



St. Bernard's Elementary School

2006 – 2007 School Report

Annual School Development Report

For

St. Bernard's Elementary School

Witless Bay, Newfoundland

2006 -2007

Eastern School District

Vision

To challenge and develop the learning and achievement capabilities of each student in a safe, caring and socially just learning environment.

Mission

Eastern School Board will work with its employees and key partners – Department of Education, school councils, and various other educational and community agencies and organizations – to challenge and develop the learning and achievement capabilities of each student in a safe, caring and socially just learning environment. In order to achieve its vision, the Board has endorsed organizational and leadership development through the theoretical framework of organizational learning. The Board has adopted this organizational –leadership approach based on considerable research evidence to support the claim that if schools and school systems are to make meaningful improvements to support teaching and learning, they must increase their organizational learning capacity.

Message From Principal and School Council

This School Report for 2006 -2007 will give you an overview of our year, with highlights of initiatives we've worked on, as well as student achievement results from provincial assessments for the Spring of 2007.

2006 - 2007 was my first year as principal of St. Bernard's Elementary. It was a most enjoyable year, getting settled into a very welcoming and supportive community, in scenic Witless Bay. The students, teachers and parents work well co-operatively, for the best interest of the children's education. I quickly learned that I was lucky to be working in the midst of an extremely dedicated and hard working staff, who regularly went beyond the call of duty for their students.

I'm proud to say we have a very strong music program, where students are challenged to participate in choir at an early age, in primary and progress on to elementary choir. They're exposed to band or guitar in the elementary years. All students are very actively performing at assemblies, concerts and events outside the school community, which will help keep the strong musical culture alive on the southern shore. Our physical education program is equally strong, with the additional support of lunchtime intramurals for elementary students, cross country running, and basketball teams at the grade five and six level. In 2006 - 2007 we also added several healthy living initiatives, in keeping with the new provincial Nutrition Policy for schools. We focused on healthy eating and increasing activity levels for students and staff.

A lot of time and energy went into completing an internal review for the School Development process. This involved surveys for parents, staff and students. It required a lot of data collection internally and then analyzing this data, with the purpose of finding the direction of our School Development goals for the next 3 – 5 years. Our staff used two professional development days and many committee level meetings during the year gathering and analyzing data, both achievement data and operational data. In May we finalized this process and published the three goals we'll work on during the next 3 – 5 year period. You will see these listed further in the report.

A major initiative was begun in the Spring of 2007, to develop and implement a plan for improving our school grounds. The school has never had proper play space for the children. As this was the second year since the gymnasium and cafeteria were added to the building, the time had come to plan around outside improvements. A lot of work has gone into meeting and consulting with various community stakeholders, planning how the improvements will look, and fundraising for the different phases of this project. In this first year of the project, we installed a gravel walkway from the back of the school to the lower ballfield. We widened the ballfield to create a more useable ballgame space. With the help of Newfoundland Power and several local businesses, we co-hosted an Envirofest, where we planted trees, shrubs and flowers, at the front of the building, near the front entrance and around the ocean side boundary. They also worked with us to install an environmental outdoor classroom, overlooking the ocean. We paved the emergency road on the side of the school and installed a basketball court and several squareball and hopscotch games. With over 2 acres of property to work with, our goal is to create many usable playspaces for the students, where they will be motivated to be outside and be physically active. The second phase of this project is to fundraise for and install a new playground. We have the financial support of Saturn Hickman as we move into this initiative, during the 2007 -2008 school year

Respectfully Submitted by: Elizabeth Foran

During the 2006-2007, the St. Bernard's School Council and the parent community joined forces to host a variety of successful fundraisers. Fundraising has provided so many wonderful opportunities for our students. It has contributed to many programs within the school that enrich our children's lives. Materials for programs such as literacy, math and physical education have all reaped the benefits from the monies raised. During the Spring of 2007, it was agreed that all efforts would be directed to developing our school grounds. The goal had been set to provide a necessary and safe area for our children to exercise and play. Initiatives such as installing a chain link fence, a wheelchair accessible path, a basketball court, and a play structure were high priority on our action plan.

We began the year with our annual Thanksgiving Vegetable Hamper sale, raising a total of **\$1,465.00**. Our Recycling initiative has been quite profitable raising a total of **\$4,804.90**. Venues such as our Halloween Extravaganza, profits from our Vending Machine (graciously operated by Kennedy's Pharmasave), and 50/50 Ticket sales have boasted a total profit of **\$6,442.96**.

Throughout the school year, we have also received generous donations by our parent community and local business that not only have helped our fundraising efforts, but provided an enjoyable outing for many of our students and families. These included Gatherall's Boat Tour Fundraiser, the sale of donated Fog Devils tickets, and the many prizes and donations from our parent community that have aided in various ticket sales. Also included was a generous donation from the Department of Finance. The combined total of parent community and local business efforts generated a profit of **\$6,170.80**.

The 2006-2007 Fundraising Initiative had proved to be incredibly successful. With our goals set for 2007-2008 and our ambitious parent community, we anticipate a record breaking year.

Submitted by Shalyn Kavanagh, co-chair St. Bernard's School Council

2. Overview of School

School's Mission Statement

In cooperation with St. Bernard's Elementary School Council our mission statement is to ensure that, with the support and participation of family, school and community, the educational needs of our children are met, so they may reach their potential and become meaningful and responsible members of society.

Our School Community

St. Bernard's Elementary School is part of the *Eastern District*. *We're located in beautiful Witless Bay on the Southern Shore of the Avalon Peninsula. We are a K-6 school, with an enrolment of two hundred and twenty - four(224) students. We serve the communities of Bay Bulls, Witless bay, Mobile, Tors Cove, Burnt Cove and St. Michael's. Our feeder school is Mobile Central High in Mobile.*

Our school has a total of 16 full-time and 3.0 part-time educational staff. This includes 11 classroom teachers, 1 administrator, 2 special needs teacher, 1 criteria C/F teacher, .33 learning resources teacher, 1 music teacher, .66 physical education teacher, .66 guidance counsellor. This year, there is also the support of two student assistants. The school also has the services of secretarial and maintenance personnel. In addition to the staff based at the school, there is access to District Office staff: a speech language pathologist, an educational psychologist, and an itinerant teacher for the hearing and visually impaired.

Programs Provided

Music

The music program at St. Bernard's continues to grow and develop. All students are afforded performance opportunities through our concerts and school assemblies.

Our choirs also participate in out of school performance opportunities such as the NLTA Christmas Suite and ESDNL Choral Connections Event as well as our own Peace Cards. A highlight for us this year was our Peaceful Schools collaboration with St. John Bosco Elementary Choir who traveled from their school to Witless Bay for a day of music workshops with Dr. Valerie Long, an afternoon concert, walk on the beach and a supper.

Our instrumental program continues to grow as our Grade five and six students participate in the band program and Grade Six students participate in the guitar program. We have an extremely high rate of participation in both programs – a tribute to the importance of music education and the support of the school community.

Music Statistics

- ♪ **100% of students in Grades 1, 2, & 3 participate in Primary Choir (compulsory)**
- ♪ **55 % of students in Grades 4, 5, & 6 participate in Elementary Choir (optional)**
- ♪ **57% of students in Grade 5 participate in Band (optional)**
- ♪ **30% of students in Grade 6 participate in Band (optional)**
- ♪ **64 % of students in Grade 6 participate in Guitar (optional)**

Submitted by Carolyn Campbell

Physical Education

The physical education program at St. Bernard's Elementary School was comprised of two 45 minute periods per cycle for the elementary grades plus an additional 45 minute period every 3rd cycle. The primary grades had two 30 minute periods per cycle with an additional 30 minute period every 3rd cycle. Throughout the program students participated in a variety of activities ranging from low-organized, cooperative and alternative games to team oriented activities.

From November to May, the elementary students were organized into teams and participated in 30 minute intramurals games during lunchtime. They were divided into a girl's division and a boy's division. Grades 1-3 were each scheduled into a 30 minute non-competitive intramural session once per cycle. Time was also allocated for adaptive physical education for some students.

In addition to our regular curriculum, the student's also participated in a skating program at the Southern Shore Arena every Friday afternoon for January to March (6 weeks). The primary and elementary grades alternated weeks. We also hosted a healthy living day that involved participation of all the students in the school in fitness testing, aerobics and nutrition related activities. As a part of our healthy living initiative, grade 5 students were trained to lead the Cha Cha Slide once a week for all the other students in the school. Our entire school also participated in community walks.

Our school had 3 basketball teams at the grade 5 and 6 level. St. Bernard's hosted the Under 12 Girls Provincial Basketball tournament. Our grade 4, 5 and 6 students competed in 6 cross-country running events from September to November. We also competed in

two Track and Field events.(MUN Invitational and the Hershey's Track & Field meet)
We had several students who finished in the top three in these events.

The overall emphasis of the school's physical education program was fun, fitness and participation.

Submitted by George Samms

Special Services

The Special Needs Program at St. Bernard's Elementary School provides a continuum of student support services that address the needs of the students who have been identified for placement in the programs. Students are provided with support in an environment which has been deemed as 'least restrictive' and 'most enhancing' for them. The special services' teachers provides flexible programming where instruction and support can take place in the regular classroom, in a small group or in a one-on-one environment.

Each student who accesses the program has an **Individualized Support Services Plan**. This document is an individualized plan which outlines the child's strengths and needs, and lists the goals established for the year and outlines their pathways to learning. This ISSP is reviewed at least twice a year and modifications are undertaken when it is deemed necessary.

Early intervention (to prevent learning deficits from having a cumulative effect) is a priority at St. Bernard's Elementary School. For this reason, every attempt is made to begin programming for a child as soon as a need is identified and an assessment is completed. Students from kindergarten to grade 6 can access and exit the program at any time during the year as their needs change.

A special services team consisting of the special needs teacher, guidance counselor and the administrator meets once a cycle to monitor students' progress and develop an action plan in order to find ways of providing resources, programming or personnel to meet their needs.

Key Highlights/Special Projects

This year our school began a new initiative to develop our School Grounds, to both beautify the area and create safe play spaces for our students. We were very fortunate to have Newfoundland Power organize an Envirofest for us, in the spring of 2007, where we created flower beds, planted shrubbery, trees and flowers. This year, we also installed an

outdoor classroom overlooking the ocean, new basketball courts, squareball courts and hopscotch.

The beautifacation of our site is a natural next step after the school received its new gym, cafeteria and office space two years ago. We anticipate this will take 3 – 5 years to complete.

Partnerships

We were very pleased to meet with community representatives from the neighboring communities, on a consultation basis, prior to starting our Grounds Improvement Initiative. This included the mayor of Witless Bay and several councillors, Recreation Directors from Bay Bulls, and our local MHA, Keith Hutchings. All groups were keen to see us develop the site and pledged to support us in every way they could. Many great ideas were brought forward that would support the communities along the shore. This is the beginning of a new partnership that we hope to see flourish. The goal of the Grounds Improvement Committee for the 2007 -2008 school year is to raise funds to install a playground. We're very fortunate to have Hickman Saturn supporting us in this major fundraising endeavor.

We also have a major partnership with the **St. John's School Lunch Association**. They provide on site hot lunch daily in our lovely cafeteria, which overlooks the ocean. The meals are prepared and served from our own kitchen, with a staff member from their organization and some volunteer help. We're pleased to be able to provide nutritious hot lunches to meet the nutritional needs and therefore better meet the educational needs of our students.

3. 3-5 School Development Plan

3-5 Year School Development Plan

Goal 1: To continue to enrich the literacy experiences of students in all areas, including reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and representing, providing a balanced approach.

Year	Objectives	Objectives	Objectives
<i>2005-06</i>			
<i>2006-07</i>	To increase the amount of rich experiences in poetry on a regular basis, across the grades	To focus on building listening skills on a weekly basis in all grades	To develop visual literacy skills, across the grades
<i>2007-08</i>			
<i>2008-09</i>			
<i>2009-10</i>			

Goal 2: To provide support to students and teachers in aspects of numeracy, to further enhance confidence and skills.

Year	Objectives	Objectives	Objectives
<i>2005-06</i>			
<i>2006-07</i>	To increase parent involvement in Math with their child, by communication with the home	To increase the amount of Math Manipulatives in the school, organize them and encourage their use.	To ensure in all grades, students are exposed to the style of questioning used in CRT's
<i>2007-08</i>			
<i>2008-09</i>			
<i>2009-10</i>			

Goal 3: To create a positive school environment by encouraging positive interactions between students and all members of the school community.

Year	Objectives	Objectives	Objectives
2005-06			
2006-07	To live by the Cool Kid Creed and Cool Kid Program, created with student input.	To engage the students in peace creating activities, such as Peace Cards, Peace Month.	To follow our 123 Response Protocol to deal with inappropriate student behaviors and disruptions
2007-08			
2008-09			
2009-10			

Operational Issues

Year	Issues	Issues	Issues
2005-06			
2006-07	<i>Significant leaks in our roof</i>	<i>Security of the site after hours</i>	<i>Limited safe play spaces outside</i>
2007-08			
2008-09			
2009-10			

4. Report on Most Current Data and Last Year's School Development Plan (2006 - 07)

Primary English Language Arts Provincial Assessment - June 2007 St. Bernard's Elementary Level 3, 4 and 5 Combined						
	Demand Writing	Reading			Listening	Speaking
		Poetic	Informational	Visual		
School	70.0	40.0	60.0	13.4	46.9	75.0
District	75.9	67.1	76.8	45.7	64.7	86.5
Province	65.8	65.8	74.4	42.6	64.1	86.7

Primary Mathematics
Provincial Assessment - June 2007
St. Bernard's Elementary
Level 3, 4 and 5 Combined

	Number Operations				Number Concepts		Shape and Space	
	Reasoning	Communication	Connections & Representing	Problem Solving	Number Sense	Place Value	Measurement	Geometry
School	21.9	18.8	18.8	37.6	31.2	25.0	12.5	15.7
District	44.2	38.2	36.1	51.7	53.5	52.0	44.9	44.9
Province	43.6	37.5	36.3	51.9	53.9	52.2	45.1	46.9

Primary Language Arts and Mathematics
St. Bernard's Elementary Assessment - June 2007
Multiple Choice (Percentage Correct)

	Reading	Number Operations /10	Listening /3	Shape and Space /6	Number Concepts /8	Mental Math Addition /20	Mental Math Subtraction /20	
School	84.2	7.0	2.7	3.5	5.2	18.3	16.4	
District	89.9	7.7	2.8	4.2	5.6	18.5	17.1	
Province	89.7	7.7	2.8	4.2	5.7	18.4	16.7	

CRT Results Summary – June 2007

Primary

Overall, the grade three class was not up to the expected standard in Language Arts and Math. They were not independent learners and required constant daily support during their grade 3 year. They were also a large class of 33 students.

Primary demand writing results showed 70% achieved level 3 and above. This score was close to the district score of 75.9 and above the provincial 65.8. This particular task is a strong indicator of the students overall ability. St. Bernard's grade 3 students achieved well here. However, it was disappointing to see the low scores in poetic, informational, visual and listening tasks, in comparison to the district and provincial scores. Our daily achievement data confirms that this group were functioning mostly in the level 2 and level 3 range, at this point in time, which is considered adequate and limited.

Primary Math scores on constructed response questions were very weak, in all categories of the evaluation. However, the results in the multiple choice portions were strong and very close to district and province scores.

Elementary English Language Arts

Provincial Assessment - June 2007

St. Bernard's Elementary

Level 3, 4 and 5 Combined

	Demand Writing	Reading			Listening	Speaking
		Poetic	Informational	Visual		
School	67.7	51.5	45.4	27.3	61.1	0.0
District	77.2	74.5	60.1	56.6	60.1	81.7
Province	76.1	73.3	58.8	54.8	58.4	57.6

Elementary Mathematics

Provincial Assessment - June 2007

St. Bernard's Elementary
Level 3, 4 and 5 Combined

	Number Operations				Number Concepts	
	Reasoning	Communication	Connections & Representations	Problem Solving	Number Sense	Place Value
School	16.7	11.1	19.4	30.6	5.7	22.8
District	32.0	29.1	38.5	50.0	25.7	32.6
Province	33.1	30.6	40.1	50.6	29.8	33.8

Elementary Language Arts and Mathematics

St. Bernard's Elementary Assessment - June 2007

Multiple Choice (Percentage Correct)

	Reading	Number Operations /11	Listening /3	Shape and Space /6	Number Concepts /11	Mental Math /6	Geometry /2	Measurement /4
School	81.5	6.7	2.9	3.8	6.6	2.5	1.7	2.4
District	78.5	7.6	2.8	4.2	6.9	4.4	1.6	2.9
Province	78.0	7.6	2.8	4.3	6.9	4.4	1.6	2.9

Elementary

In Language Arts, the subject which showed the strength of the group, was listening, where they performed higher than the district and province, at 61.1. The demand writing score was a little weaker than we'd hoped, but was still a respectable 67.7, slightly below the district. As with the primary group, poetic, informational and visual scores were lower than expected.

In Math, a weakness in constructed response questions was evident. The Department of Education has revised the math outcomes across the grades 3 – 6 in the fall of 2007, with moving some outcomes to other grades and deleting others. These adjustments should enable more time in the curriculum.

Our Math and Literacy committees have set goals through the School Development process to support student learning and achievement, in response to these assessment results. Specifically in Language Arts students are focusing on:

- (a) listening and responding critically to text
- (b) becoming more independent learners in their reading and writing skills
- (c) improving critical thinking skills in responding to visual literacy.

In Math students are focusing on:

- (a) developing a Math vocabulary base
- (b) developing their problem solving abilities
- (c) developing more independence in reading and following directions

5. School Development Plan for Current Year

2006 -2007 was our Internal Review Year. As the new principal of St. Bernard's it gave me a wonderful opportunity to analyze the best practices happening within the school, and seek adjustments, improvements where needed. The School Development Team and staff worked tirelessly throughout the year on many levels of analysis. Surveys were completed in the spring of 2006 by students, staff and parents. Many sources of data were collected, such as schedules, minutes of meetings, grade level achievement data, special services data, etc. The staff used two school development days to work through this process.

In the Spring of 2007 we developed goals for the next three to five years, that will guide our School Development initiatives, with the ultimate goal of improving students learning and achievement.

St. Bernard's School Development Goals Based on Internal Review of 2006 -2007

Goal # 1 Literacy and Numeracy

To work towards creating a better recognition of the value of literacy and numeracy in all aspects of the daily lives of students, teachers and parents, by June 2010

Goal # 2 Technology and Learning Resources

To provide the necessary resources (human and technical) to enable the teachers and students to maximize their teaching and learning through the use of technology and learning resources.

Goal #3 Safe, Caring and Peaceful School

To foster and develop a peaceful school environment, by encouraging and promoting positive interactions between students and members of the school community.

School Development Year End Report 2006 – 2007

Literacy Committee

Goal: To continue to enrich the literacy experiences of students in all areas, including reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and representing, providing a balanced approach.

Initiatives:

1. **Elementary Poetry Unit** – Grades 4, 5 and 6 teachers completed a poetry unit between January and June 2007, with their classes.
2. **Primary Weekly Poems** – Kindergarten to grade 3 teachers included poetry weekly in any subject they choose, from January to June 2007.
3. **Poem in my Pocket** – On the last day of February, students and staff carried a poem of their choosing in their pocket. They were shared with classmates and colleagues, by reading aloud or memorized recitation. Some were shared on the P.A system to all.
4. **Buddy Poem Reading, Writing and Sharing** – On February 7th, classes were paired with buddies to write and share Valentine poems.
5. **Poem Sharing** – Throughout the year, students were invited to read a poem during morning announcements. Student poetry was published in the parent memos and put on display on a bulletin board.
6. **Weekly Listening Activity** – Classes were asked to designate a specific time weekly for a listening activity.
7. **Visual Literacy** – Classes made use of the Art in Action textbooks at each grade level and use the posters and binder from Art in the Schools Program to develop visual literacy skills.
8. **Literacy Awareness Week** – February 19th to 27th was Literacy Awareness Week at St. Bernard's. Grade 1 – 6 students participated in a Literature Fair, by reading and responding to their favorite books. Each grade had one day to display their work in the cafeteria, with all other students viewing their work. The theme of the fair was "Wild About Reading". Community representatives from Rotary visited the school on Feb. 27th to read in each class and donate books to the school. On Feb. 26th and 27th we held a Used Book Sale for students and teachers to sell and purchase used books.
9. **Hackmatack Book Club** – Grade 6 students chose to read all the new Hackmatack titles for this year and voted on their favorite one in the late spring.

Math Committee

Goal: To provide support to students and teachers in aspects of numeracy, to further enhance confidence and skills.

Initiatives:

1. **Bank of CRT Questions -** We developed a bank of questions previously used on CRT's. This will be used to help students become familiar with the style of questioning and help teachers in formulating questions, on an ongoing basis.
2. **Increase parent involvement in Math with their child** – Communication with the home occurred monthly in the parent memo, with an activity to do with their child. Teachers were also asked to use their monthly calendar and memos to parents to incorporate math tips and encouragement.
3. **Increase Math Manipulatives and Organize them** - \$3000 was used to purchase new manipulatives and some math related literature. Release time was provided to committee members to organize these in a library format with teacher sign out.
4. **School Wide Math Day on December 8th, 2006** – A full morning of Math activities were planned for all students. Students were buddied together, with two grade levels working together all morning. Groups rotated to different rooms, where they engaged in fun math activities and games together.
5. **Cumulative Review and Integration** – Teachers were encouraged to do more review of accumulated skills, on a regular basis.

Safe and Caring School Team

Goal: To encourage positive interactions between students and members of the school community. In particular, we are working towards encouraging empathy, impulse control, kindness and the demonstration of skills in conflict resolution. The Safe and Caring School Team at St. Bernard's was formed to work towards creating a positive school environment.

Initiatives

1. **Second Step** is a program we used to teach anger management, impulse control, and empathy through pictures and scenarios. This is used regularly in K – 6.
2. **The Cool Kid program** was developed to encourage and facilitate the transfer of many of the skills and concepts taught in the Second Step program. It attempts to reinforce these behaviors by providing incentives and recognizing such behaviors. It provides encouragement and recognizes acts of kindness and the use of Second Step skills demonstrated by members within our school. It is also intended to assist in meeting the expectations set out in our school Code of Conduct. The Cool Kid program is a student-driven program which includes the students' ideas and feedback in the development and running of the

program. This included the naming of the program, the development of a code of conduct (Cool Kid Creed), and in the selecting of members of the Cool Kid team.

3. **Cool Kid Creed** – Colorful posters containing five guidelines for expected behavior are placed in each classroom and at various locations throughout the school.
4. **Cool Kid Ballot Boxes** were purchased by the school and placed in each classroom. When students receive a ballot for appropriate behavior, it is placed in the ballot box. The ballots are counted at the end of each month and Cool Kid teams are selected.
5. **Cool Kid Rewards-** The class that accumulates the most ballots is designated the Cool Kid team and receives a free gym period, a movie and sundaes. Teams are selected on a monthly basis.
6. **1-2-3 Behavior Response Protocol-** is a school wide approach to behavioral difficulties. It promotes consistency, non-emotional exchanges, and less negative conversation surrounding interaction between the teachers and students. There are five steps in the protocol providing students with ample opportunity to alter problematic behavior.
7. **Cool Kid Solution Form** – These forms are available to students when they are faced with a conflict or problem. The students are required to clearly state the problem, identify what guideline in the Cool Kid Creed that was broken, and list possible solutions.
8. **Peace Cards** - Each year students work in cooperative groups to create Peace Cards which are sent to friends of the St. Bernard's school community. A CD of the primary choir singing, a copy of the Cool Kids Creed, the Cool Kids logo, a Mighty Puffin Logo, and a message from the principal is also included in each card.

Peaceful Schools International - St. Bernard's became a member of Peaceful Schools International in 2004 and received a flag for its efforts in creating a peaceful school environment. These efforts are helping us to maintain our Peaceful Schools status.