Regional Executive Director's Report

to School Communities in the Strait Region

Thank you and Congratulations!

On behalf of the Strait Regional Centre for Education, I would like to thank all students, families and staff for your support and cooperation during this school year.

To the **Graduates of 2023**, I commend you on your determination and many achievements throughout your learning journey. I know for certain our future is in good hands with the Class of 2023. Your high school diploma is a major accomplishment to be celebrated. I extend sincere best wishes to you for continued success.

I extend my congratulations to **all students** in the Strait Region on their successes achieved in classrooms, in gymnasiums, at sports events, on the stage, and at regional, provincial and national events during this school year.

To our **families**, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for your ongoing guidance and support. You are an important part of your children's success.

I would like to thank **SRCE staff** for your professionalism and dedication throughout the school year. All of you have worked hard to support students, families and school communities. Your significant contributions to supporting and enhancing the learning and work environment are very much appreciated.

I would also like to recognize the support of our **many education partners** who contribute in a variety of ways to our students and schools, including school advisory councils, volunteers, community organizations, businesses, and municipal and provincial partners. Your involvement enriches the learning opportunities for all students.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

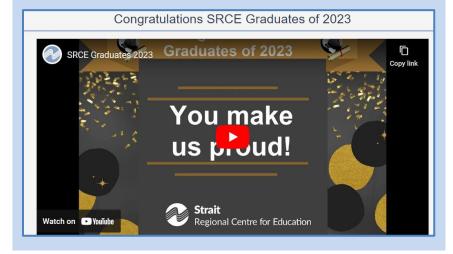
Sincerely,

Paul Landry

Regional Executive Director of Education

Congratulations SRCE Graduates of 2023

A special congratulatory video to SRCE Graduates of 2023 has been posted on the SRCE YouTube Channel and may be accessed at https://www.youtube.com/@SRCE_NS. You may also access it from the main page of the SRCE website below the quick links section and right above the News Stories - https://www.srce.ca/.



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)



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May/June 2023



Paul Landry Regional Executive Director of Education

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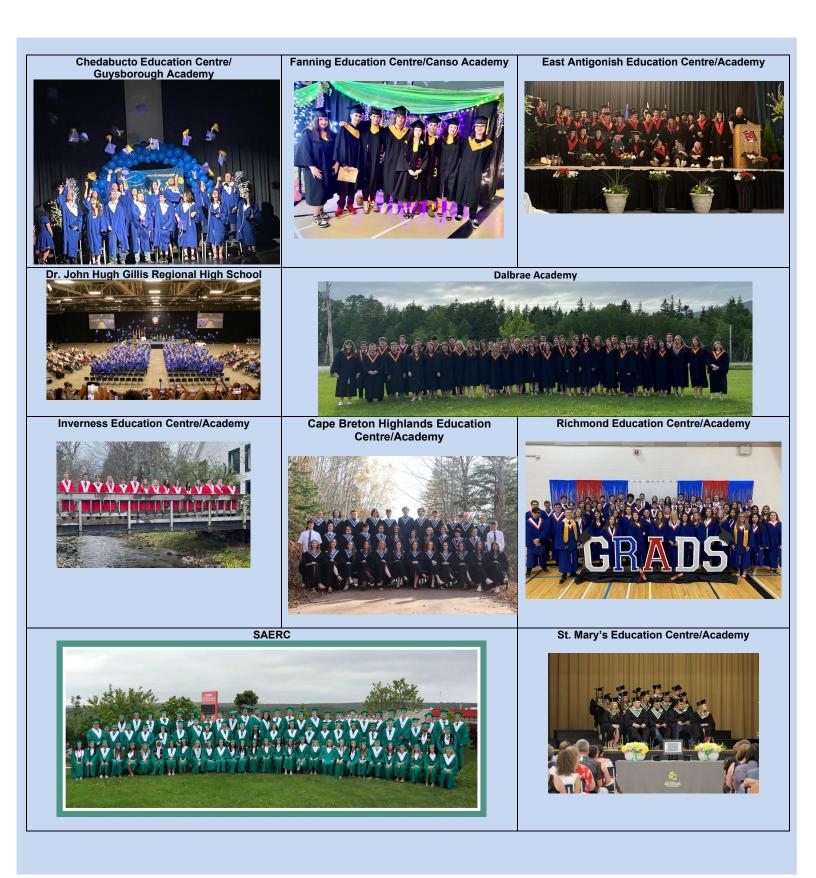
Upcoming Dates/Events

Friday, September 1, 2023 School Orientation/Organization Day (staff only)

Monday, September 4, 2023 Labour Day Holiday

Tuesday, September 5, 2023 Regional In-Service Day (staff only)

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 First Day of Classes for Students





SRCE Students Receive Lieutenant Governor's Education Medal

The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, annually presents the Lieutenant Governor's Education Medal to selected Grade 11 students who have demonstrated qualities of leadership and service in the school and community; and commendable performance in the courses in which they are enrolled.

"I extend congratulations to the nineteen (19) students in the Strait Regional Centre for Education who have been named recipients of the 2022-2023 Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor's Education Medal. Your many achievements are truly impressive, and this Medal is a well-deserved recognition of your significant accomplishments. Your determination in achieving your goals and commitment to serving your communities is inspiring. All of us in the Strait Regional Centre for Education are very proud of you.

I also recognize with appreciation the support provided by the recipients' families and teachers in instilling the value of service to others in students' hearts and minds. The Lieutenant Governor's Education Medal recipients are our leaders of today and tomorrow," said Paul Landry, Regional Executive Director for the Strait Regional Centre for Education.

At a ceremony held at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre on May 17, 2023, The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, presented the Lieutenant Governor's Education Medal to the following 2022-2023 SRCE recipients:



Standing Left to Right: SRCE Director of Human Resources, Janice Gough; Lieutenant Governor Education Medal Recipients Cora Carr, Georgia Armsworthy, Marrissa Rouse, Rori Timmons, Ciaran MacDonald, Taylor MacQuarrie, Caragh Kennedy, Alexis Chisholm-Beaton, Luca Favaro, Lily MacLean and SRCE Coordinator of Literacy, Tanya Carter.

Seated Left to Right: Lieutenant Governor Education Medal Recipients Peyton Rhynold, Lindsay Connolly, Rhylyn MacInnis, Ellie DeCoste, Aubrey (Sadie) Tate-Beaver, Olivia Langley, Malcolm Pye, Kaitlin Burke and Caleb Boudreau.

Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre/Academy Ciaran MacDonald Rori Timmons	Chedabucto Education Centre/ Guysborough Academy Lindsay Connolly Luca Favaro	Dalbrae Academy Rhylyn MacInnis Marrissa Rouse	Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School Georgia Armsworthy Lily MacLean
East Antigonish Education Centre/Academy Cora Carr Ellie DeCoste	Fanning Education Centre/Canso Academy Peyton Rhynold	Inverness Education Centre/Academy Caragh Kennedy Taylor MacQuarrie	Richmond Education Centre/Academy Kaitlin Burke Caleb Boudreau
St. Mary's Education Centre/Academy Malcolm Pye Aubrey (Sadie) Tate-Beaver	Strait Area Education Recreation Centre (SAERC) Alexis Chisholm-Beaton Olivia Langley	Please access more information at the following link: Congratulations to the SRCE Lieutenant Governor Education Medal Recipients 2023	

Congratulations to Felix Marchand Education Centre Student, Emma McMaster, a 2023 Lieutenant Governor's Respectful Citizenship Award Recipient



I would like to extend congratulations to **Emma McMaster, Grade 3 student at Felix Marchand Education Centre**, who was a 2023 recipient of a *Lieutenant Governor's Respectful Citizenship Award*. The Award was presented by His Honour, The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia during a ceremony in Halifax on Wednesday, May 26, 2023.

The Lieutenant Governor's Respectful Citizenship Award recognizes youth who have developed a project or activity that demonstrates leadership and commitment to creating safe and inclusive spaces in schools and communities in Nova Scotia.

I would like to recognize and acknowledge Emma for her outstanding contributions to her school and broader community. Emma volunteers with the school Breakfast Program and helps to organize numerous fundraising projects to support the Christmas Daddies Telethon. She is making a positive impact and meaningful difference through her leadership, empathy and compassion for others while promoting inclusivity and equity for all.



Emma McMaster, Grade 3 student at Felix Marchand Education Centre is presented with her Lieutenant Governor Respectful Citizenship Award by Lieutenant His Honour, The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia (on left) and Deputy Minister Elwin LeRoux, Education and Early Childhood Development.

Congratulations to Dr. J.H. Gillis Regional High School Students Divjot Kalsi and Emma Borden

Congratulations to **Divjot Kalsi**, a Grade 9 student at Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School, who was one of three recipients of the **Minister's Entrepreneurship Award of Excellence** through Education and Early Childhood Development for her business proposal, Div Kalsi Solutions - Roti Dough Maker.

Divjot was one of eight finalists selected to pitch their proposals to a panel of local entrepreneurs at an event held on Thursday, May 11, at St. Mary's University. Business plans were assessed on how realistic they are and how they could address a problem or create economic growth in Nova Scotia. Each application included a description of the product, service or idea; a market and needs analysis; a marketing plan; an inventory of competing businesses; a budget; and information on how the \$1,000 grant would be used.



Divjot Kalsi speaks with Paul Landry during a break from the selection event held at St. Mary's University.



Emma Borden proudly displays her Shad Canada 2023 hoodie.

Congratulations to **Emma Borden**, Grade 10 student at Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School, who has been selected as a **2023 Shad Canada participant**.

This summer Emma will join about 1,300 other highly motivated Grade 10 and 11 students to participate in a month-long STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) and entrepreneurship program. This is an incredible opportunity for students to prepare for post-secondary education, participate in university level lectures and labs, hear from professional keynote speakers and connect with peers from across Canada.

SRCE Students Compete at the Canada Wide Science Fair 2023; Three Students Earn Bronze Medals and Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to students Beth Tubman, Elise Munro, Donell O'Connor and Nila Munro, and Teachers Tracy MacIsaac (SAERC) and Stephanie MacDonald (Dalbrae Academy) who represented the Strait Regional Centre for Education extremely well at the Canada Wide Science Fair held in Edmonton, Alberta from May 14 to 19, 2023. This is the first in-person Canada Wide Science Fair since 2019.

Special congratulations to Beth Tubman, Donell O'Connor and Nila Munro who earned a Bronze Medal and a scholarship from Western University for their projects. Elise Munro earned a Bronze Medal at the 2022 virtual Canada Wide Science Fair.

Learn more about this incredible learning opportunity for students at Canada Wide Science Fair 2023.



Beth Tubman, Grade 9; Dalbrae
Academy; Project – From Flower to Flavour:
How Pollen Type Affects Honey



Donell O'Connor (left) and Nila Munro (right), Grade 12; Dalbrae Academy; Project – Waste Not: Enhancing Nuclear Output



Elise Munro, Grade 9; Dalbrae Academy; <u>Project</u> – <u>H20h No: Mitigating the</u> <u>Effects of Hypoxia on Aquatic Fauna</u>

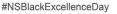
Black Excellence Day Celebrated in the SRCE on Monday, May 15, 2023

Nova Scotia's public schools celebrated the annual Black Excellence Day on Monday, May 15, 2023. The Strait Regional Centre for Education invited children, students, families, staff, volunteers and community partners to wear black t-shirts to celebrate and stand in unity in support of students of African descent on Black Excellence Day and throughout the school year.



Black Excellence Day in Nova Scotia







Black Excellence Day is an opportunity for students to see themselves represented, acknowledged, and celebrated resulting in increased understandings creating an inclusive education for all students. Nova Scotia's **Inclusive Education Policy** is a commitment to ensuring a high-quality, culturally and linguistically responsive and equitable education to support the well-being and achievement of every student.

Black Excellence Day is a day for everyone to both acknowledge and celebrate past and present contributions and achievements of people of African descent.













Student Learning in Action in the SRCE

Watch Video of Students Leaving for the Special Olympics

 $\begin{tabular}{lll} \textbf{Strait Regional Centre for Education} @SRCE_NS \cdot Jun 1 & \\ \textbf{Awesome \#SchooSpirit} to begin a very fun day of competition for student \\ \end{tabular}$





Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS - May 5
On #RedDressDay and every day, let's all come together to honour and raise awareness for #MMIWG2S.

Seast Antigonish Education Centre/Acade... @EastAntE... · May Today is National Red Dress Day for missing and murdered indigenous women, girls and 2 spirited. This display is in our cafeteria.





Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS - Jun 16 ...
Thank you for your leadership in helping to increase awareness and understanding and to foster respect, acceptance, equal rights and dignity for all during #PrideMonth2023 and throughout the school year.

St. Andrew Junior School @StAndrewJunior - Jun 14 SAJS Pride! = Our foyer is full of messages of love and acceptance!



WEC





Fanning Education Centre/Canso Aca... @FanningECCan... May 9 ...
Thank you Kathy Rhodes, our @SRCE_NS Coordinator of African Canadian Education Services, for holding an anti-racism workshop for our grade 11s and 12s today. #antiracism #allies



Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School @DrJHGRegional · May 31
It was a great day at Special Olympics! Congrats to our athletes who represented Dr J and did us proud!





O 4

Watch Video

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS - Jun 1
#SRCEProud of all student athletes who competed in yesterday's
@SpecialONS event!

✓ St. Andrews Consolidated School @sacseagles · May 31 Grade 6 students were super proud of their classmate participating in Special Olympics!



St. Mary's Education Centre/Academy @StMarysEdCentr1 · May 4 SMECA had a surprise visitor from the North Pole who brought a message about climate change and what we can do to make a difference in the world. Thank you to our visitors who left us with over 100 white spruce trees to bring home and plant #EarthDay



Whycocomagh Education Centre @WhycocomaghEC · May 31



SAERC @SAERC_Official · Jun 2
Thank you X-Chem for your visit to SAERC today! SCIENCE 10 / BIOLOGY 11

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Jun 8
A wonderful cultural celebration to learn more about the diversity in our

→ Tamarac Education Centre @TEC_6650 · Jun 7

Cultural Fair at TEC!!!







© Cape Breton Highlands Education Centr... @CBHighlan... Jun
The Blue Nose Run was hosted yesterday by Pleasant Bay School.
Students from PSB, CBHECA, IECE, and NDA had students
participating to the tune of 25S. Ashley Corwley, teacher at PSS has
been organizing this event for a few years now, but this was the





What a great day we had at the special Olympics. Great job athletes!



Congratulations to SRCE Staff on Completion of the Aspiring Leaders Program

I extend congratulations to five staff, Dana Jewers, Vice Principal, St. Mary's Education Centre/Academy; Candace Power, Vice Principal, St. Andrew Junior School; Robert MacDonald, Vice Principal, Richmond Education Centre/Academy; Mike Stewart, Teacher, Dr. J.H. Gillis Regional High School; and Kristen Ross, Vice Principal, Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre/Academy, who earned their Aspiring Leaders Program Certificate through the Educational Leadership Consortium of Nova Scotia.

The Aspiring Leaders Program (ALP) is offered by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in partnership with the Educational Leadership Consortium of Nova Scotia (ELCNS) and Regional Centres of Education. The goal of the Program is to provide leadership training and skill development to aspiring school administrators. The ALP extends over 14 months and leads to a certificate.

SRCE Staff Honoured at Celebrating Service Retirement Banquet 2023

During the Celebrating Service Retirement Banquet held on Friday, May 26, 2023, the Strait Regional Centre for Education extended congratulations and sincere thanks to the retirees of 2023 for their many years of dedicated service and significant contributions to students, families and school communities in the Strait Region.

On behalf of the Strait Regional Centre for Education, I sincerely thank our retirees of 2023 for the many contributions they have made to public education throughout their distinguished careers. I extend my deepest gratitude to them as they conclude one chapter of their life and begin the next exciting phase.

People who choose careers in the field of public education are more than just employees. Regardless of the position they hold, all retirees have had a tremendous impact on the lives of our students and families. Their commitment and leadership have played an important role in our students' well-being, achievement and success. Their devotion to our students, colleagues, school communities, and to the public education system in the Strait Region as a whole has made a meaningful difference in our students' lives, now and well into their future.

Although there have been many changes in public education over the years, one very important factor has remained constant. Students still rely on, and need the guidance, wisdom and support of our staff. There is no substitute for a competent, caring adult when it comes to helping our children and youth achieve their success. The students whose lives the retirees have touched are making tremendous contributions to our communities, our province, our country and indeed the world, and our retirees are in no small part responsible for their success. Thank you for being mentors and caregivers to our future leaders.

I extend to each retiree my sincere congratulations and may good health and happiness be yours in retirement. You will indeed be missed.

Sincere best wishes to the SRCE retirees of 2023!

Paul Landry Regional Executive Director of Education

The honourees of 2023 include:

- <u>Russell Borden</u>, School Bus Driver, Fanning Education Centre/Canso Academy
- <u>Richard (Richie) Britten</u>, Principal, Felix Marchand Education Centre
- Brenda Burt, Teacher, Richmond Education Centre/Academy
- Bernard Cameron, Teacher, Bayview Education Centre
- Lynn Chisholm, Teacher Assistant, Bayview Education Centre



SRCE staff Director of Human Resources, Janice Gough and Regional Executive Director, Paul Landry, presented the Aspiring Leaders Program Certificates to recipients during a Vice Principals' Meeting on May 10, 2023. Pictured left to right: Janice Gough, Dana Jewers, Candace Power, Robert MacDonald, Mike Stewart and Paul Landry.



Director of Programs and Student Services, Darrell LeBlanc; Retirees Richie Britten, Bernard Cameron, Russell Borden, Shirley McNamara, Francene Gillis, Debbie MacDonald and Lynn Chisholm; Regional Executive Director, Paul Landry; and Director of Finance and A/Director of Operations, Chris Grover (Standing Left to Right).

Retirees Jim MacDonald, Theresa Nickerson, Michael Luddington, Roland Ryan, Lorraine McKeough, Margie Glenn, Brenda Burt and Charline MacKay; and Director of Human Resources, Janice Gough (Seated Left to Right).

- <u>Francene Gillis</u>, Teacher, Dalbrae Academy
- <u>Margie Glenn</u>, Teacher Assistant, St. Andrews Consolidated School
- <u>Martina Levangie</u>, Teacher, East Antigonish Education Centre/Academy
- <u>Michael Luddington</u>, Head Janitor, Fanning Education Centre/Canso Academy
- <u>Debbie MacDonald</u>, Student Services Consultant, Programs and Student Services Department
- <u>James (Jim) MacDonald</u>, Head Custodian, Inverness Education Centre/Academy
- <u>Charline MacKay</u>, Teacher Assistant, Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre/Academy
- <u>Paul MacLean</u>, Teacher, Richmond Education Centre/Academy
- <u>Lorraine McKeough</u>, Library Technician. St. Andrews Consolidated School
- <u>Shirley McNamara</u>, School Bus Driver, Tamarac Education Centre and SAERC
- Ann McNeil, School Bus Driver/Custodian, H.M. MacDonald Elementary School
- Michael (Mike) Nearing, Teacher, Antigonish Education Centre
- <u>Laurie Pitre (Posthumously)</u>, School Bus Driver, Tamarac Education Centre and SAERC
- <u>Theresa Nickerson</u>, Library Technician, St. Mary's Education Centre/Academy
- Roland Ryan, School Bus Driver, Tamarac Education Centre and SAERC
- Dion Samson, Teacher, SAERC

Mental Health Resources and Supports

As a reminder, for our children, youth and families needing support, please note the following resources:

- SRCE Staff including school counsellors, school psychologists, student support workers, teachers, student
 success teachers, school administrators, a Registered Psychotherapist, Regional Equity Team and SchoolsPlus
 staff are a few of the supports available for our children and youth.
 - Please contact your respective school administration and/or school counsellor <u>School Directory 2022-</u> 2023.
 - SchoolsPlus staff are also available to support children, youth and families and help you access mental health supports and other services you may need. For contact information, please access the <u>SchoolsPlus</u> page on the SRCE website.
- Kids Help Phone is available 24/7, by calling 1-800-668-6868 (toll-free).
 - Children and youth may text TALK to 686868.
 - Adults may text WELLNESS to 741741.
- IWK Mental Health and Addictions Program is available 24/7.
 - o Central Referral Service Please call toll free, 1-855-635-4110 for a referral.
 - Mental Health Crisis Line is available 24/7 to anyone experiencing a mental health or addictions crisis, or someone concerned about them, by calling 1-888-429-8167 (toll free).
 - Nova Scotia Health Mental Health and Addictions Program (Child and Adolescent Services)
 - Nova Scotia Mental Health and Well-Being Resources
 - Association of Black Social Workers
 - Health Association of African Canadians

For more information, please access a copy of the SRCE Mental Health Resources and Services.

School Registration: Pre-primary Program and Grade Primary to 12 for the 2023-2024 School Year is Ongoing

Registration for Pre-primary Programs and Grades Primary to 12 is ongoing in the SRCE.

Families, please refer to the following links for additional details:

- Registration for Pre-primary Programs
- Registration for Grades Primary to 12





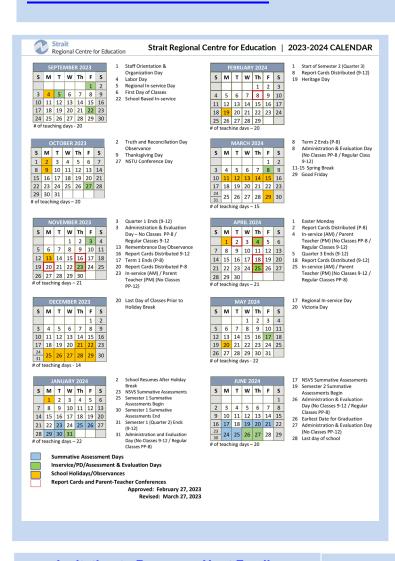
School Registration Information

Registration for Grades Primary to 12 and Pre-primary Programs is ongoing in the SRCE



Did You Know?

✓ In the SRCE, busing is available to all Preprimary children and Grades Primary to 12 students who are 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 / 1-800-650-4448 to determine your eligibility to receive bus service.



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.

Invitation to Become a Host Family in the SRCE



The SRCE continues to recruit families to host international students in September 2023.

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

