

Superintendent's Report
January 2019

Ends #1: To provide positive, safe, healthy and inclusive learning and working environments for children, youth, and staff.

In early January the Principal/VP committee formed to discuss Policy 711 Healthier Food Environments will be meeting again. Our last meetings was in the later fall when we knew changes would likely be coming to the policy released in summer 2018.

On January 11 the Directors and I will have a meeting with representatives of the local police detachments from ASD-S; we met in January pf 2017 and agreed we should come together every couple of years to discuss topics such as violent threat risk assessment, school lock downs/hold and secures, evacuations, flashing school bus lights to name a few. We are very fortunate to have positive relations with the many police detachments in southern NB.

Since May 2018 ASD-S has registered 373 newcomer students (69 since October) including 121 through AEI – Atlantic Education International. We have 18 EAL mentors (tutors) supporting many of these students with language tutoring and have postings for two positions that are vacant. We have had two meetings with AEI staff to discuss working on a more collaborative approach to increasing numbers and supporting registration/orientation. AEI has hired a Homestay Coordinator for Simonds High and St. Malachy's to support increasing the homestay opportunities in those areas. There are now 8 Homestay Coordinators in our District.

Ends #2: To demonstrate continuous improvement toward meeting provincial targets in literacy, numeracy, science (English and French Immersion) and to improve learning in and application of the arts, trades and technology.

Program Information nights have been scheduled for families of children currently in kindergarten and grade 5, with information available on Early and Late FI as well as English Prime. There will be seven meetings in total and the schedule can be found on the main page of the ASD-S website. The meetings begin on January 9 at Barnhill Memorial in SJEC and end January 30, 2019. Thank you to the Directors of Schools and FSL Subject Coordinators who facilitate the meetings. Information on FSL programming can be found on the Department website, including the power point used at the meetings and the brochures available to families.

Professional Development continues with high school assessment and on December 12 a group of 26 grade 9 teachers from St. Stephen High, Sir James Dunn, St. Malachy's and KVHS and two teachers from SJHS, Simonds and Hampton High. Teachers selected an assessment strategy to work on and they will have two half days of supply release to support them in implementing their strategy. They will meet again at the end of March.

Other

Monday, January 7, 2019 is a non-student day and all schools will be focused on their School Improvement Plan – an opportunity to review data, to re-visit strategies and monitor progress to date this school year. There may be a PD component to the day aligned with the SIP.

On Tuesday and Wednesday ASD-S will be hosting the provincial Education Group meeting of EECD and all Directors and Superintendents. On Tuesday afternoon a PD session will be offered by Lisa Hrabluk with a focus on positive communication. We will be joined by Communication Directors.

Through the month of December we heard many stories of schools supporting students and the less fortunate at the Christmas season and I felt it important to share just a few of the positive stories as part of my January report.

St. Stephen Education Centre

Milltown Elementary - At Milltown Elementary School we were all involved in singing on the Lions club radio telethon called "Santa's Helpers" from 5-7 pm on the last Sunday of November. Many of our families are on the receiving end of support from the Lions Club. Operation Christmas Joy serves many of our families - money is raised in the community and families apply for help through the school and get gift cards for both groceries and toys. Several members of our staff purchased enough PJs for all of the women and children at Transition House. One of our partners, Arauco (formerly Flakeboard) provides each student at MES with a free turkey dinner. Several businesses make donations of gift items (as do Individuals) which allow our students to go "shopping" one day for each of their family members.

Back Bay Elementary - We had a food drive for St. George Food bank with special collection days for certain needed items. We collected 204 pounds of staple items and 6 turkeys. Also \$110.50 donated through a classroom competition. Staff and students visited homes of those in the community that are seniors on their own for a caroling session. Also spreading Christmas cheer with candy cane well wishes passed out as we caroled. All staff and students had a pancake breakfast.

St. George Elementary - During our production and the week leading up to the holidays, our students raised about \$700 each for our breakfast program as well as for Zack Shaw, a student in our area who continues to battle cancer. The students themselves requested the opportunity to fund raise for Zack even though he is a grade 6 student, he has not yet attended Fundy Middle and High School, so the students see him as their classmate.

St. Stephen Elementary - The Kiwanis K-Kids Club at St. Stephen Elementary School is a very active club, doing many projects and activities to raise funds for various reasons. As they have for the past few years, they collected food and money donations at the door for each of our Christmas Concerts (2 concerts; Primary and Intermediate). This year they collected a total of 135 kg of food donations, and \$877.50. This was totally donated to our local food bank; The Volunteer Center of Charlotte County.

Saint John Education Centre

Centennial - students purchased gifts at our holiday bazaar (all items were generously donated by our partners). The proceeds of their purchases (\$280) was then paid forward to the Harbour Lights Campaign. We were on the receiving end of countless gifts from partners- holiday hampers, Christmas families, and so much more. One of our partners (Saputo) had Big Cook Up event at the school, and donated over 200 meals to agencies that support those in need including our lunch program.

Princess Elizabeth - PES was able to provide 15 families holiday hampers, some coming directly from the generosity of staff. Staff work tirelessly to turn our gym into a Christmas extravaganza with seating for 650, Santa, our Staff band playing and the entire staff dressed in crazy Christmas clothing. We spend about

2 hours together as a family eating breakfast and celebrating the holiday. Many folks from city of Saint John management came and cooked for hours, including the police chief.

Barnhill - we do a "Dodge Hunger" tournament in which we play newcomb ball. All individuals either provide three non-perishable food items or pay \$3.00 to play. This is all donated to the west side food bank. We have over six boxes of food and \$400.00 to donate to the west side food bank. We always do this in January when the shelves have depleted. We also have a trophy we display in our front cabinet. The students really enjoy this event. Our Best Buddies group adopted a family through Big Brothers/ Big Sisters and ensured that this family had a joyful holiday. We also donate to Big Brothers/ Big Sisters monthly from raising funds for our dress down day on Friday's.

Lakewood Heights Elementary - We supported three families with the help of the PALS Christmas hampers and then an additional three more families who were in need from staff dress down and donations. We also sent a cheque to Romero House for \$700. This money was raised by our "Best Seat in the House" draw for our two Christmas Concerts, as well as donations collected at the door. We had twelve of our senior friends from Rocmaura attend our second performance of the Christmas concert. We did "Socktober" in October. In lieu of Halloween treats we asked for donations of socks for Romero House. We were able to send over 300 pairs of socks to them in November.

Saint Rose – We donated food to the West Side Food Bank from a week-long food drive. Items were delivered by students returning from the David Myles "Sing For Your Supper" concert. Also, our Santa's Workshop money is donated annually. Each class submitted a suggestion for their chosen charity after a class discussion. The SPCA received the most votes so all funds were donated to them.

Saint John High School - Our sports teams joined other high schools to help unload the trailer that was filled by people at Ritchie's. We provided Christmas to 17 of our families - full meals for Christmas Day and beyond also some gifts as well. The teachers also brought in small things that we placed in "goodie" bags for 20 other students that needed some support - items included personal hygiene items, socks, and a few candy. We also provided a full pancake breakfast to all students.

St. Malachy's Memorial High - St. Malachy's students and staff manned the Salvation Army Kettles city wide on December 1, 2018. Our vocal ensemble students played in Market Square and for "Uptown Sparkles" leading up to Christmas. St. Malachy's staff raised money (\$1300) to provide small Christmas gifts for about 20 of our students.

Harbourview High - We provided meal baskets to 40 of our families through donations from staff members. We also ran a 'Santa's Workshop' where 70+ students were able to shop for family members and friends and leave with gifts all wrapped for Christmas. Another group of 30 students received gifts packages with school clothing, gift cards, personal items etc.

M Gerald Teed - Our students practiced and put on a Christmas Play "ARF...a Christmas Story," donations were collected for the local SPCA (\$715). Our Kindergarten students visited our partners at Shannex Parkland on the 20th of December to share and sing with residents. We had our tenth annual Multicultural Celebration December 14.

Millidgeville North – We collected 5,568 items of food for the Food Bank.

Prince Charles School - We collected "Boats & Beavers" (nickels and dimes) for CBC Harbour Lights. Children brought in \$226.17 in dimes and nickels. We were also fortunate to have almost 40 Holiday Hampers provided by our PALS Partners for our families. Sales Force and Hughes Surveys prepares and serves a holiday dinner to staff and students. Staff cooked 32 Halal chickens for the occasion which our volunteers readied for us.

COMPASS - The students participated in several community service opportunities and events: students joined Harmony Church to prepare 55 care boxes for the needy, s helped the East End Food Bank with unloading trucks, unpacking goods, setting up shelves, etc., a staff members husband's work donated several industrial winter jackets - the students took them to "Outflow" for distribution to the homeless. Compass students and staff enjoyed a Christmas Pancake Breakfast together.

Morna Heights - We collected donations of canned food for the food bank during our Christmas Concert. We also gave donations to 3 of our families (in the form of food and toy gift certificates). This money was raised from our best seat in the house campaign (Christmas Concert), from fund raisers spear headed by our Home and School and from a donation given by a Morna Heights Alumni.

Hazen-White/St. Francis students and their families received very kind and generous support from our gracious community partners in many forms:

- Stewart McKelvey sponsored and served our Christmas dinner for students, and also provided an opportunity for all students to meet and have their picture taken with Santa prior to the dinner.
- UNBSJ Promise Partnership staff prepared the Christmas dinner.
- Horizon Health provided each student with a pair of new pyjamas, which were presented at the Christmas dinner.
- Innovatia, Lily Lake, Stewart McKelvey, McInnis Cooper, Horizon Health, SJRH Oncology Department, Terrapure, and Pangea Wellness Spa provided Holiday Food Hampers to 25 families.
- Atlantic Towing put together and delivered a BMX bicycle to a grade 4 student's family on behalf of Santa.

PALS – Holiday Hampers - 16 schools received support for their families and more than 200 families were supported by PALS and some community partners. District Facilities were so helpful and delivered hampers for more than 70 of these families. They delivered the hampers to the schools where families picked them up. Some partners delivered their hampers to the schools while others delivered directly to the families (this was all arranged by the schools).

Hampton Education Centre

Rothesay Park School - we did a coat hat and mitt drive for ONE change in Saint John. We have students who are knitting scarves for less fortunate to hang in areas of uptown SJ. We did Josh London's Bare Essentials as well – Josh is an RPS student who noticed at the Regional Hospital a basket of soap and shampoo with a note attached saying to take what you might need. His mom explained to him that not everyone has the "bare necessities." Josh did more research on this and spoke to a couple of SJ Foundations. He then started his own foundation called, "Joshua's Bare Necessities" to raise awareness, money and to collect products.

Sussex Regional High School - Our Men's Hockey Team donated & delivered a number of turkeys to the Sharing Club for Christmas. Staff raised over \$800, with donations from Bob Burgess & Sussex Area Foundation to support 14+ Sonics and their families.

Fairvale Elementary - This year we collected new toys in conjunction with the Rothesay Regional Fire Department and held our first "Socks for Centennial" drive. At last count we had collected 85-90 new toys to support the fire departments' toy drive and over 225 pair of socks for the students at Centennial. As a staff, we supported four families in need in our school community by purchasing all gifts and a community partner provided the same families with everything for a Christmas dinner and pantry items for a week.

Dr. Leatherbarrow Primary - Our staff and Home and School together provided food and gifts for 6 families for Christmas. Students brought in 2 cans of food for a 2 can dance phys. ed unit where they used cans as weights. All cans were then donated to food bank which was over 500 cans of food. We partnered with Hampton High School to offer first whole school Christmas dinner. The culinary class cooked it and students from Hampton High sang and entertained. Community members donated the turkeys and Kredls provided vegetables. Saputo provided milk. Gary Crossman, Hampton Lions, and Hampton Rotary served the meal to the children at the Legion. There was so much food left over it was given to Hampton High School where they offered it for lunch the next day to their students and asked them to make a donation if they could instead of charging a price. All money raised was given to food bank. Many families brought food to our Christmas concerts that was donated to food bank.

Harry Miller Middle School - Students collected specific grocery items for Christmas Dinner Baskets and helped in supporting our community with 17 dinners for families.

Hampton Elementary - Hampton Elementary received enough food donations to fill 84 backpacks (the Grade 5 students filled their backpacks and walked all the donations to the Hampton food basket) in our annual give back challenge.

Hampton High School - We collected over \$600.00 for the family of MaCali Cormier, the little girl fatally injured in the Christmas parade in Nova Scotia. We collected non-perishables for the Hampton Food Basket (girls hockey team at the parade) and had our annual "Toonies for Turkeys" for the food basket as well through student change donations at school. Staff chose 30 students whose homes struggle financially, and we had a Secret Santa so every one of these students had a gift under the tree Christmas morning. Our leadership class had random acts of kindness and took prepared food to the Romero House. We hosted the Christmas concert for Dr. AT Leatherbarrow at the last minute when they realized their usual location could not accommodate them. Our staff put on a Christmas breakfast for 350 students the last morning of school. Teachers were busy cooking at 6 a.m. m so everyone could have a beautiful hot breakfast. Our culinary classes made a spectacular Christmas dinner (in partnership with the DATL Home and School) for Dr Leatherbarrow students and held it at that Legion in Hampton.

Hampton Middle School – We collected and donated 12 boxes of food to the Hampton Food Basket, 18 Hampton Middle School families were recipients of our Holiday Hampers (filled with the support of local partners and school staff). The Hampton Rotary club had a sock drive this year and Hampton Middle School contributed about 50 pairs to this effort.

Kennebecasis Park Elementary - We sang at the Empty Stocking Fund and made a donation through a spare change drive. We did a "Food Bank Challenge" and delivered food to the KV Food Basket on Mondays for the month of December. We raised \$889.70 for the United Way through our Annual Rummage Sale and our Grade 5 students selling snowflakes.

Lakefield Elementary - December was generosity month: K-1 students sent 8 large boxes to the Boy and Girls Club of Saint John filled with craft supplies, Gr 2-3 Students filled 4 boxes with dentistry items, band aids and sporting goods to send with the RHS Interac group heading to the Dominican Republic. Gr 4 students filled 3 boxes with men's toiletry items, hands warmers, socks, and mittens for the Outflow Men's shelter in Saint John. Gr 5 students fundraised \$1800.00 for Piggs Peak in Swaziland and are now able to send 5 children to school for the year. We had presenters come into the school from each organization to speak about the needs and services each organization provides. We are trying to meet our goal of no poverty and become a designated UNESCO School. We chose two local and two global charities. Once each class met their challenge their string of lights was lite on our own "Harbour" lights tree in the lobby. Finally, the entire staff of LES donated gifts and/or cash so that we were able to make one of our own Lakefield Elementary School families Christmas a bit brighter.

Belleisle Elementary School - we donated over \$200 to the Danny & Jessica Foundation Inc. that provides food, clothing and supplies to needy families in our area, provided winter clothing to 3 of our needy families and with help from our Home & School and parent volunteers, we provided a full Christmas Dinner to all students.

Belleisle Regional - We supported the Sussex Community Food Basket by holding a food drive at the school. We collected enough food to fill the box and most of the cab of Kim Gidden's king cab truck. The Principal joined Sussex Regional High School Principal Lauridsen as celebrity grocery baggers at the Sussex Sobeys raising over \$400.00 dollars for the Sussex Community Food Basket. We sponsored two families by purchasing clothes, grocery cards and gas cards for the families. We also partnered with Pastor Cole and the Hatfield Point Belleisle Creek Baptist Church to bring Christmas to four families from our school. The last Wednesday before the Christmas break, Kim Giddens and her high school student council team along with parent volunteers, prepared and cooked Christmas dinner for the whole school including our bus drivers! Our guidance counsellor worked with a group out of Sussex who presented a back pack filled with items to three high school girls.