

2015-16 Community Report for Clayton Park Junior High School

Provincial Assessments		
	School (%)	Board (%)
	2015-16	2015-16
<u>Literacy Assessments</u>		
Grade 8 Provincial		
Reading	76%	76%
Writing - Ideas	92%	91%
Writing - Organization	78%	80%
Writing - Language Use	86%	82%
Writing - Conventions	72%	70%
<u>Math Assessments</u>		
Grade 8 Provincial		
Mathematics	70%	63%

We are constantly trying to provide the best support available to our students and were pleased with the level of engagement demonstrated by staff in adopting Project Based Learning (PBL) to support our school literacy goal: To improve students' reading comprehension with a focus on the use of non fiction text.

Our Literacy PLC (Professional Learning Communities – wherein teachers are grouped together to discuss and plan ways to improve student achievement based on observation, assessment and data analysis) meets weekly to discuss best teaching practices and strategies and to plan relevant PD.

The ELA (English Language Arts) teachers worked diligently to expand their knowledge of PBL and assisted in the facilitation of all grade 8 & 9 teachers forming grade level teams to plan, organize and facilitate non-fiction research projects.

This year we celebrated CPJH turning 50 (1965 – 2015) and posed the guiding question, “What has changed in the last 50 years?” to our students in grades 8 & 9. We were very pleased with the in-depth and creative projects they produced. Students were pleased to present their final projects to the rest of the school and were excited that dignitaries, parents, alumnae – including some from 50 years ago - and a reporter from The Chronicle Herald came to the open house 50th birthday party in May. Members of the Keshen Goodman library came to facilitate research methods and provide direction and explicit instruction in a cross curricular manner. This helped students make the connections and transfer those ELA skills to all subjects and their chosen PBL topics.

All teachers continue to differentiate instruction to encompass our diverse needs and to provide opportunity for all to participate and learn with their peers using dedicated small group and one on one support as needed.

We are very pleased to see that our efforts to raise our surprisingly weaker reading scores from last year have been very successful!!! I want to commend the staff for their diligence in working hard to rectify students' learning gaps so they could score at our usual result level, which is comparable to, if not better than, the Board average. 😊

Our math teachers have also been successful with their hard work on our numeracy goal: To improve student achievement on operations with rational numbers.

Emphasis was placed on mental math instructional strategies and we continue to progress with much success across all three grade levels. The new curriculum was introduced across junior high and we were pleased to see emphasis provided on number sense and operations. The new curriculum streamlined the focus on the necessary skill sets students need to be successful and provides more time to be spent on areas of concern.

We were pleased to see we were an improving school with regards to our RWM8 Provincial Assessment in math last year and will continue to build on our strengths in this area. Overall, the math team felt improvement was made, but recognize that constant practice is needed in order for students to become proficient with rational numbers.

As our students are born into a technological age we need to become more technologically savvy in order to keep students engaged and to enhance student achievement. Therefore, we continue to focus on accessing and utilizing technology throughout the school in meaningful ways. Teachers are becoming more comfortable in using programs such as Kahoot, Prezzi, and Razz Kids within the classroom and the students are responding favorably to it. We added 20 Chrome books this year and will continue to add to our technology inventory as best we can and to support teachers and students in acquiring 21st century skills.

Professional Development in this area will be ongoing and I'm pleased with how many staff members pursue ongoing professional development in their areas of study on their own time, as well as attend all PD sessions provided by our school and the school board.

Overall, it was a positive year with dedicated teachers working together to provide the best support possible to their colleagues and students. This is evidenced by the positive results reported in our Getting to Great surveys, wherein 83.4% of students usually or always felt their teachers really cared about them and 90.6% of students usually or always felt teachers expected them to do nothing but their best.

We would also like to thank you, the parents and guardians, for your ongoing support and for teaming with us to make our school successful, both, academically and socially!

Respectfully, Ms. Kim Acorn – Principal ,Clayton Park Junior High ☺