

Bel Ayr Elementary School

2015-16 Community Report

Provincial Assessments		
	School (%) 2015-16	Board (%) 2015-16
<u>Literacy Assessments</u>		
Grade 3 Provincial		
Reading	80%	69%
Writing - Ideas	95%	76%
Writing - Organization	70%	62%
Writing - Language Use	70%	66%
Writing - Conventions	60%	52%
Grade 6 Provincial		
Reading	87%	76%
Writing - Ideas	87%	82%
Writing - Organization	61%	68%
Writing - Language Use	70%	72%
Writing - Conventions	70%	65%
<u>Math Assessments</u>		
Grade 4 Provincial		
Mathematics	55%	78%
Grade 6 Provincial		
Mathematics	90%	72%

At Bel Ayr Elementary, we are committed to enriching and improving student learning. We take pride in our successes and continue to look for ways to improve areas of challenge. From the above table, we can see our strengths and challenges as we enter our fourth year of our Student Success Plan (formerly known as CSI-Continuous School Improvement). Examination of the data provides opportunity to recognize that the work we are doing is having an impact and that our students are showing growth. Our students typically scored above the Board averages in literacy and math provincial assessments. When reviewing math assessment results, we see evidence that our students' achievement and understanding continues to grow. Conversely, it is evident our Grade 4 provincial results are not where we would like them to be and this is a definite area for further concentration.

After careful examination of our school data along with various assessments, we have identified two improvement goals – communication skills in writing and number sense in mathematics. In the area of literacy, we see that our students are experiencing success in reading and we are pleased to see that we are above the average results of students in the Halifax Regional School Board. In the area of writing, our grade 3 students have shown consistent growth in all areas. Our grade six students are progressing with their writing ideas and conventions; however, we are concerned with their organization as results show we are just below the Board average. We believe the new grade P-3 and 4-6 integrated curricula, with their focus on literacy, will facilitate this work.

Our grade six students scored well above Board average in the provincial math assessment. The grade four students found the provincial math assessment challenging and scored below the HRSB average.

Bel Ayr teachers believe this snapshot does not capture what progress is being made. In the area of mathematics, teachers continue to go deeper into math curriculum that was rolled out to grades primary to six over the past three years by the province. This new curriculum allows for more exploration and a deeper development of number sense, as this is the foundation for all other math learning.

Teachers are aligning their practices, sharing instructional methods and exploring outcome-based assignment so that students may meaningfully build on their foundation of number sense.

At Bel Ayr, teaching staff are committed to working collaboratively in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Classroom teachers met weekly in PLC to examine provincial, school and classroom assessments to target areas for instruction for whole classes, small groups and individual students. A wide variety of professional development occurred at the Bel Ayr site as well as at the HRSB and other sites. During staff meetings, we shared and discussed learning targets, effective feedback, and questioning techniques. On assigned school PD days, Bel Ayr teachers met to delve deeper into areas concerning literacy, math, SSP, technology and cultural proficiency. We believe that improvement in the quality of teaching, and engaging students in meaningful opportunities for learning results in improved student achievement.

Bel Ayr students are living in a “technological age”. Many staff members have pursued ongoing professional development, on their own time as well as attended PD sessions at school and at the Board level to improve their technology knowledge. We are excited with Google Apps technology that has already been introduced to many of our students. Recently, we have acquired 30 chrome books.

The ongoing community support and involvement is much appreciated at Bel Ayr Elementary. We applaud our many volunteers , including Home and School members, SAC committee, class trip chaperones, classroom volunteers and all other parent volunteers who help to provide a friendly, family based environment brimming with a number of activities and events that help to add to the elementary school experience.

As we move into year five of our Student Success Plan, we will continue to provide a high quality education for all of our Bel Ayr Students!