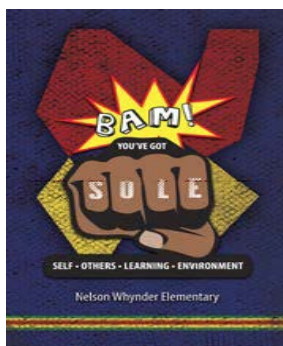


2015-16 Community Report

Nelson Whynder Elementary School



Nelson Whynder is a forward thinking school that challenges staff and students to go beyond what is considered "normal"; tapping into our creative skills and thinking "outside the box". It is a school where students will become independent learners which includes connecting learning to their life experiences. Nelson Whynder is unique to Nova Scotia being the only school within the province that has a large population of students of African descent. The school is located in North Preston, a community known as being the largest indigenous Black community in Canada.

We would like to present our report. The purpose of this report is to share how our school is performing in mathematics and literacy, as well as our response to the Provincial and HRSB Assessment data.

Sharing of Provincial and HRSB Assessment Results:

Provincial Assessments		
	School (%) 2015-16	Board (%) 2015-16
<u>Literacy Assessments</u>		
Grade 3 Provincial		
Writing - Ideas	86%	76%
Writing - Organization	86%	62%
Writing - Language Use	86%	66%
Grade 6 Provincial		
Reading	11%	76%
Writing - Ideas	44%	82%
Writing - Organization	22%	68%
Writing - Language Use	22%	72%
Writing - Conventions	22%	65%
<u>Math Assessments</u>		
Grade 4 Provincial		
Mathematics	17%	78%

Although we recognize the provincial data as information based on student meeting expectations in the early part of the school year, we also recognize (before this assessment) that students have significant gaps in understanding with Literacy and Math through our school created assessments. Our staff worked extremely hard in figuring out: where we are, where we need to go, and how will we get there. From looking deeper into our provincial data shown above, in Grade 3 Literacy, we are pleased to show our

grade three students show high percentages in **meeting expectations**. Because these students have been identified as having gaps in their earlier years, effective supports were put in place and the results show these supports have proven to be successful. We will continue to work hard with all of our students to ensure they are successful in meeting the requirements for their particular grade with combined emotional support at the same time.

Being in year two of our *Student Success Plan*, we have collected two solid years of data to help guide us in creating a meaningful, comprehensive action plan that supports both staff and student learning. Nelson Whynder builds its foundation on being Culturally Responsive in Teaching and Practice as well as Formative Assessment Practices. We believe that combining the theory to instructional practice is what makes an effective educator and student. We learn together here at Nelson Whynder. Having intention and purpose in why we do what we do is important.

Our teachers take an active role in their Professional Learning Communities. This hour is used productively to discuss students who show challenges, teaching practices, assessments, examining data, evaluation, and intervention action items to move forward, and follow up. Collaboration is continuous and more dialogue driven by the teachers. We have also held and attended (out of school) professional development sessions at the school with focuses on:

- Literacy Assessment- Administering Reading Records/CAP /Observational Survey
- Literacy Workshop- structures and explicit instruction
- Literacy and Math networking between grade levels
- Primary – 3 Streamlined Curriculum
- Aligning outcomes to “I Can” statements
- Building Stamina Readers’ Workshop
- Accountable Talk
- Culturally Responsive Instruction with focuses on: Linguistic Variation
- Changing Perspective in Math and Formative Assessment
- Culturally Responsive Practice and Teaching
 - Responsive Classroom Management
 - Responsive Academic Literacy
 - Responsive Academic Language
 - Responsive Learning Environment
- Exploring the new Grade 4-6 Streamlined Curriculum (beginning in the 2016-2017 school year)
- Instructional Coaching

We value our mission statement, "Nelson Whynder School fosters respect and understanding of culture and heritage while developing each learner to their full potential, in partnership with families and the community in a safe and nurturing environment".

Nelson Whynder has consistent school staffing team who works very hard to tell the story (with evidence) of where we've been, where we are now, and where we're going. We have regularly communicated this to parents/guardians, and community through curriculum night, newsletters, school advisory council, parent teacher organization, and student led conferences.

We look forward to continuing with the extensive work that surrounds ensuring high quality education for each of our students and building capacity with performing within the context of formal education. We will also have a specific focus next year that includes implementing the new Grade 4 to 6 Streamlined Curriculum, strengthening our understanding of the Primary to 3 streamlined curriculum, continuing to follow our SSP goals, set learning targets, collect meaningful assessment that drive our instruction and Health and Wellness embedded in our School Culture.