



2015-16 Community Report for Humber Park Elementary School

Provincial Assessments		
	School (%) 2015-16	Board (%) 2015-16
<u>Literacy Assessments</u>		
Grade 3 Provincial		
Reading	55%	69%
Writing - Ideas	80%	76%
Writing - Organization	70%	62%
Writing - Language Use	70%	66%
Writing - Conventions	61%	52%
Grade 6 Provincial		
Reading	95%	76%
Writing - Ideas	87%	82%
Writing - Organization	78%	68%
Writing - Language Use	78%	72%
Writing - Conventions	74%	65%
<u>Math Assessments</u>		
Grade 4 Provincial		
Mathematics	79%	78%
Grade 6 Provincial		
Mathematics	91%	72%

The staff at Humber Park Elementary School are pleased to communicate that our students have performed well on the 2015-2016 HRSB and Nova Scotia Assessments in literacy and mathematics. According to the assessment results, our students have scored above the Board average in most areas. There has been a significant improvement in grade six student achievements in all areas including reading, writing and mathematics. The grade four mathematics results are consistent with the Board average. Our grade three students achieved very well overall in writing; however, there is a decrease in student achievement in reading. The school staff have responded to this decline in student performance in reading at the grade three level by accessing supplementary supports from the HRSB. An Early Literacy Support Consultant was invited to come and work with our classroom teachers and support staff to model effective instruction of reading strategies and to design targeted reading lessons.

During the 2015-2016 school year Humber Park Elementary School was engaged in the third year of implementation of our School Improvement Plan. Our staff continue to work towards improving our student achievement in literacy and mathematics through our literacy and mathematics goals:

Literacy Goal: *Our students will improve their communication to demonstrate deeper comprehension with text.*

Mathematics Goal: *Our students will improve their ability to communicate their mathematical thinking.*

To support our goals, all teachers participated in continuous professional development throughout the school year. Teachers were engaged in learning about *Culturally Relevant Pedagogy*. Culturally relevant instruction refers to teaching in a cross-cultural setting and enables each student to relate to what is being taught. Students feel valued and are empowered intellectually, socially and emotionally. Grades P-3 teachers attended information sessions regarding the new *Comprehensive Language Arts and Mathematics Curriculum*. Lead teachers attended *Caring School Communities* PD and then shared their learning with all staff. All teachers conducted regular class meetings with their students in order to build a safe and caring classroom community. Through the support of our *Home and School Association* and a technology grant, we were able to make updates to our school's technology. As such, teachers had an opportunity to further develop their skills as it relates to implementing the use of technology to support student learning. Specifically, teachers received training in the use of iPads and Chromebooks. All teachers engaged in professional reading and school-based PD to strengthen their understanding of instructional and assessment strategies to elicit stronger student responses through effective questioning techniques. Asking carefully designed open-ended questions encourages students to engage their critical thinking skills, brainstorm solutions and problem solve.

Teachers have met regularly in their *Professional Learning Communities* to work towards achieving our common goals. There is a strong culture of collaboration at Humber Park Elementary School. Teacher collaboration through PLCs results in improved teacher instruction, which leads to improved student achievement. Through PLCs teachers were able to identify areas of challenge in student performance and developed short term and long term instructional plans to address these challenges. Teachers engaged in on-going professional dialogue throughout the school year to monitor student progress and implement intervention strategies.

At Humber Park Elementary School we are committed to meeting the needs of all our learners through collaboration with our school community partners in education. We strive to promote a positive and welcoming environment that supports improved student achievement and overall school growth. Moving forward, we are confident that we will continue to make progress towards our goals.