

January 2013

Welcome to 2013: Semester One Exams

Classes at Chignecto-Central Regional School Board (CCRSB) schools are back in full swing as we enter 2013. Our high school students will spend the next few weeks studying for, and writing, their Semester 1 course-related exams, as well as our board-wide Mathematics and English examinations at the Grade 12 level. These examinations are being administered in place of the provincial, Nova Scotia Examinations which our Grade 12 students have completed in previous years. The data gleaned from these examinations will allow CCRSB to effectively continue the tracking of student progress in the areas of high school Mathematics and English at the Grade 12 level. We will also continue with the distribution of the Mathematics 10 examination for the 2012-2013 school year.

Quick Thinking in an Emergency Situation

Learning for CCRSB students often goes beyond the classroom, into the broader school community. Emergency school bus safety training is a fitting example of this.

On December 13th, elementary, junior and senior high students traveling to school in Parrsboro showed exemplary understanding of their emergency bus safety training in, what could have been, a very dangerous situation. One student, in particular, showed quick thinking and courage under pressure that averted a potentially tragic situation. Shortly after picking up the last student on the run, the bus veered sharply off the road. Parrsboro Regional High student Brady Dunham took control of the situation by taking the wheel and steering the bus to a safe stop. Once the bus was safely stopped, Grade 11 student Destiny Hoeg called 911. The older students helped the younger students to exit the bus and moved them to safety; exactly what their bus safety training taught them to do.



Left to right: Chester Clark, Principal; Mackie Ross, Board Member; Gary Clarke, CCRSB Superintendent; Lois Smith, Mayor of Parrsboro and Brady Dunham.

On January 10, Parrsboro schools staff, the entire student body from the high school and elementary school, representatives from CCRSB – including Board Member Mackie Ross – Lois Smith, the Mayor of Parrsboro, EMTs, volunteer firefighters, members of the business community and the bus driver's family came together at Parrsboro Regional High to honour all of the students for their actions and to thank Brady for his brave act. Both the elementary and high school students on the bus received a plaque commemorating their exceptional response in an emergency situation. Brady received a plaque and gift from CCRSB, funds from the local community to pay for his driver training and he was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal which was presented to him by the Mayor.

Brady also received a special gift from the bus driver – Sue Roebuck's – family. Sadly, Sue Roebuck passed away shortly after the accident. However, she was on the hearts and minds of all those who attended the ceremony. The CCRSB family has lost a valued and dedicated employee, colleague and friend. Our hearts and deepest condolences go out to Sue's family.

It is my hope that we all learn from the actions of our Parrsboro Regional Elementary and High school students. Clearly they demonstrated that emergency training is an essential part of the CCRSB curriculum. As I said at the ceremony in Parrsboro, what these students did, how they reacted to the situation they were in – Brady in particular – was exceptional and I commend them all for their actions that day.



ccrsb.ca



**Chignecto-Central
Regional School Board**

60 Lorne Street, Truro ph: (902)897-8900
Nova Scotia B2N 3K3 fax: (902)897-8989

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

February	African Heritage Month
February 1	Second Semester Begins
February 4	Special School Board Meeting, Cobequid Educational Centre
February 6	Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting
February 13	Regular School Board Meeting, Central Office Board Room



Education Services

All high schools in the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board (CCRSB) will be writing board-wide CCRSB Examinations for Mathematics and English, at the Grade 12 level, during the Semester 1 examination schedule as identified in the CCRSB Reporting Calendar.

French Program

Registrations for the 2013-2014 Early (Grade Primary) and Middle (Grade 4) French Immersion Programs are currently being accepted. To access Early or Middle French Immersion registration forms, program details or for dates of evening information sessions, please visit www.ccrsb.ca (*click on Departments, Education Services, French Program Services*) or phone 902-897-8965. The deadline for applications is Thursday, January 31, 2013.

Preparations are underway for CCRSB's three regional French public speaking competitions which will be held in the early spring. Last year, 225 students represented their schools at the events, and it is hoped that as many, if not more, will take up the challenge this year. Students from grades 5-12 (all French programs) are encouraged to prepare a speech. Their school will then select a winner to send to the local competition. The three tentative dates for this year's regional concours are: April 8, 2013 (Chignecto Family), April 9, 2013 (Celtic Family) and April 10, 2013 (Cobequid Family and Nova Family).

Literacy & Programs

English Language Arts Grades 10-12 Professional Learning

For several years, there has been a provincial and board level focus on literacy at the high school level through work within the Literacy Success and Writer's In Action 10-12 initiatives. This year, the CCRSB Literacy Team is continuing their focus on Quality Practice using the following Department of Education resources: "Teaching in Action 10-12: A Teaching Resource", a recent DVD called "Senior High Best Practices", the Planning for Balanced Assessment and Instruction in English Language Arts 10-12 desk blotter and various curriculum guides.

On December 6 and 7, the CCRSB Literacy Team hosted a one-day workshop for all English Language Arts (ELA) teachers in Grades 10, 11 and 12 from each high school in CCRSB. Professional resources were showcased and learning opportunities offered to continue the work that was begun in the 2011-2012 school year. All 63 teachers participated in the morning sessions, focused on the resources available to support their practice. The afternoon was delivered in a conference style, with teachers participating in workshop sessions focused on vocabulary development, ensuring our high school students are developing as readers, the ELA Learning environment and ISchools. Teachers were very positive in their feedback on the workshop and expressed their eagerness to attend the next sessions in February.

Technology Integration Learning Day

As instructional leaders within Education Services, consultants, Family of Schools Supervisors and coordinators strive to integrate technology into their practice and into all professional learning they facilitate for principals and teachers. To support our Education Services Leadership

Team with the integration of technology in their work, a Technology Integration Learning Day was organized and facilitated by our Technology Integration Team on December 18. The Learning Day brought our leadership team together to explore the student learning and administrative potential of iPads and Mimios, Nova Scotia Virtual School and Eduportal Moodles, and to experiment with Greenshot and Point 2 View technology. Participant feedback on the day was very positive. A second Technology Integration Learning Day will be held in the next few months.

Early Literacy Support

The first 12 week Developing Learning intervention block will be completed on January 22, 2013. Shortly following the completion of this block, schools will begin the second BOOST intervention block. Classroom teachers are currently gathering and reviewing assessment evidence to share with their site-based Early Literacy Support team for the selection of students for this upcoming BOOST block.

Grade	Date of Implementation
P-3	September 2013
4-6	September 2014
7-9	September 2015
10	September 2013
11	September 2014
12	September 2015

Mathematics

This month all principals will be provided with an overview of the new Nova Scotia Mathematics Curriculum at their Family of Schools principals' meeting. Nova Scotia is adopting and implementing the Western and Northern Canadian Protocol (WNCP) Curriculum over the next three years. Teachers

from grades Primary, 1, 2, 3, and 10, will receive in-service training on the new curriculum this spring in preparation for a September start.

The Intensive Mathematics Support short-term intervention for 300 students in grades 1, 2, and 3 recently finished up at 29 schools in CCRSB. The purpose of Intensive Mathematics Support was to provide additional mathematics instruction to students in these grades who had been identified by their classroom teacher as independently achieving some of their grade level outcomes and who would benefit from the short duration of the intervention. Working in groups of two to three, these students received an additional 30 or 40-minute session of mathematics instruction each day. The goal of this instruction was to enhance the students' understanding in number theory and operations. Gains were evident on assessments as well as in the students' confidence and perseverance in their problem-solving abilities.

Grade 9 Mathematics teachers recently participated in the second of two Mathematics 9 Support Days focusing on the development of concepts of linear relationships and variable use in the Grade 9 curriculum. Participants also received information on the provincial assessment their students wrote last June. New teachers teaching Grade 7 and/or Grade 8 Mathematics also participated in training for their curriculum. Their focus was on the development of fractions and proportions.

International Student Program

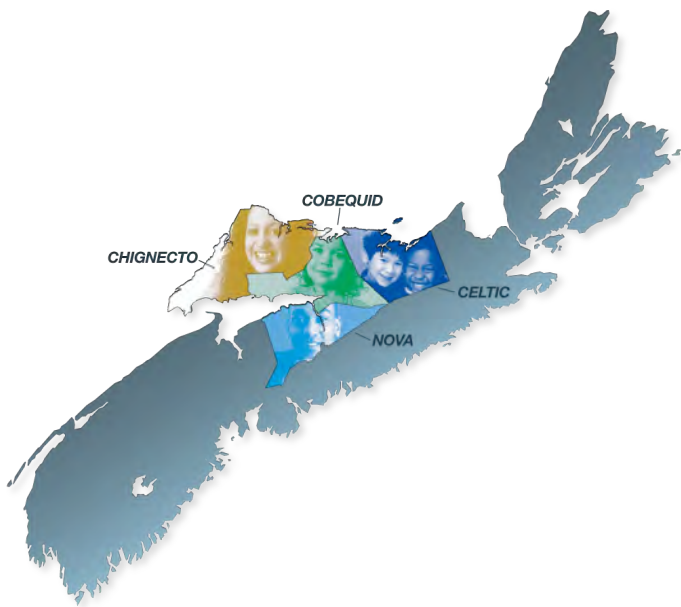
CCRSB will host 147 international students in our schools during the second semester. These students will be joined by 22 Korean university student teachers who will call our CCRSB schools home for six weeks beginning this month, through to February. These student teachers will volunteer in schools across the board. A group of 39 students, who study in Nova Scotia curriculum schools in China, will come to CCRSB for a one-week visit in February. The students are excited to experience Nova Scotia curriculum and classes first-hand.

Student Services

The final allocation of Educational Assistant positions were distributed to schools in December. This allocation is based on Class Cap and Class Composition guidelines.

The BEST (Behaviour Education Support Treatment) Program Steering Committee met in December. The steering committee consists of representatives from the various supporting agencies including Colchester-East Hants, Cumberland & Pictou Mental Health Services; Cumberland, Colchester, and Hants Department of Community Services; and CCRSB. The committee learned more about the Schools Plus supports from Karla Mitchell-Smith, Chignecto Family of Schools Supervisor and Ian MacLeod, Cobequid Family of Schools Supervisor. They also took a closer look at last year's program data which outlines the effectiveness of the program.





Celtic Family

The New Glasgow Fire Department and AA Munro Insurance have partnered together to provide each Grade 2 student from Acadia Street School and A.G. Baillie Memorial School with a smoke detector for their bedrooms. The program is being developed to educate students on care and maintenance of smoke detectors. Smoke detectors have a 10-year life span, as these students graduate in Grade 12 they will be presented a certificate for participation which will be a further reminder it has reached its life span and requires replacement. For Fire Prevention Week 2013 AA Munro Insurance is planning to expand the program to Grade 2 students throughout Pictou County.

During the holiday season, students from Walter Duggan Consolidated School gathered food items for the Good Samaritans of Pictou County. The students were joined by the Helping Hands Group from Sobey's who arrived at the school as part of the Sobey's Random Acts of Kindness day. Sobey's matched all the donations brought in by students; which totaled enough food to help 100 families. Congratulations to all the staff and students involved and a big thank-you to Sobey's!

Students at Northumberland Regional High School recently held a Hellman's Buy Local Event. Presenters talked about the importance of growing our own food, buying locally, and career opportunities for new farmers. Over 150 students attended and they had the opportunity to sample beef jerky, organic cheese, fresh carrots, pumpkin cookies, potato pancakes, and veggie trays and viewed beautiful displays.



Congratulations to Maj. Colin Todd, North Nova Scotia Highlanders, and teacher at Northumberland Regional High School, who was recently presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal by Brigadier-General the Honourable J. J. Grant, CMM, ONS, CD (Ret'd) Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. Colin received the Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his dedication and service to the military.



Chignecto Family

Cumberland North Academy's Techno Club is now presenting at the school's Monthly Author Assemblies and writing articles for a monthly newsletter. In December, students received special GOTCHA prizes donated by the Athletic Department of Mount Allison University following the WITS anti-bullying assembly.

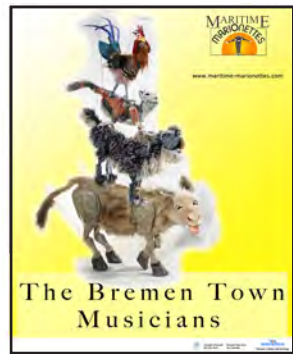
Springhill Jr./Sr. High School students came together with local community performers to host the 3rd Annual Christmas Concert. Well over 100 community members enjoyed an evening of song and celebration.



The Grade 6C class at West Highlands Elementary spearheaded an initiative that resulted in 267 boxes of macaroni and cheese being donated to the Amherst Food Bank. Amy Casey's class challenged the other classes in the school to bring in as many boxes of macaroni and cheese as possible before December 20th. On the final day, all of the boxes were lined up on the stage like dominoes. The student who had brought in the most boxes (three cases!) got to tip over the first box and start the chain reaction.

Cobequid Family

Wilson's Fuel donated 32 tickets to Bible Hill East Court Road Elementary for students to attend the morning show of "The Bremen Town Musicians" performed by the Maritime Marionettes at the Marigold Theatre on December 14. The students had a terrific time and were able to see the intricate work of puppeteers first hand.



Grade 3 and 4 students from Bible Hill East Court Road visited Gitten's Lodge on December 7. The students participated in

a day of wilderness survival learning and cooperative and team building games and activities. The students, through a group effort, were able to build a large sheltered structure from the natural resources they found around them in the forest. Students used products that would provide warmth and protection if they were ever lost in the wilderness. The

activities were lead by the leadership program students at the Nova Scotia Community College in conjunction with the Recreation Department of the Village of Bible Hill. It was a positive learning environment that promoted collaboration and the sharing of individual skills in a group atmosphere.

The Grade 2 students in Mrs. MacLeod's class at Bible Hill East Court Road Elementary studied the life cycle of animals as part of the science learning outcomes during December. The students were able to follow the life-cycle process of chicks through an in-class incubation system that tracked embryo development. The students were present in school the day the eggs began to hatch and became the proud parents of seven little chicks! Through the use of an IPEVO usb camera and a Smart Board, the students were all able to view the actual hatching of the chicks.



Congratulations to Amy Crocker, a Grade 7 student at Truro Junior High for winning the National Child Day poster contest. Out of all the seventh grade entries from across Nova Scotia, Amy's poster was chosen as the one best displaying artistic merit, creativity, and an understanding of the theme, "Children Helping Children."





Nova Family

Maitland District Elementary students demonstrated the virtue of compassion in December by joining in the 10,000 Coats Project, which was organized to bring winter clothing to families in need in New York and New Jersey following the destruction of Hurricane Sandy. Students donated warm, clean winter coats and wrote notes of compassion and cheer that were tucked into the pockets.



Karen Pictou, a Grade 8 student at Riverside Education Centre has been growing her hair since Grade 2. Well, all that changed on December 20 when Karen's lifelong dream was realized and she had her hair cut to raise awareness and funds for the Canadian Cancer Society. Grade 7 teacher, Anne Ragot, cut Karen's hair at a school-wide assembly amidst cheers and applause. Along with raising funds, Karen's hair has been donated to Pantene's Beautiful Lengths Program.



Operational Services

Inclement Weather Procedures

Occasionally, weather conditions can impact school bus service and school operations – especially in the winter. When it is stormy or road conditions are poor, Chignecto-Central Regional School Board Transportation Services staff starts the day before 6:00 a.m. by:

- Reviewing weather forecasts from different sources, for various areas within the four families of schools.
- Talking with the local Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal depots.
- Talking with bus drivers from various communities throughout the region.
- Driving on sections of roads.

Based on the forecast and actual weather and road conditions in each area, the school board has the following choices: maintain bus and school operations as usual, close schools, maintain bus services on paved roads only, or cancel bus services.

As the school board region is large, we make separate cancellation and closure decisions for each of the four families of schools.

The best way to find out if buses are cancelled or if schools are closed is to monitor the local radio or television stations. CCRSB makes every effort to contact local media by 6:30

a.m. to make the appropriate announcements. We send closure and cancellation notices to:

- All local radio and television stations within the CCRSB.
- CBC radio in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.
- CFCY radio in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

If you have access to the Internet, you can also visit www.ccrsb.ca and select the “Schools Open” or “Schools Closed” link to access up-to-date closure and cancellation information.

We ask parents/guardians, students and the public to avoid calling schools on storm days, whenever possible.

School Closures During the Day

CCRSB rarely cancels school mid-day due to weather or road conditions. However, there may be other factors, such as power outages, that may result in a school closing unexpectedly during the day.

In case school closes early, CCRSB recommends parents and guardians keep their contact information up-to-date and have alternate arrangements in place for their children.



Keep connected



ccrsb.ca

Who will YOU nominate?



Do you know a teacher who supports and inspires students in creative and innovative ways using effective educational practices?

Excellence in Teaching Awards 2013



The Chignecto-Central Regional School Board and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union are accepting nominations from students, teachers, school administrators and the community in recognition of outstanding teachers in our school system.

Nomination deadline: February 28, 2013

For more details, pick up a nomination package at the school office or visit www.ccrsb.ca

