

In Touch

Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
"Working Together for Students"



November 2010



We congratulate.....

Abby Benjamin, Aldershot Elementary grade 2 student who designed the new graphic to be used in the stationery of the Kings County Race Relations and Anti-Discrimination Committee. The original intent had been to hire a graphic artist to do the design but a Committee member suggested that an elementary art competition be held to determine the illustration to be used. Several schools were approached, and classroom projects were organized by interested teachers and presented for consideration. Abby was awarded a plaque with her artwork incorporated in the design at the Committee's first anniversary celebrations on November 3rd in Berwick. The original artwork, shown above, will appear on their stationery, now in production.



Students Take a Hike, Literally

Three Mile Plains Elementary School has had a walking trail on the perimeter of school property for years, but only recently has it become the "cool" thing for students to actually use. With funding support from the East Hants Recreation Department, the trail was excavated and levelled, the area around it cleared, and the one kilometre long walking trail given a new base of gravel. Signs will indicate the start and finish of the trail and a special parking area is being designated. It has become an integral part of the school's efforts to promote a healthy, more physically active lifestyle among its students. The trail is the only one available to the community locally.



S.S. Khandalla Rocks to the Top in Nova Scotia

After the CBC "School of Rock" competition that involved an elimination round with a series of cliff-hanging moments, and then an on-air finale including the performance of a song written only two days earlier, four AVRSB students have been named the best high school rock band in mainland Nova Scotia. The band members of *S.S. Khandalla* are students at Horton and Avon View high schools who chose their name from the label on a steamer trunk in the basement of the home of their bassist, Evan Stoney, where they practice. "On air" they displayed the assurance of veteran musicians despite admitting to not having had much exposure and the fact that one of their musical numbers was a new creation. When asked about the history of the band, which came to the live in-studio performance in matching floral shirts, the reply was that it used to have five members but the "other guy wouldn't wear the shirt". Judges and audience alike were hugely entertained by their music with one judge commenting that the act had a "real rock-concert" feel to it. Despite some equipment failures overcome with admirable style, Ryan Langdon, Justin Tousignan, Danaan Pederson and Evan Stoney played through their encore before the appreciative audience. The band's next step is to prepare for their prize—a one-day professional studio session that will result in a radio-ready recording of their songs.

Regular Board Meeting Wednesday, November 3, 2010

Annual Performance Report

At the annual meeting the Chair presents to the Board an Annual Performance Report, which documents achievements listed in the Business Plan.

- Co-Op program is in place in all schools with O2 and Career Access
- All high schools offer Physical Education 10 credit.
- French Immersion Resource positions are staffed.
- Beginning Readers Project expanded to 10 schools.
- Every P-2 learning space has two computers and every 3-5 learning space has three computers.
- Student Information System (SIS) to be implemented in 18 schools in 2010-2011.
- 38 schools are in the School Accreditation Program.
- Youth Health Centres are set up in four high schools.
- Positive Effective Behaviour practiced in all schools.
- Literacy and Math coaching/mentoring available in a number of schools.
- Professional Learning Communities continue to be implemented.
- Two-year New Teacher Support Program in effect.
- Resource Development Program for all new Resource teachers.
- Resource allocation increased.
- Six schools offer African Canadian Studies 11 and five schools offer Mi'kmaq Studies 10.

Board Meeting Highlights

- Each November at the annual meeting, the board elects its officers for the coming year. Lavinia Parrish Zwicker was re-elected as Chair, her fifth consecutive year in this position, with Sue Ritchie elected to the position of Vice-Chair and Jackie Foster as the third member of the Board Executive.
- Further to the *School Storm Days Report* released last year, the Board surveyed all stakeholder groups to determine if AVRSB should adopt the practice of a two-hour delayed start to the school day when more time is needed to clear roads. The majority of responses were opposed; therefore the Board will not be adopting this practice.
- The province, through its Expenditure Management Initiative has established a "budget reduction exercise" in which school boards are asked to develop a plan for possible reductions for each of the next three years. The implications of this are potentially unprecedented reductions in services to students.

Kudos to

West Hants Middle School principal, Mike Landry, who received the Administrator of the Year Award at the Provincial School Administrators Association meeting in October. Mike is active in educational leadership on a provincial level, energetic in his commitment of both enriched and supportive programs in his school, and involved in his community in the area of social services and sports for youth.

AVRSB Tradesperson Wendell Allen, who received an award at the N.S. School Maintenance Advisory Conference this fall for developing a "mechanical assist device" which assisted with the installation of second story windows and reduced the physical labour and man hours required. Each year an award for development of innovative devices and systems is made and this is the second year in a row for AVRSB. In 2009, Custodial Foreman Chris Hiltz won for the redesign of the custodians' cart with receptacles which streamlined cleaning and waste collection in classrooms.

New Board Member for AVRSB



The Board welcomes Nancy Bigelow-Acker as the new Board member following the November 6th Special Election. Her electoral district covers Aldershot School and Kings County Academy. After graduating from Acadia University with a Bachelor of Education, Nancy taught with both the Kings County School Board and later the AVRSB. Currently employed as an Educational Representative for both the Oxford University Press and Scholastic Canada, she has been active in her school communities as a parent and PTA member. Nancy is very pleased to continue her lifelong interest and commitment to education by serving her community on the school board. She will be sworn in at the regular Board meeting on January 5th.

Submissions to the *In Touch* newsletter are welcome. Please submit to communications@avrsb.ca

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