



## Principal's Report to SAC

October 19 & November 23, 2022

### **Recap of June 2022**

We held several well received events in June 2022. We had an amazing heart warming and informative day for parents/guardians and community members. Our theme for the day was *Well-being: The Road to Healing and Support*. The day was filled with power speakers. Thank you to SAC for helping with the planning and running of this event. We had an amazing day for students Friday, May 20th filled with activities focusing on well-being. Our theme for the day was *Nurturing Well-being, Enriching Scholars*. We opened the day with the dynamic keynote speaker Pastor Matthew Thomas followed by six activity stations run by guest presenters from the community at large.

Additional Events & Guest Speakers for May/June:

- Running club participated in the Bluenose Run in Halifax
- Grade 6 Conference Black Excellence, Black Genius Conference – Quentrel Provo, Chris Johnson, Caleb Johnson, Alicia Kibwaa, Auburn Drive Africentric Math Cohort students
- Grade Primary & Grade 1 Africville presentation – Linda Mantley & Grandsons
- Grades 4/5, 5/6 – RCMP presentation on sexual misconduct and personal safety
- Finally, we held our annual grade 6 end of year recognition event.

### **New School Year**

We are off to a great start to the 2022/23 school year. We are excited to welcome new staff to the Nelson Whynder School family and community. They are as follows:

- Mr. Perry – Music
- Ms. Di Pietrantonio – Grade 6 Band
- Mr. Covey – Core French
- Ms. Miller - Choir
- Ms. MacKinnon – School Psychologist
- Chitarra Provo – Educational Program Assistant
- Aliya Rubin – School Social Worker.

We currently still do not have a Guidance Counselor or Speech/Language Pathologist attached to our school. We have 5 classes Primary/one, 2, 3, 4/5 and 6 plus pre-

primary. Our preprimary class is larger this year with 11 students. Our total enrollment is 79 students.

### **Student Success Planning (SSP)**

Last Spring, we updated our SSP goals and strategies. They are as follows:

1. **Literacy** -To foster student independence, competence, and confidence in all components of literacy learning
2. **Mathematics** -To improve student achievement in applying partitioning and representing to operations
3. **Student well-being** – We will improve student well-being at our school

The change in emphasis is on short cycle planning, which means we will regularly revisit our strategies and goals throughout the year in Teacher Support Meetings (TST) and revise where necessary.

### **P – 2 Literacy Priority**

This priority is based upon the premiss of ensuring that all students are reading at grade level in reading by the end of grade 2. Teachers continue to engage in professional development, targeted high leverage teaching strategies, formative classroom assessment and collaborative discussions to determine next steps for success.

### **Provincial Assessments**

Grade 6 students completed the Provincial Assessments in Math & Literacy. We received the results of last year's grade 3 assessment, and they were distributed to parents. Grade 3 will write provincial assessments in May.

### **Staff Professional Development**

During our September Professional Development days, staff focused on the Nova Scotia teaching standards, P – 3 Literacy and 4 – 6 Mathematics priorities all in preparation to support student success. EPAs focussed on NVCI, Diabetes care, seizure care as well as other online modules.

### **Events & Recognitions to Support Leadership & Well-being**

- Grade 4 – 6 students do the announcements each morning. Soon we will be working with Mr. Grady of Halifax Regional Arts to set up a newsroom for video recording of announcements for virtual viewing.
- Monthly Positive Participation Awards
- NWES Running Club is off to a great start. The energetically participated in their first meet Saturday October 15 in Cherry Brook.
- We held our first in-person Curriculum night since beginning of pandemic
- Our students had opportunity to participate and contribute to Nocturne Art Festival again this year. **It Takes Generations** by Letitia Fraser was featured

outside of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. Letitia included Nelson Whynder Elementary students in grades 2-6 to work on this exciting piece. Thanks to Letitia Nocturne organizers and sponsors, each student was given a bus ticket to help with transportation to the viewing.

- Sports Nova Scotia Milk Sports Fair at the BMI centre Oct 13<sup>th</sup> for grades 4 – 6 was well received.
- Annual Terry Fox Walk took place circling the community.
- Field Trip to Noggins Farm – October 24<sup>th</sup> Primary – 6
- Imhotep STEM workshop/presentation for grades 4 – 6 October 27<sup>th</sup>. Imhotep are hosting an afterschool STEM program at our school on Mondays.
- The LOVE (Leave Out the Violence) program has returned to Nelson Whynder and is open to boys in grades 4, 5 and 6, every Monday during Lunch with Mr. Findlay Tolliver. The LOVE Programs strive to support and build healthy relationships to help youth overcome the challenges they face.
- Remembrance Day Assembly November 10<sup>th</sup> (special presentation from M Cpl retired Loretta (Lucy) Braithwaite, participants, PO Retired Roger Beals, Captain Mark Johnson, Centennial Legion and Donna Whynder, IODE
- Quincy Mack Presentation Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Christmas Concert Dec 8<sup>th</sup>
- Grade 3 – Nutcracker Dec 8<sup>th</sup>
- Efficiency Nova Scotia Green Schools Program – Dec 13<sup>th</sup>

### **Outdoor Classroom Spaces**

Huge thank you goes out to Stephanie Downey-Saunders and her staff with the BEA Cultural and Academic Enrichment program (CAEP) for painting the 100s chart/snakes & ladders and checkers behind the school.

Last Spring one of our beloved former teachers passed away, Mr. Eghan who requested that Nelson Whynder be one of the recipients of memorial donations. We have engaged a local entrepreneur to build 3 “Give a Book/Take a Book outdoor library boxes for our outdoor garden classroom and the small playground.

We received a donation of \$3000 from Halifax Casino and \$500 from Local NSTU in memory of MarMar for upgrades to the small playground area. Our intent is to install a basketball net, paved pad, and safety fence. Anne was in conversation with operations in June and October. We are still awaiting follow-up of this work.

Outdoor classrooms have been upgraded to ensure accessibility. Pavement and a gate have been installed at the front of our outdoor classroom making it accessible from the sidewalk.

### **Book Launch**

In 2020 our grade 5/6 students wrote a book the ***ABCs of North Preston*** and submitted it to the DBDLI History challenge. They, along with submissions from the 4/5 class won honorable mention that year. The grade 5/6 class book is in the process of being published by DBDLI. We hope to launch it within the next month.

<https://atlanticbooks.ca/books/the-abcs-of-north-preston/>