

Annual Report
June 2015
Glooscap Elementary School



Principal's Message

We continue to be grateful for the community support we receive as we close another successful year at Glooscap Elementary School. One great example of this was acknowledged during the celebration for the completion of our new Community Playground with a party (there were bubbles and cake!) on Sept 25th with guests from the Provincial Dept of Health and Wellness, from the Municipality of Kings and local Community Health Boards. It was an opportunity for the students to express their gratitude for the many grants and corporate donations received and to be able to acknowledge the community support that made this project a success.

As we close this year, there are two very special teachers we wish to acknowledge and say farewell to with our very best wishes for good health and happiness:

Thank you Mrs Trueman for your leadership with Science teaching—and special thanks for the many successful Science Fairs we have hosted - offering opportunities for learning and engaging many diverse learners. Thank you for leaving us with the wonderful bird houses and nesting boxes that you and Mr Trueman made and hung with your class this year on the Bigelow Trail and on the school grounds. Every day I arrive and see a sparrow enjoying its' home in our front yard and the chickadees, gold finch and sweet sparrows feeding out front. You are leaving us with very visible reminders of your passion for the natural environment and the expectation that we will continue to care for it.

Thank you Mrs Long for your leadership with Terry Fox walking in this community for 25+ years. Thousands of footsteps and dollars later this annual walk - the Marathon of Hope, is a Glooscap Elementary tradition that will continue due to your leadership and commitment. Although we will not see your pink guitar next fall, we will continue to sing the Glooscap School song, with enthusiasm and the legacy of your songwriting gifts will linger in our halls.

And to staff moving on to other schools, best wishes to Ms Hulford, we will miss your wit and solid teaching practices; to Mr Hind, PE, who will be teaching at West Hants Middle School and Mrs Kenny, Res/ELT, thank you for your care and service to our students.

And to the grade 5 students, thank you for sharing your gifts and talent with us. We hope you remember the years at Glooscap rich with memories of learning, challenge and fun and continue to embrace the seeds of lifelong friendships you have sown here with your classmates. From all of the staff, I can confidently share that it has been our privilege to learn and play with you.

From myself and the staff at Glooscap, we wish you all a healthy and happy summer with your families.

Corena Burbidge

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Student Achievement

There are individual assessments completed in the areas of literacy and mathematics throughout the school year, as well as Department of Education Provincial Assessments which are used to chart and monitor student's progress. Most importantly, the assessment data is used to guide teacher's instruction. On a daily basis, teachers are assessing students through their observations of the student's participation in class, on the products the students create and from conversations.

Glooscap Primary to grade 3 teachers, and the Early Literacy teachers have participated in AVRSB designed Literacy In- servicing, titled Beginning and Growing Readers and Writers. The programming has involved the exploration of best practices for literacy learning and student's success and assessment practices. We collect data on reading and writing at the grade Primary-3 level three times a year. This data is evaluated by teams of educators to decide on the best programming for all students. Teachers at the grade 4 and 5 level also collect the same data which guides classroom instruction and student programming.

A sample of the results from this individual assessment data from Glooscap and AVRSB are:

GES grade 1 meeting/approaching expectations in reading: 79%, in AVRSB: 90%

GES grade 2 meeting/approaching expectations in writing: 93%, in AVRSB: 95%

GES grade 3 meeting/approaching expectations in reading: 81%, in AVRSB: 89%

We do value the data from the provincial assessments yet it is important to realize that these are only a snapshot of how students are performing. The results over time may allow us to discover trends in student achievement which we can reflect back to the classroom instruction and practice. The majority of the students' progress is seen by the teacher through regular classroom assessments. Through tracking the individual results and reporting on report cards, we are confident the practices employed by both the students and the staff are on the right track.

Nova Scotia Assessment: Mathematics in Grade 4

Number of students meeting expectations in mathematics:

88% of Glooscap students meeting expectations

74% of AVRSB students meeting expectations

Provincial results - 74% meeting expectations

We were pleased with these results from the M4 assessment for Glooscap!

School and Community

The opening of Glooscap Elementary School in Canning resulted from the consolidation of all the small community schools in the Cornwallis District Area. Glooscap Elementary began its' service in 1965, enabling students from over twenty communities to complete their elementary years in a larger facility. The communities from which we draw our students lie on the northern floor of the Annapolis Valley from the base of Blomidon westerly to Centreville, from the Canard dykes northerly to the shores of the Bay of Fundy and the Minas Basin.

During the 2014-2015 school year, there were approximately 210 students registered from grades P to 5. The staff included 15 teachers, 3 Educational Assistants and a Librarian, a Cafeteria worker, a Student Support Worker, a secretary and Principal, plus 3 custodians

Students' learning is enriched by the support of our Home and School Association, families and our surrounding community, we are truly grateful. Volunteers are an instrumental part of our school and we would like to extend a sincere thank you for their support of the Breakfast Program, activities in the school and initiatives that extend our learning to alternate environments.



Professional Learning for Staff

Glooscap Elementary School is involved in a process of Continuous School Improvement (CSI). It is our responsibility as teachers to continuously analyze our work and to continue to improve so that we can provide meaningful learning experiences to all of our students. We organize our professional learning time to ensure that the time is used wisely in order to have the most positive impact on student achievement and school culture at Glooscap.

During the 2014-15 school year, the Northeast Kings Family of Schools, created an Inservice day around Wellness. We learned about the effects of Trauma in young students lives and the importance of mental wellness for ourselves and those we serve. The practice of mindfulness was introduced during this day and we at Glooscap have continued to explore this and engage in these settling and calming exercises.

Another area of focus was on Mathematics; classroom teachers delved deeper into the new curriculum and participated in regional inservices. We believe that this work has resulted in staff developing stronger competency and confidence through sharing their instructional practices and assessment tools. Students are presenting as greater risk takers and more confident in their math abilities. Staff also spent time creating Math games that will support curriculum outcomes. Grade 1 and 2 teachers voluntarily attended afterschool sessions on Mental Math.

Resource teachers attended the School Therapy Services inservice to gain an understanding of additional supports available through Occupational and Physical Therapists.

Glooscap staff also make the time to share technology resources as we acknowledge the effectiveness of the SMART Boards as a teaching tool and student learning resource, plus we explored Google Docs, which will be the application that students use to create products.

Glooscap Home & School Association

Many thanks to our executive, Jill Keddy, Tania Smith and Kelly Sweeney for their commitment to sustaining this important working group and for their leadership of this association. Plus we send out a warm and energetic *Thanks* to the parents who have coordinated interesting events that were fun for our families and for our school community and raised funds to support skating for every student and supported the larger project of our new playground.

Race Relations, Cross Cultural Awareness and Human Rights (RCH) Initiatives

Providing all students with a safe, healthy and positive learning environment has been a priority for Glooscap staff. This year's learning has been enhanced with activities, traditions and presentations that have broadened student's awareness and understanding of race, sexual orientation, culture and heritage. One tradition is the annual Remembrance Assembly; students share their understanding and learning of this important day and the privilege to live in a peaceful country. We have learned to sing the Mi'kmaq version of *O' Ganada* and have added this to our rotation of English, French singing during daily announcements. April Hiltz, Mi'kmaq Services Specialist, led workshops for classes here, sharing stories, artifacts and Art activities from the Mi'kmaq culture.

As part of our Professional Development strategy this year, the staff engaged in activities to explore their understanding and experience to enhance their cultural proficiency. The activities were received with spirit and enthusiasm!

The staff engaged in a session regarding Gender Identity facilitated by Sheena Jamieson of the Youth Project and continue to explore ways to create a gender neutral environment.

Glooscap School is pleased to have a Student Support Worker who provides assistance and support to students of African descent. We also have a staff member who acts as our in-school RCH Advisor.

Safe and Caring Environment

We believe that there are a number of areas that indicate we strive to create a courteous and caring environment and a safe place for all of our school community members.

The PEBS (Positive Effective Behavior Supports) matrix, which at Glooscap is more commonly called the 'Fantastic Four' provides consistent language to support the teaching of the 4 pillars of Respect: self, others, learning and the environment. The matrix provides common expectations for positive behavior in all areas of the school- in classrooms, hallways, washrooms and the playground. Attention is focused on creating and sustaining supports that encourage appropriate behaviour choices for all children.

The resource *Second Step* which is used in Primary to grade 5, supports the students social-emotional learning and assists with their personal development of self regulation. All classes use this language when engaging the students, " Eyes looking, Ears listening, Lips quiet, Body still".

Positive behavior and responsible citizenship is acknowledged at our monthly Assemblies where students receive certificates describing the means of demonstrating Respect they have achieved and from the distribution of ballots for positive participation on the playground.

The addition of a School Counsellor to our elementary school has had a positive impact on the experience for many students. We are very appreciative of the skill sets Mrs Roy brings to our community and the efforts she extends to facilitate other agency involvement for families.

Student fundraising continued to demonstrate care for the larger community as they gathered monies to support the Terry Fox Foundation, the Heart and Stroke Foundation and made a generous delivery to the Canning Food Bank.

Our staff has worked hard to raise awareness of global issues and different cultures as demonstrated by classes raising money for goats, chickens and mango trees purchased via Plan Canada. Education scholarships for students in Najilie, Kenya in collaboration with NKEC students were realized, And this year, funds from a Home and School event were added to the Girl Guide initiative, supporting the people of Nepal following an earthquake.



Student Involvement and Successes

Students have opportunities to participate in leadership and extra-curricular activities such as: cross country running, skating program, the Swim to Survive program for grade 3 and the dance celebration.

We completed whole school walks this year, enjoying the Bigelow Trail when weather permitted and striding with tunes in the hallways when needed.

The February presentation of *Love Grows*, our school concert showcased many talented students! The production featured the student's studies of the history of Jazz music and celebrated friendship in song and rhythm.

Many Glooscap students enjoyed success with their literacy and artistic entries in the Remembrance Day- NS Legion, Valley Waste and Recycle and the Canning Lions Club contests.

We have valued and enjoyed the students' contributions to our school Assemblies - performing songs, dances, jokes, piano and drumming plus participating in Choir and the skilled Tech crew.

In May, all of our students had the opportunity to participate in a Soccer Clinic led by the Valley District Soccer Association coaching staff. The students practiced dribbling and passing and played drills including King of the Ring with the coaches. A great day of physical activity!

This year, we appreciated Student leadership as our grade 4 and 5 students became Reading Coaches, giving of their time in the early morning to read with students in Primary and grade 1 plus the older students became active Mentors for younger students with behavioral goals.

Class structures and Staff for 2015-16:

Primary: Mrs Ross
Primary/Grade 1: Mrs Smith
Grade 1: Ms Jones
Combined Grade 1 and 2: Mrs Easton
Grade 2: Mrs Champion
Combined Grade 3 / 4: Mrs Chipman
Combined Grade 3 / 4: Mr Fitch
Combined Grade 4 / 5: Mrs Burgess
Combined Grade 4 / 5: Mrs Gobien

Core French: Mme Chaisson
Early Literacy: Mrs Crouse
Librarian: Mr Popowich
Music: Mrs Hiseler
Phys Ed: Mr Pinch
Reading Recovery: Mrs Logue-Arbou
Resource/BIRT: Ms Kavanagh
Resource/ELT: Ms Creasor
School Counsellor: Mrs Roy

Educational Assistants: Sandi Corbin, Lorna Morine and Shaunna Porter

Cafeteria: Mrs Russell

School Secretary: Ms Perreault

Upcoming School Dates ~ **September 2015**

September 1 Organization day for all staff
September 2 In-service day for all staff
September 3 First day of school for students
September 16 and 17 School Photo days
September 17 Parent Orientation at 7:00 pm
September 18 Assembly, 8:30 am; all welcome
September 21 Regional In-service Day
September 25 Terry Fox Walk at 12:45
September 28 Home and School meeting at 6:45 pm



Up, up with Glooscap
Come visit and you will see
Up, up with Glooscap
We're the best that we can be
We're kind and caring
With lots of sharing
Treating others respectfully
We have enthusiasm to learn each
day
And live in a peaceful way
Hurrah

(Thank you Mrs Long)



Harambee – a Swahili concept meaning:
we pull together

We learn that each one of us has a part
to play, each one of us brings
something to the whole and that
together our performance is stronger.