

Balbo Elementary School

2010-2011 School Development Report



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Message from the Director of Education

Message from the Director of Education

In June 2011, Eastern School District concluded a three-year strategic planning process which centered on developing our schools as caring, professional and purposeful places of learning and excellence. This school report for 2010-2011 highlights the activities of your school and your efforts to achieve your school-based goals, in keeping with the District's mission and its vision for the future. The information provided is very helpful as we continue to pursue excellence for our District through a planning process which emphasizes continued professional growth and development.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each school on the success achieved to date as evidenced by this report. I acknowledge, with gratitude, the efforts of our teachers, administrators, support staff, parents and community representatives, particularly through schools councils. By working together, we can achieve the best possible learning environment for our students. I encourage you to dialogue with our stakeholders on this document and on our District objectives.

As we move forward with our new Strategic Plan (2011-2014), I look forward to your continued support and cooperation. Keep up the good work!

FORD RICE, B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed.
C.E.O./DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Message from Principal

During the 2010-2011 school year the students, staff and community embarked on a new journey to work together to improve the quality of educational experiences offered to our students. The school year was marked with the construction of a massive extension to Balbo Elementary that would mark the historic change of education in the Clarenville catchment area. The process of realignment began making this the last year of "Balbo Elementary." The traditional Kindergarten to Grade Eight school that had existed for approximately thirty years would be changing to a Kindergarten to Grade Six school in the following school year. Tolerance and cooperation were key virtues of students, staff,

and parents that enabled our school community to thrive through a year of major inconveniences and disruptions. Due to the upcoming school realignment, the development of a new School Development Plan has been postponed until the 2011-2012 school year. Our school community has continued to use the existing plan as the guide to help provide a high quality education for our students.

Our results in the Primary Language Arts Assessments indicate that children are building a strong foundation in their Language Skills. The Grade One and Two results showed that our students are out-performing the province. At both Grade levels we have approximately 80% of our students performing at or above the Provincial Benchmark. Our CRTs did not render the results we had hoped. In Grade three Language Arts we scored below the provincial average in all areas. These results certainly did not follow the trend we had established in the previous three years at that Grade Level. In Grade Three Math however, we did score above the provincial average in all areas. In Grade Six English Language Arts our scores were either slightly above or below the provincial average in all areas. In Grade Six Math we have continued to score below the provincial average in all areas. Math continues to be a major area of concern for us and is being addressed with consultation from personnel in our Vista Regional Office.

Despite our limitations to the use of space in our building our extra-curricular program continued to grow. Our programs emphasized participation by all students who wish to partake. This has resulted in our students gaining valuable experiences in areas such as Physical Education, Music, Drama, Student Leadership, and as well as, Community Service. Several of our teams competed provincially in such activities as cross country running, volleyball, basketball and track and field. We are especially proud of the number of our students who volunteer in our breakfast program each morning.

At Balbo Elementary we strive to shape and influence good citizens. We continue to improve on the social consciousness of our students as well as continually improving the atmosphere for students to learn in. As part of their social consciousness we strived to have our students participate in activities that give back to the community. These activities have included inviting Senior Citizens into our school for our concerts, as well as visiting them during Christmas, participating in the Terry Fox Run, raising money for the Canadian Cancer Society, collecting for the food bank, and having participated in our school's Christmas Wish Tree Project where we provide Christmas wishes for Families in need. This year we extended this project to not only help families in our school but to help students in all of the Vista Region who may have been affected by Hurricane Igor. We also continue to participate in a school wide Ocean Net Project where our students cleaned our local beaches. For our environmental initiatives we had students recognized by Ocean Net for their art work on Environmental issues. Our school has also developed a partnership with the local conservation group "Friends of Shoal Harbour River." Balbo Elementary has a devoted professional and support staff that continually work to improve our students' education both academically and socially. Our school community is extremely supportive in giving of their time, money and expertise to benefit our students. This commitment has culminated in the completion of the final phase of our school's plan to install Interactive Whiteboards (Smartboards) in all classrooms in our

school.

Arthur Winsor
Principal

Message from School Council

Balbo Elementary School Council

The 2010-2011 Balbo Elementary School Council consisted of School Principal Art Winsor, Chairperson Denise Organ (parent representative), Secretary Lynette Penney (parent representative), teacher representatives Charlene Wolfrey-Sawler, Linda Noel and Jill Monk (assistant principal), and parent representative Lee Wiseman.

School Council met frequently and discussed a wide array of topics pertaining to Balbo Elementary School pertaining to students, staff and overall school environment. The construction of the school expansion was the prime focus of the council during this school year and in many instances meetings were held jointly with the Clarendville School Council. Items that had been discussed by council include:

- Fee in lieu of fundraising policy
- School Development Plan goals
- CRT results for 2009-2010 school year
- School Expansion
- School/Safety Concerns
- Staffing allocation
- Clarendville School System Reorganization

Denise Organ
Chairperson

Overview of School

Our School Community

Our school, Balbo Elementary School is part of the Eastern School District which has 122 schools with a total of approximately 40 000 students. At the end of the 2010-2011 school year Balbo Elementary had an enrolment of 375 students from grades Kindergarten to Grade 8.

Our school had a total of 26 full-time teachers and one half-time teacher who was hired in November. The breakdown of teachers was as follows: 19.5 classroom teachers and 4 special services personnel. We have 1 guidance counselor, 2 specialist teachers in the areas of music and physical education as well as the support of 2 student assistants. In addition, to staff based at the school, we have access to District office staff. The school also has the services of secretarial and maintenance personnel.

Key Highlights/Special Projects

This past year was anything but normal at Balbo Elementary. The year was marked with very intrusive construction which denied us access to rooms such as our Resource Centre. A make shift music room and general office had to be constructed. The construction limited access to our school. Parents were not permitted to enter our parking lot as well students were not able to access our playground area. Despite the many challenges we faced it was still a very successful year in terms of projects within our school. Throughout the year we were involved in numerous projects aimed at giving back to the community. These would include our annual Terry Fox Walk, Operation Christmas Tree, Balbo Christmas Wish Project, Walk to Breakfast, Collection for Local Food Bank, and Janeway Day. During Remembrance Week we hosted a Vigil at the Community Events Centre. The Vigil was a national project (150 schools across Canada participated) that honored 68,000 Canadian soldiers, sailors, airmen, nurses, doctors, and merchant seamen who died in the First World War. We also applied for and received a \$5000.00 grant to facilitate a 14 week Strengthening Families Program to help struggling family units. This program enabled us to form Partnerships with the local churches, Clarendville Firettes, The Rotary Club, and Community Health. Once again this year our school participated in various initiatives to support our Local Legion and Lions Club.

We were very pleased to have Smartboards installed in all of our classrooms.

3-4 Year School Development Plan

***Due to the restructuring of the Clarendville School System, the process of developing a new school development plan was delayed until 2011-2012. As a school community we continued to abide by the plan outlined below. However, much of the school year entailed staff dealing with issues of restructuring.

The 3-4 year School Development Plan outlines a school's goals and objectives over the life of the plan.

3-Year School Development Plan

Goal 1: To improve student achievement in the areas of Math and Language Arts

Year	Objectives	Objectives	Objectives
2008- 09	To improve the students' ability to read, write and respond critically in all text forms.	To improve students' ability to think critically and respond in math.	To improve students' effective listening skills while achievement results will improve.
2009 -2010	To improve students' ability to read, write and make personal connections across the curriculum.	To improve students' computational and mental math skills.	

2010 - 2011	To use technology to enhance student learning and improve student achievement.	To improve students use of mathematical terminology.	
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Goal 2: To continue to foster a positive school culture that promotes student independence and academic achievement.

Year	Objectives	Objectives	Objectives
2008 - 09	To continue to build a positive school culture through the implementation of Positive Behavior support.	To improve collaborative communication amongst colleagues.	To improve parent understanding of student academic and behavioral expectations.

2009 - 10	To continue to foster student independence and enhance student achievement.	To improve teachers understanding of students prerequisite skills and the skills needed in the following grade.	To further build collaboration between students, parents, teachers.
2010 -2011			

Operational Issues

Year	Issues	Issues	Issues
2008 - 09	To support teachers in effective use of technology To improve teacher use of technology	To support teachers to have colleague visits. To improve administrator visits to classrooms.	To have a teacher prep area with computer and phone.

2009 - 2010	To improve classroom storage facilities To designate a multi purpose storage unit.	To provide a larger space for musical movement	To provide a cafeteria for students
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Report on School Development Plan for Previous Year (2008 -09)

Goal 1. To improve student achievement in the areas of Mathematics and Language Arts		
Objective 1.1 To improve students' ability to read, write and make personal connections across the curriculum.	Objective 1.2 To improve student's computational and mental math skills	

<p>Commendations 1.1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teachers have participated in Pd sessions. 2. Teachers are making more of an effort to model during instruction. 3. Classrooms are displaying more posters 4. Time has been allocated in teacher schedules for more grade level collaboration. 5. Divisional time is planned for all ELA & Math Teachers to meet monthly 6. Team approach in reading instruction. 7. Support received from Program Specialist & Math Itinerant support 	<p>Commendations 1.2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Math warm-ups with mental math exercises are a regular part of math class. 2. Collaboration with and sharing of resources with Math Itinerant & Program Specialist. 3. Math Days are planned. 	
<p>Recommendations 1.1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teachers need to receive further professional development in appropriate questioning techniques 	<p>Recommendations 1.2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure time is allocated within the school day for mental math activities etc. on a more consistent basis 2. To continue to place a strong emphasis on Mathematics in order to bring CRT results in line with the province. 	

<p>Goal 2. To continue to foster a positive school culture that promotes student independent and academic achievement.</p>		
<p>Objective 2.1 To continue to build a positive school culture through implementation of Positive Behavior Supports.</p>	<p>Objective 2.2 : To improve collaborative communication amongst colleagues.</p>	<p>Objective 2.3 To improve parent understanding of students academic and behavioral expectations.</p>
<p>Commendations 2.1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued implementation of the Lionsquest program. 	<p>Commendations 2.2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opportunities for collaboration are built into the timetable. 	<p>Commendations 2.3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Academic and behavioral expectations are communicated in the student agenda.

<p>Recommendations 2.1</p> <p>1. To work towards complete implementation of PBS by the Fall of 2009.</p>	<p>Recommendations 2.2</p> <p>1. Require that a set period of time be used for collaboration between teachers.</p>	<p>Recommendations 2.3</p> <p>1. Ensure that signage is placed throughout the school with clear expectations.</p>
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Operational Issues Report 2008-09

<i>Year</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Issues</i>
2008-09	<p>To support teachers in effective use of technology</p> <p>To improve teacher use of technology</p>	<p>To support teachers to have colleague visits.</p> <p>To improve administrator visits to classrooms.</p>	<p>To have a teacher prep area with computer and phone.</p>
<i>Report</i>	<p>A plan was put in place to gradually have Interactive whiteboards placed in every classroom. Flextime was provided to one of our technology teachers to provide support for teachers in the area of technology.</p>	<p>Some teachers took advantage of time made available to have colleague visits. Administration made attempts to schedule more frequent classroom visits. This was somewhat successful but not to the point it was hoped.</p>	<p>Due to space limitations within the school this could not be dealt with this year.</p>

Summary Report on the School’s Most Current Data

Primary Criterion Referenced Test Results

From 2005-10 our school has consistently scored above the province in most all sub-tests in both Language Arts and Mathematics on the Primary Criterion Referenced Test. This past year our results, even though comparable to the province in most areas for results, in the Informational Text and Demand Writing were significantly below the province. In the area of Mathematics our students out-scored the provincial average in all sub-tests.

Elementary Criterion Referenced Test Results

Uncharacteristic of our past results in Elementary Language Arts, our students slightly below the provincial average in all sub-tests. Our Grade Six class of last year showed little or no improvement in most subtests as compared to the results they achieved on the Primary Criterion Referenced Test. In Mathematics we continue to score below the province in all subtests. When these students' results are compared to their results on the Primary Criterion reference Test there was no indication of improvement in any of the areas. This continues to be a major concern for us.

Summary

Even though our results last year were slightly below our performance of the previous year our general trending is still positive. We feel some of the scoring against our constant trends may have been due to the disruptive year our staff and students experience due to extensive construction that took place in our building during the entire school year. However, we do recognize that there are issues that go beyond this. We must continue to work on these areas especially in the area of Mathematics to bring our Elementary scores in line with the provinces

School Development Plan for Current Year

As previously stated in this report Balbo Elementary was due to be the development of a new plan during this school year. As a school community we continued to use the existing plan to guide us. However, much of the year was focused on the restructuring and dealing with the daily challenges that arose from the restructuring.

As a school community we continued to work together to increase the hands on experiences for children in both Mathematics and Language Arts. It was felt that our learners have changed with respect to how they learn. We felt it necessary to provide them with as many visual clues as possible while building greater personal connections to their learning. It was felt that given the technological age we live in that teachers must integrate the use of meaningful technology into their instruction as possible.

Our school finished equipping all of our classrooms with interactive whiteboards. Professional Development time was dedicated to learn how to effectively use the technology.

Our plan continues to focus on positive behavior supports, as well as, using our Lionsquest program for social skills. These programs along with continuing to provide a well-rounded co-curricular and extra curricular program make Balbo Elementary an excellent place for student learning.

1-Year School Development Plan

School Development Plan 2009-2010

Goal 1: To improve student achievement in the areas of Mathematics and Language Arts	
Objective 1.1: To improve students ability to read, write and make personal connections across the curriculum	Objective 1.2: To improve students computational and mental math skills.
Strategies: 1.1.1 Demonstrate expectations through the use of exemplars 1.1.2 Display and discuss rubric posters (ASP) 1.1.3 Demonstrate how to make personal connections across the curriculum 1.1.4 Integrate the use of personal connections across the curriculum 1.1.5 Provide instruction for teachers on how to integrate personal connections across the curriculum	Strategies: 1.2.1 Math Fun Days twice per year 1.2.2 Use basic math computational and mental math skills weekly. 1.2.3 Use interactive whiteboard activities to reinforce math skills, with some hands on activities for assessment. 1.2.4 To have scheduled grade level math days, one per term
Indicators of Success: 1.1.1 Improve scores on internal assessments 1.1.2 Poster displays 1.1.3 Improved scores on CRTs 1.1.4 Regular use of exemplars	Indicators of Success: 1.2.1 Improved scores in internal and external assessment 1.2.2 Math Fun Days at each grade level. 1.2.3 Amount of use of interactive whiteboards for computational skills

Goal 1. Support Plan	
Financial	Professional Development/Time Required
1.1.1 \$1000 for Math Fun Days	1.1.1

Goal 2: To continue to foster a positive school culture that promotes student independence, academic achievement, and healthy living

Objective 2.1: To continue to build positive school culture through the implementation of P.B.S./ Lionsquest	Objective 2.2: To improve student and teacher wellness	Objective 2.3: To further build collaboration between students, parents and teachers.
Strategies: 2.1.1 Provide teachers professional development in the implementation of the safe and caring schools matrix during administrative day in September 2.1.2 Unit One of Lionsquest to be completed prior to October 15. 2.1.3 Ongoing use of P.B.S. and Lionsquest strategies throughout the year.	Strategies: 2.2.1 To schedule twenty minutes of physical activity per day 2.2.2 To have healthy active living days throughout the year. 2.2.3 To provide opportunities for the staff to engage in healthy active living activities	Strategies: 2.3.1 To increase opportunities for parents, students and teachers to participate in collaborative school based activities. 2.3.2 To increase opportunities for parents to volunteer in school based activities.
Indicators of Success: 2.1.1 Observation of student participation during extra curricular activities 2.1.2 Use of safe and caring schools tracking form 2.1.3 Reduction in the number of office referrals	Indicators of Success: 2.2.1 Number of healthy active living days throughout the year 2.2.2 Participation levels in extra-curricular physical activities	Indicators of Success: 2.3.1 Number of parents and volunteers that participate in school activities 2.3.2 Number of students who participate in co curricular and extra curricular activities
Goal 2. Support Plan		
Financial	Professional Development/Time Required	
2.1.1 \$100 for the start-up and implementation of PBS 2.1.2 School purchase of Lionsquest materials	2.1.1 0.5 days full staff. This will be done during the administration day in September	

Goal 3: To further improve the integration of technology into teaching and instruction	
Objective 3.1: To support the use of interactive whiteboards as a teaching tool	Objective 3.2 To continue to develop an acquisition plan for the purchase of hardware and software throughout the school
Strategies: 3.1.1 To provide further professional development to teachers early in the school year. 3.1.2 Build time into the timetable for teacher(s) with expertise to provide support for teachers in the classroom 3.1.3 To develop a strategy/plan for organization of resources for interactive whiteboard use. 3.1.4 To develop plan for the electronic submission of assignments by students	Strategies: 3.2.1 To do a needs assessment of technology upgrades and needs within the school 3.2.2 To develop a yearly plan for the upgrading and acquisition of computer technology 3.2.3 3.2.4 3.2.5
Indicators of Success: 3.1.1 Amount of usage of interactive whiteboards by teachers 3.1.2 Student submission of assignments electronically 3.1.3 3.1.4 3.1.5	Indicators of Success: 3.2.1 Amount of resources purchases 3.2.2 Use of technology in the classroom 3.2.3 3.2.4 3.2.5
Goal 3. Support Plan	
Financial	Professional Development/Time Required
3.1.1 \$20 000 to complete purchase of interactive whiteboards, projectors and peripherals for all classrooms	3.1.1 1day to further develop teacher competency in the use of interactive whiteboards

Operational Issues for 2010-2011

**Due to construction there were no operational issues addressed in the plan. These type issues were dealt with on a daily basis.

Operational Issue	Intended Action
Classroom storage facilities	Some shelving was obtained through summer maintenance. There is still need for more
Multipurpose storage room	Due to the physical space constraints in the building this is not possible at this time.
Administration visits to classrooms	A continued attempt is being made to increase administration visibility in the classrooms. This continues to be worked on.
Teacher prep room with computer and phone	Due to the physical space constraints in the building this is not possible at this time.

Summary Report on the School's Most Current Data

PRIMARY LANGUAGE ARTS ASSESSMENT

Grade 1: Percentage of Students Performing At or Above Provincial Benchmark

07-08		08-09		09-10		10-11	
School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
93.8%	63.5%	82.4%	65.0%	63.3%	62.6%	78.4%	63.7%

Grade 2: Percentage of Students Performing At or Above Provincial Benchmark

07-08		08-09		09-10		10-11	
School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
91.7%	68.9%	87.2%	72.4%	87.5%	72.6%	81.8%	73.5%

CRITERION REFERENCE TESTS

Grade 3 Language Arts								
	07-08		08-09		09-10		10-11	
	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
Multiple Choice:								
Reading	93.3%	88.5%	84.5%	88.3%	94.4%	92.1%	82.9%	79.7%
Listening	85.0%	85.0%	94.1%	95.4%	81.8%	80.9%	89.0%	88.0%
Constructed Response: Percentage of students achieving Level 3 or above								
Demand Writing	75.1%	72.6%	73.8%	74.9%	85.7%	73.9%	58.8%	71.9%
Poetic	64.7%	56.1%	75.6%	68.8%	67.6%	71.5%	69.3%	77.9%
Informational	68.6%	70.8%	41.5%	55.1%	68.6%	63.6%	36.7%	52.8%
Listening	69.5%	70.2%	76.2%	70.5%	84.6%	59.9%	66.0%	68.9%
Grade 3 Mathematics								
	07-08		08-09		09-10		10-11	
	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
Multiple Choice:								
Number Operations	82.0%	76.0%	84.1%	85.0%	81.3%	76.0%	81.8%	74.5%
Number Concepts	80.0%	76.3%	65.5%	73.5%	82.3%	77.3%	82.9%	77.9%
Constructed Response: Percentage of students performing at Level 3 or above								
Reasoning	67.6%	65.7%	41.5%	54.3%	65.8%	62.1%	62.5%	61.2%
Communication	64.9%	59.8%	43.9%	54.2%	65.8%	61.6%	64.6%	60.6%
Connections & Representations	56.7%	61.3%	51.2%	69.0%	76.3%	68.2%	72.9%	65.3%
Problem Solving	75.7%	76.2%	53.7%	68.8%	73.7%	68.3%	79.2%	77.2%

Grade 6 Language Arts								
	07-08		08-09		09-10		10-11	
	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
Multiple Choice:								
Reading	86.9%	84.8%	88.8%	87.1%	71.2%	81.0%	79.1%	79.5%
Listening	92.0%	92.0%	89.4%	87.7%	86.1%	86.7%	63.0%	67.0%
Constructed Response: Percentage of students performing at Level 3 or above								
Demand Writing	100.0%	85.1%	91.3%	78.7%	85.7%	81.4%	70.0%	74.7%
Poetic	94.6%	81.2%	87.0%	69.6%	52.4%	69.9%	64.1%	66.2%
Informational	83.8%	78.9%	86.7%	68.0%	42.5%	68.4%	56.5%	58.7%
Listening	74.3%	62.6%	70.2%	47.4%	67.6%	66.7%	47.5%	51.8%
Grade 6 Mathematics								
	07-08		08-09		09-10		10-11	
	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
Multiple Choice:								
Number Operations	78.0%	78.0%	80.0%	77.1%	67.9%	72.3%	58.8%	67.5%
Number Concepts	65.7%	70.0%	62.3%	67.1%	70.9%	76.9%	68.0%	75.0%
Constructed Response: Percentage of students performing at Level 3 or above								
Reasoning	40.5%	48.4%	29.8%	36.5%	40.0%	54.9%	36.2%	52.3%
Communication	37.8%	42.0%	29.8%	30.6%	37.5%	46.5%	38.9%	44.3%
Connections & Representations	29.7%	41.3%	36.2%	36.1%	31.7%	44.0%	16.7%	35.2%
Problem Solving	43.2%	55.4%	37.0%	42.5%	37.5%	55.8%	50.0%	68.1%

School Development Plan for Current Year

We are currently getting ready to begin the process of developing a School Development Plan for Riverside Elementary.

Appendix A – Summary of School Fundraising

Our school did not participate in any fundraising.