

Annual Report
June 2017

Port Williams Elementary School



Principal's Message

Despite this being the most difficult school year we have had to date in our province student learning was a priority. Students were exposed to numerous learning experiences that broadened their awareness and understanding of the curriculum. Students have participated in memorable events such as: The Terry Fox Walk, School Choirs singing at the Port Williams Remembrance Day Service, Food Bank Challenge, Dance Celebration, Mindfulness practices, Run Club, Spirit Squad, Cross Country Running, Zumba, class trips and a variety of class initiatives.

We are saying good bye and good luck to 44 Grade 5 students as they head off to the next stage of their education. We are very proud of their accomplishments and look forward to hearing about their achievements in middle school. We encourage them to take the lessons they have learned in their elementary years to guide their learning and social experiences. We thank the family members of our Grade Five students for coordinating an incredible 'Around the World' themed afternoon. Students and staff very much appreciated the memorable send-off.

Thank you to Mrs. Delaney and Mrs. Best who have worked in the AVRSB for the past number of years. We would like to thank them for their dedication and service to students, staff, families and the community. We are fortunate to have them both returning as job share partners in September 2017 (Nicholas/Delaney and Forsyth/Best).

A special thank you to Mrs. Hanneman who will not be returning to Port Williams Elementary School in the fall she will be working between two schools, EMS and NMES. Ms. Rand will be teaching Grade Primary at Aldershot Elementary and Madame Walkinshaw grade 4 at Windsor Elementary. We also wish Ms. Bishop good luck as she continues her teaching career. On behalf of Port Williams students, staff and school community we would like to thank all of the departing staff for their dedication and wish them all the best as they move on to new teaching opportunities.

PWES staff would like to wish all students and families an active and restful summer.

Lana Burns

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Professional Learning for Staff

Port Williams Elementary School remains committed to developing positive academic learning experiences. Teachers continuously analyze data from provincial, board and school assessments to improve instruction, and to provide meaningful learning experiences for all students. Professional learning time is designated for staff to work at grade levels, sometimes with neighboring schools, to have the most positive impact on student achievement and the school culture of Port Williams Elementary School.

During the 2016/17 school year, we focused on Language Arts and Math instruction and assessment. Staff worked in Professional Learning Communities (PLC's). PLC's are an opportunity for learning teams to work together collaboratively on instruction, assessment, technology, challenges and successes. Staff participated in professional development learning opportunities of technology, program planning, Google, mindfulness, Mik'maq culture, mental wellness and anaphylaxis.

Student Achievement

This year, students in grade 3 and 4 participated in provincial assessments which are used to measure the level that each student has achieved in the areas of Literacy and Mathematics. The data collected from the provincial assessments is valuable yet it is only a small piece of how students are performing. The majority of students' progress is observed by teachers through numerous school assessments. Below are the results of the Provincial Grade 3 Reading and Writing assessment and Grade 4 Mathematics assessment. A Provincial decision was made that this assessment will not occur in the 2017/18 school year and will resume as a grade 3 Literacy and Mathematics assessment in Spring 2019.

Grade 3 Reading and Writing Provincial Assessment 2016/17

	PWES	AVRSB	Province
Reading	72.5	65.4	68
Writing - Ideas	80	68	74
Writing - Organization	65	54	58
Writing - Language	67.5	60	63
Writing - Conventions	55	43	53

Grade 4 Mathematics Provincial Assessment 2016/17

	PWES	AVRSB	Province
Overall Performance	85.2	75.5	77.3
Number	81.5	76.3	N/A
Measurement	81.5	72.8	N/A
Statistics & Probability	77.8	67.2	N/A
Geometry	88.9	67.4	N/A
Patterns & Relations	92.6	77.9	N/A

School and Community

Port Williams Elementary School is a grade Primary to Five school with a total of 222 students in the 2016/17 school year. There were 15 teachers, 8 Educational Assistants, 1 Library Technician, 1 Secretary, 1 Student Support Worker and 1 full time and 1 part time Custodian.

Students' learning is enriched by the support of our Home and School Association, families and our surrounding community. We are truly grateful to them. Volunteers are an instrumental part of our school and we would like to extend a sincere thank you for their support of activities in the school and initiatives that extend our learning to alternate environments.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to the many businesses, clubs, churches and associations that made donations to the school.



Safe and Caring Environment

The PEBS (Positive Effective Behavior Supports) matrix is a school-wide system that includes proactive strategies for defining, teaching and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments. This framework provides expectations and consistent language for students and staff respecting self, others, learning and the environment.

Our Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Program supported our school wide implementation of students learning about emotions and how to describe them in sharing with others how we feel. Mindfulness strategies were supported through daily practice which allowed students an opportunity to become focused on learning. Mrs. Hanneman also supported students with social and emotional development in small groups and individual counselling.

Emotions



Anti-Bullying



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

Providing all students with a safe, healthy and positive learning environment promoting Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights has been a priority for Port Williams staff. This year's learning experiences have been enriched with activities, traditions and presentations that have broadened students' awareness and understanding of the curriculum. Students had presentations on Mik'maq and African culture, Autism, Cystic Fibrosis, and Special Olympians to name a few. Students also had culturally enriched experiences through music, dance, visual arts and classroom activities. Students have participated in memorable events such as: The Terry Fox Walk and Food Bank Challenge.

Light it up Blue



African Heritage – Grade 3 Kente Quilt



Cystic Fibrosis



Student Involvement and Successes

PWES continues to provide many opportunities for students to participate in leadership and extra-curricular activities. Student talents and successes are shared and celebrated at our monthly assemblies. Cross Country running, Choirs and Running Club. Grade 3's participated in the Learn to Swim program. School jobs allowed students the opportunity to participate in leadership initiatives within the school. The Spirit Squad planned theme days for early dismissals while challenging the school to meet the Food Bank goal.

Port Williams Home & School Association and Port Williams Nutrition for Health

The purpose of the Home and School Association and Nutrition for Health committee is to administer an in-school healthy eating program with the support of our 'Lunch Lady' Mrs. Williams. Our goal is to develop and facilitate fundraising projects that help financially support student's school activities, and enhance the ability of families to participate actively and effectively in their child's educational experience.

PWES H&S and N&H Committee have a big heart and are committed to providing families opportunities and fundraising events to support student learning. This year the H&S purchased 6 Chrome books and a storage cart for student use. Memorable events included the annual Pancake Breakfast, Nourish Your Roots Food boxes, Blueberry Fundraiser, Family Fun Night and Spring Fling. This year we say good bye and thank you to H&S Co-President Lia Hennigar and Nutrition and Health President Edna Newcombe. We also extend our sincere thanks to the numerous volunteers and community organizations that support programs within our school.

Class Structures and Staff

2017/18

Teachers:

- Debbie Fuller – Primary
- Lisa Nicolas/GeorgAnn Delaney – Primary
- Francesca Crowther – Grade 1
- Darlene Barr Grade - 1/2
- Shelley Forsyth/Pam Best - Grade 2
- Cindy Hiseler – Grade 2/3
- Dianne Smith – Grade 3
- Gina Gallagher – Grade 4
- Sue Dunham – Grade 4/5
- Kim Tatlock – Grade 4/5
- Resource: Danielle Batstone
- Guidance Counsellor: Crystal Watt
- Early Literacy Teacher: TBA
- Phys. Ed.: Chad Pinch
- Music: Jennifer Hiseler
- Core French: Ashley Walkinshaw
- Librarian: Elizabeth Fajta
- Student Support Worker: Lawrence Parker

Educational Assistants:

- Wendy Bacon
- Christine Dauphinee
- Catherine Gibson
- Jerrid Gillan
- Paige Horton
- Sonja Kidston
- Patty Llewellyn
- Holly Sheffield

- School Food Coordinator: Karen Williams
- Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Phyllis Anne Blanche
- Speech and Language Pathologist: Sheena Alexander
- School Psychologist: Krista Doucette Ryan
- Learning Disability Specialist: Jamie Swinamer
- Computer Technician: James Sabean
- School Board Member: Sandy Fraser
- Custodians: Ersknie Greenslade/Emmerson Bennett

- Secretary: Margaret McPhee
- Principal: Lana Burns

Happy Retirement

Mrs. Best and Mrs. Delaney



Upcoming Dates

- Sept. 5 First Day of School for Staff
- Sept. 6 First Day of School for Students
- Sept. 14 Open House for Parents/Guardians
- Sept. 20 Early Dismissal
- Sept. 21&22 School Photos
- Sept. 23 School Assembly
- Sept. 28 Terry Fox Walk
- Home and School Corn Boil
- Sept. 29 Inservice (No School for Students)

Refer to PWES Website for complete school calendar