The Cuffer

**The Cuffer**



A newspaper for School Councils in Newfoundland and Labrador

Message from the President



Hello Members!

I hope the recent Easter holiday gave your

families time to rest and recharge as we prepare for the final quarter of this challenging school year. All the changes and restrictions of the past years have not been easy on our students; however, they have adapted quickly with an incredible amount of

resilience and responsiveness. I speak for all school councils in saying we are extremely proud of our

students for doing their part to abide by the public health guidelines while focussing on their education.

NLFSC is also very grateful for all the hard work given by many to support and care for our

Students, schools, and province during recent Covid Circuit breaker. That cluster was a reminder to us that Covid can reoccur at any time, but it also showed us how quickly it can be contained when everyone does their part.

Since the announcement that high school students would return to class under the Blended model,

councils and parents have been emailing and calling our office with concerns. Many are relieved that

students are back in class once again, even if it is just for a few days a week, while others feel Full Online learning was a better mode and would like to see it continue until students go back to class full-time.

Many students have also emailed us to articulate their views on what model of learning benefits them best.

The perspective of our youth is always important. Our students possess a vast understanding of

education, therefore we welcome and value their

input on any changes and decisions that impact their learning and lives.

It has always been the position and goal of NLFSC to have our students back in school full-time when it is safe to do so. Until approval and direction is given by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, we have to

optimize the learning opportunities available and provide as much emotional and academic support to our students as possible.

There are approximately 40 days left until the end of the school year. Please continue to show kindness and patience, even if you do not agree with the

decisions being made. Rest assured the health and well-being of your children is guiding every decision being made by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Minister of Education and English School District.

If you are reading our newsletter, chances are that you are an educator or a member of a school council with a vested interest in education. No doubt you are aware of the fiscal challenges facing this province and are concerned about the upcoming provincial budget and its impact on education.

NLFSC will remain diligent and vigilant to

ensure that resources and programs are not cut.

Education is a right, but more importantly it is an

investment.

We firmly believe that providing quality education and social supports for our young people is the key to continued prosperity for Newfoundland and

Labrador. Education is not just about labour

market prospects. Education is about providing

opportunities for children to learn, succeed, and

obtain the supports they require to live healthy and happy lives. Education is about building an equal playing field for our children regardless of

socio-economics, gender, sexual orientation,

language, status, or disability.

As we continue to navigate this pandemic together,

please continue to prioritize health and safety.

Parents, guardians, and councils, please remember to

to conduct a daily health check and reminder your child to wear a mask. We have done a magnificent job so far, let’s keep being vigilant, working together, and staying healthy.

Sincerely,

Don

don.coombs@easternhealth.ca



**Teacher and School Staff Vaccinations**

NLFSC has been lobbying the government to make

vaccinating teachers and school staff a priority.

*“Teachers and school staff have an extremely high number of exposures every day, therefore they must be a priority in the vaccination rollout.*

*Our teachers have made commendable sacrifices in working during the pandemic knowing full well they are unlikely to be able to physically distance in a classroom setting.*

*We have seen how quickly the virus can spread throughout a school and it is imperative that we keep them and our students safe. If we want to continue to keep schools open and continue in-class learning teachers and school staff should at the top of the line to receive the vaccination.”*

------Don Coombs, NLFSC President

Advocacy

The past 2 months have been extremely busy for

members of the NLFSC Executive. We have received a massive number of emails and phone calls from

parents, teachers, and councils on issues.

The role and mandate of the school council, virtual

meetings, online, in-class, and blended models of

instruction, graduations, exams, class size, and

resources for schools are just a few of the concerns

we have heard.

We may not always provide the answers you want to hear; however, we will always provide an open,

consistent approach that is courteous, efficient and fair.

NLFSC recognizes that involving parents in their

child’s education is critical to children’s development and that learning and effective communication builds understanding and trust.

**Representation**

NLFSC is in regular contact with the Department of Education officials Minister Tom Osbourne; Tony Stack, CEO of English School District; and Dean

Ingram, President of the NL Teachers Association. Our discussions often involve the pandemic and its impact on students and schools; however, we

continue to be vigilant in our attempts to keep issues that are crucial to education at the top of every

discussion such as vaccinations for teachers, class size, administrator workload, student assistant time,

mental and emotional wellness, and teacher

allocations.

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**#OurStoriesOurVoices**

Canada's National History Society is proud to introduce

#OurStoriesOurVoices, a new national youth program

a story that is important in their community’s past and

share it with Canadians across the country through social media,

an online contest, a virtual youth forum, and a special

publication.

The #OurStoriesOurVoices national contest invites

students to select a person, place, event, or thing in their

community that other Canadians should know about and

to share their research and analysis in a creative format.

The deadline for student submissions is May 7, 2021.

Learn more at [CanadasHistory.ca/EnterOSOV.](https://www.canadashistory.ca/youth/ourstoriesourvoices)

Teachers can register online to receive a free digital

educator’s package that gives access to promotional

materials and classroom resources related to the

#OurStoriesOurVoices national contest.

**Learn more at**

[**CanadasHistory.ca/IntroducingOSOV**](https://www.canadashistory.ca/education/classroom-resources/ourstoriesourvoices-in-the-classroom)**.**

# Positive Action for Student Success

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**PASS Program in NL**

**Overview:**

Positive Actions for Student Success (PASS) is

offered in many of our intermediate and high schools as a support to students who are struggling with

successfully engaging in school.

Student Success Teachers (SSTs) build relationships with students and provide learning environments that are safe and caring. The Student Success Teacher is one member of the school team providing support for students at critical times in their learning journey.

Sometimes a student’s optimal learning environment may need to be adjusted to provide supports that

extend beyond the classroom - that is the role of the SST. PASS programming may help a student

reconnect in person, experience academic success, and find their way through a difficult life situation.

**Supports/Programming:**

At the high school level, PASS programming can

support a student’s learning through credit rescue, credit recovery, and new course registration. PASS support is available to students who may have left school early, before completing all the courses

necessary to graduate.

The goal for all PASS programming is student

engagement and success!

Students can be referred to PASS by a teacher,

guidance counselor, or school administrator.

Sometimes students reach out themselves and begin that relationship with the Student Success Teacher.

**Resources:**

Student Success Teachers work with many partners to provide supports and resources for students. These partnerships are as varied as the communities in which

schools are located.

**Contact Information:**

Department of Education

Tony Hillier

Program Development Specialist

Programs & Services Division

Department of Education

Phone: (709) 729-3592

Fax: (709) 729-1400

Email: [thillier@gov.nl.ca](mailto:thillier@gov.nl.ca)

Newfoundland and Labrador School District (NLESD)

Debbie Howse

Provincial Director of Programs and Comprehensive School Health

Phone: (709) 758-2385

Email: debbiehowse@nlesd.ca



Online Registration will get underway soon for all children starting Kindergarten in September

2022 within the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (Kinderstart during the 2021/22 school year).

Depending on the region of the province in which you live, families with children who will be 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2022 can avail of the following registration times:

Monday, May 10/ Tuesday, May 11 for Central, Western and Labrador regions  
Wednesday, May 12/ Thursday, May 13, for

Avalon Region (includes St. John’s Metro)

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and will be ongoing for both English and Early French Immersions (EFI) programs (where offered) simultaneously.

For more information, please visit the [Kindergarten Registration](https://www.nlesd.ca/families/kindergartenregistration.jsp) page of the District’s website. Please note, the registration window will not be available in advance of the dates and times noted above.

**Kinderstart: Frequently Asked Questions**

**When should I register my child for KinderStart?**

Registration for KinderStart is automatic when

parents/caregivers register their child for

Kindergarten at their designated school. Registration takes place in the calendar year a child becomes four years of age. Parents/caregivers should watch their local newspapers and school newsletters for more

details regarding Kindergarten registration in their area.

**2. Is busing provided for KinderStart sessions if I live greater than 1.6 kilometres from my school?**

Busing is not provided for KinderStart sessions.

**3. Where can I find a list of licensed child care centres in the province?**

On the [Department of Child, Youth and Family Services website](http://www.gov.nl.ca/cyfs/childcare/https:/www.gov.nl.ca/education/faq).

If you have questions or concerns regarding regulated child care centres in your area, please contact the

office nearest you:

* Clarenville (709) 466-6355
* Corner Brook (709) 637-2763
* Gander (709) 651-3306
* Happy Valley-Goose Bay (709) 637-2763
* St. John’s (709) 752-4209

**4. How do I register my child for KinderStart?**

Registration for KinderStart is automatic when

parents/caregivers register their child for

Kindergarten at their designated school.

**5. What does my child need to know before**

**entering school?**

Children arrive at KinderStart at different stages of development and with a multitude of experiences. Teachers organize their classrooms to meet the

developing needs of all children. The KinderStart program is designed to expand children’s learning

experiences, extend understandings, shape concepts, acquire basic skills and form positive attitudes toward learning.

Parents who support their children’s learning in the early years through reading, listening, singing,

embracing, experiencing new things and promoting

independence will have given their child the

necessary skills for school.

**6. My child has a disability. Is there anything I should know before registering him for**

**KinderStart?**

Should a parent have a child with a disability entering school and the child already has an ISSP, a transition meeting with members of the school attending should happen prior to registration for KinderStart. The child may need additional support such as student assistant, itinerant or special education.

If the child does not have an ISSP the parent may initiate the process by contacting the school where the child will be registered and begin the

collaboration process.

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**Administrative Assistants and Secretaries**

On behalf of the NL Federation of School Councils thank you to all our school secretaries/administrative assistants for your commitment and dedication to our students and schools.

Our school secretaries are part of the heart of our school. They are often the first person parents and students meet, and their duties extend far beyond the clerical role.

Thank you for helping our students adapt to the new restrictions and multiple changes over the past year. For every small act that you think goes unnoticed, we see and appreciate you. Our students will always

remember the kindness you show them every day. You are vital to the operation and survival of our schools. We will always be grateful!

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**NLFSC School Council Person of the Year Award**

Do you have someone on your school council who

has made a significant contribution to enhancing learning experience and school life at your school?

If so, please consider nominating them for the NLFSC 2020-21 School Council Person of the Year Award

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Award is to publicly recognize significant and outstanding achievements of School Council Members.

**Candidates**

Candidates for the award may be any school council member from member school councils (i.e. parents, teachers, students, community reps, principals).

Candidates who contribute by actions and efforts to the development of a positive learning environment may be nominated by their colleagues, students, or parents.

**Criteria:**

* Performance of volunteer duties
* A significant school and/or system-related

achievement

* A specific innovation or achievement of

significant value or importance to the school community, or

* A unique circumstance considered worthy of

recognition by the NLFSC Board

* A member of a school council in good

standing with the NLFSC.

**Nomination Procedure**

Nominations will be submitted on the Award

nomination form by:

Individual School Council members

Students, Parents, or School Council as a whole.

**Nominations must include:**

* The name of the candidate(s) and school council location
* Names of at least two nominators and their positions; or the school council chair on

behalf of the entire school council

* Signature of the administrator or School Council Chair, or in the case of either/both being a nominee, an equivalent, and a short rationale for the nomination.

The provision of supporting documentation (letters of support, etc.) is important. Nomination forms will be submitted to the NLFSC Office by mail or email.

Nominations must be submitted not later than **June 4, 2021**. Late nominations will not be accepted.

The Winner will be announced by the end of

September, 2021.

**School Council Person of the Year Selection**

**Criteria**

The Selection Committee will take into

consideration:

Award criteria and quality of the submission

including appropriate and supportive documentation.

**Note to nominators:** *School Council Persons of the Year are people who affect the lives and learning of many people in the school community.*

*The Selection Committee will be looking at the*

*quality and care that has been put into the*

*submission including such details as supportive*

*documentation, testimonials, personal anecdotes, etc. from more than one person or the school council as a whole.*

*Past nominations may be resubmitted*

**Nomination Form**

The Nomination Form can be found on the last page this issue of The Cuffer.

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**2021 National Volunteer Week**

This year’s National Volunteer Week provided the opportunity for everyone to salute the invaluable work and inspiring acts of kindness shown by

thousands of people across NL. If nothing else, the pandemic and shut-down has taught us how vital

volunteers are and how much their services are

needed to keep our non-profits functioning.

The week allowed us to reflect on the efforts given by school councils throughout this province who are committed to helping students, and supporting schools.

The global pandemic has changed the way education is delivered and the way that schools operate. Never before has the role of a school council been as

important as it is now. Many of you have shown great leadership in advocating on behalf of your school and communities. Your commitment to supporting your children and schools has been reaffirming,

constructive and exceptionally encouraging. Thank you for your dedication. Please continue to be the bridge and information highway for your school community.



**2021 Inclusive Education Award**

The Provincial Government, through the

Newfoundland and Labrador Association for

Community Living is inviting nominations for the 2021 Inclusive Education Award. The deadline for submissions is May 14.

Each year, the award is presented to a K-12 school in Newfoundland and Labrador for their exceptional spirit of creating a school that is welcoming and

inclusive for students with an intellectual disability.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Community Living is a non-profit organization that works with and on behalf of individuals with an

intellectual disability and their families.

The Provincial Government supports a welcoming school culture where all members of the school community feel they belong, realize their potential, and contribute to the life of the school.

For more information contact:

Hope Colbourne  
Newfoundland and Labrador Association for

Community Living  
709-722-0790  
Email: [nlacl@nlacl.ca](mailto:nlacl@nlacl.ca)



**EYE SEE EYE LEARN**

**Newfoundland and Labrador Eye See Eye Learn Program**

On December 23, 2020, the Department of Health and Community Services announced a new pilot

program that supports children as they prepare to start school.

The program, known as Eye See Eye Learn, is

designed to allow children to overcome

potential barriers to eye exams and contributes to a more positive learning experience, as well as an overall improvement to their quality of life.

The Eye See Eye Learn Program provides a free comprehensive eye examination for every

kindergarten-age child resident in the province and provides one pair of free prescription eyeglasses to children who require them. Where available, the

parent is required to access private insurance before seeking financial assistance from the program.

The Essilor Foundation is providing the eyeglasses free of charge to children who require them, and the

program is administered through the Newfoundland

and Labrador Association of Optometrists.

To be eligible, a child must be born in 2016, and they must have a valid MCP card.

If eligible, your child may be provided free eye

examination and one pair of prescription eyeglasses (if required and not covered by your personal

insurance or another government program.

**HOW CAN MY CHILD PARTICIPATE?**

1. Book an appointment with a Newfoundland
2. and Labrador Optometrist to arrange an eye examination for your child.
3. Complete the Eye See Eye Learn application form, available on the Department of Health and Community Services Website, and give it to the Optometrist at your child’s eye

examination.

1. If your child is covered by insurance, please bring a copy of your insurance documents to your appointment. The Department of Health and Community Services (HCS) will cover the cost of any amount not covered by your insurance (to a maximum of $80.00 per child). If you do not have insurance, HCS will cover the cost of the eye examination (to a maximum of $80.00). If required, and not covered by your insurance, the program will provide one free pair of prescription eyeglasses per child.
2. Please remember to bring your child’s valid MCP card with you to your appointment.

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Parachute Safe Kids Week will take place May 30 to June 5, 2021 with the theme #PlaySafeOutdoors.

Safe Kids Week is an annual campaign to raise public awareness of child safety issues in Canada, encouraging community involvement as part of the solution.

The topic of 2021’s Safe Kids Week digital campaign will be outdoor play, encouraging children to #PlaySafeOutdoors and engage in unstructured, risky and exciting play, often.

With fewer than five per cent of children and fewer than one per cent of youth meeting movement behaviour guidelines during COVID-19 restrictions, outdoor play is more important than ever for kids. Parachute wants kids to #PlaySafeOutdoors to encourage mental, physical, social and emotional well-being.

**For more information, please email**

safekidsweek@parachute.ca



The Cuffer is a benefit of membership in the

Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils.

The views expressed or implied in this

publication are not necessarily official positions of the Federation.

The mention of any program, organization,

resource, product, person, place, or school does not constitute an endorsement by NLFSC.

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St. John’s NL

A1B 4J9

Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils

School Council Person of The Year Award 2020-21

Nomination Form (please print)

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of School Council: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nominator 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nominator 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please briefly indicate the rationale for this nomination based on the criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Signature Nominator 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature Nominator 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of School Administrator/School Council Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Note: You are encouraged to provide documentation such as letters of support, testimonials,

anecdotes, etc. in support of the nomination. Previous nominations may be resubmitted.

Deadline for Submission: June 4, 2021