

## 2013-14 Halifax Central Junior High School Community Report

<b>Provincial and Board Assessments</b>		
	<b>School (%)</b>	<b>Board (%)</b>
	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2013-14</b>
<b><u>Literacy Assessments</u></b>		
<b>Grade 8 Provincial</b>		
Reading	93%	76%
Writing - Ideas	91%	86%
Writing - Organization	88%	78%
Writing - Language Use	91%	83%
Writing - Conventions	93%	73%
<b><u>Math Assessments</u></b>		
<b>Grade 8 Provincial</b>		
Mathematics	90%	59%

*At Halifax Central, we believe that effective teacher professional development is key to school improvement. Our staff attended professional development throughout the year, which included a full day conference hosted by their professional association during the month of October. Individual teachers continue to attend conferences and sessions related to their specific areas of teaching and expertise throughout the school year. Our school-based professional development continues to focus on our school goals, which are an essential part of our Continuous School Improvement strategy.*

*We have had professional learning opportunities with board staff, including student services regarding how to appropriately and effectively document and track adaptations and IPP's with the provincial program TIENET.*

*In response to questions regarding the change in report card descriptors for this year, we had a staff session with assessment consultants from the board to ensure we had a common understanding of how these descriptors would effectively capture student performance.*

*One of our professional development day goals challenged traditional notions regarding the use of technology in classrooms. This allowed more effective conversations with staff about how to embrace rather than reject technology. In addition, two of our grade 7 teachers participated in this year's technology roll out, where they were able to collaborate and experiment with colleagues from across our Board with respect to using those technologies in meaningful ways.*

*Our final PD Day of the year focused on effective assessment practices, allowing for discussions around supporting students' success by ensuring that assessment and instructional practices are aligned with best practices.*

*We are pleased to see staff embrace the use of technology in addition to improved understanding of the need for effective differentiation for students of all abilities. As a result, teachers have a better understanding of how to respond to students who are struggling.*

*Our numeracy team has focused on improving problem solving skills. They have engaged students in a*

*“Problem of the Week”, used the CAT-4 problem solving and always provide opportunities for students to communicate their problem solving strategies. A focus has been to place a greater emphasis on effective questioning to promote deeper thinking skills on the part of students. Our recent grade eight provincial assessment in numeracy demonstrates that 90% of our students met expectations while 31% scored above the provincial average.*

*Our literacy team has developed two school-wide assessments which focused on improving understanding in the areas of vocabulary, text features, connections, comprehension and critical thinking. Teachers were provided a number of cross-curricular strategies to address those areas where students had struggled. 93% of our students met expectations on the grade eight provincial literacy assessment while 20% scored above the provincial average.*

*The 2014-2015 school year will see a continued focus on strengthening the effectiveness of professional learning communities to further support increased student achievement. At each staff meeting time will be provided to teachers so that they can have professional conversations to support students with the goal of increasing student achievement.*