

Annual Report
June 2016
Wolfville School



Principal's Message

This has been a tremendously successful school year for the 280+ students P-8 attending Wolfville School. A special "Goodbye" to the grade 8's who have been a wonderful group of students, some for as many as 9 years. Our staff has many fond memories of this group of students and they have made a very positive impact on Wolfville School.

Many of this years' highlights include: Renovations, Learning Buddies, Spirit Days, Open House, music and band concerts, First Lego League, sporting events, Talent Shows, Face Aux Questions, Celebration of the Arts evening and Fun Fair. All of these activities contribute to a positive school environment and teach students valuable skills they carry throughout their lives.

Best wishes to staff leaving this year Shelagh Curtis, Greg Dalcourt, Charmedie Leighton and Kathy Kenny (returning 2017-18).

The next school years will once again see significant changes to the school as renovations continue. All classes and programs will move to the newly renovated section for September. The ML section will be demolished over the summer and a new addition added the coming school year.

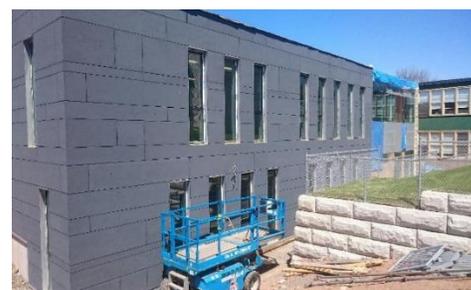
One of the most important aspects of education is the partnerships that enable students to be as successful as possible in meeting their full potential. Students, school staffs and families must work together in order for students to reach success and I continue to be amazed with the level of involvement and support we get from our families and the community.

Thank you for your support!!! This partnership is a vital part of the success that your daughter/son experienced this year. I know this support will continue and that each and every one of you has your child's best interest at heart.

I would like to wish all families, students and staff a safe and enjoyable summer vacation with family and friends.

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Student Achievement

Each year students in grade 3, 4, 6 and 8 participate in provincial assessments which measure to what level each has achieved in the areas of Literacy and Mathematics. The AVRSB and its 43 schools have aimed to improve in each of those areas. The starting point is for each school to determine literacy and numeracy goals. This process is known as Continuous School Improvement (CSI). Based upon our data, we have chosen the following student achievement goals this past spring:

1. To align the Language Arts reading and writing units in Grades 6-8 to ensure a consistent delivery of curriculum resulting in increased student achievement.
2. To develop a system of engaging students in math by developing math games and hands on learning that relate to performance indicators.
3. To continue developing a culture for the arts in the classroom, school and community in Grades P-8.
4. To continue to develop Physical Education programs that encourage and support the “non-athlete” to be more active and aware of the long term benefits of staying active.

School Performance

1. Middle Level Philosophy was further explored and next year Teaming and Exploratories will occur at the middle level.
 2. All staff received training in Google Apps and Google Classroom resulting in efficiency and organization for staff and students.
 3. Increase school spirit and create one P-8 school rather than two schools within a school.
 4. Wolfville School staff used a variety of classroom resources to educate students about recognizing ethnicity, culture, abilities, language, sexual orientation and many other characteristics.
- Although we value the data from the provincial assessments it is important to understand these are only a snapshot of how students are performing. The majority of the students’ progress is seen by the classroom teacher through regular assessments. Through tracking the results on report cards and school based assessments we are confident the practices employed by both the students and the staff are making a positive difference in student achievement.

School and Community

During the 2015 - 2016 school year, there were approximately 285 students registered in Grades P-8. There were 20 teachers, 7 Educational Assistants, 2 secretaries, 3 custodians, a .5 Vice-Principal and 1 Principal. We are very proud of all of our students. Our new primaries are a terrific group and our 42 Grade Six students had an excellent beginning to their middle school experience. We wish all the best to the 71 Grade 8 students who are ready to share their talents as they move on to Horton High in the fall.

Our school provides a variety of supports to meet the growing needs of our students. These include a Learning Centre and Behaviour Intervention as part of our Resource department, and a variety of opportunities that we believe are vital parts of a school such as daily physical education, music/instrumental band, technology education, family studies, and exploratory activities. At Wolfville School we have created many partnerships with the community such as: Mud Creek Rotary, Free the Children, The Food Bank, Big Brothers/Sisters, IWK, RCMP, Parent Volunteers, Town of Wolfville, Acadia University, Autism Society NS, Special Olympics, Heart and Stroke Foundation and the list goes on! Students are learning to support their local and global communities; one great example is our recent Water Walk. Thank you to the students, families and staff for their continued support. What a year we have had. The Drive Away Hunger Campaign was very successful, the toothbrush drive surpassed our goal, and the Vow of Silence and Water Walk brought in a great deal of money. Money from the Water Walk this year was used to send girls in Malawi to school. WELL DONE!! If you would like more information on this program you can visit www.FreeTheChildren.com. This has been another incredible year and we are so proud to be part of this school community. Thanks again for all of your support and stay tuned for more information in September. Special thanks to Angie Rushton, Teacher Advisor for these events.

We work with and count on so many individuals and organizations to support our students, we could not do it without you! On behalf of all of the students and staff, a huge “thanks” to all of the volunteers who supported our many school activities.

Professional Learning for Staff

The majority of staff were involved in math and literacy as areas of focus for the 2015-16 school year. Staff participate in summer institutes, School and Board organized professional development sessions, October Special Association conferences and Department initiated professional development. In addition, many staff are currently involved in course work outside of the regular school day. Regardless of where these learning opportunities are held, the goal is be able to return to the classroom with new strategies that will assist with the learning process.

It is our responsibility as teachers and school professionals to continuously analyze our work and continue to improve so that we can provide meaningful learning experiences to all of our students. We organize our professional learning time to ensure in-services are used wisely in order to have the most positive impact on student achievement and school culture.

During the 2015-16 school year we focused on a number of goals. Refer to the section on student achievement to read goals staff have focussed on to support students! Teachers met regularly during preparation time, in-service days and early dismissals to work collaboratively on their goals. We believe that this work has resulted in moving our students forward to meet these goals.

Technology is an indispensable part of the daily learning and teaching process. Computers, Smartboards, iPads, and personal electronic devices are all tools that teachers and students use to increase the ways they gain knowledge. It is vital that students become Digital Citizens in this age of instant communication. TIENET, an acronym for **T**echnology for **I**mproving **E**ducation **N**ETwork, is a province-wide system for collecting and storing data as part of the PowerSchool student information system. Our staff continues to receive in-servicing/training in all of these technology tools. As well, we brought in experts from the AVRSB and the RCMP to help students understand how to use technology effectively and safely.

We recently introduced a 1-1 technology program at the grade 6-8 level and each student was issued a Chromebook. Elementary students used this technology as well on a regular basis this year.

Some training that has occurred this past year includes: Mental Wellness Day, CSI goals in Math & Literacy, “We” Day, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, provincial marking sessions for math & LA, Integrated Curriculum and others.

Safe and Caring Environment

The school motto is “Caring, Courteous and Cooperative”. We believe there are a number of areas that indicate how we strive to fulfill our motto. The following are a few examples:

- Breakfast program
- Anti-bullying initiatives and assemblies/Pink day
- GSA, Get Real and Youth Project
- Christmas hampers
- Community clean-up
- Sponsoring families for Christmas
- Bake and Take Sessions
- Music therapy
- Terry Fox Walk
- etc.

Race Relations, Cross Cultural Awareness and Human Rights (RCH) Initiatives

In today’s educational system, teachers are required to educate a variety of students who vary in ethnicity, culture, abilities, language, sexual orientation and many other characteristics. We believe it is vital to ensure that our school is meeting the needs of **all** students. In an effort to meet this challenge, our staff regularly attends workshops and other professional development to educate themselves and our students.

The Classroom culture and climate must always be welcoming, supportive and promote learning for all. Staff is involved with regular professional development that strives to promote an inclusive school that is sensitive to the needs of all students.

This past year we have participated in the following initiatives:

- Teacher in-services
- African Heritage month
- Multi-cultural Book Display
- Culture Fair
- Student Presentations (religion, race, culture)
- Student Support Worker Presentations
- Residential Schools Presentation
- Saudia Arabia Presentation
- Special welcome to our Newcomers!

Student Involvement and Successes

We believe that students should experience learning opportunities beyond the regular classroom walls. We offer a variety of activities that appeal to students in order to help them grow and gain confidence in other areas. Some of these activities include:

- Dirt/Snow Divas
- Musical Theatre Presentations
- Music festival
- Band
- Fair play (no cut policy)
- Me to We/We Day
- Sports Teams Ex: soccer, basketball, volleyball, etc.
- Students' Council and School Spirit Activities: assemblies, variety show, Minute to win It, Monthly Dances
- Remembrance Day assembly
- Winter carnival
- Evening of the Arts
- School Clubs such as Film and Robotics
- Daily Breakfast Program
- Student Leadership – CLARITY CREW
- AVRSB sponsored events such as Face aux Questions.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

The School Advisory Council and Home & School groups have been extremely busy this year. The SAC is comprised of parent, teachers/staff, community and student representatives. We thank the students for their ongoing commitment and wish them luck in either middle school or high school.

We have reviewed policies regarding Student Transfers. We have discussed street safety and sidewalks surrounding the school. Other topics of discussion

included the Life Fund review, Before school playground coverage, amount of phys-ed, homework policy and the library policy.

We have been actively involved in the renovation discussions. It has been a topic at each meeting. We are extremely excited about the move to the renovated side of the school.

Home & School Association (H&S)

The **Wolfville Home and School** has had a busy year with several well attended family events including the Fall Ice Cream Social, three different themed Family Fun Nights and our popular Spring Fun Fair. The H&S also organized Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, the Holiday Shopping Bazaar, and the Community Clean a Thon. The Home and School was thrilled with the announcement of the renovation and look forward to seeing progress over the next couple of years. We would like to extend a special thank you to all the volunteers that make our School such a wonderful place for our students, teachers and staff. Have a happy, healthy, and safe summer and we look forward to seeing you in the fall. A special thank you to all of the people who make Wolfville School the wonderful place it is to learn, work and grow! It takes dedicated students, parents, staff and community working together to create the unique and valuable learning experience we offer our students!

A heartfelt thank you to all!