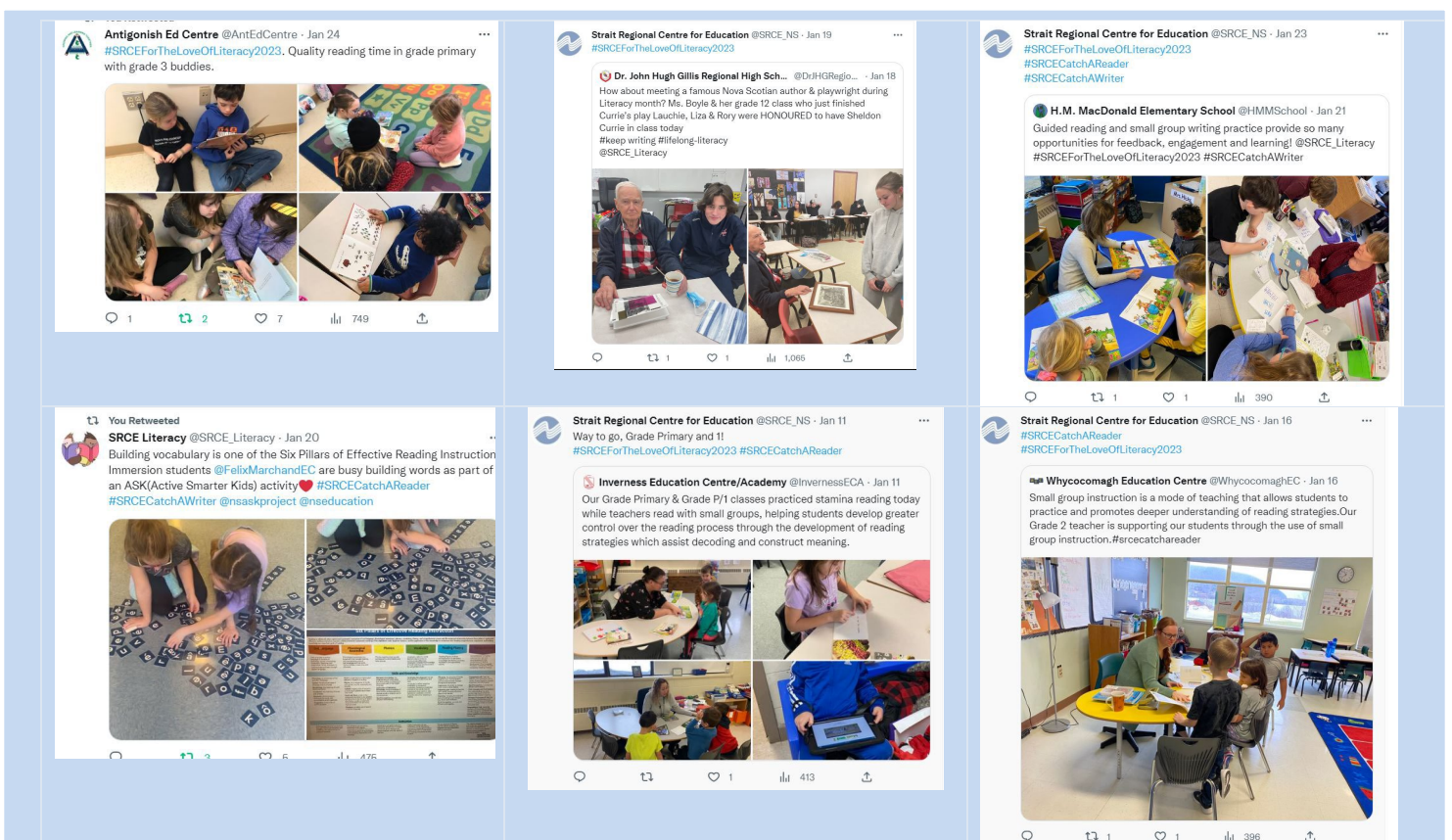
The SRCE Programs and Student Services Department under the leadership of Tanya Carter, Coordinator of Literacy, launched a Literacy Campaign leading up to Family Literacy Day and for the month of January. The campaign invites schools to share on their social media channels photos of students and staff *caught* reading or writing using diverse tools and strategies to celebrate the many ways they are incorporating literacy skills across the curriculum in the Pre-primary Program and in Grades Primary to 12. On Twitter, follow @SRCE_Literacy and @SRCE_NS to learn more about the great work happening in SRCE schools to develop and strengthen students' reading and literacy skills.

In addition, the following resource was developed by the SRCE Literacy Team for families to promote reading at home:

- [Fostering a Love of Reading at Home](#)

Literacy instruction is a priority for all students in the SRCE, across all subjects and grade levels. In addition to school-based staff, Programs and Student Services staff, including but not limited to Speech-Language Pathologists, English as an Additional Language teachers, and SchoolsPlus staff have an important role in developing literacy learning of students through in-class programming. Further, the goal of improving student achievement in literacy is one of the main goals included in the SRCE's System Improvement Plan for 2022-2023. The Plan focuses on goals and priorities that will help to address the needs of all learners in the SRCE. For more information, please access the complete plan at [SRCE System Improvement Plan for 2022-2023](#), and access the infographic at [SRCE System Improvement Plan 2022-2023 Infographic](#).

Let's make reading, writing and learning together part of our everyday activities in and out of the classroom.



Families wishing to register children for the Pre-primary Program and Grade Primary in both English and French Immersion for September 2023 may do so during the week of January 23 to 27, 2023.

Please refer to the following links for additional details:

[Registration for Pre-primary Programs](#)

[Registration for Grade Primary in English and French Immersion](#)

Strait
Regional Centre for Education

School Registration Information
2023-2024 School Year

Registration for Pre-primary Programs and Grade Primary takes place during the week of January 23 to 27, 2023.

Please help us plan for the upcoming school year by registering your child.



Did You Know?

- ✓ In the SRCE, busing is available to all pre-primary children eligible to receive bus service. Please contact the SRCE Transportation Department staff by email at transportation@srce.ca or by phone at 902-747-3645 to determine your eligibility to receive bus service.

Invitation to Become a Host Family in the SRCE

The SRCE continues to recruit families to host international students. Welcome the world into your home by hosting an international student. Become a host family and create friends for life.

You will be surprised at the many ways your family grows when you become a host family. Your hospitality can make all the difference to a student's experience, and it is our hope that by becoming a host family, it will mark the beginning of a relationship that will last a lifetime! Learn more about this exciting opportunity at <https://nsisp.ca/become-host-family>.

For more information about becoming a host family in the SRCE, please contact:

Chris Penny, Manager, SRCE-ISP
chris.penny@srce.ca; 902-625-7083

BRING THE WORLD HOME

When you host an international student you may be surprised at how your family will grow

Visit nsisp.ca/become-host-family for more information on how to become an NSISP host family

Nova Scotia International Student Program

BRING THE WORLD HOME

When you host an international student you may be surprised at how your family will grow

Visit nsisp.ca/become-host-family for more information on how to become an NSISP host family

Nova Scotia International Student Program

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Jan 16
Beautifully done, Grade 4! #MartinLutherKingJrDay

Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough ... @ChedE... · Jan 16
Ms Moeller's gr 4 class did a collaborative art piece of Martin Luther King Jr! It turned out amazing! Happy Martin Luther King Jr Day!

500 600 700

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Jan 12
Looks delicious! Thank you to your students for all their help!
#KindnessMatters

Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High Sch... @DrJHGRegio... · Jan 12
Food prep with a purpose! Dr. J students look forward to seeing what new, healthy options are available on our daily snack carts. Apple slices and caramel dip make their debut today.

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Jan 20
Very thoughtful! #KindnessMatters

Dalbree Academy @dalbreesacademy · Jan 19
Our student council made exam study bags today for all students!

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Jan 16
#SRCEStudentLearningInAction

Fanning Education Centre/Canso Ac... @FanningECCA... · Jan 14
We were so fortunate to have our Mik'maw Education Coordinator, Miranda Gould, and her team of educators, host traditional culture and knowledge workshops for our grades 3 to 12 students and teachers. What a memorable and engaging day! @SRCE_NS

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Jan 17
A great hands-on learning experience for students!
#SRCEStudentLearningInAction

Inverness Education Centre/Academy @InvernessECA · Jan 17
In Career Development 10 students explore communication and teamwork skills, decision-making skills, and healthy participation and interaction within their communities. Today our students did some work with mock interviews.

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Dec 20, 2022
Awesome job, Brayden! @Skills_NS

Richmond Education Centre/Aca... @Richmond... · Dec 19, 2022
Another incredible project in Manufacturing Trade! Well done, Brayden! #education

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Jan 20
It sure is! Physical activity to start the day supports students' well-being, learning, success as well as their physical health.

St. Andrews Consolidated School @sacseaagles · Jan 19
Before school Pickle Ball for grade 6 students is a wonderful way to start the day!

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Jan 19
Thanks for sharing your musical talents!

SAERC @SAERC_Official · Jan 18
Thank you to Mr. Ralph and the Music 12 class for the lunchtime concert today!

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Jan 20
A beautiful tribute to mark #MartinLutherKingJrDay.

St. Andrew Junior School @StAndrewJunior · Jan 19
In honour of Dr. Martin Luther King Day, students at SAJS shared their dreams on an interactive bulletin display, and others created inspirational word art.

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Jan 13
Great work, Grade Primary!
#SRCEStudentLearningInAction

St. Mary's Education Centre/Acade... @StMarysEdCen... · Jan 13
Grade Primary are working hard on Geometry outcomes They participated in various hands on stations in Guided Math that were facilitated by our Math Mentor, Mr. MacDonald . It looks like we have lots of future engineers in Grade Primary.
@SRCE_NS

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Jan 13
#StudentEngagement
#SRCEStudentLearningInAction

Tamarac Education Centre @TEC_6650 · Jan 12
TEC 7/8 Immersion doing Tech Ed with Mr. Sturmy!

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Jan 23
#SciencetsFun #SRCEStudentLearningInAction

Whycocomagh Education Centre @WhycocomaghEC · Jan 20
The grade 6 class was busy in the science lab today constructing simple, series, and even parallel circuits. They were also testing materials in their circuits to determine if they were insulators or conductors.

[Access Video Link](#)

Information on Class and/or Bus Service Delays and/or Cancellations Due to Weather and/or Road Conditions

As a reminder, I ask parents and guardians to review their backup plan with their children in the event there are decisions made to delay or cancel bus service or classes due to weather and/or road conditions.

Our preference is always to have our students in school. We recognize that parents and guardians are concerned when their children miss class time, and we share this concern. That is why our decision to cancel classes is not made lightly and is made with the safety of students and staff as the first priority.

The vast majority of our students are bused to school and our region covers a large geographic area of 11,000 sq. km. Due to our large geographic region, it is very important that we gather information from many sources beginning very early in the morning, around 5:00 a.m., to enable us to make an informed decision and announce it prior to 6:30 a.m., to the degree possible, to help families plan accordingly.



The Decision-Making Process

The Strait Regional Centre for Education follows a comprehensive decision-making process and detailed procedures to make decisions resulting in delays or cancellations to bus service or classes in schools(s). Our decision-making process includes consultations with, and a review of information from, the following:

- The SRCE Manager of Transportation and Director of Operations;
- Staff who personally travel on the roads very early in the morning evaluating road and weather conditions;
- Weather forecasting services including Environment Canada, WSP Weather Information System, and The Weather Network;
- Local region contacts (staff);
- Neighbouring Regional Centres for Education;
- Provincial highway cameras;
- The Nova Scotia Department of Public Works; and
- RCMP, if required.

There are six possible phases of cancellations:

Phase I: Cancellation of a Bus Run or Runs

Phase II: Cancellation of Bus Service on Unpaved Roads

Phase III: Cancellation of Classes due to Inclement Weather

Phase IV: Delayed Opening of Schools

Phase V: Early Dismissal: Predicted and Deteriorating Weather/Road Conditions During the Day

Phase VI: Partial or Complete System Shutdown/Schools and Buildings Closed

How to Stay Informed

You are encouraged to check all available information sources as noted below to ensure you are up to date regarding class and bus service announcements:

- Check our website, www.srce.ca and specifically the [Cancellations and Announcements](#) image on the main page of the website. Please note there are two tabs on this page, School and Worksite Cancellations and Announcements are found under the first tab at the bottom of the page and Bus Route Cancellations and Announcements are found under the second tab.
- Follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/SRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/SRCE_NS).
- Listen to local radio stations.
- Subscribe to receive class cancellation and/or bus route notices via email and/or text at https://www.srce.ca/news/stay_informed.

Contact Information

- Transportation Department Staff: 902-747-3645; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. / transportation@srce.ca
- Operations Centre Dispatch Staff: 902-747-3642; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Emergency Bussing Telephone Number: 902-747-3642; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information about class cancellation and/or bus service announcements, please refer to the following documents:

[Class and/or Bus Delays/Cancellations Due to Weather and/or Road Conditions: A Quick Reference Guide](#)

[Class and/or Bus Delays/Cancellations Due to Weather and/or Road Conditions Procedures](#)

School and SRCE Message System to Families

The SRCE and all schools are using a messaging system that requires action from parents/guardians if you wish to receive text messages from your child’s school and the SRCE.

As a reminder, if you have a cell number on file at your child’s school and have not yet opted in to receive text messages from the school and the SRCE, **please text Yes to 978338 to continue to receive text messages. If you do not opt in, you will not receive text messages.** Message and data rates may apply; and message frequency varies.

You can always opt out in the future by replying to a text message with *STOP*. Please direct follow-up questions to your child’s school.

Notice to Families



The SRCE and all schools are using a new messaging system to send texts.

Parents/Guardians, if you have a cell number on file at your child’s school and have not yet opted in to receive text messages, **please text Yes to 978338 to continue to receive text messages.**

If you do not opt in, you will no longer receive text messages.



Who Do I Contact with Questions or Concerns?



- 1 Start with your child’s teacher.
- 2 Follow up with the school principal, if required.
- 3 For general inquiries, please contact the SRCE where we will be happy to connect you with the right member of staff: 902-625-2191/srce@srce.ca.
- 4 For questions related to student behaviour and/or discipline, please contact Elizabeth Teasdale, Coordinator of Student Discipline by phone at 902-625-7065 or by email at elizabeth.teasdale@srce.ca.
- 5 For all other matters and media inquiries, please contact Deanna Gillis, Coordinator of Communications by phone at 902-625-7093 or by email at deanna.gillis@srce.ca.

