

2014-15 Community Report for Atlantic View Elementary

Overview of the Atlantic View Elementary Continuous School Improvement Plan 2014-2015 is the third year of our Continuous School Improvement plan. Our plan focusses on reading, number and healthy, active living goals. Staff has committed themselves to working very hard to bring about positive change in all three areas. To do this we are striving to learn more, update instructional practices and connect learning at school to families learning at home and on the go. The following sections talk about what we have worked on this year, where our successes have been and what challenges we still face.

Literacy: Reading to Understand:

Our goal in literacy is focused on reading and is as follows: Students will demonstrate improvement in reading comprehension with a focus on critical literacy and oral language. The Provincial Data listed above shows that Atlantic View is at or about average levels of achievement for the Halifax Regional School Board. Through our weekly Circle Talk meetings, staff have engaged in book studies, explored research and worked hard to improve reading instruction in the classroom. We are confident that over the course of the next year we will continue to see improvement in this area. The evidence also shows that writing starts out strongly in grade three, but by grade six we have lost ground. Although reading will continue to receive our full attention next year, connections to how we can positively impact writing achievement will be brought into the conversation. Teachers continue to connect to families encouraging reading at home by sending home “just right” books and encouraging positive reading habits outside school.

Mathematics: Getting to Know Numbers:

The school goal in mathematics is focused on understanding numbers and how they can be used to explain the world around us. The goal is; Students will demonstrate consistent improvement in number sense. Provincial data shows that we have much room for needed growth in achievement in mathematics. Atlantic View’s focus making sense of number and being able to use numbers efficiently will continue to be an important goal for us. This year the majority of our professional development saw the staff explore ways to improve instruction

Provincial and Board Assessments		
	School (%) 2014-15	Board (%) 2014-15
Literacy Assessments		
Grade 3 Provincial		
Reading	67%	68%
Writing - Ideas	100%	77%
Writing - Organization	78%	62%
Writing - Language Use	89%	66%
Writing - Conventions	67%	53%
Grade 6 Provincial		
Reading	80%	78%
Writing - Ideas	67%	78%
Writing - Organization	40%	64%
Writing - Language Use	53%	69%
Writing - Conventions	29%	60%
Math Assessments		
Grade 4 Provincial		
Mathematics	61%	76%
Grade 6 Provincial		
Mathematics	61%	72%

in the math class to help our students be more confident when working with numbers. One key strategy was to increase the amount of time spent on talking about numbers and how we use them to solve problems. Our junior elementary (P-2) teachers have indicated that they see a significant difference in their students ability to work with and talk about number leading increased comfort with “doing math”. A series of “Learning on the Go” workshops were conducted with families this year, which highlighted strategies for families to explore number sense at home and on the go.

Healthy, Active Living: Let’s Get Moving and Eating Better!:

Atlantic View is firmly committed to helping our students lead more active and healthy lives. Our goal, Students will demonstrate improved learning preparedness and achievement through a school wide focus on healthy eating and increased daily physical activity is considered carefully in all aspects of school life from daily classroom activities to school wide events. Staff and parents have noted a shift in the eating attitudes of the children. Our school participated this year in all three challenges in the online Heart and Stroke / 60 Minute Kids Club program. During the Fall, Winter and Spring about 40% of our students, and some staff and family members, tracked their healthy habits focusing on being physically active, decreasing time on technology, drinking more water, sleeping eight to ten hours a night and eating healthier foods. Our involvement in the challenges earned us the distinction of the top school for Nova Scotia overall. We will be awarded a prize of \$750.00 to use towards supporting active living and healthy habits.

So, Where Do We Go From Here:

All three goals of our plan are very solid and require continued focus to help our students improve their achievement. Staff will continue to commit to supporting student learning through weekly meetings to discuss “better ways”, professional development that encourages a deeper understanding about how students learn and making connections to our families as we all work together for our children. Through these efforts and the support of our wonderful community, we are confident we will achieve our goals. Please do not hesitate to contact the school to discuss this report further or ask any questions you may have.

(Grade 4 / 5 students harvesting from the school garden.)

