

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT to the Strait Regional School Board

Mi'kmaq History Month 2014

I would first like to thank our special guests this evening for helping us mark the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month in the Strait Regional School Board. Sincere thanks to Judy Peters, Paq'tnkek First Nation, students from East Antigonish Education Centre/Academy and Wyatt White, Director, Mi'kmaq Services Division, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Each October, school communities focus on the history, culture and achievements of the Mi'kmaq community. This is also an opportune time for each of us to reflect on our own understanding of the contributions and traditions of the Mi'kmaq community.

The theme of Mi'kmaq History Month 2014 is *A'tukwen – Communication*. Stories and teachings have been passed on verbally from generation to generation for thousands of years. Often, storytelling uses impressive mythical characters to teach us about the Mi'kmaq culture, history and world.

Mi'kmaq Treaty Day is today, Wednesday, October 1, 2014, and launches a month-long celebration of events. Schools organize a number of initiatives to celebrate Mi'kmaq History Month, including guest speakers, classroom instruction and discussion, performances, and the sharing of artifacts, to name a few.

For more information, please refer to the story posted on our website, [Strait Regional School Board Celebrates Mi'kmaq History Month 2014](#). It contains important information and outlines several online educational resources that will contribute to greater public awareness, understanding and appreciation of the rich culture and traditions of the Mi'kmaq community.

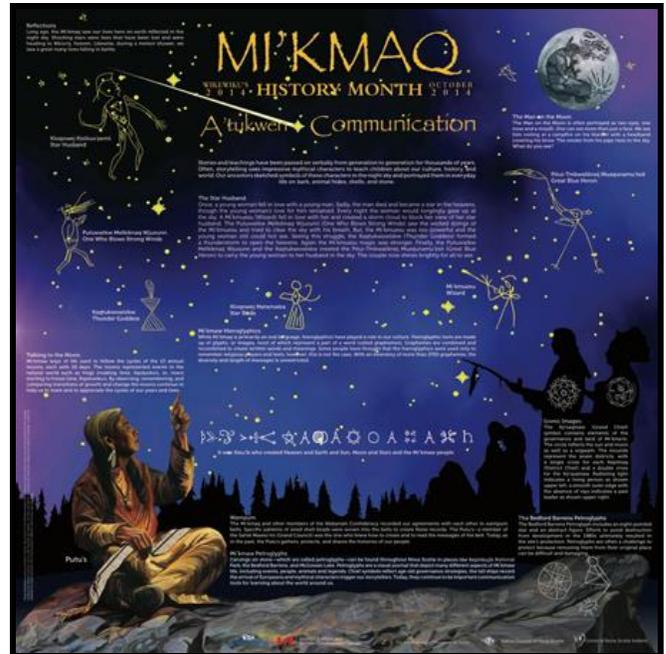


Photo excerpt from the [Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs website](#)

I would also like to thank **East Antigonish Education Centre/Academy Grade 2/3 students and their teacher Stephanie Burgoyne** for the beautiful bulletin board artwork marking Mi'kmaq History Month on display in our office foyer. Please take a moment to view the display as the hard work of our students and Ms. Burgoyne is evident in the quality of the display and the information provided.

The Strait Regional School Board encourages students, staff, parents/guardians and community members to share in the celebration of **Mi'kmaq History Month 2014** during the month of October and throughout the year.

Report Highlights:

Mi'kmaq History Month 2014	1
Congratulations	2
Students to Participate in NSCC Provincial Open House	2
Alert Solutions Implementation Underway in SRSB schools	2
World Teachers' Day	2
School Visits	2

Important Dates/Events for October

- Sunday, October 5, 2014**
World Teachers' Day
- October 6-10, 2014**
Walk to School Week
- October 17-26, 2014**
National Science and Technology Week
- October 20-24, 2014**
School Bus Safety Awareness Week
- Wednesday, October 22, 2014**
Working Committee Meeting
- Friday, October 24, 2014**
Provincial Conference Day
- Learning Disabilities Awareness Month**
- Autism Awareness Month**
- Women's History Month**



Follow us on
Twitter @StraitRSB

16 Cemetery Road
Port Hastings, NS B9A 1K6;
www.srsb.ca; srsb@srsb.ca;
625-2191/1-800-650-4448 (P)
625-2281 (F)

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jackie Dunn MacIsaac, Music Teacher at St. Andrews Consolidated School, who was awarded a Program Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) Grant of \$4,948.85. The grant has enabled Ms. Dunn MacIsaac to purchase drums to promote cultural drumming and practices in her music classroom and launch the school project, *Drumming Up Nova Scotian Culture!*

The PDAF Grant is funded by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. The Fund provides teachers with financial support to initiate creative and innovative teaching practices and is intended to encourage innovative ideas at the local school level which significantly and directly enhance the delivery of programs and services to students.

Students to Participate in Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Province-Wide Open House

I am very pleased to report that we have been working closely with staff from the Nova Scotia Community College, Strait Area Campus, on an excellent educational opportunity for our high school students.

Our Grades 10, 11 and 12 students who are interested in programs offered by the Nova Scotia Community College are invited to take part in their province-wide Open House on Tuesday, October 21, 2014.

Students will pre-select programs they would like to visit on the day of the event, tour the campus, have an opportunity to learn more about a variety of career areas and explore their personal interests in terms of possible fields for future employment.

World Teachers' Day, Sunday, October 5, 2014

World Teachers' Day is celebrated annually to highlight the important role of teachers, worldwide. The theme for 2014 is ***It All Starts With a Qualified Teacher***. As the [Canadian Teachers' Federation](#) web site states *October 5 is a day to celebrate teachers and the central role they play in guiding children, youths and adults through the life-long learning process.*

On behalf of the Strait Regional School Board, I would like to thank our teachers in the Strait region for their professionalism and commitment to student achievement and success.

Alert Solutions Implementation Underway in SRSB Schools

As part of the continued implementation of the provincial PowerSchool student information system, we are now in the process of using a notification system called *Alert Solutions*.

Alert Solutions will be used to send short, school-specific messages to parents/guardians via text, email and/or telephone calls (home and cell). This feature will enhance the school-based communications strategies used to share information with parents/guardians.

Some examples of the types of messages that can be shared using this system include emergency closures/early dismissal due to power outages, classes cancelled due to weather, attendance, report cards going home, parent/teacher nights, information items, to name a few.

School Visits

Since the last Board Meeting, I have had the opportunity to visit the following schools:

- Antigonish Education Centre
- East Antigonish Education Centre/Academy
- St. Andrew Junior School