

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

November/ December 2022

It is hard to believe that we are already a little over a third of the way through the school year. Classroom and school routines are well-established, and students and staff have re-established relationships and connections with families.

Through my monthly reports, I am pleased to share information and photographs on the many initiatives and activities led by our school-based and regional staff that are supporting and improving our students' well-being, achievement and overall success.

The first set of report cards were recently issued with parent-teacher meetings held at all schools in the SRCE. A strong home and school connection is extremely important to our students' success. I encourage families to reach out to their child's teacher and/or school administration at any time for support.

At this time of year, we are also very proud of our students and staff and the many charitable causes and initiatives they undertake to help families in our local communities who need additional support. They are demonstrating first-hand the importance of service learning, compassion, caring and promoting kindness in so many meaningful ways that will make a significant difference in the lives of many.

As our minds turn to the upcoming Holiday Break, our last day of classes is Tuesday, December 20, 2022, and classes resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

I wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy Holiday and all the best in 2023!

Sincerely,



Paul Landry
Regional Executive Director of Education



Paul Landry
Regional Executive Director
of Education

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Upcoming Dates/Events

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Last Day of Classes Prior to Holiday Break

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Classes Resume

Invitation to Students,
Staff, Families and School
Communities
to Participate in Survey on
Strengthening Local Voices
in Public Education



The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has launched a public engagement on strengthening local voice in our education system. This is a great opportunity to enhance our connection with communities and ensure we are putting students in the best position to be successful.

The online survey and virtual townhall (*ThoughtExchange*) can be found at the following link:

[Strengthening Local Voices - Consultations](#)

For your additional information, please refer to the provincial news release, [Strengthening Local Voices in Public Education](#).

Please note feedback will be collected until Friday, December 23, 2022.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your feedback will provide valuable information to help understand how local voice can be enhanced.

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This is a good time of year for 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 very 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, WOOD Weather Information System, and The Weather Network;
- Local region contacts (school bus drivers);
- 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.

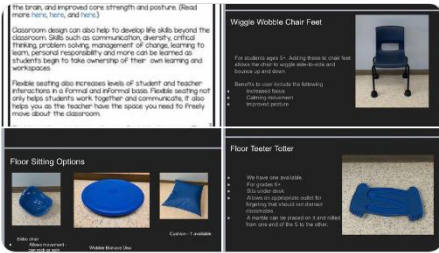
Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Nov 21
 Congratulations! #SRCEStudentLearningInAction

Antigonish Ed Centre @AntEdCentre · Nov 18
 Mrs. Mikkelsen's class proudly display their published works!



1

Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre... @CBHighlan... · Nov 28
 Look at the options CBHECA has to promote achievement 🤖 We also have standing desks we can offer!



2

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Nov 28
 #SRCEStudentLearningInAction

Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough... @Ched... · Nov 26
 Mr Wilson's Science 10 class enjoying hands on learning about the different kinds of chemical reactions.



1

Dalbrae Academy @dalbraeacademy · 3h
 Enjoying our holiday outing 🎄



1

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Nov 28
 Looks delicious!

Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High Sch... @DrJHGRegio... · Nov 22
 Butter Chicken in Food Studies 12 today. Great job Sadie and Chelsea!



1

SRCE Literacy @SRCE_Literacy · Nov 24
 We got mail!!!!!! The grade 2/3s @EastRichmondEC have been practicing their letter writing skills by having a class mailbox which is checked daily. Everyone loves to get mail! ❤️ #SRCEWritingChallenge



3

Felix Marchand Education Centre @FelixMarchandEC · Nov 29
 The African Centre for Dance presented at our Kindness assembly today. Everyone was dancing and spreading kindness!!!!



1

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Nov 28
 What a fun and creative way to start the day and the week!
 #SRCEStudentLearningInAction

H.M. MacDonald Elementary School @HMMSchool · Nov 28
 Morning rain means time for imaginative play with new theatre!
 @SRCE_Literacy



2

Richmond Education Centre/Academy @Richmond_ECA · Nov 16
 Tyler Smith, Humboldt Broncos crash survivor, speaking to RECA students and staff with the message of the importance of self-care for mental health. #HumboldtStrong



1

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Nov 3
 #SRCEStudentLearningInAction #MathsFun

St. Andrews Consolidated School @sacseagles · Nov 3
 Grade 3M loving their math games working with base 10s
 #mathmadefun



4

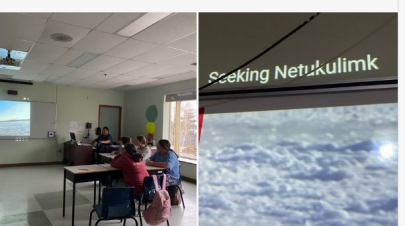
St. Andrew Junior School @StAndrewJunior · Dec 6
 Crazy hair and hat day at SAJSI! Lots of spirit and creativity on display 🤖



PIC-COLLAG

Strait Regional Centre for Education @SRCE_NS · Dec 2
 #SRCEStudentLearningInAction

Whycocomagh Education Centre @WhycocomaghEC · Dec 1
 Grade 8 Social Studies were being taught about Netukulimk. Only take and use what you need not what you want.



1

Active Smarter Kids (ASK) Initiative – Supporting Student Wellness, Achievement and Success Through Movement

ASK is a model for curriculum delivery developed in Norway that involves the incorporation of simple physical activities into the delivery of academic lessons. Physically Active Learning (PAL) activities are delivered by classroom teachers in 20–30-minute periods and are well suited for math and language arts classes and all other subjects with simple adaptation. ASK lessons are usually delivered outdoors but can also take place indoors. The goal of PAL (Physical Active Lessons) is to review or re-introduce concepts that were already learned in class.

Two years ago, the SRCE piloted ASK with two schools. Since that time, it has become an initiative that has been promoted provincially with the goal of building capacity regionally to train others to become ASK trainers in their own region. The SRCE took the approach of having representation for math, literacy and well-being as part of our team to fully model to teachers the importance of incorporating movement in all subjects. Research demonstrates that movement will indeed improve memory tasks, enhance student engagement and improve academic achievement among our students. It also provides an opportunity for teachers to teach, coach and support students in various settings and learning environments by adding some variation to the school day experience.

As a region, we have provided training to 13 schools with the goal of completing all schools early in the new year. Teachers have certainly taken this opportunity as a means to engage more with their students by implementing these activities as part of their daily lessons. Interested teachers are provided with ASK kits that include all of the items to plan an ASK activity. The kits include various equipment and bags of letter tiles both in English and in French and number tiles to support various activities.

Although exercise is optional, movement is essential! The SRCE is looking forward to the continued implementation of ASK at all schools and supporting teachers to make lessons more interactive; plan lessons that are culturally and inclusively responsive, all in an effort to further enhance student engagement and support student well-being, achievement and success.

School Advisory Council (SAC) Professional Development Session

SRCE regional staff, school administrators and Chairpersons/representatives from our School Advisory Councils attended a professional development session on Monday, December 5, 2022.

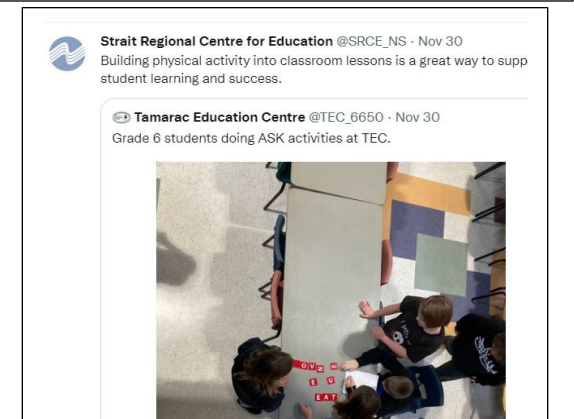
It was a wonderful opportunity to get together in-person again. I would like to thank all those who attended the session. The session was very well attended and is indicative of the great support SACs provide to our students, families and schools. The agenda included the following topics:

- Provincial Survey – [Strengthening Local Voices in Public Education](#)
- The Role of the SAC – Overview and Funding
- Review of Resources (SAC Handbook, Spending Guidelines and Q and A)
- Active Smarter Kids (ASK) Presentation
- Sharing of successes, challenges, and strategies to recruit members

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the work and commitment of the members of our SACs who generously share their time and talents to support our students' well-being, achievement and success.

For more information about SACs and the important and valuable role they fulfill, please refer to the following link:

[School Advisory Council \(SAC\) Information](#)



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

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.

