

Lawrencetown Consolidated School



Principal's Message

The 2014-2015 school year has been another successful year! For a small school with few staff members, we continued to be able to offer many in-school and extracurricular activities. I'd like to thank our wonderful staff for their commitment and dedication in providing these opportunities to our students! Some of these activities were organized at the request of students and one activity was led by two students in grade 5!

We provided LCS water bottles to our new Primary students and to students new to our school as part of our *Health Promoting Schools* initiative that aimed at promoting wellness by encouraging everyone to drink more water throughout the day. We offered breakfast baggies that contained both fresh fruit and vegetables for students and teachers provided several "Brain Breaks," frequent bursts of physical activity throughout the day, as a way to help students to be more engaged and alert. A focus this year was on "wellness" for all school community members and will continue to be a focus for next year.

We have had an amazing opportunity this past year for our students and staff to learn about edible gardens, beginning with soil preparation to the harvesting of the vegetables, using our newly built raised garden boxes. These workshops about where our food comes from, food security and sustainability, under the leadership of one of our knowledgeable and experienced parents, will continue in the fall.

Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education: The 3 Rs Renew, Refocus, Rebuild was released by the NS Government in January and information regarding some of the upcoming changes has been taking place as it is known. Teachers in P-3 will have a more integrated curriculum with a focus on Mathematics and Language Arts. All P-5 teachers have now implemented the updated math curriculum. The focus for Math is on developing a toolbox of strategies and using processes to help problem-solve outcomes that are more developmentally appropriate for our students. We believe that we are building a much more solid strategy-based foundation for our students in Mathematics.

Next year we will, once again, see a few changes in our staff. Jill Macdonald, Gr. Primary Teacher, will not be here, but will be going to work as a mentor with the School Board and Stacy Bugden, Library Technician, will be leaving our school. Both of these positions have yet to be filled. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful support LCS continues to receive from Lawrencetown and its surrounding communities. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated families, students and staff who make LCS a *Learning Centered School!*

Karen Baker, Principal

LCS School Vision Statement:
"Working Together for Student Success"

LCS Mission Statement:
It is the mission of Lawrencetown Consolidated School to develop responsible, life-long learners in a student-centered environment where all educational partners are successful, respected and valued.



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Student Achievement

Our school CSI (Continuous School Improvement) goals established by our *Collaborative Learning Teams* this year:

- **Gr. P-1 Literacy Goal:** To develop reading sight word vocabulary accuracy in students and help them to accurately use these words in their written work.
- **Gr. P-1 Math Goal:** To develop student understanding of concepts and skills around partitioning of numbers (recognizing the parts of numbers and understanding how to put them together or take them apart) and how to represent them concretely, pictorially, symbolically, orally and in writing.
- **Gr. 2-5 Literacy Goal:** To increase student reading comprehension focusing on the non-literal and “about and beyond the text” comprehension of the text (for both Fiction and Non-Fiction).
- **Gr. 2-5 Math Goal:** To increase student understanding of various forms of patterning and how this assists in overall development of number concepts.
- This past year during *Provincial Assessment Week*, at the end of September, our grade 3 students participated in provincial literacy assessments and our grade 4 students participated in provincial math assessments. The intent of both of these is to measure literacy (P-2) and math achievement levels (P-3). Results from literacy assessments suggest that we will continue to focus on increasing a deeper understanding and independence in students accurately using reading and writing conventions. In math, results didn’t show any one particular area needing specific intervention.
- 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 majority of the students’ progress is seen by the classroom teacher through regular assessments. Through tracking the results on report cards, and assessment results using tools from the Beginning and Growing Reader’s frameworks, we are confident the practices employed by both the students and the staff are on the right track.

We celebrated particular successes with some students this year who were close to reaching grade level expectations. Through intentionally planned intense intervention support, these students on the cusp reached grade level expectations by the end of the year.

School and Community

During the 2014 - 2015 school year, there were approximately 96 students registered in Grades P-5. There were 8 teachers, 3 educational assistants, 1 secretary, 2 custodians, 1 cafeteria manager, 4 bus drivers and 1 Principal. We wish all the best to the 13 Grade 5 students who will

be off to BRHS and a few to MRHS in the fall. We will miss their leadership, creative flair and engaging personalities! We continue to have many partnerships. LCS could not be as successful in meeting our goals of providing enriching learning experiences to the students without the continued support and efforts of the following partnerships within our community. Our thanks are extended to the following: TRA Foods Middleton, Dairy Queen, LCS Advisory Council members, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 112, RCMP, Waste Resource Management, Blue Griffin Bookstore, MRHS Brass Ensemble, Bright Beginnings, Lawrencetown Recreation and the Village, Volunteers (fundraisers, fluoride team, classroom helpers, enrichment, cafeteria), BRHS Band, Family Matters, Lawrencetown Lions Club, Lawrencetown Volunteer Fire Department, Annapolis Valley Regional Library, Scotiabank and RBC.



Safe and Caring Environment

We believe in and strongly promote, **“Respect for Self, Other, Environment, & Learning.”**

Here are some ways we do it:

We work hard at LCS to create a safe and caring environment for all students and staff. We believe that **“Kids do Well if They Can,”** so we take care in putting supports in place to ensure they succeed. We

have a school-wide program planning team that meets regularly to review student progress and to ensure extra supports are put in place for students should they be needed.

We take pride in recognizing students' accomplishments and good deeds and we share these during the announcements each morning with our "Peek-A-Boo I see you..." messages. We have monthly student-led assemblies and three Student of the Month/Term assemblies where we also publicly recognize students' efforts.

Some of the other initiatives we have included:

- School-wide PEBS matrix, (Positive Expected Behaviour Supports)
- Clear classroom expectations and positive reward systems
- "Student of the Week" selections
- Anti-bullying strategies: investigating all incidents
- Focus on directly teaching students strategies in dealing with conflict
- Green team – waste sorting
- Community recycling drop off - community volunteer does this
- Principal meeting and sending off students on buses each day
- Student of the Month/Term Assemblies to recognize positive behaviours/achievements
- Peek-A-Boo positive messages read aloud on morning announcements
- Fun staff outings with a focus on wellness – *Sole Sisters 5 KM Run*: builds collegiality
- WITS/LEADS Program with RCMP monthly visits
- Bus safety and evacuation practice held
- Lockdown, Evacuation and Fire Drills held
- Comprehensive Support - Behaviour Intervention Resource Teacher
- Program Planning team meetings
- Student Leadership: Organized PALS, Dance Club, Leading assemblies
- Encourage cross-age interactions: Peer Tutors, Morning Walking Club
- Positive phone calls home to families
- Year Two of our Community Garden club - constructed raised beds and assigned each class to care for one

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

We strive to have our school culture and climate be welcoming, supportive and inclusive for all. Our staff is involved with regular professional development, striving to promote this type of learning climate. This year, many of our staff members participated in inservicing for *Cultural Proficiency*.

We believe in celebrating and embracing diversity. Throughout this past school year, we have taken on initiatives to help support this belief. We had a school wide performance by Shalan Joudry, who engaged us all in storytelling, song and dance about the Mi'kmaq culture. Our school is fortunate to have a Native Student Advisor who provides assistance and

support to students of Aboriginal descent. She also took some of our older students on trips this year. A priority for our staff continued to be helping to remove barriers associated with poverty for our students.

This past year, we once again had LCS students participate in the Regional Heritage Fair with one student advancing to the provincial fair. This venue gave students a chance to showcase and share a piece of their cultural background.

The whole school participated in Anti-bullying Day and promoted this awareness by encouraging students to wear "pink." LCS, in collaboration with the RCMP, have been teaching and promoting the use of strategies to solve minor conflicts through the WITS and LEADS Programs. Books about situational conflict are shared and strategies are regularly reviewed. We created awareness about what Autism is when we showcased many of the student-involved activities during the "Light it Up Blue" campaign.

We are grateful to have received funds from the *Provincial Student Support Grant* that enabled us to provide free access to all students to participate in "out of school" outings. Grade P-1 students went to Dempsey Corner Orchards to partake in activities that helped them to learn about seasonal changes.

Our older students went to Kejimikujik National Park to learn more about the historic site including the 18th century Mi'kmaq petroglyphs.

The whole school went swimming at 14 Wing Greenwood pool and they went on whole school skating outings to our local rink.

Student Involvement and Successes

(Recess, Noon and After school)

Badminton, Floor Hockey Intramurals; Hackmatack Reading Program, Choir, LCS Cross-Country Running Club, Skipping Club, Peer Literacy Tutors, Fort-Building Club, Lego Club, Soccer, Creative Movement Club, Noontime Pinball, School-wide Skating, Environment Club, After-school Skating Program, Trailblazers, Green Team, Recycling Team, Morning Walking Club, Volleyball, Soccer, Hula Hooping Club.

Other opportunities led primarily by staff members included:

- Daily Breakfast and Emergency Lunch Programs
- Student Leadership Opportunities – lead assemblies
- Enrichment Activities
- *Swim to Survive* for Grade 3s
- Variety Show and Heritage Fair
- Visits from Valley Waste, Sammy Snowplow, visiting author and illustrator *Richard Rudnicki*
- Contests: Drug Awareness, Fire Prevention, Remembrance Day, Bike Safety
- Roots of Empathy
- Read-A-Thon and Book Fair

Parent Group (SAC)

The very active LCS School Advisory Council met once monthly for most months and is comprised of 3 staff members, 3 parents, 3 community members and the Principal. The two major fundraisers, *Breakfast with Santa* and *Spring Bingo* were huge successes once again this year. The SAC supports our school with great care and enthusiasm, so it can provide a caring, student centered environment where students can grow and learn in a positive, nurturing environment.

A special thanks is given to some of our parents who have been very keen to organize 3 Family Movie nights this year, and as well, they once again, held a softball tournament last fall to raise funds for LCS.

SAC Achievements 2014-2015:

- Website containing minutes and other SAC information was maintained weekly
- SAC binders were provided for all members
- Breakfast With Santa successfully planned and run
- Spring Bingo successfully planned and run
- Donated funds towards turkey dinner, year-end costs, support cafeteria operation
- Donated funds toward the next phase of our natural playground
- Handbook for volunteers updated
- Supported the after school child-care program

- Donated funds to support LCS learning programs and initiatives (learning materials including new Guided Reading Books and resources for classrooms).
- Staff Appreciation Week – books purchased and other treats provided.
- Reviewed various AVRSB updated draft policies.
- Applied for and received funding for Movie Night, Bingo and Community Garden and Cafeteria support.
- Helped to organize and run first annual LCS Barbecue and Yard Sale to raise funds to help support our cafeteria.

Staff Professional Learning

Many of our early dismissals and full day in-services included some time allocated for staff to work together in *Collaborative Learning Teams* (analyzing student data and developing goals, etc.) As a staff, we received in-servicing on teaching students how to self-regulate using the Zones of Regulation Program, increasing student engagement for all learners, P-3 streamlined curriculum, Google Apps for Education, Clear Learning goals, Poverty Prejudice and Cultural Proficiency.

Some individual learning included: Early Literacy Teacher training, RCH Advisor workshops, Running Records assessment refreshers, Assessment scoring, First Aid, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, Technology, Health Promoting Schools, Mik'maq Cultural Retreat, Beginning, Growing and Stronger Readers and Mathematics curriculum.