

Message from Executive Director—Paul Millman

The 2015-16 year has started with great success! We have welcomed over 1000 students from over 30 countries to Nova Scotia. The international students are spread through over 80 schools across the province.

Our Ambassador Program continues to grow with over 100 student ambassadors receiving training at the end of the summer at the ESL Summer Camp. In addition to the Ambassadors Program we also started a Foreign Correspondent program with five of the eight Foreign Correspondents receiving training at Camp. To date, the program has been very successful. We encourage to follow both the Ambassadors and Correspondents by looking for #nsispc and #nsispsa on social media.

I hope you enjoy our first newsletter of 2015-2016.

Best regards,



Photo credit: Manuel Tamayo

[Important Notices]

Please note the following important notices:

1. **Credit cards:** The NSISP is in processing of being set up to accept credit cards for payment. Stay tuned for further information.
2. **Applications for February 2016:** We are still accepting application for February 2016. The deadline for applications is November 30; however, if space is still available we will continue to accept applications.
3. **Arrival dates—September 2016:** Although still almost one year away, we want to bring attention the arrival time for the next school year. As our classes do not begin until Wednesday, September 7 we are asking students do not book airline tickets to arrive in Nova Scotia prior to September 1.
4. **Fees—September 2017-2018:** The health insurance provided to students in the NSISP will increase slightly, effective September 2017. The fee will increase by \$5/month from \$65 to \$70. The other fees remain the same.



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

The NSISP awarded a group of eight students with a scholarship to be Foreign Correspondents while they study in Nova Scotia. These students represent Brazil, China, Germany, Mexico, Netherlands, Thailand, Turkey, and Ukraine.

While in Nova Scotia, the Correspondents will be posting on various social media platforms about their experience. Look for [#nsispfc](#) to follow them along on their journey in Nova Scotia!

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

For the fourth straight year, the NSISP hosted and trained a group of student ambassadors. Held the last week of August, over 100 Ambassadors moved into the ESL Camp for a weekend of training on how to be an Ambassador for the NSISP.

The Ambassadors participated in sessions aimed at developing strategies to make NSISP students feel more welcome in their schools and communities.

The Ambassadors are sharing their adventures on social media as well. Look for [#nsipsa](#) to check them out!



Happy Hallowe'en



Family visits from home ...

We had the greatest privilege to make a visit with our son, Shane in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Our visit was a surprise and made the first hug and smile just unforgettable. With the convenience of technology we are able to see our son's growth but to actually be able to hug him was absolutely priceless. This experience would not have happened without the coordinator Jillian Sexton. Her diligence, her compassion for the children and her constant hard work was what made our visit so wonderful that we cannot find the perfect word to explain the extent of our appreciation for her. She invited us to join in several outings. We went to the luminere in Sydney. We were able to see several art works as well as walk around the streets in Sydney with not only our son but with so many of our son's friends. We were also invited to a dance party held for the international students where we had the great pleasure of meeting with several of the host families.

The host family welcomed us and we are just blessed. We were also invited to go to Hank's Farm. We went through a corn maze which was our first time and had a wonderful time! We were also invited to have supper with a host who took care of our son and she made a fabulous soup that we just could not stop eating! Thank you so much for welcoming us to your home. She also had us through a surprise birthday for another international student. We had cake and enjoyed the bonfire with the international students. All of our experiences were absolutely wonderful. This would not have been the case without Jillian. She is our super star, our family! She works so hard and she constantly amazes us with all that she does not only for the children but for us as well. The host family are absolutely wonderful people as well. They were so warm and welcoming to not only our son but to us as well. They invited us to their home. They opened their doors to us not only for dinner but they kindly told us to come any time to see our son. They welcomed us and said that we are now family. We were speechless again. They have already done so well with our son, giving him a warm home to go home to everyday. Mary would make delicious meals. Brad is the father he misses when he is away from home. The family took us around to see the city, Sydney Mines and North Sydney after a lovely dinner.

We feel so blessed to have had this life time opportunity to meet with such fabulous people. We are so glad that we made this trip. Thank you Jillian, thank you Brad and Mary, thank you Shane for going and for opening the doors to a whole new world. The trip was absolutely priceless !!! ... *Lisa*



Passport Challenge

Each month the NSISP runs a contest for the NSISP students. September's challenge was to take a photo with your host family. The winners received a gift certificate to Tim Horton's. October's challenge is 'best Hallowe'en costume' and winners will receive a gift certificate to the movies. Here are the September winning photos.

Photos are posted on the [NSISP Facebook page](#).



Cultural Trip

On October 7 a group of 50 students and 5 chaperones embarked on a cultural trip to Toronto and Niagara Falls. The group had a full schedule visiting Skylon Towers, Clifton Hill, White Water Walk, Hornblowers Cruise, magic show, CN Tower, Ripley's Aquarium, Canada's Wonderland, Toronto Zoo, Ontario Science Centre, Hard Rock Café, and Medieval Times Dinner Theatre.

Our Foreign Correspondent, Noelle, put together a fantastic video which can be viewed on our [Vimeo page](#).



The next cultural trip will be held over March Break and will go to Montreal and Ottawa. Highlights include dog sledding, NHL hockey game, sugar shack and tour of Parliament Hill.

The trips are popular and open to the first 50 students who register. Stay tuned for more details for March 2016!