

**Superintendent's Report  
June 2019**

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

Today staff from Atlantic Education International (AEI) held their annual meeting with the Directors and I to discuss students placed in our District, and the situation with homestays. We are pleased to again be receiving \$200K to add to our teacher staffing to add teacher resources to the schools with a high number of international students. These funds are used to offer the EAL (English as an Additional Language) course for newcomer students. I represent Superintendents on the Board of Directors of AEI.

The internal committee discussing the vaping issue will be meeting next week – some mock ups of signage have been received and will be reviewed. We will have signage for buses, outside of all schools and washrooms at the high schools. High schools have been polled about consequences for being caught vaping and this will be discussed further on Thursday at the High School Principals meeting. ASD-S will be rolling out a multi-faceted Communication Plan on vaping for the start of the new school year; good use will be made of the transition day for grade 9 so all understand that vaping is not permitted inside of our schools, on school property or on buses.

Elementary and middle school track meets are currently being held; two middle school meets this week five middle school meets over the following two weeks. Thanks to the organizers of each meet and the elementary schools that are hosting. The two middle school meets are at the Canada Games Stadium.

The Compass Learning Centre is coming to the end of year one; there were 101 students enrolled this year and 19 potential grads included in this number. The transition year has been successful, with a few challenges along the way for Coordinator Pam Miller. Students are enjoying the experiential courses such as woodworking, culinary technology, outdoor pursuits and co-op education. Ms. Miller held monthly meetings with the Principals from the six high schools to discuss the students and their progress.

**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.**

The grade 8 year end Math assessment is being written next week by all grade 8 students and the data will be provided to the middle schools as well as to the high schools where the students will attend grade 9 as baseline data. There are also optional grade 7 assessments for any combined classes or any teachers who may wish to use the grade 7 assessment in June as well. Data will be scanned and shared with schools.

Coordinator Jennifer Keilty will be collaborating with the Math Department at UNBSJ to begin planning Math workshops for Numeracy teachers and Education students at UNBSJ. It has been some time since curriculum staff have had collaborative projects with UNBSJ so this is exciting. The workshops would be hosted at UNBSJ and open to current teachers at no cost. Ms. Keilty has agreed to help out by being a guest teacher at UNBSJ from time to time. UNBSJ is also interested in partnering on the "Math League" project we hosted for the first time at our office facility for middle schools – it was very successful with student teams, and we are exploring expanding in year two to high schools.

St. Malachy's High School student Abby Snodgrass won a Senior Excellence Award at the Canada Wide Science Fair – we had over 2500 students from our District who attended the Fair and STEM Expo in Fredericton. Three Kennebecasis Valley High School teachers (Colleen Logan, Amy Peters, and Maura Tait)

were awarded the “Engineers and Geoscientists NB Inspirational STEM Award” to recognize their innovative teaching skills and personal commitment to making STEM fun and inspiring.

ASD-S also had winners in many literacy-related competitions in the last month – The Learning Partnership Turning Points program, Speak Out, Dear Author, and Poetry and Voice. Our high school Literacy Coordinator, Amy Marshall, is working in partnership with UNBSJ to have a “Liberal Arts Fair” with the Dean of Arts Heidi MacDonald. Students will have the opportunity to conduct action research in any of the domains of liberal arts and then present their findings to professors and graduate students. Amy is also working with a cohort of high school English teachers to develop an action plan for English – they are looking forward to more collaboration next year.

**ENDS # 3: To increase the engagement of children & youth by embedding competencies such as, critical thinking, citizenship, entrepreneurship, innovation, personalized learning and leadership in teaching and learning.**

On May 28, 2019 over 200 girls from six high schools attended the “Career Exploration Trades and Technology for Girls” at NBCC – SJ. Participants had the opportunity to learn about over 20 different career opportunities in the fields of trades and technology. Through May, volunteers from IBM provided three sessions on “cybersecurity” to girls in grades 6-8 at Bayside Middle School. A session on cybersecurity initiatives was also provided to a group of 30 students at St. Stephen Middle School, speakers from Mariner Partners and NBCC acted as mentors and spoke to students about post-secondary opportunities, and staff from Brilliant Labs facilitated sessions on Bboards on Internet of Things and Cybersecurity. A similar event is planned for Fundy Middle and High School students.

Last week ASD-S had four students who competed at the Skills Canada National Competition in Halifax. Sydney Irvin from Saint John High School placed first in the cooking and cuisine category.

The Regional Elementary Drama Festival was held last Wednesday and Friday at Bayside Middle School (May 29 and 31). Despite a last-minute relocation from Kennebecasis Valley High School to Bayside Middle School this was a great success thanks to the efforts of Principal Pat Laskey and teacher Paul McNutt and the student tech crew. Schools participating included M. Gerald Teed, Sussex Elementary, Vincent Massey, Grand Manan, Fairvale, Hammond River Valley and Blacks Harbour. Students performed well and had a positive experience.

The year-end concert for students in the Saint John and area strings program was held on Sunday at Saint John High School, and the final SISTEMA concert will be on June 14th at 6:30 at Saint John High School.

**ENDS # 4: To provide opportunities for staff to learn about mental health issues in children and youth and to promote school and District wide initiatives that promote mental fitness.**

Director of Education Support Services Peter Smith successfully completed the one week facilitator training for Mental Health First Aid in Halifax.

**Other:**

On May 20 we learned of the unexpected death of Saint John High School student Ashly Mosher. On Tuesday following the long weekend, members of the Child and Youth ISD team, the NBTA Counsellor, Directors from the Office and I were at the school to assist with the tragic response with messaging to students and families. Thank you to the guidance counsellors at the school who were quick to work with staff to identify the students requiring additional support that week.

Human Resources staff, Directors and I continue to be involved in the staffing process for EAs, teachers, administrators and Subject Coordinators. The teacher staffing process is a complex one and can be an anxious time for our temporary D contract teachers as they await their placement for next year. We have a high number of teacher retirements at around seventy, and we have three of our Curriculum Coordinators retiring – FI Coordinator Jackie Turnbull from Hampton Education Centre, Brenda Logan from the St. Stephen Office who oversees numeracy K-5 and Moira Sherwood who has for several years played a leadership role in technology and skilled trades. Congratulations to all retiring staff. Directors of Schools and I have attended or will be attending the NBTA Branch retirements for Sussex, Rothesay, Saint John, St. Stephen and Grand Manan.

A lengthy list of summer learning opportunities has been advertised through Southern Exposure, many topics which support our District Improvement Plan. Leadership Development modules will also be offered through early and mid-July; this program is led by Gary Hall and other District staff help to facilitate the 12-15 hour modules for our leadership program participants. We have thirty students who are going to U de M this summer for a month to improve their French proficiency.

It has been a busy three weeks with the measles outbreak at Kennebecasis Valley High School (8 cases) brought to my attention on Sunday, May 12 and Hampton High School (1 case) brought to my attention Friday, May 31. We have worked collaboratively with Public Health and Regional Medical Officer of Health Dr. Kim Barker and her staff to offer four opportunities for immunization at Kennebecasis Valley High School on May 15, 16 and again on Friday, May 24 and Sunday, May 26. One clinic was offered at Hampton High School last Sunday for 400 students and another 80 staff and guests in the building. Updates were sent to DEC members and to Principals. I would like to acknowledge in addition to Public Health, Principals JoEllen Jensen and her Kennebecasis Valley High School team and Rosemary Southard, Principal at Hampton High School for all of their work in contacting families, other District staff, casual staff and guests in their schools during the identified times. There was set-up required in the gymnasiums, snacks for the nurses, etc. Thank you to our Healthy Learners Nurses Ann Hogan (Hampton Education Centre) and Alberta Stanton (Saint John Education Centre) who have been in attendance at the clinics and who have reviewed records at both of these schools. Thank you to Jessica for working with me to support the communication and media inquiries. All schools have remained open, and with the exception of a couple of ASD-S activities cancelled, and one re-located, everything has happened according to plan. There have been many long days since the outbreak of measles.