



Superintendent's Report for DEC Lead, Learn and Grow



March 13, 2024

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

- **Education Support Services Coordinators** attended two days of provincial professional development, February 5 and 6. Topics were related to the Child & Youth Teams, Violence Threat Risk Assessment, Personalized Learning Plans, Specific Learning Disorders, and staff wellness.
- **School Counselling Coordinators, School Counselling Leads,** and a small group of **ASD-S Child and Youth Team** members participated in a full-day, virtual workshop, February 9 on **Obsessive Compulsive Disorder** in children and youth presented by Dr Dan Chorney. Dr Chorney is a clinical psychologist and pediatrician anxiety specialist with whom ASD-S has consulted and contracted for training several times in recent years.
- **School counselling Coordinators, School Counselling Leads,** a large group of **ASD-S Child and Youth Team** members and **school counsellors** completed a one-day, virtual training on **Children and Youth Who Engage in Sexually Abusive Behaviours** through **Radius Child and Youth Services,** February 15. This training is introductory in nature and intended to help our professionals provide appropriate interventions for students who have engaged in sexual harm. The school counselling coordinators, leads, and Child and Youth Team members will continue for advanced training in providing these interventions. While ASD-S has previously invested in training to ensure our staff can properly support students who experience sexual abuse, training to provide appropriate interventions to students who engage in sexual abusive behaviour was identified as an area in which we needed more training.
- **ASD-S and Horizon Child and Youth Team members** received two-hours of training in **trauma treatment** from **Todd Cormier,** School Counselling Coordinator, February 16.

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

- **Therese Trofimencoff,** Antiracism and Equity Lead, has added an "Ask Me Anything" about race and racism in the ASD-S newsletter. This initiative helps ASD-S address questions staff may not feel comfortable asking and allows all staff to learn together. Typically, when one person asks such a question, many people are wondering the same thing.
- **Hampton High School's** Anti-Racism and Multiculturalism group planned Black Excellence activities for all classes 9-12. During "working period" classes read biographies of different Black individuals of significance, living and dead, local and from afar. Students then used an anti-racist lens to answer four (4) questions about what they learned. Biographies were divided into folders by subject and were accessible to all staff. The student group also met with local Nigerian business owner and artist, Alheri Bingi, Art by Dangana, to learn about her experience as a Newcomer, as an entrepreneur, and the significance of her art and of displaying African art in public spaces. The students then worked with Alheri to purchase two pieces to be permanently displayed in the school in a high traffic area.

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- **Saint John High School's** Student Anti-Racism group planned a comprehensive month of learning and celebrating of Black excellence. Activities included trivia, daily announcements, guest speakers, a Black History cultural market, and a fashion show. During their Pan-African Heritage week, February 21-24, students were encouraged to wear red, black, green, and yellow.
- **Harbour View High School's** committee highlighted the importance of recognizing and celebrating the contributions of Black individuals throughout history and prepared a few guidelines and suggestions to ensure that Black History Month was observed respectfully and effectively.
- **Grade 7 French Immersion Teachers** participated in a science workshop on Water that incorporated Indigenous perspectives on water, provided participants with the book: "We are Water Protectors and Nibi's Water Song" in French along with supporting lessons.
- **Teacher Drum** workshop: Drum making with Greg Mansfield - 30 participants on a Saturday.
- **High School French Immersion Teachers** participated in a Blanket Exercise and a review of Indigenous graphic novels.
- **Kindergarten-Grade 5 teachers** participated in a session with Elders from Woodstock on plants, medicines and their uses, Red Willow Willow (which is also used in tobacco offerings), how to create a tobacco offering, and received George Paul (Mi'kmaw)'s book on Seven Sacred Teachings as well as one other book.

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

- When Children Succeed Project (WCS) is continuing in its 5th year. The project focuses on providing additional co-teaching support in classrooms to close reading and numeracy gaps. The additional support allows for personalized student goal setting and small group/individual instruction and assessment. The end of January report is showing that gaps have closed in numeracy between WCS and control group schools. The reading data is currently being processed, but initial signs are also promising. The final report will be shared as part of the district presentation on this Ends Goal later this year.
- Professional learning for all WCS Kindergarten-Grade 3 teachers was provided throughout February and March to support the success of this project.

Other:

- **Resource Specialists in Assessment and Intervention** met with school-based Education Support Services Teams (ESSTs) to outline their roles and the Education Support Services Coordinators have developed a plan for organizing and monitoring their work. The eight Resource Specialists just completed fifteen months of training with Pearson Clinical to allow them to administer and

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score the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC), an academic assessment tool that they will use to help school-based ESSTs develop and implement Personalized Learning Plans.

- **Behaviour Intervention Mentors** – six (6) additional hired to support schools with behaviour concerns at Centennial School and Hazen-White/St Francis School (shared between the schools), Grand Manan Community School, Lakewood Heights School and Loch Lomond School (shared between the schools), Quispamsis Elementary School, Seaside Park Elementary School, and Sussex Regional High School.
- Norton Elementary put on a production of The High Seas which involved all students from the school. Both performances were packed.
- Hampton Elementary put on an Author's Night to celebrate Literacy at the school - 627 people attended.
- NBIAA Basketball Final 12, Kennebecasis Valley High School won the Boy's AAA championship for the first time in 37 years. St. Stephen High School won the Girl's AA championship.

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