

Annual Report

June 2016

Port Williams Elementary School



Principal's Message

The 2015-2016 school year has been enriched with numerous learning experiences including several school activities, traditions, performances and cultural presentations that have extended student's understanding of the curriculum. Some of the more memorable events were presentations from athletes from the Special Olympics, guests sharing Mi'kmaq and African culture, the Terry Fox Walk, Pulled Pork Williams pop up lunch, Family Fun Night, Hop for the Cure, Ski Martock, Autism Awareness, our first annual Dance Festival, Wellness Day, Mindfulness practices, Run Club, Annie Jr., cross country running, zumba, concerts, musical performances, class trips, visits from local authors and illustrators and a variety of class initiatives.

All these events would not be possible without the support of staff, families, the Home and School Association and community members. We are extremely thankful for their efforts to enrich students learning.

We are saying good bye to a terrific group of Grade Five students as they head off on the next stage of their education. They successfully embraced many leadership opportunities and academic accomplishments. We wish them all the best as they prepare for new challenges and personal successes in middle school.

We thank the family members of our Grade Five students for coordinating an incredible 'Western' Grade Five Luncheon. Students and staff very much appreciated the memorable send-off.

I would like to take this opportunity to say good bye to Ms. Haines, Mrs. Stirling, Madame Holmes and Mr. Rafuse who are retiring this year. We would like to thank them for their dedication and service to students, staff, families and the community. As they enter retirement we wish them time to relax and embrace their hobbies. We wish them all a well-deserved healthy and happy retirement.

A special thank you to Mrs. Cornelius and Mrs. Tracey who will not be returning to Port Williams Elementary School in the fall. On behalf of Port Williams students, staff and school community we would like to thank them for their dedication and wish them the best as they move to their new schools.

I have very much enjoyed this year working with such amazing students, dedicated staff and supportive community members.

I would like to wish all students, families and staff a safe 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 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 2015/16 school year, we focused on the newly Integrated Primary – Three curriculum, Language Arts and Math instruction and assessment. Staff worked in Professional Learning Communities with Glooscap Elementary School. This was an opportunity for learning teams to work together collaboratively on instruction, assessment, technology, challenges and successes. This spring the grade 4-5 teachers were inserviced on the new Grade Four-Six Streamlined Curriculum.

Staff participated in professional development learning opportunities of technology, adaptations, Google, LGBT, mindfulness, Mik'maq culture, mental wellness and anaphylaxis.

Student Achievement

Each year, students in grade 3 and 4 participate in provincial assessments 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 seen by teachers through numerous school assessments. Below are the results of the Provincial Grade 3 Reading and Writing assessment and Grade 4 Mathematics assessment.

Grade 3 Reading and Writing Provincial Assessment 2015/16

	PWES	AVRSB	Province
Reading	66.7	66.8	67
Writing - Ideas	70	73	73
Writing - Organization	59	57	59
Writing - Language	70	61	63
Writing - Conventions	42	47	51

Grade 4 Mathematics Provincial Assessment 2015/16

	PWES	AVRSB	Province
Overall Performance	88	73	76
Number	88	73	N/A
Measurement	81	55	N/A
Statistics & Probability	85	66	N/A
Geometry	85	67	N/A
Patterns & Relations	93	75	N/A

School and Community

Port Williams Elementary School is a grade Primary to Five school with a total of 217 students in the 2015/16 school year. There were 15 teachers, 8 Educational Assistants, 1 Library Technician, 1 Secretary, 1 Student Support Worker and 1 full time and 3 part time Custodians.

Port Williams Elementary School was built in 1966, with 10 classrooms to accommodate 350 students, the majority of whom were transported by bus. Another building, built in 1937, was renovated to accommodate another 130 pupils. In 1983, the older building burned and was replaced by an addition to the "new" school. This addition included a gymnasium, music room and five classrooms. Port Williams Elementary School serves North Kentville, Port Williams and Greenwich.

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. This year we developed posters and videos to support the PEBS expectations.

Students and staff were involved in numerous activities to promote a safe and caring environment, as well as extend our understanding and acceptance of others. Some initiatives this year included; 'Light it up Blue' for Autism awareness, Anti-Bullying 'Wear Pink', Hop for the Cure for Muscular Dystrophy, Food Bank drives, Plastic Bag Challenge, Breakfast Program (Jane Holmes Memorial Fund), Christmas Hampers and Tooth Brush drive.

Our Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Program supported our school wide implementation for staff and students of Mindfulness strategies. Students were also supported with social and emotional development in small groups and individual counselling. A parenting workshop was also offered to all of our families.

Light it up Blue



Anti-Bullying



Lights Out



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. Learning has been enhanced with activities, traditions and presentations that have broadened student's awareness and understanding of race, sexual orientation, culture and diversity. Mi'kmaq and African Heritage months are designated times in which we celebrate and further learn about these cultures.

This year we have had numerous culturally rich experiences and presentations through classroom instruction, Music, Physical Education, Visual arts and school activities. Students have had opportunities to learn about instruments, music and games from around the world. Some of the learning experiences included: a First Nation games unit, African Stories, Drum Making and playing workshop, Mi'kmaq O Kanata, Youth African Talent Show with Mr. Parker, Presentations from AVRSB Mi'kmaq Services Specialist and school Respect Groups based on the Seven Sacred Teachings.

Mi'kmaq History Month



African Heritage Month



Special Olympics



Student Involvement and Successes

Port Williams Elementary School 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 and Running Club members were successful as students strived for their personal best. All grade 4 and 5 students played recorder with Symphony Nova Scotia. 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. Annie Jr. was a huge success exhibiting talents and abilities of all cast members.

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 create opportunities that foster our students' intellectual, physical and social development, administer an in-school healthy eating program for students, 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.

It has been a wonderful year working with the Port Williams School community. We have had many opportunities for students and their families to have fun, get to know one another and make a difference in the school. Events included: Family Fun Night, Nourish Your Roots Food Boxes, Santa Breakfast, Cereal Drive, Holiday Shopping Party, Family Photo Night, School Wide Turkey Dinner, Movie Nights, Blueberry Fundraiser, Taste Testing and Spring Fling. We appreciate our families volunteering their time at social events and fundraisers, working in the lunch room with our fabulous 'Lunch Lady' Mrs. Williams, making donations of items to support our fundraisers, donations towards the Jane Holmes Memorial Fund, attending meetings and providing knowledge or skills to improve the work that we do. Thank you so much for your important help!

Class Structures and Staff

2016/17

Teachers:

Debbie Fuller – Primary
Lisa Nicolas/Holly Rand – Primary
GeorgAnn Delaney – Grade 1
Francesca Crowther – Grade 1/2
Shelley Forsyth - Grade 2
Pam Best – Grade 3
Dianne Smith – Grade 3
Sue Dunham – Grade 4/5
Kim Tatlock – Grade 4/5
Gina Gallagher – Grade 5
Resource: Danielle Batstone
Guidance Counsellor: Mary Hanneman
Early Literacy Teacher: TBA
Phys. Ed.: Chad Pinch
Music: Jennifer Hiseler
Core French: TBA
Librarian: Elizabeth Fajta

Educational Assistants:

Christine Dauphinee
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: Sara Marshall-Gallant/Sheena Alexander
School Psychologist: Krista Doucette Ryan
Learning Disability Specialist: Jamie Swinamer
Computer Technician: Jamie
School Board Member: Sandy Fraser
Custodians: TBA

Secretary: Margaret McPhee
Principal: Lana Burns

Happy Retirement

**Madame Holmes, Ms. Haines,
Mrs. Stirling**



And Mr. Rafuse



Upcoming Dates

Sept. 6 First Day of School for Staff
Sept. 7 First Day of School for Students
Sept. 15 Open House for Parents/Guardians
Stand Up Against Bullying – Wear Pink
Sept. 23 School Assembly
Sept. 26/27 School Photos
Sept. 29 Early Dismissal
Terry Fox Walk
Sept 30 Inservice (No School for Students)
Oct. 3/4 Grade 4 Math Assessment
Oct. 5/6 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Assessment