

June 2023 / issue #7

CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Newsletter



Centre of Excellence for Energy's
BIGGEST EARTH DAY EVER

Centre of Excellence for Health's
incredible Youth Mental Health
Symposium

Centre of Excellence for Entrepreneurship
gets EGGcited about PITCHfest 2023

Centre of Excellence for Digital Innovation
hosts their first Disinformation Conference

Summer Learning Opportunities with
The Centres of Excellence

Ideas and activities for your classrooms

NB Teachers - Thank you for all that you do!

The Centres of Excellence initiative aims to support the work of teachers across the province by providing virtual and experiential learning opportunities that connect learning to critical sectors in New Brunswick. Due to the overwhelming support and engagement we have seen from teachers and students in the province this year, it is clear that this support goes both ways. Teachers and district staff have propelled the initiative forward by providing feedback and perspective informed by classroom experience, building learning activities collaboratively with COE Leads, and bringing these opportunities directly to students across the province. The COE Team is sincerely grateful for the ongoing collaboration and the increasing engagement we have seen this year.



During the 2022-2023 school year, the Centres of Excellence have recorded **2,352** teacher engagements and **22,685** student engagements with COE events and opportunities. These numbers do not reflect the engagement that happens when teachers use COE learning activities and resources from the [website](#) in their classrooms. As we look forward to the next school year, we will aim to expand on opportunities that have had the most impact and incorporate the thoughtful feedback we have received along the way.

As you head into this well-deserved summer break, please know that you are appreciated. We are looking forward to connecting with you again in September!





CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ENERGY

Provincial Solar Car Challenge sponsored by SWEB Energy



SWEB Energy, NBCC and COE Energy partnered for a successful Solar Car Challenge in Saint John in May. Students built and tested their cars in advance and brought their best versions to campus to test against other teams. There were two divisions, one for single solar panel cars and an open division for students who had more than one panel and/or motor. The winning teams in the open division was "Natural Disaster" from Belleisle Regional High School with best time of 3.27 s. The top team in the single panel division was "Samden" from Hampton High School with a time of 7.3 s. Congratulations to all of the students who built and tested solar cars. Thank you to SWEB Energy for sponsoring the kits and this event. Stay tuned for regional competitions next spring!



K-5 Earth Day Action Bingo LIVE EVENT



Earth Day was celebrated BIG this year as **174** classes and **3,294** K-5 students across the province joined the Centre of Excellence for Energy to learn more about climate change and be part of the solution! Students participated in an interactive Climate Change Trivia, a bilingual student reading of the book *One Earth/Une Seule Terre*, as well as a climate change presentation with Geoff MacDonald from the Gaia Project.

Classes were challenged to do five acts of 'earth kindness', in Earth Day Action Bingo. Multiple classes organized school ground clean-ups, recycled art projects, completed a Wabanaki Languages Outdoor Scavenger Hunt, created an energy saving tips poster for their classrooms and schools, identified renewable and non-renewable energy sources in NB - and more! Many classes completed the Action Bingo and submitted pictures. Well done!

Caledonia Regional High School Energy Expo



In May, COE Energy and its partners attended the Energy Expo at Caledonia Regional High School. This school-wide event introduced students to experts working in the energy sector and exposed them to a variety of careers in the energy sector.

Sessions were given by:

- NB Power**
Miles Goff
- The Gaia Project**
Jimmy Therrien
- Science East**
Michael Edwards
- NBCC School of Engineering Technologies**
Tara Fife- Hitchcock
Beverly Waddell-Nelson
Sam Rayco
- Women in Nuclear**
Michelle Hawkes
- Moltex Energy**
Ryan Brown
- Natural Forces**
Trent Cormier
- COE Energy**
Veronique Landry
- EECD**
Winnie Hsu

Thank you to CRHS teachers Cara Beth Elliott and Kate Godbout for organizing this event.



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR HEALTH

Healthy Learners Easy Summer Recipes - Grades 6-8

Are you or your students new to preparing healthy meals and snacks? With summer vacation fast approaching you may need some inspiration and direction to help with making lunches at home. The attached resource, created by Horizon Health and COE Health, will guide you through easy recipes to make at home that taste great. Try these recipes and you'll increase your food literacy skills along the way. Happy Cooking! [Find the recipes here!](#)



Jack.org's Be There Certificate - Grades 9-12

The Be There Certificate is a free, digital, self-paced learning experience designed to increase mental health literacy and provide youth with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to safely support anyone who may be struggling with their mental health. It will provide a deep understanding of how to recognize when someone might be struggling with their mental health, their role in supporting that person, and how to connect them to the help they need. [Find It Here](#)



Youth Mental Health Symposium - Grades 9-12

The Youth Mental Health Symposium (YMHS) was held on May 24th. It was coordinated by Centre of Excellence Health Lead, Daneen Dymond, and hosted nearly 200 students as well as educators from around the province. The event was planned collaboratively, based on conversations with New Brunswick students, with the goal of supporting positive mental health for youth across the province. By all accounts, the keynotes, breakout sessions, and partner kiosks were a resounding success, and we have received overwhelming positive feedback from students and educators.

We are incredibly grateful for the support of our partners, with special recognition to RBC as our primary sponsor. Their robust partnership support, along with contributions from esteemed organizations such as the Department of Social Development, Department of Health, Horizon Health, NB Medical Society, and Shannex, has been instrumental in our success. We can't wait for next year's event.

Please check out [this video](#) that was created by incredibly talented students from St. Stephen High School, under the leadership of their teacher, Scott Legge!





Intergenerational Day - All Ages

On June 1 of each year, people of all ages across Canada come together to celebrate Intergenerational Day. This day promotes knowledge and cultural exchange between different generations and fosters healthy relationships among seniors and young people in the community.

This year, the COE for Health celebrated Intergenerational Day with a province-wide tea party with participation from more than **300** students and residents from across New Brunswick!

Michelle Alcorn from Atlantic Cooks and her mother, Helen, hosted the celebration by baking biscuits to have with their tea, while some amazing guests discussed the history of tea, cultural issues surrounding tea, and tea judging.

[Watch the live recording here!](#)



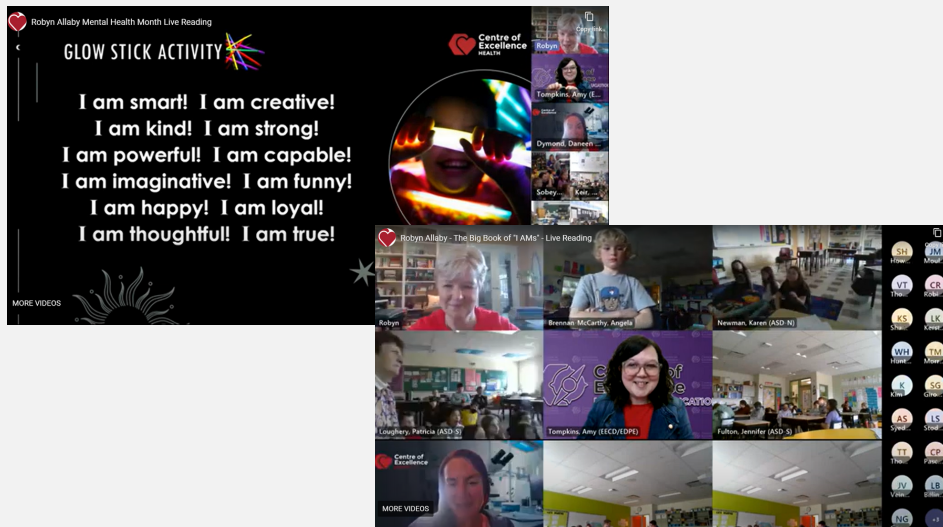
Building a Balanced Plate - Grades 3-5

Are you looking to teach your students the basics of healthy eating?

In this activity, learn and practise how to build healthy, balanced snacks and lunches.

You will also receive a guide to keep that can assist with making decisions for what will be on your plate each day.

[Find the activity here!](#)



Mental Health Month LIVE Author Events - K-5

On May 12th, New Brunswick author Robyn Allaby joined with **86** educators and more than **1,600** K-5 students to share her two inspirational children's books - *Where IS This Light?* and *The Big Book of I Ams*. The interactive sessions included singing, glowsticks, student participation, and activities for students to develop positive mental health habits in their everyday lives. Check out the book guides and recordings of these events on our website, with ready-to-go classroom resources!

[Gr.3-5: The Big Book of I Ams Book Guide](#)

[K-2: Where IS This Light? Book Guide](#)

Summer Learning Opportunity Mindfulness and Breathwork

July 18
Grades k-5

During this 30-minute session, students and families will learn the meaning of mindfulness and why it is useful to learn and practice every day.

Reach out to daneen.dymond@gnb.ca for more information.





CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Summer Learning Opportunity What is Cryptocurrency?

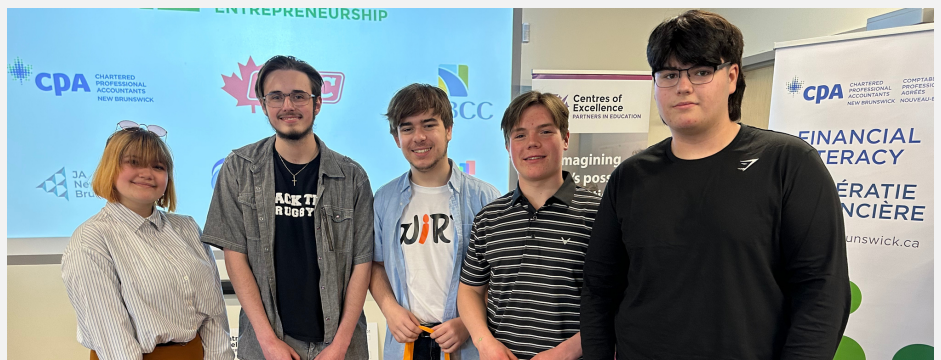
July 11 9 - 9:30 a.m.
Grades 6 - 12

During this 30-minute session, students will learn the meaning behind the term "cryptocurrency." Jill Shaw, COE Lead for Entrepreneurship will use real life examples to explain the controversial investment method that has peaked the interest of teenagers. This session will also outline how to discern safe versus unsafe investments.



PITCHfest 2023

Spring PITCHfest took place at NBCC in Moncton on May 16 with exceptional student contestants. PITCHfest is a one-day event that provides an enrichment and development opportunity for students to pitch their ideas to community mentors and partners.



Congratulations to the 2023 New Brunswick PITCHfest champion, Isaac Hierligh of Kennebecasis Valley High School! Isaac's two-minute pitch for creating a student investment club won the \$500 top prize, sponsored by Community Business Development Corporation of New Brunswick (CBDC), and impressed the panel of judges from across New Brunswick. Second place was awarded to Lessa Thornton of Saint John High School and third place to Matthew Pelzmann of Riverview High School. Special thanks to our partners for providing judges and sponsorship: CBDC, New Brunswick Chartered Professional Accountants, Junior Achievement, FCNB, VENN Innovation and NBCC.

RBC Future Launch Day at Fredericton High School



On Feb. 23rd, the Centre of Excellence for Entrepreneurship partnered with Royal Bank of Canada to host #RBCFutureLaunch Day at Fredericton High School. Financial experts made an impact on hundreds of high school students by delivering workshops and seminars on topics like personal financial planning, job search, and digital footprints. We are happy to say, it was a great success!





CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneurship Week For K-12 Classes

The Centre of Excellence for Entrepreneurship collaborated with local New Brunswick entrepreneurs to highlight their journey and share success stories. Site visits and tours took place in various locations around the province for K-12 students.

On March 31st, high school students from Saint John had the opportunity to visit the Simply for Life (SFL) flagship store and headquarters. Claudine Sweeney, Chief Operating Officer and co-founder, treated students to a tour of the facility. She told her story of SFL's humble beginnings from her basement in Saint John to a multi-million-dollar company with over 30 franchises across Canada.

[Video: SFL SITE VISIT](#)

On March 15th, students from Cambridge Narrows and Fredericton High School visited the corporate headquarters of Rocket, a Fredericton-based print-and-marketing-services company. During their tour, students were given an end-to-end experience, highlighted by having their own personalized luggage tags designed, printed and cut. Throughout the tour, CEO Scott Williams was able to share the different services Rocket offers and how they're taking their business to the next level.

On March 27th, 50 Grade 1 students from M. Gerald Teed Elementary School in Saint John visited the headquarters and showroom for NB Box Rising Tide Gifts. The owner, Ingrid Munroe, gave students a tour of the warehouse and generously allowed each student to pack their own "NB Box" with treasures to take home. Ingrid also explained her entrepreneurial journey, as a mother of three young boys, and how she identified a business opportunity to create a gifting service featuring the talent of local New Brunswick artists. [Video: NB BOX VISIT](#)

From Mystery to Must-Have! A Cross-Curricular Learning Activity for K-2



Entrepreneurs have incredible creativity and unique perspective. In this activity, stretch your student's creativity as they take a random mystery object and transform it into a must-have item for customers - just like a real entrepreneur!

[Find the activity here!](#)



Centre of Excellence
ENTREPRENEURSHIP



K-2 Eggs Away LIVE Event - April 6 and April 12

In April, **41** classes and over **720** students participated in this hands-on learning activity that included a read-aloud, a virtual trip to the Great Wall of China, and a design challenge! Students tested their entrepreneurial spirit as they created, constructed, revised, and developed a solution to an age-old problem for Humpty Dumpty and his love of walls. Learners had the opportunity to solve problems, build entrepreneurial spirit, and hear about incredible entrepreneurs here in New Brunswick!





CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR DIGITAL INNOVATION



Grades 3-5: How to Code a Sandcastle LIVE Event

In May, more than 500 students from across New Brunswick joined with the Centre of Excellence for Digital Innovation for a “beach-like” experience, designed to give learners the opportunity to experience computer programming.

Students completed challenges, designed algorithms, and learned about future careers in coding, all while playing in the sand!

[Find the activity here!](#)

Summer Learning Opportunity

Grades 6-12

The Centre of Excellence for Digital Innovation be offering several summer learning opportunities over the summer in partnership with Cisco's 'Skills for All' program.

Course Offerings include:
Operating Systems Basics
Computer Hardware Basics
Introduction to Cybersecurity
and
Introduction to Python

[Apply here](#) or share the application link with interested students.



Disinformation Conference

On May 31, high school students in New Brunswick enhanced their digital literacy skills at the Detecting Deception Conference: Empowering Students to Spot Online Disinformation and Become Digital Sleuths. Held at St. Thomas University, the conference was a resounding success, bringing together more than 60 students from Nackawic High School, Harvey High School, and Leo Hayes High School.

The conference featured enlightening workshops, keynote speeches, and activities aimed at equipping students to effectively analyze and verify digital content. Students seized the opportunity to learn from leading experts about identifying fake news, evaluating information sources, and recognizing deceptive tactics in online content.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of the inspiring speakers, including Catharine Tunney from CBC's Parliament Hill bureau; Dr. Angela Wisniewski, Assistant Professor in Communications and Public Policy at STU; and Dimitri Pavlounis, Director of Research at CIVIX. Student voices were a vital part of the conversation, with contributions from Giuliana Grillo de Lambarri, incoming editor-in-chief of The Aquinian, and her colleague, Daniel Salas. Lily Van Beek, Grade 12 student and founder of Student Stories N.B., generously shared her thoughtful perspective on youth representation in media.

We are immensely grateful to all teachers who facilitated their students' participation in the conference, underscoring the importance of digital literacy in today's world. Our profound appreciation goes to Beth Christie, Crystal Roberts and Maria Guerrero, whose hard work made the conference an enriching and unforgettable experience for all participants.





CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR DIGITAL INNOVATION

Digital Literacy Fair at McAdam Elementary

March 1, McAdam Elementary School hosted an event that brought together students and teachers to explore the world of digital innovation. The event was led by Adam Binet, the Centre of Excellence for Digital Innovation lead, Amy Tompkins, the Centre of Excellence K-5 specialist, and a team from BrilliantLabs.

The day was filled with fun and experiential activities that allowed the students to learn by doing. Students were fully engaged throughout the day, and the teachers were impressed by the enthusiasm and curiosity of their students. If you are interested in a similar event for your school, please reach out to adam.binet@gnb.ca.

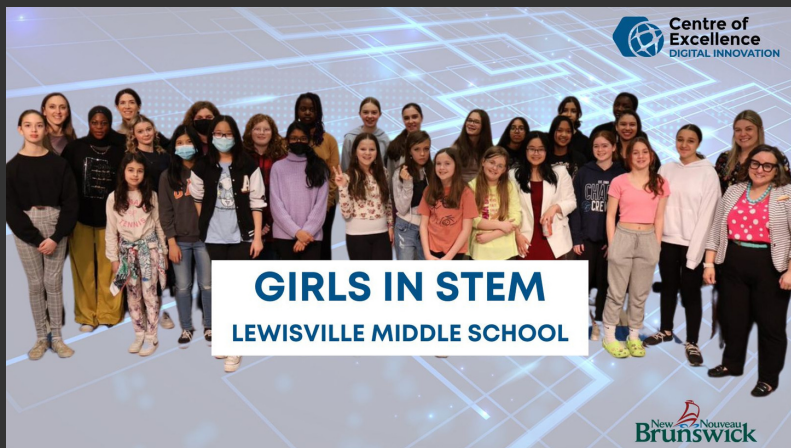


New Brunswick Teams Stand Out in ICTC's CyberTitan VI National Finals

'CyberDragons' of Nashwaaksis Middle School from Fredericton secured the top spot in the CyberTitan Middle School Division Competition, demonstrating their aptitude for cybersecurity at the Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute at UNB. Other New Brunswick teams included 'Yottabytes' from Nashwaaksis Middle School and 'Your Team and I' from Harrison Trimble in Moncton.

The CyberTitan competition offers a unique opportunity for students to showcase their skills, learn from experts, and potentially pave their way to a rewarding career in STEM fields. Join us in nurturing the next generation of cybersecurity professionals!

For more information or to register teams, please contact Adam Binet at adam.binet@gnb.ca. Register before July 1, 2023, and enjoy a 20 per cent discount!



Digital Skills for Life Event / Girls in ICT Day 2023

On April 27, Lewisville Middle School in ASD-E was buzzing with excitement as the Centre of Excellence for Digital Innovation hosted a transformative event focusing on "Digital Skills for Life." This event was part of the global "Girls in ICT Day 2023" celebrations, designed to inspire and empower students who identify as female to become creators in the digital world.





CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE CONTACT THE LEADS

Congratulations, Adam Trider!

Congratulations to Adam Trider who will be moving on to a new adventure as the Acting Subject Coordinator for 6-12 Science/Innovation and Fine Arts in ASD-E, beginning in September 2023! Adam has supported student and teacher learning across the province as COE Energy Lead for the past three years. As the original COE Lead, Adam's creativity and leadership helped to build, shape and grow the model. The COE Team would like to express our sincere appreciation to Adam for his exceptional work. You will be missed, but we expect to work with you closely in your new role!



COE Summer Learning Opportunity



St. Thomas University

Grades 9-12

July 18 (10:00 am – 2:00 pm)

August 15 (1:00 pm-2:00 pm)

Students are invited to join us either in-person or to virtually to exploring university options and how to offset costs with scholarships, bursaries and other opportunities.

At this in-person event, students will be invited to lunch and a campus tour in addition to attending the presentation.

[Sign Up Here!](#)

HOW TO ENGAGE WITH THE CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE



COE Website – Includes classroom activities, live events, experiential learning opportunities, career pathway information and speaker series videos.



COE Newsletter – Sent directly to your inbox on the last week of each month. It includes information about upcoming events, announcements, and stories from the centres!



Connect Directly with a COE Lead for collaboration and support, sign up for our mailing lists, or email COE@gnb.ca with your questions.



Twitter - [@NBCOE](https://twitter.com/NBCOE) - Follow us on Twitter to see what's happening at the Centres of Excellence between newsletters.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE COE LEADS



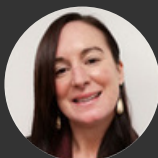
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