



Principal's Report to SAC

February 1, 2023

Book Launch

Two years ago, our grade 5/6 students wrote a book the ***ABCs of North Preston***. We are excited to announce that this incredible historical, artistic, literary masterpiece has been published by the Delmore Buddy Daye Learning Institute (DBDLI) and was launched Friday January 27th. The books will be available for sale at local bookstores and a limited amount are for sale at Nelson Whynder for \$20.00.

Student interviews can be found on on CBC Kids

<https://www.cbc.ca/kidsnews/post/these-nova-scotia-kids-wrote-about-their-black-community.-now-its-a-book> , CBC Mainstreet, HRCE YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfDk2jMFAEk> and CTV News

<https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2618007> . Check out the links.

Additions to Outdoor Classroom

We are please to announce that we now have two outdoor library boxes in our outdoor classroom funded through memorial donations in honour of former teacher Mr. Tony Eghan and another box on our small playground donated by Mr. Bruce Willis. All three boxes were built and installed by Mr. Bruce Willis. Children and community members are welcome to visit the boxes at any time, take a book to read and give a book in good shape that you no longer want.

February is Registration Month

Effective February 1, 2023, we will be accepting registrations for the 2023-2024 school year through our new online portal, PowerSchool Enrollment.! We encourage parents of new pre-primary students to register. Please spread the word. Parents can contact the school for support.

Staff Professional Development

In December staff engaged in professional development on Treaty Education, P – 3 Literacy and 4 – 6 Mathematics.

Events & Recognitions to Support Leadership & Well-being

- December we held three very successful events: Christmas Concert, Santa's Workshop and our Annual Turkey Dinner complements of Smooth Meal Prep/R&B Kitchen. United for Literacy (formally Frontier College) donated books that we were able to place in a goodie bag with treats for each of our students PP – 6.
- Project LOVE (Leave out the Violence) has started back Mondays during lunch. Activities during lunch with facilitator Findlay Toliver and Mr. Cain.
- Imhotep STEM after school program will be returning Monday Feb 6th, for boys and girls grade 4 – 6.
- Feb 3rd, *Angelic Peace Workshop* with Sheila Lucas, former HRSB Facilitator for African Nova Scotian Student Support.
- Ms. K Slawter, our Child and Youth Care Practitioner has taken on the task of coordinating special activities for African Heritage Month. Feb 15th, two local workshop presenters: *Gold Mind* presented by MAJE Michael Earl, rapper, and motivational speaker. *Colourism... My Black is Beautiful* an interactive hands-on workshop with Antifa McDonald, youth mentor, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant and United for Literacy Preston Township Community Coordinator. She has also organized the African Heritage quiz game during morning announcements.
- African Drumming with Master drummer Kwesi Dunyo arranged by Ms. Aidoo, Halifax Regional Arts, tentative date Feb 21st.

We plan to have a series of winter theme activities during the month of February:

- February 10th – [Winter Walk Day | Ecology Action Centre](#) Students will walk with their reading buddies from the school along the historic Grant Road (Upper Governor Street) to the Saint Thomas Cemetery and back. Hot Chocolate will be in their class when they return.
- Trip to the Emera oval Halifax, Grades Primary to 3 – Tentative depending on dates & times available.
- February 17 – Ski trip to Martock for grades 4/5 and 6. Cost for students \$10.00. More information and permission form will come home closer to the event date.
- Winter theme days will also be incorporated this month.
- Students in grade 4/5 are researching and preparing submissions for the Annual DBDLI History Challenge.
- School Health Grants – School's Plus Community Outreach worker, Stephanie received a grant to do a weekly noon hour healthy cooking program with student groups. Our Learning Centre has received a grant to incorporate cooking within the social/emotional and well-being programming for students attached to the LC.

- **ReBOOT** - Our school will be engaged in Physical and Health Education Canada's ReBOOT Schools Project. ReBOOT Schools will target physical inactivity among children in grades 4-8 in four communities across Canada. The focus of ReBOOT School is to provide children and youth with skills and understanding to positively engage in a wide variety of physical activity opportunities and promote/establish healthy habits, within and beyond the school walls, in a safe manner, which they can carry forward throughout their lives. A group of Student from grades 4 – 6 will be selected to be a part of the school's Action Team. They will engage in a day long workshop with the ultimate task of planning noon hour physical activity for the school. Students in grades 4 – 6 will also have the opportunity to participate, with parental consent, in a pre and post survey centered on physically active lifestyle and engagement.
- **Fastest Kid in Nova Scotia** – Sponsored by Athletics Nova Scotia, this is a high energy in school program that helps to find the next Fastest Kid in Nova Scotia. Guest presenter Ben Brown, came to the school and engaged grades 4/5 and 6 through a series of fun and games, including high energy warm up, track and field based skills activities, timed races and a relaxing cool down. Three boys and three girls were declared top 3 in their gender for NWES and were given prizes. The fastest Kid at Nelson Whynder will have their time compared to the fastest kids from schools across the province to declare the ultimate fastest Kid in Nova Scotia.

Spending

- Through SAC funds we have purchased 4 sets of Affirmation Cards with the expectation of purchasing 2 more sets when they come in stock.
- Purchased a copy of *Water Love* by Natalie Hudgson and Rajeane Willis, one for each class and the library.
- We have on order, the complete set of the Pearson's *Celebrate Canada: Diverse Voices*, a collection of 19 books including *Our Families*, *Our Homes* by Alicia Kibwaa and *I'm from Nova Scotia: Exploring My Black Heritage* by Andrea Marsman. We have ordered additional copies of Alicia and Andrea's books to place in each classroom.