IEWSLETTER January - April 2021

Welcoming, Safe and Thoughtful spaces ... a Place for Everyone

Schools are busy places, bustling with excitement, and energy. Sometimes we need to seek quiet, calm spaces, or gather around inspirational messages. SchoolsPlus staff, partners and students have been busy creating spaces from ZEN rooms to murals, expressing their creativity while making inclusive places. Look at these awesome spaces!





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MARCH BREAK



SchoolsPlus, Sydney CBVRCE presents... A RED CROSS CERTIFIED **BABYSITTING COURSE**

WHEN: March 15th, 16th, 17th & 18th 2:00 PM - 4:00 pm

WHERE: Sherwood Park Education Center 500 Terrace St., Sydney NS

WHO: Students Aged 10 1/2 or 11 Years Old & Attend: Brookland, Cusaek, Harbourside, Shipyard, SPEC and WPM

HOW: To register, contact Lindsay Latham, SchoolsPlus Facilitator a: 902-563-4551 or llatham a gnspes.ea

This training is FREE of charge!! LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE!

Schools Plus



So proud of this awesome group of OVEC students who spent their March Break mornings earning their Red Cross Babysitting Course Certificate.

March

Break

2021 N REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS Monday March 15: FMEC 9:00 - 11:00ar pen to Primary/1 (Engl. FMEC 1:00 - 3:00 pm in to Primary & 2/3 (Fre

Cet's **GET GROWING**

Join Yuki to start your mini-garden & learn gardening tips and tricks! **all supplies will be provided**

March 18th, 10am @ SMBA to students in grades 4-6 from ICS, DNCS, DES & WCS

TO REGISTER FOR THIS SESSION, PLEASE CONTACT JANICE OR COURTNEY (BELOW): SPACES ARE VERY LIMITED. ALL COVID PROTOCOLS WILL BE IN PLACE AND MUST BE ADHERED TO Courtney // (902) 247-4119 or courtney.phillips@tcrce.ca Janice // (902) 740-9221 or janice.cromwell@tcrce.ca



CINTING **T**AA lsPlus for a FREE painting class with Tiffany Ban Open to students in grades 4 - 6 who attend schools At ICS, DNCS, DES, and WCS



Spaces are limited! Maximum of 12 students permitted Students must be registered in order to attend! When: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 10:00 am Where: DRHS Family Studies Room Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

To Register Contact: SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Workers Courtney Phillips at 902-247-4119 or courtney.phillips@tcrce.ca

And Janice Cromwell at 902-740-9221or janice.cromwell@tcrce.ca

SCHOOLSPLUS PAINT DAY Schools Plus

STUDENTS IN GRADES 4 AND 5 WHO ATTEND A NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education

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SPACE IS LIMITED. WHEN? MARCH 16TH AND MARCH 17TH FROM 1:00PM-2:30PM WHERE? DR TL SULLIVAN SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. FREE OF CHARGE. TO REGISTER TEXT PAULA @ 902-574-0200 OR EMAIL PAULALEBLANC@GNSPES.CA

OUR STAFF

While Covid 19 restricted our ability to gather in person, SchoolsPlus used a variety of virtual platforms to keep our training refreshed and share current best practices.



Five of our SP staff participated in a High Five workshop offered by Recreation on March 25-26th enabling them to be certified in HIGH FIVE and deliver the program as Train-the-Trainers. SchoolsPlus staff are involved in delivering a wide range of recreational and sporting activities. This is a recognized national standard for delivering an age and developmentally appropriate recreation and sporting activities to children and youth.



The Mental Health Commission of Canada chose SchoolsPlus. to pilot a Virtual Headstrong Summit in 5 schools (2 HRCE, 2 CBVRCE, & 1 SSRCE). SchoolsPlus has been a long-standing partner and champion of Headstrong summits. Headstrong is an antistigma mental health strategy to help youth gather, hear from speakers, and bring anti-stigma messages and activities back to their schools. The virtual summit was important when an in person gathering was not possible, encouraging students to" Be Brave, Reach Out and Speak up for mental health."



TIENET is an important tool for SchoolsPlus, our case management system. Pam Pritchard offered SchoolsPlus Tienet -Tips and Handy Short-cuts Session, on Feb 19th, leading staff through key issues in troubleshooting and quick computer tips. Thanks Pam!



We began the winter season with VOICES training, in January. In partnership with our African Canadian Services Branch, SchoolsPlus were able to host a four-day training session, facilitated by Dr. Candice Norcott. Voices is a program of selfdiscovery and empowerment for girls. Participants included SP Facilitators, Community Outreach Workers, African NS Student Support Workers, Child and Youth Care Practitioners, and Justice Dept staff. Voices was created by Dr. Stephanie Covington to address the unique needs of adolescent girls and young women, by providing a safe space, encouragement, and the support they need to embrace their journeys of self-discovery. Participants were delighted to be joined by Dr. Covington for one of the sessions.



SchoolsPlus Mental Health Clinician annual gathering was held virtually, providing an opportunity for SP Facilitators and SP Clinicians to participate in interdisciplinary training. This training focused on case formulation, and concurrent disorders. This gathering is a partnership between the IWK, NS Health and SchoolsPlus. ANNAPOLIS VALLEY REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION After The Bell

What : Contributions to healthy recreational and fun activities for after school programs

When: Jan 2021

OUR STORIES

Where: SchoolsPlus Kings East; Horton Family of Schools

Why: Create a range of social, artistic, or recreational based programs for students after school, providing accessible opportunities for students after school

Partners : Lions Club; Community Wellness Funds from the Eastern Kings Community Health Board.



CAPE BRETON-VICTORIA REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION March Break Camps



WHO: Riverview Family of Schools

OUR STORIES

WHAT : March Break camps ; camps including Sport and leaderships; PowerUp-Empowerment Camp; Paint Afternoon; Red Cross certified Babysitting

WHEN : Throughout March break, March 15-19th, 2021

WHERE: Various locations throughout Riverview Family

WHY: Building skills, social opportunities and fun opportunities throughout the break period

PARTNERS : Canadian Redcross and Safety Tree

CHIGNECTO-CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION Pictou County Gears up for Winter

WHO: Pictou County Schools

WHAT: Winter gear for students. SchoolsPlus coordinated full winter gear (head to toe) outfits to keep kids warm and enable them to enjoy the great outdoors !

WHEN: Jan 2021

WHERE: Organized at the SchoolsPlus Hub

WHY: As temperatures dropped, SchoolsPlus recognized the need, especially during this stressful time, to help with this major expenditure for 63 families. The coordination and drop off was very appreciated by students and families, especially during the COVID-19 period.

PARTNERS: Many thanks to Pictou County United Way, and a big thanks to our team of SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Workers-Roni, Jason and Amanda for making this happen!



CONSEIL SCOLAIRE ACADIEN PROVINCIAL Buddy Benches







WHAT: The Bances d'amitie project at École Acadienne de Pomquet. Students in grades 4 through 8, identified a need at recess to help other students who may be hurt or sad. Each class were then given a bench to decorate with a positive message. The activity finished up with a project launch.

WHEN: Winter

WHERE : The Bancs d'amitié project was initiated by the students in Mme Gina DeLorey's *Club qui fait la difference* at École Acadienne de Pomquet.

WHY: Students wanted to make a positive difference in their school and their community. The final step in this project will be completed in the coming years when fruit trees are planted around the benches to give shade and food to those in need.

Partners: Collaborated with the Société Acadienne Saint Croix and the Canadian Association for Community Living for the funding and the construction of the benches. Special guests from the community, the Société Acadienne Sainte Croix and the Community Assisted Living Association were invited to take part in the official presentation. To thank them for their work, the SASC presented the students with T-shirts containing the groups logo



WHAT: The "Hang Time" Program provides a safe platform/space online to enable a group of young people to cultivate their leadership skills, make healthy choices, and promote positive ideas in their day-to-day world. At the same time, it is an opportunity to cultivate new and existing friendships with their fellow students in their own safe environment

WHEN: April 6th - May 26th, on Mon, Tues, Wed 4pm -5pm, for eight weeks

WHERE: Park West, Clayton Park Junior High, and Duc Danville schools. Held through Google Platform 60 minutes, one afternoon, after school, per week, a non-registered drop in program

WHY: The program was student led, but framed to explore Self Confidence, Self Esteem, Conflict, Anger and Anger Management, Zones of Regularity, Fear, Bullying, Covid-19, School work, Social Issues I.E. Black Lives/Lives Matter, Pop Culture, The Arts, Computer/Gaming Culture etc..

Partners: School Counsellors, Student Support Workers (African Canadian, Mi'kmaq/Indigenous). Students were delighted to welcome Principals of all three schools and local role models were guest speakers : Jonathan Torrens (actor and television host), Classified (award winning hip hop artist), Tyrone Williams (NS Sport Hall of fame inductee), Jody Upshaw (award winning music artist and elite athlete at Citadel High School). Additional help came from partnerships with the YMCA of greater Halifax, Heartwood Center for Youth and with the Leave out Violence (L.O.V.E) program for guest speakers/presenters.



Although Tracey Williams, SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker is reluctant to take credit, we know he worked tirelessly to organise and promote, sometimes the oldfashioned way, going class to class to recruit youth to participate in the program, and sent newsletters to parents/caregivers. When asked about the program, he notes, "this program was about the kids, they led it, they shaped it, they brought meaning to the program. "

STRAIT REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION Slow Cooker Program



WHAT: Slow Cooker program at Whycocomagh Education Centre, using the Medicine Wheel approach to food, and living healthy lifestyle.

WHEN: Six Week Lunch Time program beginning on Jan 26, 2021

WHERE : Whycocomagh, Inverness County

WHY: Help students develop meal preparation skills, with the use of a slow cooker as an excellent tool to prepare meals in advance. Students were able to bring home a slow cooker, and two meals; students took part in Indigenous knowledge sharing

PARTNERS: Earl Gould, Cultural Support Worker joined the first session of the program to teach students about the Medicine Wheel approach. Other sessions were facilitated by Janelle MacDonnell, SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker, and Kelsey Bowman-White, Child and Youth Care Practitioner.



SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION Attendance Workshop

WHAT: Workshop for Parents, Supporting Children with School Attendance

WHEN: Feb-March 2021

OUR STORIES

WHERE: The workshops were offered at Hebbville, Mahone Bay and Caledonia, attended by parents from throughout Lunenburg and Queens counties

WHY: This workshop was developed in response to requests from parents seeking help to support their child's school attendance, especially during COVID-19. Issues involving school "avoidance/refusal "are multi-factorial, and the workshop helped parents explore the reasons and navigate supports as required.

Parents left with practical strategies to use and connections for ongoing support. Follow up zoom check ins were offered by the therapist.

PARTNERs: Out of School Time

Learning grants covered the cost of the presenter, lunch, supplies, and gift cards to cover costs of childcare and transportation.



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION The Boys Group





WHEN: February to May 2021, weekly with 8-10 participants

WHERE: Maple Grove Education Centre (MGEC)

WHY: Led by SchoolsPlus Facilitator, Joshua Purdy, and a MGEC faculty support, the group provided a safe space for boys/identifying as boys to share stories and ideas. Shared ideas on health seeking, stress, healthy relationships, belonging, and going beyond traditional masculinity

PARTNERS: Thanks to MGEC for providing the participants with a healthy breakfast/snack that everyone enjoyed!!!





THANKING OUR MANY PARTNERS

SchoolsPlus has grown immensely, and so have our many partners. Our partners cross all sectors - businesses, community-based agencies, granting agencies, and government Depts. Donations of in-kind services, grants, and fundraising have enabled all SchoolsPlus Regional Centres for Education/CSAP to extend services and supports into the community, while making school a place of enrichment and learning year-round.

Local supermarkets and restaurants have donated food and funds to help us build an array of cooking programs, basic shelf, crockpot cooking and other nutritious food programs both to students and families. Community agencies have brought an amazing array of painting, crafts, gardening to our students, helping them flourish and connect in positive ways. Local churches have donated mittens, much appreciated by students! Our Government partners have provided a range of grants based on local needs and interests.

To all our partners, we know you care about students, families, and their communities. We thank you for your support of the SchoolsPlus Integrated model. Here are just a few highlights of these partnerships:

What: Literally Nutritious is a Virtual Nutrition Literacy Program offered across the Tri- Counties to families. This program highlights simple and delicious slow cooker recipes for the whole family to enjoy. The videos featured celebrity chefs, TCRCE administrators, demonstrating the step-bystep instructions of each recipe.

Who: The TCRCE SchoolsPlus teams identified 30 families to receive food boxes with all the ingredient required for 10 recipes and brand-new crockpots. Additionally, the recipes and videos are available to anyone at the link above.

Partners : Nourish Nova Scotia and a grant from Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage.





REPERVED FAMLES (CAPE BRETON)

SCHOOLSPLUS, CBVRCE AND BEREAVED FAMILIES OF CAPE BRETON PRESENT...

REMOVING THE MASK

Helping Youth Move Through & Beyond Grief

For students who are grieving as the result of the death of a loved one.

Protect Children @ @C... · 2021-04-15 Our @Karyn_Kibsey met with the @SSRCE_NS SchoolsPlus team this afternoon to talk about online risks & emerging trends.

In working with @nseducation our #KidsintheKnow online & personal safety lessons are available to all schools in #NovaScotia.



Online Risks and Emerging Trends

THANKING OUR MANY PARTNERS



The Incredible Years program ran from January through March 2021, facilitated by SchoolsPlus and Family Matters staff with child care provided.

"You guys have been simply an amazing team of presenters. I think this pandemic has been difficult in so many ways and you guys have been so supportive to reduce the stress and tension that we families face. Children need to see their families getting along, making compromises and understanding individual differences within families." IY Participant (March 2021)







Respite Supports and Navigation Services is a family support service connecting families caring for a lowed one with a physical or mental disability or illness with suitable respite workers in their area. Respite Services Western Region will be presenting virtual information sessions to interested respite workers and families seeking respite support. Join us to find out how becoming a respite worker or hiring a respite worker could benefit your life and the lives of families in your community.

> February 24th, 3:30-4:30pm—Respite Worker Info Session February 25th, 6:00-7:00pm—Respite Family Info Session

SAFECHOICE SAFETY SERVICES

BABYSITTER BASICS PROGRAM		PROGRAM ACTIVITIES
GRADE:	LOCATION:	Being Responsible Babysitting
5-9	Riverside Education Center	Safe Activities Babysitting
CODE:	DATE:	Stranger Safety at Home & Play
BBS	March 15 & 18, 2021	Kitchen Safety & Meal Planning
MANUAL:	TIME:	Hazardous Product Safety
St. John Ambulance	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Fire Safety
CERTIFICATE:	RATE:	Online Safety
St. John Ambulance	FREE (Value: \$60.00)	First Aid Basics
REQUIRED:	FUNDING & SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:	Setting-Up a Babysitter Service
Mask, Pen, Paper, Snack, Water, Doll	Schools Plus & East Hants Youth Links	Infant, Toddler, & Child Care
	REGISTRATION INFORMATION	
Register by Email: www.eastha	a second a second s	
 Register by Phone: 902-489-395 		
 Babysitter Basics Drop-Off: 7:45 	AM, Pick-Up: 12:00 PM Home Alone Safety I	Drop-Off 7:45 AM, Pick-Up: 12:00 PM
 Nova Scotia Public Health measu 	res and recommendations during training will	be followed.
	A SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO OUR PARTNE	RS
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Cabot Cape Breton in partnership with Black Lives Matter Golf (BLMG) and SchoolsPlus, celebrated Women's Golf day with a focused effort to engage, empower and support girls and women through golf.



....Nova Scotia's Black Lives Matter Golf Tournament providing three Stay&Play packages for winners. It will also partner with **SchoolsPlus**, a junior golf initiative that will provide 10 local kids free access to Cabot's Junior Academy.



THANKING OUR MANY PARTNERS







Aldershot Elementary · 2021-03-25 @AldershotElem we are thankful for our @KingsRCMP support! New helmets to keep us safe on our new scooters and bikes! #Schoolsplus #StrongerTogether #cycling @AVRCE NS



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Partners: Noggins Farm; Healthy School Community grants; Health Promoting Schools, Nourish

Students at Joseph Howe Elementary School got a surprise visit from Dr. Strang, delivering a very special message about healthy eating, and staying healthy!!! The Big Crunch was a campaign to promote healthy eating during March Nutrition Month. Laura Hutt, SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker in HRCE, worked with partners to secure funding to provide a school wide event, inviting all classes, teachers, specialists, and other staff to join in virtually. All participants were given a nutritious apple from Noggins farm, to join in a healthy eating day. "An Apple a day... keeps the doctor away" Doctor Strang participated in our count down and provide a special message to our students. Laura Hutt was so pleased with the event, "This event was such a success. I had lots of apples left over from the big Crunch event. Afterwards, students would drop by my SchoolsPlus room asking for apples. This helped build great relationships with students especially at my new site Joseph Howe Elementary. Personally, I cannot wait to hold the Big Crunch event again in 2022 where we'll be inviting Doctor Strang back and we'll all be vaccinated. '



This year the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce, shone a light on those who made a difference to their community, throughout all the challenges of 2020. "Business Unusual" was a special celebration of these honorees, who made a difference. One of several community-based organizations, Summer Street Industries were honoured for their partnership with SchoolsPlus to support breakfast programs during the period of school closure. Our congratulations to Summer Street industries and SchoolsPlus staff for this great work, and to the Chamber for bringing the community together.

COVID-19 did not halt SchoolsPlus activities - we took our fun outdoors!! Getting outside provides more than a fun break for children and teens, it is great for their physical and mental health and development.



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hiking on a trail	somthing i	n the sky
a yoga pose		
2 things with names that rhyme	a coin older than you reading a book	
anı	tem +L	

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Cumberland SchoolsPlus EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

Step 1: Find an area with some litter. Step 2: Take a "Before" Photo Step 3: Clean up Litter tep 4: Take an "After" Photo and post it to this pos or message it to us for a chance to win a \$50 Gift

CONTEST





Cumberland SchoolsPlus invites you to... Come Sledding With Us!

When: Thursday 10:00-11:30 Where: Amherst Golf Club

Bring your own sled, or use one of ours!



*Provincial restrictions and guidelines regarding Covid-19 will be in place**