

# NEWSLETTER



North Nova Education Centre

FEBRUARY 2024

343 Park Street, New Glasgow, NS B2H 6B2  
Phone: 902-755-8180

Principal: Lia Lewis  
Vice Principals: Mark Arbuckle, Mat Gauthier & Emily MacDougall

## Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians

This year's African Heritage Month provincial theme, Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians, outlines the spirit of perseverance that people of African Descent have demonstrated over the centuries in Nova Scotia. It can be said that our smiles can tell a story, they can share our joy and can share our resilience. This African Heritage Month we celebrate our heritage, our culture and the incredible spirit to overcome. The theme also aligns with the final year of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024. The goal of DPAD is to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African Descent increase awareness and the passage towards presence in all aspects of society.

We believe in Black Excellence, and celebrate the leadership, resilience, and brilliance of black children and youth. By working with educators, and school staff on overcoming unconscious biases and learning how to be culturally and linguistically responsive, we are ensuring African Canadian students achieve the highest level of success in their learning, as well as future goals and achievements.

Throughout the month of February there will be many opportunities to celebrate and learn more about people of African Descent. There will be community and school events. Students will learn about Kente Cloth and its vibrant colours, the Black National Anthem, the 52 African Nova Scotian communities, including our own. Students will also have an opportunity to learn about dance and movement in African culture.

For 2024 African Heritage Month, CCRCE developed an interactive calendar that highlights African Nova Scotian employees throughout the RCE. At NNEC, Natalie Gero & Kennedy Atwell were featured in this calendar. Their profiles are featured below.



**Kennedi Atwell**  
African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker-North Nova Education Centre

Kennedi is a Nova Scotia Community College graduate who earned a Social Services diploma. She furthered her education by attending Saint Mary's and completed an undergraduate degree in Psychology. Kennedy is passionate about African Nova Scotian students' overall well-being and success. Her passion led her to become a student support worker at NNEC. She is very happy that she is making a difference in the lives of African Nova Scotian students.

Kennedi said that Black Excellence defines our historical resistance and determination to overcome systemic racism and barriers. With all of this comes our Black joy, our ability to find peace and healing through our racialized experiences. She wants to see her Black students achieve Black excellence and Black joy. She encourages them to continue working hard and doing their best in school.




**Natalie Gero**  
School Monitor-North Nova Education Centre

"Nat" as she is affectionately known by students and staff, is a fixture at NNEC, serving in the position since the school's opening. Nat's outgoing personality, sense of humour and command of deference have made her successful in this role.

Nat has the ability to engage with students in a manner which garners respect but is able to connect on a personal level. A task not easily accomplished but emanating from genuine care and concern for students of all needs and backgrounds. Nat is so personable she has garnered her own segment on the North Nova News. North Nova News is a student-run weekly program that is shown to the entire school. Her segment "Nat Knows" encourages students to do the "right thing" as students at NNEC.

Nat is a constant at NNEC and is part of our school culture. She truly makes a difference in the lives of students and staff daily.



## Calendar of Events

Feb 14	Last Day For Course Changes
Feb. 15	Spirit Dance 7 to 9 pm Admission \$7 or \$5 with a food bank item.
Feb. 19	NO SCHOOL - Heritage Day
Mar. 11-15	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
Mar. 29	NO SCHOOL - Good Friday
Apr. 1	NO SCHOOL - Easter Monday
Week of Apr. 15	Report Cards Distributed
May 15	Black Excellence Day
May 20	NO SCHOOL - Victoria Day
June 24	Prom
June 26	Graduation Ceremony Pictou County Wellness Centre
June 26 & 27	NO SCHOOL - Assessment & Evaluation Day
June 28	Last Day of School

Keep up to date on happenings at NNEC. Discover the great things our Students and Staff are doing. From night time astronomy to learning how to build a timber frame structure. We celebrate student achievement such as our monthly Gryphitude, annual musical production, provincial athletic championships and so much more. This is your one stop place for everything NNEC.

FIND US ON  
**facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/nnecgryphons](http://www.facebook.com/nnecgryphons)

# Gryphitude Awards

## JANUARY



### Gr. 9 – Bridget MacGregor

Bridget arrives to class on time every day with a friendly, positive attitude towards everyone. She is prepared to work and has a very strong work ethic.

### Gr. 10 – Alysia DeYoung

Alysia is deserving of this award because they are a

hard worker with a positive attitude. To date this student has not missed any classes - zero absences! I believe this deserves some recognition as it very rare to see this type of commitment. This will no doubt be a quality that will

serve her well throughout school and be an asset to any employer later in life with her career.



### Gr. 11 – Ella Bruno

Ella is a truly kind individual, who is always looking to help others. She has a positive and vibrant personality, and helps all those around her.

### Gr. 12 – Carly Fennell

Carly works well with and is supportive of all of her classmates - if someone is having a bad day, she makes a point of going over to talk to them and lets them know that they are not alone. Her actions are never overt, but with her quiet manner she shows compassion, as well as fun - she's an absolute rock star.



## Safe Arrival Phone App

Parents recently received a communication announcing NNEC will now be using the Safe Arrival App through School Messenger. Safe Arrival is a phone app that allows parents and guardians to notify the school in advance about an upcoming absence or rapidly respond to excuse an absence after the fact. In both situations, parents can send attendance alerts to schools for all of their children and provide a reason for each absence – all in one simple communication.

With **SafeArrival**, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

- Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store
- Use the SafeArrival website, [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca).
- Call the toll-free number **[1-833-578-0533]** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.

Additionally, the **NNEC Attendance Line** remains available. Call 902-755-8180 Option 1 and leave a message that includes the students name, reason for the absence and symptoms (ie. sore throat, stuffy nose etc.). Schools still require this information when reporting attendance numbers to Public Health.

### ATTENDANCE NOTIFICATIONS

The automated notification system will contact parents whose child is absent without notification. Families, who have **not** reported their child's absence, will receive an attendance notice at 5:30 pm.

The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If you report your child's absence in advance using the Safe Arrival toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will **NOT** receive these notifications. Parents will have until approximately 10:00 pm to submit a reason for their child's absence.

### SIGN OUTS DURING CLASS TIME

If a student must sign out during a class, parents are asked to leave a message on the **NNEC Attendance Line** rather than using the Safe Arrival App. Reporting through Safe Arrival will **NOT** notify the school or classroom teacher, that the student will be leaving class early, until the following day. Parents are asked to follow the same process for reporting absences (see below) as End of Day Pick-up.

## A Friendly Reminder

### Attention Parents: Process For End of Day Pick-up

Each day we receive a high volume of phone calls during last period class. Parents have been calling to have their child released from class to avoid end of day traffic. As communicated previously, this causes a lot of disruption during instructional time. For this reason, we request students not be signed out during last period class, without prior notice. Emergency situations will be handled on a case by case basis.

NNEC's school day ends at **3:10 pm** and students are expected to stay in class until the bell rings. If a student must leave during 4th period, parents are asked to report this to our attendance line, **no later than 12:30 pm** on that day. This will allow the office time to notify teachers without class disruption.

**Attendance Line - 902-755-8180 Option 1**

## Family Engagement Session Invitation

Do you have a family member with a disability in a CCRCE high school? Did you know that CCRCE is conducting a review of inclusive practices at the high school level? The Inclusive Education Scan aims to identify successes, gaps and barriers to inclusive education.

CCRCE has partnered with Inclusion Nova Scotia to host Family Engagement Sessions. Inclusion NS is the provincial organization that represents people with intellectual disabilities and their families. Families are key partners in making inclusive education a reality.

**Come share your experiences about what is working and what challenges persist.**

Four in-person sessions will be held in each family of schools, with an option to attend virtually.

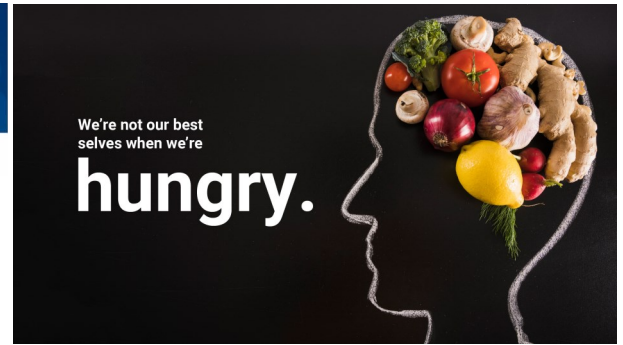
**February 29, 2024. 6:30 – 8pm**

Trenton Middle School, 37 Dickie Street, Trenton NS B0K 1X0

Register here to attend in person or have a virtual option: [mcnamaralm@ccrce.ca](mailto:mcnamaralm@ccrce.ca)

We hope you can join us. Your experience and expertise matters.

If you have any questions or would like to submit something electronically, please contact: [anna.macquarrie@gmail.com](mailto:anna.macquarrie@gmail.com).



## Food Security

The Gryphon's Den Pantry has been providing food to students and families as part of our food security initiative. With rising food costs, many families are left struggling. Hunger has a direct impact on student success. Students with reliable access to nutritious food are healthier both mentally and physically.

NNEC's breakfast program has a variety of food items available each morning such as bagels, cheese, fresh fruit as well as a number of snack items.

The Gryphon's Den Pantry is available to all students at afternoon break and after school. The purpose of the pantry is to provide non perishable food and hygiene items for students to take home at the end of the school day. It also holds a few school supplies and reusable bags are provided.

The pantry is open during afternoon break or at the end of day. If the door isn't open, ask a staff person in Student Services or the Youth Health Centre to open it. The pantry is located in the Student Services hallway.

We accept donations of non-perishable food items, personal care products as well as grocery gift cards. If your family requires support, or you would like to make a donation, please contact: Marilyn Sandluck at [sandluckm@ccrce.ca](mailto:sandluckm@ccrce.ca)



**1 in 4**

NS children live in poverty and experience hunger

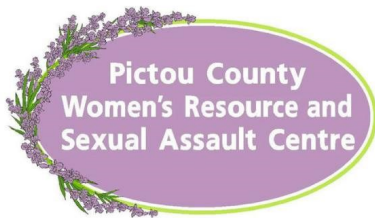
Use this link to learn more about food insecurity in Nova Scotia: <https://www.feednovascotia.ca/hungry-for-change/about-food-insecurity>



**Make online payments with SchoolCashOnline!**

- Field Trips
- Sport Trips
- Activity Fees

**Register now: [ccrce.schoolcashionline.com](http://ccrce.schoolcashionline.com)**



## International Women's Day Luncheon

*March 8th from 11:30am - 1:30pm*

Location: Pictou County Wellness Centre  
2756 Westville Road

**Tickets \$25**

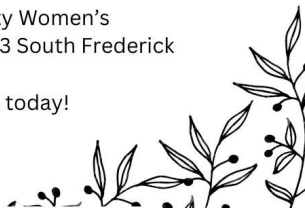
Tickets are limited.

Purchase in advance at the Pictou County Women's Resource and Sexual Assault Centre - 503 South Frederick Street, New Glasgow

Call or email to reserve your your tickets today!

902-755-4647

[pcwc@womenscentre.ca](mailto:pcwc@womenscentre.ca)




**Merigomish Playgroup**

Attention Parents/Grandparents/Caregivers of young children!

The Schoolhouse will now be hosting a playgroup for children ages 0-5 to play, socialize and have a healthy snack.

Drop by on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 – 11:00 for a safe and welcoming environment, and a chance to make some new friends! Parents/Caregivers must attend.

Please contact Madeline Hill at [madeline\\_hill@hotmail.com](mailto:madeline_hill@hotmail.com) or 902-759-3001 if you have any questions.

\*The Schoolhouse is a community space, used by multiple groups. Parents/guardians are responsible to ensure children are playing in a safe manner.