

# Caldwell Road Elementary



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## School and Community Context

Caldwell Road Elementary School is located in Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia and has served the surrounding community since 1967.

Caldwell Road's current enrollment is 350 students in 13 classrooms from grades primary to six. There are 19 teachers; 13 classroom teachers, 1 learning center teacher and 1 resource teacher. In addition, we have the appropriate percentage of physical education (60%), music (70%), French (80%), as well as 1 Reading Recovery teacher (50%), and a literacy coach (25%). Our class sizes average 24 students. We also have an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher that spends roughly 40% of her time here at Caldwell Road, along with a speech language pathologist and school psychologist. The school is also able to call upon agencies such as Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA) and the IWK to support individual students.

Staff have built strong relationships with parents, caregivers and the community. On our last survey, 95% of student respondents said they felt their teachers truly cared about them.

At Caldwell Road Elementary, students and staff are encouraged and supported to be individuals while also working in a team environment. We make an effort to provide creative programming such as yoga, enhanced art, enhanced physical activity through running club and Ringerette. Caldwell Road staff set high academic standards and support students to meet these standards. On our latest survey, 95% of parent respondents said staff has high academic standards and 97% are satisfied with the school's effort to meet the students academic needs. We encourage, and appreciate the contributions of community members.



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## Family and Community Involvement

Caldwell Road school community and teaching staff have high expectations for learning and we are fortunate to have a strong level of parental support. We have an active community with volunteers who willingly contribute to student learning and fundraising. There are many events organized by the PTO and these are successfully carried out by our dedicated community members. Based on our HRSB survey results, communication between home and school is positive and beneficial in the support of student learning.

## Safe and Orderly Environment

Survey results continue to show that students, parents and staff believe that Caldwell Road is a safe place to work, learn and visit. School staff support and recognize positive behaviours at school through the Positive Effective Behavioural Supports (PEBS) initiative and Pat on the Back program. Effective and equitable classroom management strategies are evident in classrooms. Caldwell Road prides itself on being

a respectful, positive and welcoming environment. On our latest school survey, 97% of respondents reported feeling welcome at our school.

In cooperation with the School Advisory Council (SAC), school staff has revised the Caldwell Road Code of Conduct to align with Department of Education and new Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) policies.

## Provincial and Board Assessment Results

Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) students participated in provincial and board-wide assessments. The information gained through these assessments will help us determine our next steps in improving student achievement in literacy and mathematics. Please note that the percentages used throughout this report are rounded to the nearest whole number.

\* French Immersion students completed the assessment in French.

Literacy Assessments	School Results: Percentage of students meeting expectations	Board Results: Percentage of students meeting expectations
Grade 2 HRSB Literacy Reading	English Program Accuracy: 88% English Program Fluency: 72%	English Program Accuracy: 74% English Program Fluency: 67%
Grade 3 DOE Literacy	Reading: 88% Writing (Information) : 82% Writing (Narrative) : 94%	Reading: 80% Writing (Information) : 80% Writing (Narrative) : 87%
Grade 5 HRSB Literacy	English Program Reading: 81%	English Program Reading: 82%
Grade 6 DOE Literacy	Reading: 98% Writing: 100%	Reading: 88% Writing: 94%
Mathematics Assessments	School Results: Percentage of students meeting expectations	Board Results: Percentage of students meeting expectations
*Grade 2 HRSB Mathematics	98%	95%
*Grade 3 DOE Mathematics (June 2008)	83%	71%
*Grade 5 HRSB Mathematics	86%	84%

Caldwell Road Elementary students tend to be strong readers and writers. In the Grade 2 HRSB Literacy Assessment, 88% of our students met the criteria for reading accuracy when presented with a grade appropriate fiction text. The students performed very well on the Grade 3 DOE Literacy Assessment, with 88% meeting expectations in reading and 94% met expectations in narrative writing. Most students did well with information writing but for some it did prove to be more of a challenge. Eight-one percent of our Grade 5 students met reading expectations on the Grade 5 HRSB Literacy Assessment. On the Grade 6 DOE Literacy Assessment 96% of our students met reading expectations and 100% met writing expectations. We are pleased to report that our students have consistently performed well in reading and writing in the HRSB and DOE literacy assessments. Even with excellent results there is always room for improvement, so our literacy goal will focus on the improvement in ideas and organization in writing.

Caldwell Road Elementary students demonstrated success in many areas in math such as measurement, data analysis, geometry, patterns, spatial sense etc. One area that seemed to be a challenge was Numerical Operations. In order to improve this area we want our students to have a strong foundation of basic math knowledge. With this in mind our mathematical goal will focus on mental math strategies and basic math facts.

Our students are performing above the board average and we should be proud of their accomplishments.

## Classroom Assessment

Teachers at Caldwell Road Elementary use a range of assessment strategies in their classrooms, including checklists, rubrics, observations, interviews, tests, projects, portfolios, anecdotal notes etc. Classroom teachers have been working in grade-level teams to create common grade-level writing assessments and will continue working on a common grade-level math assessment. Samples of student writing and math data will be collected throughout the year to identify areas of strength and areas of need.



## Student Engagement

Caldwell Road Elementary School prides itself in providing a student-centered learning environment which promotes academic success and physical well-being. Through classroom instruction and extra-curricular club activities, students are taught the skills they require to become engaged learners, motivated to achieve their individual best at every opportunity. Our students are encouraged to maintain a healthy lifestyle and to participate in physical fitness activities at lunch or after school hours. Our community of parents and teaching staff have high expectations for the level of learning our students exhibit.

## Time to Learn

Caldwell Road Elementary follows the prescribed time quotas as dictated by the Department of Education for the various subject areas in which our students receive instruction. Additionally, the school attempts to minimize classroom distractions by limiting the number of announcements, insisting that visitors to classrooms check with administration before proceeding to classrooms, and that noise levels in hallways as classes move to specialist areas are kept to a minimum during instructional times.

## Professional Development

Over the last few years, we have been developing Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) within our school to make certain that there is time for staff to collaborate and share. Administrators have found ways to ensure that each grade level has one hour of meeting time per week so that consistent progress can be made with student achievement. During PLC meetings between grade level teachers, time is spent aligning curriculum and developing common assessment tools to support student achievement and school improvement. Information gained by teachers during PLC time is always used to inform teaching practices focusing on how to support all students within the classroom. In addition to PLC work, the staff of Caldwell Road has employed the expertise of mathematics mentors, literacy support personnel, and other HRSB and Department of Education staff to update the teaching/assessment practises utilized in our school.

## Additional School Supports

Caldwell Road Elementary has as part of its repertoire to improve student achievement, the following additional supports:

- ESL teacher
- speech language pathologist
- school psychologist
- IWK occupational therapy
- autism team
- behavioural specialist
- resource teachers
- Reading Recovery teacher
- Learning Centre teacher
- educational program assts.
- library support specialist
- literacy coach
- math leader
- assistive technology
- extended phys ed program
- DARE
- secretary
- caretakers
- lunch monitors



# Planning for Improvement

At Caldwell Road Elementary we pride ourselves in how we have developed an environment that is focused on student achievement and success. During staff meetings and Planning for Improvement (PFI) discussions for the 2008-2009 school year, we reviewed our school-board and provincial data. Much of the information gathered from this data suggests that there are many strengths specific to our school and we have much to celebrate. The Halifax Regional School-boards planning for improvement initiative helped us to identify our students successes and also areas requiring further attention.

As a result our school has chosen goals in the areas of literacy and mathematics. We have discovered from our assessment of student achievement data that our students

could benefit from an additional focus on writing. We want our students to improve their ability to organize their thoughts and ideas in written communication. Developing these skills will improve students' ability to communicate knowledge in all subject areas. In mathematics, we are focusing school efforts on improving our students understanding of mental math strategies in order to improve their basic math facts. This should ensure greater success in the students mathematics learning at all grade levels.

Our school is committed to improving student learning, and with a collaborative team approach that includes teachers, students, and parents, we will continue to provide an environment that best supports our students.

## School Goals

### Literacy Goal

Our students will demonstrate improvement in writing in the areas of ideas and organization.

#### Strategies:

- Teachers will use the Writer's Workshop model daily to explicitly teach ideas and organization in the writing process.
- Teachers will regularly assess for student learning as it relates to ideas and organization in the writing process.
- Teachers will use the information gained from these assessments to guide their instruction.

mental math strategies and basic math facts.

- Teachers will use information from these assessments to guide their instruction of mental math strategies and basic math facts.

### Math Goal

Our students will increase their ability to use mental math strategies and to improve their recall of basic math facts

#### Strategies:

- Teachers will use current resources recommended by the Department of Education (DOE) to teach mental math strategies.
- Teachers will regularly assess for student learning as it relates to



**Every Student Can Learn. Every School Will Improve.**

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