

# report

## to the community



Athlone School

2018-2019



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*The Early Years (K-5) provides a nurturing environment where children are encouraged to investigate, create and discover. Children develop their competencies in language and literacy skills, thinking and problem-solving skills, social and emotional development, independence, creativity and knowledge in preparation for becoming responsible citizens. Instruction in the following curricula: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education/Health and the Arts is focused on meeting the unique needs of Early Years students. Instruction focuses on the integration of subject matter and hands-on activity-based approaches to learning.*

### **Last Year's School Accomplishments (2017-2018)**

**Athlone's professional staff continued their analysis of student writing samples at two points in the year and subsequently planned for the next steps in teaching.**

- ✓ Used inservice day and staff meetings to implement grade level writing samples analysis.
- ✓ Reflected on and revised school-wide writing beliefs at the beginning of the school year.
- ✓ Literacy Committee continued to meet and offered support to classrooms.

**Athlone's professional staff looked to improve student problem-solving skills by developing an instructional focus to direct teach and model strategies.**

- ✓ Students were regularly exposed to open-ended and closed problems
- ✓ Improvement in two areas was particularly noted:
  - In students' ability to explain their thinking and their work
  - In students' demonstration of stamina and persistence
- ✓ School Numeracy Committee organized a Family Math Night

### **Our Vision Statement**

To create and foster an environment that helps children be the best that they can be.

### **Our Mission Statement**

To provide students with the tools they require in order to become responsible, capable, creative life-long learners and good citizens

### **School Profile**

Number of teachers: 15  
Number of students: 209  
Grade levels: K-5

### **School Highlights**

These include:

- Reading Recovery – Grade 1
- Math Enhancement – K/Grade 1
- Enrichment
- Strong Literacy
- Reading Buddies
- WITS Anti-Bullying Program
- TAG Groups (Cross-grade connections)
- The Integrated Arts
- Restitution
- Roots of Empathy
- Choir
- Varied Co-curricular Activities
- Student Leaders/Student Voice
- Sustainable Development Activities

**Athlone's professional staff focused on improving the reading scores of its SDA students in order to bring them more in line with the entire school population.**

- ✓ There was direct teaching and modelling of decoding skills
- ✓ Mini-lessons on reading strategies; comprehension; phonological awareness
- ✓ Students receive regular practice using daily guided reading; re-reads with reading buddies
- ✓ AAA support EA supported students during second and third terms.
- ✓ Part of Literacy Committee's monthly meetings was set to discuss the targeted students

### **A Quick Snapshot of the Classroom**

**Mathematics:** The School's Numeracy goal is to focus on student problem-solving skills, specifically student communication of their thinking. Teachers will participate in a school-wide analysis of student problem solving and will have the expertise of a Numeracy coach to assist them in planning for student learning during three 3-week blocks this year.

**English:** The teaching staff will continue to analyze student writing samples twice during the school year. The school's Program Implementation Assistants (PIA) will focus on assisting teachers with assessments, phonemic awareness, and those students who need extra support and enrichment. A Literacy coach will assist teachers in planning for student learning during three 3-week blocks this year.

**Mental Health:** Four different classrooms will work with a mentor (Ruth Hargrave) to explore mindfulness and various self-regulation strategies in the classrooms. Two other classrooms are working with Dr. Jennifer Katz, as part of a division wide research project. The focus will again be on mental health strategies to use in the classroom to aid in student mental well-being.

### **Planning & Goal Setting**

School goals are created using the Divisional Strategic Plan as the guideline ([www.sjasd.ca/Documents/stratplan\\_2016-21.pdf](http://www.sjasd.ca/Documents/stratplan_2016-21.pdf)). The goal setting process begins in early Spring and includes input from students, teachers, parents and the community. Goals are developed around the needs and direction of the various departments with student progress and achievement and our mission and vision statement as our focus.

### **This Year's School Goals and Priorities (2018-2019)**

- 1. Athlone's professional staff will focus on improving students' problem-solving skills specifically the communication of their thinking (pictorially, symbolically, or words)**
- 2. Athlone's professional staff will continue their analysis of student writing samples at two points in the year and will use those analyses and the students' "I Can Statements" to plan teaching that will lead to a year's growth in writing skills.**
- 3. Athlone's professional staff will focus on improving the reading scores of its SDA students in order to bring them more in line with the average scores of the entire school population.**

#### **Extra-curricular Activities**

Large variety of activities and opportunities:

- Cross-Country, Basketball, Soccer, Badminton, Cup-stacking
- Inter-School Friendship Tournaments
- Grade 1-3 & 3-5 Choirs
- Orff & Ukulele Clubs
- Winter Concert
- The Culture Club (AAA club)
- School Patrols
- Peacekeepers
- Student Leaders
- Green Hearts Club
- Science Club
- Chess Club