

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

March/April 2023

In this month's report, I am pleased to share a number of impressive student achievements, successes and celebrations.

Education Week was held April 16 to 22, 2023. I would like to congratulate the nine staff who were recognized for their outstanding commitment and leadership to active learning and student engagement. I would also like to highlight the many school-based activities focused on this year's theme of *Active Learning = Engagement* that are helping children and students succeed.

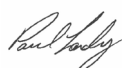
The SRCE Science Fair was held as a hybrid event on April 4, 2023, at the NSCC Strait Campus. I would like to thank all the students who participated and their teachers for supporting their interest in science and the many volunteers including current and former staff and community members. I would also like to recognize and thank the businesses and post-secondary institutions who generously contribute to the event.

National Volunteer Week was held April 16 to 22, 2023. I would like to thank the volunteers who support students in many ways as part of activities held in and out of school that contribute to their well-being, achievement and success.

I am always impressed by the many excellent student learning activities happening throughout the region that continue to foster student well-being and success through the creation of positive, safe, inclusive and culturally responsive learning environments.

As always, I encourage you to keep an eye for some of our school and regional celebrations in print, on our website (www.srce.ca) and via the SRCE twitter (@SRCE_NS).

Sincerely,



Paul Landry
Regional Executive Director of Education



Paul Landry
Regional Executive Director

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Upcoming Dates/Events

May 1 to 7, 2023

Mental Health Week

May 5, 2023

Red Dress Day (National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People)

Friday, May 12, 2023

Celebrating Women in Mathematics

Monday, May 15, 2023

Black Excellence Day

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

Asian Heritage Month
Canadian Jewish Heritage Month
Gaelic Nova Scotia Month
Speech and Hearing Month

The **Strait Regional Science Fair Awards Ceremony 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/>.



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SRCE Celebrates Education Week 2023: April 16 to 22 Nine (9) Staff Recognized for Their Contributions

Education Week, April 16 to 22, 2023, provides an opportunity for school communities to share in celebrating the achievements of students and staff, and to acknowledge the contributions many people, in supporting roles, make to our public education system. This year's Education Week theme is *Active Learning = Engagement*.

One of the features of the Provincial Education Week Committee's activities is the recognition of staff and partners who have made outstanding contributions to their work relative to the theme. The Strait Regional Centre for Education congratulates the following recipients who have been formally recognized for their outstanding leadership and commitment to supporting students' well-being, achievement and success:

- **Dan Arpin**, Teacher, St. Mary's Education Centre/Academy
- **Lynn Casey**, Principal, Fanning Education Centre/Canso Academy
- **Stacey Desmond**, African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker, Antigonish Education Centre
- **Kathy Gosbee**, Teacher Assistant, Chedabucto Education Centre/ Guysborough Academy
- **Renée Martell**, Teacher, East Richmond Education Centre
- **Ashley Pelley**, Lead Early Childhood Educator, Antigonish Education Centre
- **Starlene Pictou**, Mi'kmaq Language Teacher, East Antigonish Education Centre/Academy
- **Jim Ralph**, Teacher, Strait Area Education Recreation Centre (SAERC)
- **Mike Stewart**, Teacher, Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School



Congratulations and thank you for your many contributions to supporting the needs of all learners by promoting active, hands-on, experiential learning and student engagement through a variety of classroom activities, including outdoor and land-based learning.

- Paul Landry
Regional Executive Director

You may access the detailed news story along with the biographies of the Award Recipients at the following link:

[SRCE Celebrates Education Week 2023: April 16 to 22 - Nine \(9\) Staff Recognized for Their Contributions](#)

Education Week 2023 Award Recipients Active Learning = Engagement

Congratulations!
Education Week Award Recipients

Education Week April 16-22, 2023
Semaine de l'éducation 16-22 avril, 2023

Education Week is a special opportunity to recognize educators, school support staff and education partners for their outstanding work relative to the Education Week theme. School communities promote active learning in many ways, from outdoor and land-based learning to experiential/hands-on classroom opportunities. They find ways to address the needs of learners they support which results in authentic learning, movement, and improved well-being outcomes.

Active Learning = Engagement **Apprentissage actif = motivation**

Dan Arpin
Teacher
St. Mary's Education Centre/Academy

Lynn Casey
Principal
Fanning Education Centre/
Canso Academy

Stacey Desmond
African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker
Antigonish Education Centre

Kathy Gosbee
Teacher Assistant
Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough Academy

Renée Martell
Teacher
East Richmond Education Centre

Ashley Pelley
Lead Early Childhood Educator
Antigonish Education Centre

Starlene Pictou
Mi'kmaq Language Teacher
East Antigonish Education Centre/Academy

Jim Ralph
Teacher
Strait Area Education Recreation Centre (SAERC)

Mike Stewart
Teacher
Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School

Congratulations and thank you for your outstanding leadership and commitment to supporting students' well-being, achievement and success. Your many contributions to supporting the needs of all learners by promoting active, hands-on, experiential learning and student engagement through a variety of classroom activities, including outdoor and land-based learning, are greatly appreciated.

Paul Landry
Regional Executive Director of Education

Darrell LeBlanc
Director of Programs and Student Services

Education Week: April 16 to 22, 2023 School Activities Celebrating Active Learning = Engagement

Education Week April 16-22, 2023
Semaine de l'éducation 16-22 avril, 2023

Education Week is a special opportunity to recognize educators, school support staff and education partners for their outstanding work relative to the Education Week theme. School communities promote active learning in many ways, from outdoor and land-based learning to experiential/hands-on classroom opportunities. They find ways to address the needs of learners they support which results in authentic learning, movement, and improved well-being outcomes.

Active Learning = Engagement **Apprentissage actif = motivation**

Dalbrae Academy
The Science 10 Options and Opportunities class at Dalbrae Academy has started the process of taping for maple syrup. They are cutting their own paths to the maple trees and tapping several trees. They are loving the outdoor, hands-on learning and are very engaged in the whole process.

Antigonish Education Centre
Students at Antigonish Education Centre are regularly engaged in thoughtful, cooperative problem-solving activities with Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics. This research-based strategy has students on their feet with peers, working at whiteboards to solve, open-ended problems. This active learning approach engages students in their learning and encourages critical thinking and cooperative problem solving.

Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School
The English 12 class at Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School was honoured to have well-known Author and Playwright Sheldon Currie visit during SRCE Literacy Month. The class read Currie's play, *Landscape and Play*, and engaged a conversation with him about the writing process and the play.

Whyacomaugh Education Centre
On January 4, 2023, Canada celebrated National Ribbon Skirt Day. Whyacomaugh Education Centre promoted the importance of Ribbon Skirt Day by giving students and staff the opportunity to wear Ribbon Skirt made by women in the local community of the Mi'kmaq. The school celebration also included inviting local women to speak with students about the importance of Indigenous traditions and cultures and how the Ribbon Skirt is a symbol of resilience, survival and identity.

St. Andrew Junior School
As part of their Outdoor Education class, Grade 7 students at St. Andrew Junior School participate in a snowshoeing activity that takes them through the trails around the school. Every year, Grade 7 and 8 classes enjoy the many benefits of this physical activity while outdoors in our beautiful natural surroundings.

St. Andrews Consolidated
As part of a Building Thinking Classrooms activity, students solve problems in small groups standing at whiteboards. In this photo, Grade 8 students are using their factoring skills to learn about the tax collection process.

SAERC
SAERC's Grade 9 students are engaged in a hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activity in their Exploring Technology class. Students assembled each device and then coded them to either perform a task or navigate through various challenges.

Tamarac Education Centre
Grade 9 students from Tamarac Education Centre participated in the Skilled Futures in Oceania event at the Nova Scotia Community College (Strait Area Campus) where they had the opportunity to explore career opportunities in marine trades and technologies.

Inverness Education Centre/Academy
Citizenship 9 students at Inverness Education Centre/Academy are active participants in the school breakfast and snack program. In addition to teaching students the importance of being active and engaged citizens, volunteers of the breakfast program also learn valuable life skills such as planning, organizing and cooking.

H.M. MacDonald Elementary School
The Grade 1/2 class at H.M. MacDonald Elementary School have a team challenge to build the highest tower using straws and tape from natlms. Students are further developing their cooperation, speaking and listening skills, while learning about building structures.

Bayview Education Centre
The Grade 9/11 class at Bayview Education Centre explore the sugar content in different drinks that students have brought to school. Students were learning about quantity, more or less, and healthy options and then teaching their classmates about what they discovered. Discovery and inquiry-based learning provides opportunities for students to explore concepts that are important to them, and to help enrich students' understanding of new ideas.

Richmond Education Centre/Academy
The Richmond Education Centre/Academy Leadership Committee is a group of students who work for the betterment of the student body. In previous years, students would compete for leadership positions on a student council. A few years back, the transition to a Leadership Committee was made. Students who are interested, come together as volunteers, who in turn harness the strengths of each member. They plan events, fundraisers and socials elementary through the year. The goal of the Committee is to create leaders within the school community who will become active members of their own community.

East Antigonish Education Centre/Academy
Grade 7 students at East Antigonish Education Centre Academy are taking part in an Outdoor Education class. Students are learning to look outdoors and see life skills while having lots of fun.

Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre/Academy
A thinking student is an engaged student. As part of a Building Thinking Classrooms activity, students at Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre/Academy take part in various activities in which they mathematically problem solve together.

Pleasant Bay School
Students at Pleasant Bay School explore sound by taking part in a think, pair and share activity. They learned about vibration, how sound can move in waves and how sound can travel.

Follow us on Twitter @SRCE_NS
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On Wednesday, April 4, 2023, I had the pleasure of personally congratulating twenty (20) staff members during the *Strait to Excellence Awards* ceremony. You may access the News Release at [Twenty \(20\) Employees Honoured at Strait to Excellence Awards Ceremony](#).

The *Strait to Excellence Award* recognizes employees for their dedication and contributions to students and schools in the Strait Region, and for supporting student well-being, achievement and success in their school communities as members of the public education system in Nova Scotia.

Congratulations! *Strait to Excellence Award Recipients*

The Strait to Excellence Award recognizes employees for their dedication and contributions to students and schools in the Strait Region, and for supporting student well-being, achievement and success in their school communities as members of the public education system in Nova Scotia.

Strait to Excellence Award recipients have demonstrated an outstanding commitment and contribution in their respective role in one or more of the following areas: student well-being and achievement, staff success, school performance, integration of technology, health and/or safety of students and/or co-workers, cultural proficiency, commitment to students, and excellence in the workplace.



Christina Aucoin Cavanaugh
Teacher
Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre/Academy



Lianna Gillis
Teacher
Dalbrae Academy



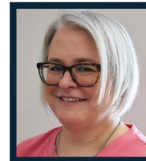
Lisette MacDonald
Principal
Richmond Education Centre/Academy



Jyl Boyle
Teacher
East Antigonish Education Centre/Academy



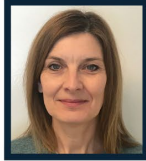
Janice Gough
Director
Human Resources Department



Angela MacKeen
Teacher
Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough Academy



Joanie Broussard
Teacher Assistant
Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School



Heather Graham
Teacher
Tamarac Education Centre



Michelle MacKinnon
Teacher
H.M. MacDonald Elementary School



Lisa Burt
Teacher
Felix Marchand Education Centre



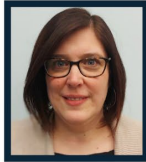
Nadine Hudson
Bus Driver
Antigonish Town and County Area



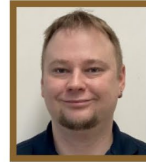
Chantelle MacLellan
Teacher
Bayview Education Centre



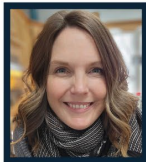
Tanya Carter
Coordinator, Literacy/Family of Schools
Programs and Student Services Department



Deena Jewers
School Counsellor
St. Mary's Education Centre/Academy



Justin Penny
Teacher
Strait Area Education Recreation Centre (SAERC)



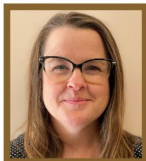
Terri Connolly
Teacher
St. Andrew Junior School



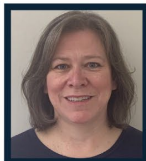
Kirk Johnstone
Principal
St. Andrews Consolidated School



Sharlene Pictou
Cultural Student Support Worker
East Antigonish Education Centre/Academy



Shannon Gillies
Lead Early Childhood Educator
Bayview Education Centre



Ann Marie LeLievre
Teacher
Inverness Education Centre/Academy

As a 2022-2023 Strait to Excellence Award recipient, you have been singled out as someone special, someone who brings passion, enthusiasm and fresh ideas to your role, and who generously shares your knowledge with others. Your commitment, excellent work ethic and leadership have played an important role in our students' well-being, achievement and success.

You have fulfilled, exceeded and excelled in your position. We are very fortunate to have you as part of our team here in the Strait Region.

Paul Landry, Regional Executive Director of Education
Strait Regional Centre for Education



Congratulations to Students and Award Recipients of the Strait Regional Science Fair 2023

Congratulations to all students and award recipients who took part in the 2023 Strait Regional Science Fair held on April 4, 2023. This year the Science Fair was in a hybrid format at the NSCC Strait Campus with 20 students participating virtually and 31 students participating in-person. Special congratulations to the following grand prize award winners:

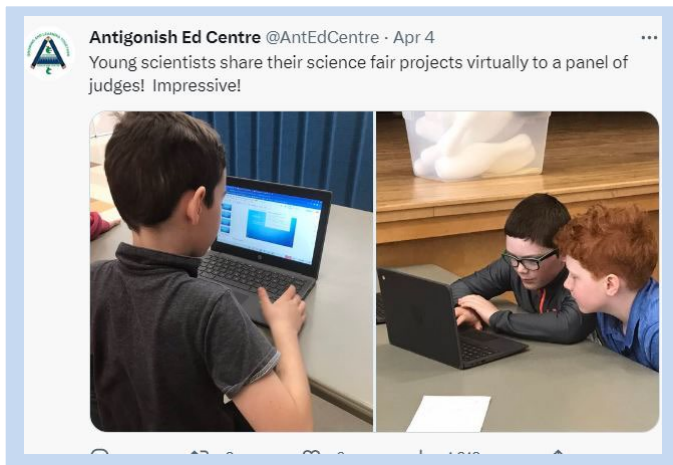
1st Overall (Best in Fair): Beth Tubman, Grade 9; Dalbrae Academy; Project – From Flower to Flavour: How Pollen Type Affects Honey

2nd Overall: Elise Munro, Grade 9, Dalbrae Academy; Project – H₂O_h No: Mitigating the Effects of Hypoxia on Aquatic Fauna

3rd Overall: Donell O'Connor and Nila Munro, Grade 12, Dalbrae Academy; Project – Waste Not, Want Not: Enhancing Nuclear Energy Output

The four grand prize winners will attend the Canada Wide Science Fair scheduled for May 14 to 19, 2023, in Edmonton.

The **Strait Regional Science Fair Awards Ceremony 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/>.



SRCE Celebrates National Volunteer Week: April 16 to 23, 2023 - Volunteering Weaves Us Together

National Volunteer Week is a time to recognize and celebrate the incredible efforts and generosity of our volunteers. I would like to extend thanks to the many volunteers who assist in our school communities. You certainly make our schools better places for our children and youth to learn, play, achieve and succeed.

Thank you to each and every one of you who give freely of your time and talents to serve on committees, help with extra-curricular activities and support student well-being, learning and success. Your dedication is sincerely appreciated.



Antigonish Ed Centre @AntEdCentre - Apr 4
Proudly teaching friends and classmates about Ramadan!

Bayview Education Centre @BayviewEdCentre - Apr 13
Students in 3/4 engaging in some problem solving activities in Math today. Using vertical non permanent surfaces when learning increases engagement, gets students up and out of their seats, and activates more areas of the brain - you can see the learning happening here!

Bayview Education Centre @BayviewEdCentre - Apr 13
Thank you to our SAC for the purchase of these Wipeboards!

Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough ... @Ched... - Apr 28
Our Unified Sports team had a successful day today, but most importantly... they had a blast!

Dalbrae Academy @dalbraeacademy - Apr 25
Solving equations in Math 9 #SRCEMathematics #SRCEFlexYourMathMuscles @SRCE_NS

Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High Sch... @DJHRegion... - Apr 21
On April 21, 2023, Mr. Ferguson's grade 9-03 PDR class picked up 6 bags of garbage along Briely Brook on the occasion of Earth Day. Job well done everybody.

East Antigonish Education Centre/Academy @EastAntECA - Mar 8
Our grade 5 class planned fraction math lessons for our grade 3s. They finished off the day with a fraction dance party! #learninginaction @SRCE_NS

East Richmond Education Centre @EastRichmondEC - Apr 5
When you get to school and can't wait to read a book with your friends! #fortheLoveofReading @SRCE_Literacy

Fanning Education Centre/Canso Aca... @FanningECCA... - Apr 20
Our grade 3/4s were busy exploring measurement with dash robots today!

Inverness Education Centre/Academy @InvernessECA - Mar 21
We are ROCKING OUR SOCKS today at IECA in support of World Down Syndrome Day while learning about Down Syndrome. We're reading books, watching videos and creating beautiful art! Our focus is on accepting and embracing differences!

Richmond Education Centre/Academy @Richmond_ECA - Apr 17
English 12 novel presentation-incredible symbolism display! #NSEdWeek2023 #SRCE

St. Andrews Consolidated School @sacseagles - Apr 13
Grade 4 Math students working hard on building thinking classrooms.

SAERC @SAERCOfficial - Mar 9
Happy International Women's Day from SAERC's Techsploration Team. #EmbraceEquity #Techsploration

Whycocomagh Education Centre @WhycocomaghEC - Apr 13
Grade 6 students are reviewing division in their centers prior to starting their new unit on Dividing decimals. #srceMathematic #SrceFlexYourMathMuscles@srce_ns

St. Mary's Education Centre/Academy @StMarysEdCent1 - Apr 14
The grade 7 science students are doing a lab equipment gallery walk today in preparation for their labs on particle theory. @SRCE_NS

Tamarac Education Centre @TEC.6650 - Apr 19
Our Grade 6 class doing some fun Math ASK activities during Education Week.

Treaty Education refers to the development and implementation of a greater understanding of the inherent aboriginal rights of the Mi'kmaq and the shared treaties as both historical and living agreements that articulate ongoing rights and responsibilities and have ongoing implications. On April 17, 18 and 20, 2023, all Grades 3 and 4 teachers received Treaty Education professional development including participation in the Blanket Exercise. The Blanket Exercise is an interactive educational program that teaches the history of colonization in Canada. The program was created in response to the 1996 report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and is used as a teaching tool across Canada.

I would like to thank SRCE Coordinator of Mi'kmaq Education Services, Miranda Gould, and Coordinator of Literacy, Tanya Carter, for organizing this excellent professional learning opportunity.

For more information on Treaty Education in Nova Scotia, please access the following links:

[Treaty Relationship and Education Nova Scotia](#)

[Treaty Education – Equity and Inclusive Education](#)

We Are All Treaty People. Every Child Matters / E'tasiw mijuaj'jij sespete'tasit.



Mental Health Resources and Supports

Canadian Mental Health week is May 1 to 7, 2023. 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 – [School Directory 2022-2023](#).
 - 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 [SchoolsPlus](#) 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
 - 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](#)
- [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 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. 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

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.

