

# 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 example of this is the achievement of our goal to have a SPARK Bike in every classroom. With parent support for grant writing (we received an Eggs Farmers NS Grant and a local Community Health Board grant), donations from the Home and School Association and school fundraising we achieved this. Riding a SPARK bike allows students to release or stimulate energy as needed. The benefits include an increase in student attention to class work and engagement in learning activities. And these bikes are quiet, so riding in class is not disruptive to other students.

As we close this year, there is a very special teacher we wish to acknowledge and say farewell to with our very best wishes for good health and happiness: Mrs Ross! Mrs Ross is retiring from teaching this summer. Her gentle presence will be missed and we are grateful for her care of the many 5 year olds she has introduced to school learning.

We are saying Farewell to many staff members this year who will be missed for the contributions they have made to our school community.

- Mrs Roy, who will be fulltime at NKEC next year, thank you for your service to our students and families.
- Madame Squires has accepted a full time Core French position at Coldbrook
- Mrs Clelland is returning to Annapolis East for a full time Resource position
- Mrs Crouse is moving to Berwick School to a Resource position
- Mr Popowich is moving to EMS.

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

## Table of Contents

|                                      |      |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Principal's Message.....             | p.1  |
| Student Achievement .....            | p. 2 |
| School & Community .....             | p. 2 |
| Professional Learning for Staff..... | p. 3 |
| RCH Initiatives .....                | p. 3 |
| Glooscap Home and School .....       | p. 3 |
| Student Involvement & Successes ..   | p. 4 |
| Safe & Caring Environment.....       | p. 4 |
| Staff and Structures .....           | p. 5 |
| September 2016 dates.....            | p. 5 |

## 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.

This year Glooscap grade 4/5 teachers participated in AVRSB designed Literacy In- servicing, titled Stronger Readers. This is an extension of Beginning and Growing Readers and Writers strategy which the Primary to grade 3 teachers have previously learned about. The programming has involved the exploration of best practices for literacy learning and student's success and assessment practices. We now collect data on reading and writing at the grade Primary-5 level. This data is evaluated by classroom teachers and Early Literacy teachers to decide on the best programming for all students.

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

grade P meeting/approaching expectations in reading: 97%  
grade 1 meeting/approaching expectations in reading: 77%,  
grade 2 meeting/approaching expectations in reading: 77%,  
grade 3 meeting/approaching expectations in reading: 83%,  
grade 4 meeting/approaching expectations in reading: 76%  
grade 5 meeting/approaching expectations in reading: 85%

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 the staff are supporting students learning.

Nova Scotia Assessment: Mathematics in Grade 4

Number of students meeting expectations in mathematics:

88% of Glooscap students meeting expectations

73% of AVRSB students meeting expectations

Provincial results - 76% 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 2015-2016 school year, there were approximately 208 students registered from grades P to 5. The staff included 15 teachers, 5 Educational Assistants and a Librarian, a Student Support Worker, a secretary and Principal, plus 3 custodians

Students' learning is enriched by the support of our Home and School Association. To the families of 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 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 address curriculum implementation and to learn strategies to support social emotional learning. We strive to have this balance in professional learning in order to have the most positive impact on student achievement and school culture at Glooscap.

During the 2015-16 school year, the Northeast Kings Family of Schools, created an In-service 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. Mindful practices were explored during this day and we at Glooscap have continued to engage in these settling and calming exercises.

Classroom teachers focused on Literacy learning thru Regional in-services. Analyzing reading assessments and examining information gleaned from the grade 1 Observation Survey tasks were hot topics! Both of these focuses help to improve Literacy instruction for students. Math meeting times focused on changes in the curriculum and the greater depth that classroom teachers can expand into within the concept of Number.

Another area of focus has been on Technology. We are supporting the students learning of Google Docs and the interactive capacity of this software for use in creating products and communicating learning. Students in grades 3 to 5 completed and presented projects using this application.

## Glooscap Home & School Association

Many thanks to our executive, Alicia Lindeman, 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 realized many school projects.

## 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. Mr Pinch introduced the students to Mi'kmaq games which they played in gym. Students in the upper grades participated in a *Say What You Mean* workshop, focusing on sexual orientation, respect and care for others.

We all enjoyed an interactive performance from Celtic Rathscallions celebrating Celtic music, folklore in stories and dance. And from Razzmatazz a Peace workshop. Glooscap School is pleased to have a Student Support Worker who provides assistance and support to students of African descent. We also have two staff members who act as our in-school RCH Advisors.

## 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 learning and assists with their personal development of emotional 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 Involvement and Successes

Students have opportunities to participate in 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 December presentation of 'A Taste of the Holidays' had every student participating in a celebration of how holidays are recognized in our homes with our families. This performance showcased the singing and instrument learnings from our rich Music program.

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 literary and poster contests.

~ Congratulations to the winners of the Canning and District Lions Club sponsored poster contest about Healthy Living

-from Primary: Hannah Edmunds, Spring Keeping-Doucet, Alec Rockwell

-from grades 1-3: Dante Godfrey, Kate Grant, Neveah Parker-Barnard

-from grades 4-5: Miranda Fraser, Vaila Gaudy, Abbie Thomson

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.

Glooscap students participated in the Doctors of NS sponsored Kids Run Club. The focus is on building endurance for this healthy physical activity and the students were invited to run together with the leaders Tuesdays at noon time. 46 students ran!

Students in grade 3, 4 and 5 had the opportunity to travel to Halifax and Link Up with Symphony Nova Scotia. It was a wonderful experience of singing and recorder playing with professional musicians.

And a Shout Out to KenWo golf pros who spent a day introducing our students to golf, including opportunities to try a drive, a chip and a putt.

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.

Class structures and Staff for 2016-17:

Primary: Ms Smith  
Primary/Grade 1: Mrs Burke  
Grade 1: Mrs Pinch  
Grade 2: Mrs Champion  
Grade 2: Ms Lewis  
Grade 3: Mrs Chipman  
Grade 3: Mr Fitch  
Grade 4: Mrs Burgess  
Combined Grade 4 / 5: Mr Rand  
Grade 5: Mrs Gobien

Core French: TBA  
Librarian: TBA  
Music: Mrs Hiseler  
Phys Ed: Mr Pinch  
Reading Recovery: Mrs Logue-Arbou  
Resource: Ms Creasor  
Resource/Early Literacy: TBA  
School Counsellor: Mrs Sheey  
Student Support Worker: Ms Tracey Clements

Educational Assistants: Lorna Morine, Shaunna Porter, Cindy Tracey and Kathy Ferrier

School Secretary: Ms Perreault

Upcoming School Dates ~ **September 2016**

September 6 Organization day for all staff  
September 7 First day of school for students  
September 15 Parent Orientation at 7:00 pm  
September 19 and 20 School Photo days  
September 23 Assembly, 8:30 am; all welcome  
September 26 Home and School meeting at 6:45 pm  
September 28 Terry Fox Walk at 12:45  
September 29 Early Dismissal at 11:05  
September 30 Regional In-service Day



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



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.