

**Superintendent's Report for DEC
January 6, 2021**

ENDS #2: Demonstrate continuous improvement by increasing engagement through innovative teaching and assessment practices, promoting mental fitness through social-emotional learning. We have had on-going communication with high school Principals about January assessments as second semester begins on February 1, 2020. Over the last few years our high schools have been working toward more progressive assessment and evaluation practices and this has been part of our DIP. We have not mandated a standardized approach to final assessments. We are encouraging teachers to critically reflect with their SPRs and administrators on the best methods to measure student learning in their subject area. In many subject areas a two hour traditional exam may not be the best way to measure learning, and teachers welcome this flexibility. Not all subjects will have traditional exams. There will continue to be a dedicated week for high school assessments (the week of January 25-29) and schools will create their schedules following the high school blended learning schedule. Within this week or through the month of January, teachers have the time and flexibility to schedule non-traditional forms of assessments – for example portfolios, interviews, demonstration of a skill, practical lab based evaluation, oral defense, multi-media presentation, final project, reflective paper, and tests to name a few. Some schools will need to use the Friday prior to assessment week as well given the blended model of learning in school and learning from home.

Our technology coaches continue to offer in-person and virtual coaching for teachers on the use of Microsoft Teams and technology including both synchronous and asynchronous learning as well as assessment. With the return to the orange phase of recovery in NB, we have to be prepared for the possibility NB could in the coming weeks return to the red phase and all learning would be from home.

We have successfully implemented online Math programming for approximately 1370 Middle school and 300 High school students across ASDS using NETMATH and MATHLETICS. Teachers involved will be participating in ongoing professional learning for the remainder of the year with webinars and PL sessions from the companies and through coaches and subject coordinators. All teachers were involved in a 1 hour webinar with the Mathletics staff as an orientation session to get started before the Christmas break. The teachers now have all their students with sign in codes to get started. These programs can be used in school as well as remotely and the program is directly aligned with our New Brunswick curriculum at each of the grade levels. Coordinators have a meeting scheduled for the end of January to get an update from Mathletics on class progress with the program. The program can also be used as flip classroom lessons, practice as well as enrichment, remediation and intervention. All classes will have access to material from previous grades as well to use with students having gaps in learning. Individualized plans can be created for each student if necessary. EAL students can also participate as the program allows for translation to most languages.

The NBTA Wellness Facilitators under the leadership of Kari Parsons have launched our 8th annual Physical Activity Challenge – it begins this Sunday, January 10 and runs for 5 weeks. This is open to all employee groups and the District provides prizes – each employee is asked to participate and log 150 minutes of physical activity per week. This initiative is so important this year and we are hoping for a high level of participation.

Staff have been engaged in filling teacher vacancies for this term – filling French Second Language positions has been a challenge and we have started the recruitment process for next year by offering conditional contracts to those with superior language abilities wanting to work in our District.

Subject Coordinators are putting together resources for the annual Program Information sessions for parents of students currently in kindergarten and grade 5 – parents must decide if they want their child in French Immersion (early/late) or English Prime. We will not be having face-to-face sessions this year.

FLORA (French Language Opportunities for Rural Areas) has been implemented at Campobello and Vincent Massey for the last few years. Last spring after schools closed, FLORA resources were made available by EECD to all elementary schools. We have had 22 schools interested in having these resources and prior to the holidays, they were distributed – most schools received 5 ipads/cases for listening stations, 10 headsets, an adaptor and FLORA books.

We have been revising the policy guidelines around the role of the SPRs (Department Heads) and presented this at a December virtual meeting of high school Principals. There is an implementation plan; however, given the pandemic and the impact on high schools, we will need to be flexible.

Just prior to the holidays, Superintendents learned from the Department that we would be funded for a team of Behavior Intervention Mentors focused at middle schools – this had been discussed in the summer but with the focus on preparations for re-opening of schools the positions were not put in place. This is very positive news. ASD-S will receive funding for 13 positions and the ad was posted just before the holidays. The plan is to have training late January – early February. We used behavioral incident data from our schools as well as the number of students who have individual behavior plans to make decisions on the placement of the mentors. The following schools will have a mentor; Sussex Middle, Hampton Middle, Quispamsis Middle, Harry Miller, Bayside Middle, Forest Hills, Millidgeville North, Princess Elizabeth, Beaconsfield, Barnhill, Fundy Middle/High and St. Stephen Middle. The Behavior Intervention Mentor is a job classification within NBUPPE (NB Union of Public and Private Employees) and not an EA or SIW (School Intervention Worker). The minimum requirement for this position is a Bachelor's degree. The Behaviour Mentors are 12 month employees and will provide direct support to students. This may include school attendance, promoting positive social skill development, and direct interventions.

ENDS #4: Maximize the engagement of families and the community through effective communication and outreach. We continue to have such strong partnerships within ASD-S communities and the generosity in December was overwhelming – gift cards, full sponsorship of families, groceries, snowsuits, boots, hats, hijabs, mittens, food hampers of donations delivered by our facilities staff to 102 families, and pajamas to name a few. In Saint John Centre, Debbie Fisher and Susan Tipper with PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools) worked with partners to assist in total 250 families in 13 schools. Our schools also held food drives and other initiatives to support food banks. District Office staff used funds from Dress-Down Fridays to purchase a ping pong table for students at PORTAGE in Cassidy Lake.

Holiday activities across the District included:

St Stephen Education Center

Milltown held a Christmas Dinner for the entire school which was sponsored by Arauca – Flakeboard with Carmen’s Diner preparing the dinner and delivering it to individual classrooms.

The Afterschool Program at Milltown run by the Boys and Girls Club of Charlotte County has now expanded from 1 classroom to 2 classrooms.

Both Milltown and St Stephen Elementary facilitated Christmas support for their families through Operation Christmas Joy and Santa’s Helpers which are 2 Community Initiatives.

Hampton Education Centre

9 families were supported for Christmas at Rothesay Elementary and 7 families at Hampton Middle School.

In Hampton the support came from the following partners:

1. Atlantic Community Church
2. St. Paul’s Anglican Church
3. Allen Marshall & Associates
4. Hampton Baptist Church

In Rothesay the partners were:

1. St. David’s United Church
2. Families within the school itself
3. Atlantic Superstore

In Sussex at Sussex Middle School a new partnership has been formed with the Sussex Sharing Club and they are now providing funding for their lunch program at the school.

Saint John Education Centre

PALS Christmas hampers were provided to students and their families across the Saint John area - more than 250 families were supported this year. They were distributed to the following schools:

1. Prince Charles School
2. Centennial
3. Hazen White – St. Francis
4. Lakewood Heights
5. Grand Bay Primary
6. Beaconsfield
7. Saint John High
8. St. Malachy’s High
9. Princess Elizabeth
10. Forest Hills

Here are the partners that supported the schools above:

1. Wyndham Worldwide
2. Port Saint John
3. Innovatia
4. J. D. Irving, Limited

5. Oncology Department
6. Horizon Health
7. Tanya Horgan and family
8. The EDZA U13 AAA Riptide

Turkeys were donated to: Families, Boys & Girls Club, Outflow Ministries, First Steps, Second Steps






Coats for Kids

This initiative began with Minister Arlene Dunn. Carol Kelly, her former campaign manager, led the project. Anglophone School District South, PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools) and BCAP (Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative) joined in to help.

The original goal was to provide new coats for 100 children in Minister Dunn’s riding. However, 27 generous donors quickly responded, raising \$35,000.00 and also providing services in-kind. The resources enabled 18 schools throughout Saint John to help their students who were in need.

Students received the new snowsuits (Grades K-5) and new jackets (Grades 6-12), along with hats, and mitts or gloves, as well as some warm hijabs! The coats came from a wholesale company based in Montreal. Midland Transport donated their services to pick up the order and make all the deliveries to the schools. Six Saint John suppliers provided hats, mitts, and hijabs.

2020-21 Communication Plan

Date	Object	Key Message	Vehicle	Channel
				
December 07, 2020	Family Feedback Survey- Virtual Parent Teachers		Email/ Microsoft Forms survey	School messenger
December 07, 2020	Inclement Weather policy		Email, website	School Messenger, Social Media
December 17, 2020	Message to Students	Thank you and well wishes	video	Social media and via teachers
December 17, 2020	Message to Staff	Thank you and well wishes	Video	Email
December 18, 2020	Mask- up campaign	EECD letter	Email	School messenger, social media
December 18, 2020	Custody and self-isolation	Cross border vs provincial	Email, website	School messenger, social media
January 03, 2021	Post-holiday reminder	Cross-border and mask-up	Email	School messenger, social media
January 05, 2021	Return to Orange		Email, website	School messenger, social media
TBD	High School Assessment Week			
TBD	One pager on Teams for Families			

Other:

Just prior to Christmas we learned of the very tragic death of a Princess Elizabeth kindergarten student, Clybria Grant, after an accident at her home. Thank you to Principal Jennifer Carhart, kindergarten

teacher Holly Doucet and school staff, Craig James and Lori Lofstrom from Child and Youth and NBTA Counsellor Ronna Gauthier for their work during this very challenging week.

ASD-S is pleased to announce the recipients of the Minister's Excellence in Education Award:

- Bridget Miller – Quispamsis Middle School
- Emily Somers – St. Stephen High School
- Scott Legge – St. Stephen High School

Minister Cardy has contacted each recipient through email and will be following up with phone calls in the next couple of weeks. Applications were received from across the District during the fall and the District Education Council reviewed and selected the top three candidates. Due to Covid-19, this year's celebration will be a virtual one, scheduled for mid-February.

We would like to take this moment to congratulate these three teachers on a job well done!

Pam Miller our ASD-S Subject Coordinator for Alternate Education will be transitioning to retirement at the end of January 2021 and her position was posted and interviews held the week of December 21, 2020. Shayne Buchanan will be our new Coordinator – Shayne began work in our area in 2002 at the PALS Alternate Education site in Hampton, he was a resource teacher at KVHS, and PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) lead for one year and since 2016 he has been part of the Child and Youth Team in Sussex. Shayne has had a very successful career in ESS and we welcome him into his new role. ASD-S thanks Pam Miller for all she has done to support students, schools and families over the years. Pam has been very focused on anti-bullying initiatives, LGBTQ initiatives, positive learning environment, alternate education and tragic response and she will be missed.