

NEWSLETTER

July & August 2019



SchoolsPlus Kings East partnered with "Flying Squirrels"

SP HRCE Level Up!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bsndrcv8hM>



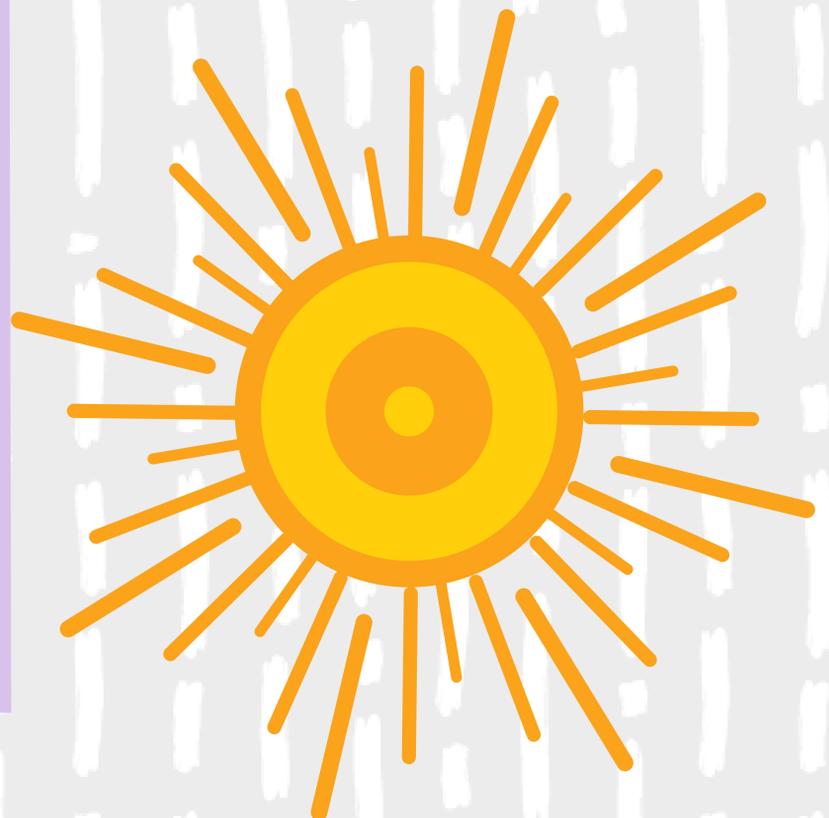
ATTENTION ALL GRADE 8 STUDENTS!!!

**THE AMAZING
RACE**
Glace Bay High Edition

Do you have questions about going to Glace Bay High?

Nervous about going to a new school?

Not sure what's going to happen the first day?



FEATURE STORY

St. Francis Xavier University CAMPS

For the past 7 years STFX has partnered with SchoolsPlus to support the delivery of community based X-Chem summer camps throughout schools in SRCE. X-Chem is a multi-faceted outreach program that has 20 years of outreach experience. The camps go beyond Chemistry to include coding, biology, and more. Camps are hosted by the Chemistry Department of ST. F.X. This past summer camps took place at the following locations:

St Mary's Education Centre/Academy:
July 2-3 Grades 1-8

East Antigonish Education Centre/Academy:
July 4-5 Grades 1-4

Chedabucto Education Centre/Academy:
July 15-17 Grades 1-4, July 18-19 Grades 5-8

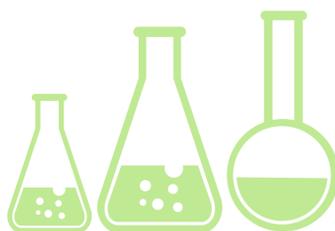
Fanning Education Centre/Academy:
July 25-26 Grades 1-8



This has been a longstanding partnership in Guysborough County for more than 7 years. The SchoolsPlus model helps to broker this opportunity by having staff assist with engagement and registration, site selection and set up, as well as support of students during the camps. X-Chem outreach camps allow students in rural communities in NS get access to an excellent learning opportunity.

"We were able to provide snacks for students on the final day of each camp this year and enjoyed the opportunity the camps provided to get to know students. Students continue to attend in good numbers and we are lucky to have the support of bursaries through X-Chem."

**- Liz MacIntosh,
SchoolsPlus
Facilitator**

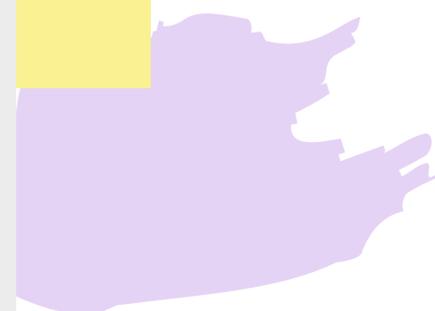


Through a national membership with Actua and support through the Federal government CanCode Program, STFX can offer bursaries to those students who would otherwise not be able to participate. This year approximately 25% of participants in the community based summer camps accessed a bursary.



Loose Parts Play Training

On August 13, SchoolsPlus hosted a full day Outdoor Play professional learning opportunity through our partnership with Communities Culture and Heritage. There were 25 participants from multiple agencies who participated. The presenters, Jillian Griffen and Laura McPherson from explored key components of outdoor unstructured play outlined by the public health agency of Canada which include:



- Fun and Creativity
- Social Health and Team Work
- Mental and Emotional Health
- Physical Health and Gross Motor Skills
- Learning and Attention at School
- Resiliency and Risk Management



Participants explored ways to incorporate play into existing programming as well as focused programming to allow outdoor play access for students, school communities, and families who might benefit. The group also began the process of drafting an outdoor play philosophy for the SchoolsPlus Model.



ANNAPOLIS VALLEY REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

STEM Mini Summer Day Camp



Partners: The camp was supported in partnership with AVRCE RCH Division

Who: Students in grades 4-7

What: The focus of the camp was to allow students an opportunity to engage in activities and workshops related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

When: July 9-10, 2019

Where: Annapolis Valley

Why: Supporting student achievement by creating opportunity to engage students over the summer months in STEM with barriers to access addressed such as transportation, costs, etc.

CAPE BRETON-VICTORIA REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

Amazing Races



Who: Students transitioning from grades 5 to 6 and 8 to 9.

What: Multiple team building activities, challenges, and fun games followed by a tour of the school.

When and Where:

Sherwood Park Education Center Middle School - August 26th

Glace Bay High School - August 28th

Sydney Academy High School - August 28th

Memorial High School - August 29th

Riverview High - August 29th

Why: Transitioning to another school can be a difficult and cumbersome task for a lot of youth; building relationships, navigating the school, and adapting to a new culture all serve as challenges that students will experience. The amazing race aims to develop new friendships and build connections through games and activities that help build teamwork and communication skills. It supports student wellbeing by connecting students with their peers, alleviating some trepidation, and establishing familiarity with their new school. Parents and caregivers indicate that the experience helps them in their role by pre-preparing their child for this significant milestone.





CHIGNECTO-CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

IT Matters Media Club "What Am I A Puppet"



Who: Youth ages 11 to 14 years

What: Summer camp to support student wellbeing through sexual health education

When: July 15 – 19th, 2019

Where: Amherst Regional High School in the SchoolsPlus Community Room.

Why: Engaging youth to support their wellbeing and development by ensuring they have access to a learning opportunity about sexual health and development. Puppets provide a modality to further engage young people in conversation about sexual health in a non threatening way allowing for meaningful knowledge exchange.

Partners:

Sexual Health Centre for Cumberland County, Autism NS, Cumberland Chapter, SchoolsPlus, Amherst Teen Health Centre.

CONSEIL SCOLAIRE ACADIEN PROVINCIAL

Alpaca Farm Visit



Who: Students and their Caregivers

What: Parent/Child engagement support, open to all including neuro-diverse learners

When: Annual Summer Programming

Where: Community of West Bay

Why: Parents and grandparents are supported over the summer months to strengthen parent/child engagement through accessing community locations with supports. The Alpaca Farm has been an ideal location to support this process.



HALIFAX REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION Summer Tutoring Program



Who: 32 students enrolled in the program at no cost who otherwise would not have been able to participate.

What: Linking Language to Learning (LINKS) is a literacy program designed for children who are experiencing difficulties in reading skills development. LINKS is dedicated to helping children become competent, independent learners, through the experience of good books, and opportunities for good writing. SchoolsPlus assisted in the matching process and supported overall participation through barrier reduction. This was funded through an Out of School Time Learning Grant.

When: Monday – Thursday throughout July and August

Where: Citadel High School and Dartmouth High School

Why: Increasing access to literacy support to bolster academic and student wellbeing.

Partners: Chisholm Services for Children, HRCE, OST grant

STRAIT REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION Hug a Tree Program



Who: Students entering grades 1-6.

What: An experiential learning opportunity for students to learn about nature, animal habitats, outdoor safety and more! Healthy snacks provided.

When : July 30 and 31st.

Where: Where Whycomagh Education Centre and Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre/Academy

Why: Supporting student wellbeing and engagement through access to nature. Students had a great time learning about what to do if they become lost in the woods, about animals native to our province, and how we can help to protect our wildlife.



Partners: Department of Natural Resources





SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

Finding Your Power Within



Partners:

Nova Scotia Health Authority Adolescent Outreach Staff

Who: Youth ages 9 and up (approximately 17-20 youth participated each day)

What: Summer Youth program offered weekly

When/Where: Chester Area Middle School July 9, 16, and 30, Bridgewater Junior High School July 10, 17 and 31, North Queens Community School, July 11, 18 and Aug 1st. Times: 9:30-2:30pm

Why: Supporting student wellbeing by offering a no cost, fun structured recreational opportunity. Participants also had the opportunity to learn about and practice social emotional learning goals including friendship building and coping with intense emotions and stress. Healthy lunch and snacks were also provided as well as transportation support where needed.

TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

School Transition Group



Who : Grade 6 students from CHES, FRA and ERMES entering the 7th grade at BMHS.

What : An extra orientation day for students feeling anxious or worried about coming to a new, and bigger school. Students are given locks to practice on, a tour of the school and have a scavenger hunt around the school, among other activities.

When : August 14th, 2019

Where : Barrington Municipal High School

Why : It was identified that some students were extremely anxious about making the transition from elementary school to the high school. Therefore, SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker organized an extra day during the month of August for these students to come to the school with hopes of reducing anxiety. It has been very successful over the last 5 years and on average, over 20 students attend!



Professional Development

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children



In August of 2019 YWCA Halifax hosted a three day train the trainer event to help support knowledge mobilization regarding the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). The session was facilitated by Rachel Lloyd of **Girls Empowerment and Mentoring Service (GEMS)**, a first voice survivor led agency addressing CSEC based in the US. Participants from multiple government agencies attended the session with a goal to support the long-term mobilization of key responses to this issue in Nova Scotia.

Stacy McRae, SchoolsPlus Assistant Coordinator attended the event to help explore ways that the SchoolsPlus model can support this important work. It has been noted at the SchoolsPlus Provincial Steering Committee that several SchoolsPlus Regional Advisory Committees are identifying Human Exploitation in the form of Sexual Exploitation of children and youth as a significant issue requiring coordinated responses.

Participants at the GEMS event indicated that the training they received was relevant to their work. There was also an overwhelming request for future training and support for this critical issue. As a result, SchoolsPlus will be exploring ways through integrated service delivery to bring forward opportunities to address this issue in partnership with the YWCA and other government and community-based agencies who participated in the GEMS training.



YWCA
HALIFAX

For more information on GEMS visit:
<https://www.gems-girls.org/>

For more information on the advocacy work of the YWCA please visit:
<https://ywcahalifax.com/advocacy/>

STATISTICS

The stats below are based on approximately 91 per cent response rate of all monthly reports provided by the SchoolsPlus Facilitators and Leaders.

July and August 2019



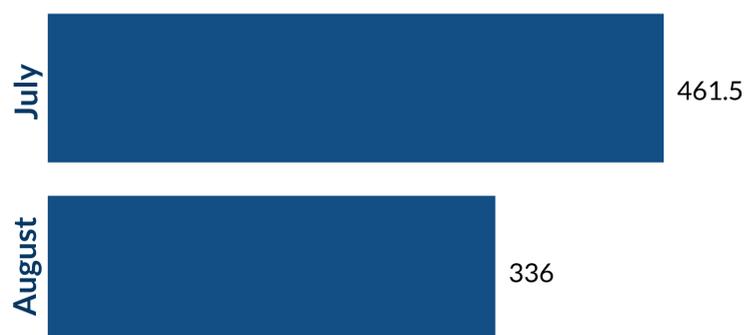
229 NEW REFERRALS

59 NEW SERVICES REALLOCATED/CO-LOCATED

797.5

EXTENDED HOURS

the amount of time SchoolsPlus supported children, youth, and families outside of regular school hours which includes non-instructional time such as summer, evenings, before school, and holidays.



GROUP PROGRAMMING

The total number of children and parent attendances in group programming.

