



# Superintendent's Report for DEC Lead, Learn and Grow



December 13, 2023

## Ensure that all employees are empowered to excel in their roles.

- New teacher support continues. All new teachers were given the opportunity to visit a distinguished teacher to conduct an observation and complete a debrief with a subject coordinator or curriculum coach. These will take place in December and early January.
- School Counsellor Professional Learning (Grades 6-12), November 2. Counsellors received training in the new provincial counselling framework from Andrew Culberson, EECD Learning Specialist, and additional training in substance use disorders from Josh Desjardins, Clinical Coordinator for one of our Child & Youth Teams.
- Resource teachers received differentiated professional learning based on whether they were seasoned resource teachers or new to the role. Training included Attention Deficient Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD), ESS Connect, our student information system, and the Comprehensive Assessment for Learning and Independence-Functional Skills for Independence (CALI-FSI).

## Strengthen our inclusive system to be anti-racist, affirming, and equitable; To honor diversity and welcome all students.

- The Bridging program had their year 1 launch meeting on Friday, December 1. Therese Trofimencoff joined the group to discuss anti-racism with a focus on the importance of representation for Black Indigenous People of Colour and connections to/with their families in learning materials, play materials, and literature celebrations. 7 schools and 6 Early Childcare Facilities are involved in Bridging.
- ASD-S hosted the second annual **High School Antiracism Summit** at Meenan's Cove, November 14. All high schools were invited to send a teacher and group of students for presentations by Matthew Martin, Executive Director of Black Lives Matter NB and member of our DEC, and Emily Somers of St Stephen High School. Students and their teachers were given time to plan student-led antiracism activities in their own school based on what they saw as the needs and the best approaches to address them. Schools will receive a small amount of funding to support these projects. The event was organized by Jen Grant, School Counselling Coordinator, and her team.
- Teachers who attended the Antiracism Summit were invited to join an ongoing **book study** led by Therese Trofimencoff, Antiracism Lead, and attend a **virtual antiracism conference** on November 30 hosted by the Harmony Movement, an Ontario non-profit organization that works to create inclusive schools.

*ASD-S will create the most engaging, equitable and high achieving learning environments for all.*



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## Improve student engagement and achievement by enhancing evidence based instructional and assessment practices.

- The curriculum team is exploring enlisting the support of a systems leader in formative assessment to assist with the development of a long-term assessment plan. The plan will focus on change management, project management, and best practices in assessment.
- December administrators' meetings are organized by level and each level will focus on the Holistic Curriculum. Kindergarten - Grade 8 school leaders will focus on look-fors to support walk-throughs observing the application of the Holistic Curriculum. High school leaders will receive an overview of the key changes in curriculum (from old to Holistic) and how it is beneficial to teachers and students.

### Other:

- **Pride in Education Conference (PIE)** supporting high school students and staff with their work in Gay Straight Alliances, November 18.
- **Hope Restored Trauma Conference** in Fredericton, November 8 - 10. 60 staff attended including school administrators and counsellors, Child & Youth Team members, and district staff to hear keynotes from experts including Mary Gordon, founder of Roots of Empathy, Dr. Michael Ungar, Director of the Resilience Research Centre at Dalhousie University, and Dr. Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director of the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society. One of the best attended break-out sessions, Enhancing Your Trauma Practice, was led by Todd Cormier, our School Counselling Coordinator. Director of ESS Peter Smith was on the organizing committee.
- **Master of Education in Counselling** cohort - UNB will run a program for ASD-S teachers. This is the second time ASD-S and UNB have partnered for such a program. 18 ASD-S teachers will be enrolled in the program in January and begin their studies on a part-time basis in May with an expected graduation date in 2026. This will significantly increase the number of certified school counsellors in our district. The partnership would not be possible without the support of Dr. Jeff Landine, Professor of Education at UNB.

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