

## Kenora Catholic District School Board

We are a Roman Catholic school system dedicated to excellence in education, the Christian formation of youth, and meaningful partnerships with family, community and Church.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
February 17, 2023**

MEETING DATE:	February 17, 2023
LOCATION OF MEETING:	Microsoft Teams Meeting - St. Louis Living Arts School
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Special Education Advisory Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	1:30 PM – 3:18 PM
NEXT MEETING:	Friday, March 24, 2023 – St. John Paul II School – Microsoft Teams

	ATTENDANCE	PERSON	TITLE
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane VanderZande	Voting Member - Member at Large, Vice Chair
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dianne Griffiths	Voting Member - Member at Large
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne Sweeney	Voting Member - Member at Large
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Erica Murray	Voting Member - KACL Representative
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joel Willett	Voting Member - FIREFLY Representative
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shirley Jette	Voting Member - Harmony Centre for Community Living Red Lake
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marie Lundin	Voting Member – Trustee Representative
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nicole Kurtz	Director of Education
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Batters	Special Education Coordinator
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teresa Gallik	Chair, Board of Trustees
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cathy McQuillan	Recording Secretary

**1. Opening Prayer: Nicole Kurtz**

**2. Roll Call – Nicole Kurtz**

- Regrets: Cathy McQuillan, Teresa Gallik
- Guests: Maureen Frankcom, Jordelle Collum

**3. Approval of January 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

- Moved by Shirley
- Seconded by Erica

**4. Correspondence: Nil**

**5. New Business:**

**Ministry & Board Updates – Nicole Kurtz**

Nicole went through the Power-Point Presentation - Attached **4**

**Northern Adjustment Funding – Andrea Batters**

- In April Alison Smith will be coming to SEAC about Ministry funding
- Andrea presented on the Northern Adjustment Funding:
- Each year, for about the past five years or so the NSI funding is supplied to northern boards due to our remote location.
- Andrea reviewed the funding priorities.
  - Student Psych Services
  - Regional Tele-service

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- Urgent Response Teams – As needed and apply to NSI, for temporary special education service providers will provide ‘on the ground’ support.
- Coterminous Board Response personnel – Building partnerships with other boards for joint projects.
- Regional Social Work Support with a clinician at Firefly
- Mental Health Intervention (awareness...)
- Integrated Services for Northern Children (ISNC) – we share with Keewatin Patricia and Northwest Catholic
- The Science of Reading – New this year, PD plan for staff
- ESL/ELL Training – New this year.
- Universal Design for Learning – New this year, funds for PD
- Funding for teachers who want to take a special education course.

### 6. School Update – St. Louis School – Jordelle Collum, Maureen Frankcom **11**

- Jordelle Collum presented the Power-Point - Attached
- Questions:

1. Comment – Great to learn about the Entry program.

2. Anne asked if Early Entry Program was new to St. Louis?

Yes, it is the first time at St. Louis. Clarification the student must have an autism diagnosis. St. Louis is in the middle of the program. Joel talked about how it is a partnership program; Firefly, KACL, school and family. All reports on outcomes of set goals. Documentation is monthly, and a lot of data collection is ongoing. Jordelle reviews goals in the service plan each month.

3. Question about if bussing is for all Kenora students to St. Louis?

They do not have a special designation as a school, no bussing.

### 7. Professional Development: Nil

### 8. Business arising from the last meeting:

KCDSB Letter of Support for DDSB from SEAC Approved at January 17, 2023 Board Meeting–Marie Lundin

- The letter has been approved by the board.

Early Literacy Team Presentation to the KCDSB SEAC Opportunity – Andrea Batters

- Willing to present to SEAC in April or June.
- Suggestion to plan for a June presentation.

### 9. Agency Reports

- FIREFLY – Joel Willett - Attached **29**
- KACL – Erica Murray
  - Thanks to STAHS from one of their parents about the amazing support for their child at STAHS.  
Erica asked when the transition plans from daycares would be wanted by the schools.
    - April 6 - Andrea Batters
- Harmony Center for Community Living – Shirley Jette
  - Nothing to report

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### Other Reports from Members-at-Large

- **Dianne Griffiths**
    - Nothing to report.
  - **Anne Sweeney**
    - Nothing to report.
  - **Diane VanderZande**
    - Nice to be in person.
11. **Trustee Report – Marie Lundin**
- No board meeting to report on for this meeting.
12. **Coordinator Report – Andrea Batters – Attached 30**
13. **Next Meetings:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
1:30 PM	Friday	March 24, 2023	St. John Paul School / Microsoft Teams
1:30 PM	Friday	April 14, 2023	St. Thomas Aquinas High School / Microsoft Teams
1:30 PM	Tuesday	May 16, 2023	St. John School Red Lake / Microsoft Teams
1:30 PM	Friday	June 16, 2023	Board Office / Microsoft Teams

# SEAC Meeting

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# Ministry & Board Updates

- A new Computer Studies curriculum, beginning with a new Grade 10 course to be implemented in September 2023.
- A new Technological Education curriculum, beginning with revised Grade 9 and Grade 10 courses to be offered in September 2024.
- Literacy Team – Reading Screening at KCDSB
- Videos from EQAO to Parents/Caregivers
  - [EQAO - Grades 3 & 6](#)
  - [EQAO - Grade 9 Math](#)
  - [EQAO - Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test](#)

Pink Shirt Day on February 22

Ski and Snowboarding Program for Students in Grades 4 – 8 running from February 24 – March 10

Kindergarten Registration Week

2023: [https://www.kcdsb.on.ca/news/central\\_news/kindergarten\\_registration\\_2023](https://www.kcdsb.on.ca/news/central_news/kindergarten_registration_2023)

Director's

Report: [https://www.kcdsb.on.ca/news/central\\_news/2022\\_director\\_s\\_annual\\_report](https://www.kcdsb.on.ca/news/central_news/2022_director_s_annual_report)

KCDSB APP – we have incredible feedback and participation with our new KCDSB just in the past 30 days we've had 126 people download the App. We have over 4,089 active users and close to 800 downloads across the system. CPIC members are asked to spread the word about the new communications tool for families, students and

staff: [https://www.kcdsb.on.ca/parents/k\\_c\\_d\\_s\\_b\\_a\\_p\\_p](https://www.kcdsb.on.ca/parents/k_c_d_s_b_a_p_p)

# Calendar Decision

Draft 2 as of: January 4, 2023

## 2023 - 2024 School Year Calendar

SCHOOL HOLIDAY
PD DAY
EXAMS

August 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

20 Instructional Days

September 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

20 Instructional Days

October 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

21 Instructional Days

November 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

16 Instructional Days

December 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

17 Instructional Days

January 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

20 Instructional Days

February 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

15 Instructional Days

March 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

20 Instructional Days

April 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

22 Instructional Days

May 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

14 Instructional Days

June 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

All students begin school on August 30, 2023 and end on June 21, 2024

School Holidays	
September 4, 2023	Labour Day
October 9, 2023	Thanksgiving
Dec. 25, 2023 - Jan. 5, 2024	Winter Holidays
February 19, 2024	Family Day
March 11-15, 2024	March Break
March 29, 2024	Good Friday
April 1, 2024	Easter Monday
May 20, 2024	Victoria Day
First Day of School for Students August 30, 2023	
Last Day of School for Students June 21, 2024	
187 Instructional Days + 7 PD Days = 194	

Professional Activity Days
August 28, 2023
August 29, 2023
October 27, 2023
November 27, 2023
January 26, 2024
April 19, 2024
June 10, 2024





KCDSB Festival du Voyageur

Feb 23 4:30 PM · École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys

☆ Interested



Early Years Arts Festival – March Saturday March 25 from 10 – 12 at St. John Paul II School – families with young children. Variety of early years arts activities, including new Design and Stem focus for young children – partnership with High School Trades Cooperative Teacher. Back will be Cardboard Creation and a host of other activities. No Registration – completely free.



# Leader of Experiential Learning

## MNR Heavy Equipment Simulator @ St. Thomas Aquinas School

Click [here](#) to see the  
simulator in action!





*Welcome!*  
*Special Education Advisory Committee*  
*Presentation*

*St. Louis Living Arts*

February 17th, 2023



## Two Main Focuses of Today

Entry to School  
Program



St. Louis Living Arts  
Programming Update



# Entry to School Program





## **What is Entry to School?**

- **Ministry funded program that is free for families**
- **New Program as of 2022**
- **GOAL: Help facilitate a smooth transition into school for children with Autism**
- **Offered in partnership with local school boards, Firefly, and KACL**
- **The Entry to School Program is a 12 month program that includes two main parts**

## Who is Eligible?

To participate in The Entry to School Program, each child must:

- ★ **Have an Autism diagnosis and be registered in the Ontario Autism Program**
- ★ **Between 3 and 6 years old as of December 31st of the year that they are starting school**
- ★ **Starting Kindergarten or Grade 1 for the first time**
- ★ **Eligible clients will be sent a Letter of Invitation from the Ministry, usually through email, and can contact Firefly to enroll.**



## **Phase One: Intervention**

**The first phase is a sixth months of intensive services of up to 15 hours per week. (Usually 3 hours per day, Monday to Friday) It is a group based, skill building program, focused on helping children develop school-readiness skills in six areas:**

- **Communication**
- **Play**
- **Social Interaction**
- **Functional Routines**
- **Behavioural Self-Management**
- **Pre-academics, learning and attention**

## Multi-disciplinary Team

The group-based program is multi-disciplinary and delivered by staff with expertise in:

**Autism Spectrum Disorder**

**Applied behaviour analysis**

**Speech-language pathology**

**Occupational therapy**

**Early childhood development**





## What Our Team Looked Like

- **Entry to School Coordinator**
- **ABA Therapist (Applied Behaviour Analysis)**
- **BCBA (Board Certified Behaviour Analysis)**
- **Occupational Therapist**
- **Speech Language Pathologist**
- **Dietician**
- **Firefly Service Coordinator**
- **Family/Caregiver Skills Building**
- **Infant and Child Development Consultant**
- **Principal**
- **Classroom Teacher**
- **Early Childhood Educator**
- **Learning Resource Teacher**
- **KCDSB Positive Behavioural Interventions and Supports Lead**

## Case by Case Basis

Each Entry to School Program is very unique to the child, and can look and will look different for each child as they progress through.

For us, this looked like:

- The ABA Therapist coming 3 times a week instead of 5, then down to once a week
- Changing intervention times to accommodate more difficult times of the day, such as drop off/pick ups
- Scheduling at home support visits over the holidays
- Having our student begin the start of the program in the regular classroom

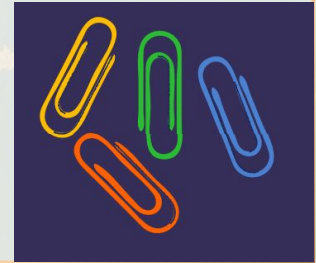




## Phase Two: Transition

The second phase really can look different for everyone, and is usually a transition into the school setting. Transition supports and consultation are provided to the family and the school team by the Entry to School Team, as needed for up to 6 months.

- On an “as need basis”
- Looking towards the school team and family to make asks
- Case by case basis, whatever the teams need they try to accommodate





## Gradual Entry to School

- If it is the child's best interests to do a gradual entry to school then they might slowly transition from a day care or clinic, into the school setting.
- Some children are already in day care and are shifted into the school environment that way.
- Some children start off in clinic at the Firefly offices, and the first part of their day takes place there. Here they model classroom routines, recess, table activities.
- Based on what makes sense for each particular child and their needs. In our case, it was for the child to start in the school setting right away.



## Working with the ETS Team

- **Flexible**
- **Great Communication**
- **Used School Team Feedback to drive many goals**



## Kindergarten Speech Screeners

**Our new School Based Speech Language Pathologist, Julia Lizzi, has implemented Kindergarten Speech Screeners this year.**

- **With Parental Consent she did quick screeners on all of the JK and SK students**
- **This allows for students to get flagged sooner and for Julia to be able to make the referral**
- **Speeds up the process**
- **Students get pass, monitor or refer**
- **If they get a monitor, Julia will screen them again in the spring**
- **If they get referral, Julia contacts parents and goes through with the referral process**
- **We are very thrilled and grateful that our students are able to access this support this year**



## St. Louis Living Arts Update





## What Makes St. Louis a Living Arts School?

- **Through the Living Arts, we explore the richness of nature and build new skills through careful observation, working with our hands and sharing experiences with community. Creativity and collaboration foster an awareness and appreciation for beauty and peace and a sense of fulfillment for those engaged in the Living Arts.**
- **At St. Louis Living Arts School, students receive a Catholic faith-based education through multi-disciplinary, diverse experiences in a broad range of the Arts. Through inquiry opportunities, workshops, presentations, field trips and experiential learning in areas such as Culinary, Ecological, Dramatic, Musical, Athletic, and Visual Arts, students engage with opportunities and that promote the values of faith, family, community and citizenship.**



## How do the Living Arts support differentiation?

Through the Living Arts, our school provides a variety of learning experiences using a range of instructional strategies, resources, learning tasks, and assessment tools in order to meet the different strengths, needs, levels of readiness, and learning styles or preferences of the students in our classes.

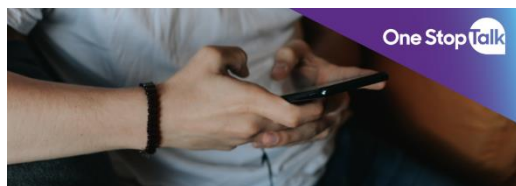




Thank You!  
Any questions?

**FIREFLY**  
KCDSB SEAC update  
February 17, 2023

- School Support Program – accepting referrals for 1:1 client support with Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) team – clients must have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and be registered with Ontario Autism Program (OAP) and in need of transitional supports
- Entry to School Program – 8 clients registered across the region and ready to begin their 6 months of direct service starting April 1, 2023. No new students from KCDSB, but one just finishing first 6 months of direct service and moving into transitional supports phase for 2<sup>nd</sup> 6 months.
- Urgent Response – servicing clients across Kenora/Rainy River region as well as Thunder Bay. For clients with ASD diagnosis and registered with OAP.
- Picky Eaters workshop – provided by OT/SLP/dietician first one was provided and future sessions will be offered. The Complex Feeding clinic has started to accept referrals and see clients.
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication – SLP trained in Assistive Devices Program and OT completing training in coming months to be able to best support clients with both verbal and written output communication needs.
- One Stop Talk



**Ask us about  
our new virtual  
counselling support  
available now!**

Go to **OneStopTalk.ca**  
or call **1.855.416.8255**

Service is also available in French. Le service est également disponible en français.







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SEAC Report  
By Special Education Coordinator

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Special Education Coordinator's Report – February 2023
<b>DATE:</b>	Friday, February 17, 2023
<b>PREPARED FOR:</b>	Special Education Advisory Committee
<b>AGENDA AREA:</b>	Public Session
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Andrea Batters, Special Education Coordinator

**Early Literacy Supports** that promote the shift from Balanced Literacy to Structured Literacy programming have been continuing this month, including:

- The second [Acadience Reading](#) progress screener (grades SK-2), and
- The Kindergarten speech language screeners administered by the KCDSB Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs), Heather Riddell & Julia Lizzi.

These literacy and language data collection measures provide literacy educator teams, classroom teachers, LRTs and SLPs information to plan targeted instructional opportunities.

The **Professional Development (PD) Day** on **Friday, February 3** involved Educational Assistants (EAs) participating in a virtual learning session with **Dr. Jean Clinton**, a Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University. With a special interest in brain development and the crucial role relationships and connectedness play, Dr. Clinton's virtual learning session --supported by KCDSB Mental Health workers--promoted positive relationships and student voice.

Also taking place on **the PD Day**, a group of educators were led by Sarah Pyzer, KCDSB's Positive Behavioural Interventions and Supports Lead (PBISL) to learn about the **Universal Protocol (UP)** and **Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) communication techniques**. The UP session was organized by the Superior Greenstone District School Board's (SGDSB's) PBISL, Melisa Bianco who invited this KCDSB team to join in with the virtual session. Educators were given guidance from [Dr. Greg Hanley](#), the founder of UP and [Today's Applied Behaviour Analysis \(ABA\)](#), about ways to build compassionate and values-based approaches to supporting positive student behaviour in the school setting.

The Instructional Services Teachers have been continuing to participate in a **Professional Learning Lens series** in the identified "PD lenses" including **mental health/wellbeing, Catholicity, Ways of Knowing: FNMI Teaching, and Diversity (Learning for Everyone)**. The system-leads connected with these topics have been delivering sessions to the group to increase awareness and application of these perspectives in our practice. On Thursday,



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SEAC Report  
By Special Education Coordinator

February 16, I presented to the group on **Neurodiversity & Inclusive Language**. Topics included:

- [Defining & Representing Inclusion](#)
- Disability & Lived Experience
- [Neurodiversity](#) & Invisible/Hidden Disability
- Inclusive & Affirmative Language
- [Ableism](#) & Social Model of Disability

The next PD presentation will be led by Sue Devlin, Mental Health Clinical Supervisor (KCDSB), on Thursday, March 9. The topic will be **Working Within Systems – Why Collaboration Internally and Externally is Key to Student Success**.

The virtual **Winter Regional Special Education Committee (RSEC)** meeting took place on Thursday, February 16. The RSEC is a network of those who lead special education in their northwestern Ontario school boards, who meet three times a year to gather and share information relating to Special Education priorities in our region. Discussion and presentation topics included:

- **Ministry of Education Special Education Updates & [Presentation on Provincial Demonstration Schools Branch Programs](#)** – Claudine Munroe & Dan Maggiacomo
- **Northern Adjustment (NA) Funding Presentation & Discussion** – Rick Boisvert, NA Project Lead
- **[Jordan's Principle](#) Presentation**– Leeann Shimoda, Jordan's Principle Navigator
- **Legal Presentation – Exclusions & Suspensions for Students with Disabilities** – Lauri Reesor (Hicks Morley)
- **Discussions & School Board Highlights** (All RSEC Members)

The **Spring RSEC meeting** will take place on Wednesday, May 23 and Thursday, May 24 in **Thunder Bay**.