

2015-16 Community Report for Hillside Park Elementary School

Provincial Assessments		
	School (%) 2015-16	Board (%) 2015-16
<u>Literacy Assessments</u>		
Grade 3 Provincial		
Reading	57%	69%
Writing - Ideas	54%	76%
Writing - Organization	46%	62%
Writing - Language Use	43%	66%
Writing - Conventions	32%	52%
<u>Math Assessments</u>		
Grade 4 Provincial		
Mathematics	74%	78%

Hillside Park is a small but dynamic elementary school tucked in a quiet neighbourhood just off the Cobequid Road in Lower Sackville. There are currently 146 students from grades Primary to 5, in 7 classrooms. Hillside has experienced many changes over the past 60 years and has become a hub of community activities. We house a Schools Plus Outreach room, a resource for parents in the Sackville High family of schools. We are a center for evening recreation both inside and outside of the building, as well as a brand new community garden. We continue to grow as learners as we make stronger connections with our neighbours.

We are presently completing year four of our Student Success Plan (SSP). We have observed many successes in student learning over the past four years, reflected in student progress reports and classroom assessment data. As a staff we have engaged in many Professional Development opportunities linking learning and new ways to motivate students. Technology training, such as Google Apps, has been pivotal in targeting many of our reluctant writers. We have also implemented regular use of manipulatives to encourage students to construct responses to Math problems in ways that make learning meaningful. Physical movement and “brain breaks” have allowed us to find new ways to keep students engaged. Teachers have worked together to identify culturally proficient instruction for students, providing a variety of approaches to learning and assessment that promotes diversity.

We continue to experience challenges in some areas of the Provincial Literacy Assessment as viewed in the above chart. We have approached these challenges as opportunities to review the assessment process in terms of assessment-taking skills and identifying gaps in teaching and learning. Any student who is struggling, as identified through this assessment and/or classroom assessments, has received interventions through early literacy support (ELS) and/or Resource to find best ways to help these students succeed. School data has shown that students who were challenged with the Provincial Assessments have now shown to have made gains in reading and writing. Our School Planning Team meets weekly to discuss individual students and how to best meet their needs. As a school, we continue to focus on writing conventions. We plan on keeping this focus in the forefront as we move forward with writing goals in the upcoming years.

Math has been an area of notable achievement for our students and we have developed effective classroom strategies with the use of manipulatives and constructivist learning. Our students say that Math is fun! Our students love to demonstrate how well they are doing in solving Math problems.

With the streamlined curriculum, now in Grade Primary to 5, we know that our students will continue to grow as learners with a strong focus on Literacy and Math. Our school wide focus on cultural practices in teaching, as well as diverse learners will continue to put student success front and center in all school conversation and activities.