

# Davis Elementary

## 2010-2011 School Development Report



## ***Vision***

*The vision of Davis Elementary School is to provide a safe, caring, and socially just environment that promotes independence, creativity, wellness and lifelong learning. As a community of learners we celebrate the diversity of student learning and work collaboratively and cooperatively to ensure academic excellence through exceptional teaching and a high level of parental support.*

## ***Mission***

*The mission of Davis Elementary School is an active learning centre of staff, parents and community dedicated to achieving academic excellence in a friendly, safe, supportive, challenging environment. We strive to meet the intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of each child to develop a love of learning while respecting individual rights and responsibilities.*

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*Office of the Director*

*Chair: Milton Peach, B.A., B.A.(Ed.)  
C.E.O./Director of Education: Ford Rice, B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed.*

## **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

The 2010-2011 school year was a year of philosophical and practical change for the staff and students of Davis Elementary as we became a Phase 2 Inclusion Pilot School. Inclusion requires educating students about diversity, acceptance and about always achieving to one's personal best. Establishing a positive environment that is safe, nurturing and supportive for both staff and students has been instrumental in helping us create a school culture where we feel that every student is important and we believe that every student can succeed. We have worked tirelessly using a team effort of all stakeholders, including staff, parents and families, students and community members. As a team we all work collaboratively to ensure our school and classes are conducive to learning and achievement for all students. It is the combination of high quality teaching, the commitment of our families to promote and support learning, and the desire of our students to do their very best that make Davis Elementary a special place to be.

All schools in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador have school growth plans; usually they are re-established or re-visited every three years. These plans are written by school staffs in conjunction with information from stakeholders and assessment data. Each plan usually identifies two or more goals that guide us in planning for each school year. Everything from our professional development, to school committees, to choosing school priorities reflects our two goals. At Davis Elementary our first school goal is a commitment to maintaining a school culture that fosters a safe, caring and collaborative learning environment. Under this goal we have adopted inclusionary practices as well as, the Positive Behaviour Supports program (PBS) and we continue to recognize and celebrate our involvement in the Eastern Active Schools initiative. Our second goal focuses on academics; its focus is in improving student achievement in Math, Reading and Writing.

The purpose of this annual report is to give information to interested parties and stakeholders about the progress of staff and students at Davis Elementary in reaching our goals. It includes achievement data as well as detailed information about our School Growth Plan.

The success of Davis Elementary is due in large part to the immeasurable contributions of our dedicated parent volunteers and community support. This dedication and the involvement and our volunteers help us each and every day to ensure that care for our students is paramount. We are extremely pleased and thankful to the families of Carbonear for their continued assistance.

Sincerely,

*Charlene Walsh- Grimes*

## Message from School Council

On behalf of the school council I wish to thank anyone who has helped in any way to support and nurture our children in a safe and caring environment at Davis Elementary. I especially want to thank our school council members who have served on Davis Elementary School Council this past 2010 – 2011 school year.

Christine Moyse – Parent Representative  
Claudine Garland – Parent Representative  
David Kennedy – Community Representative  
Deanne Cleary – Teacher Representative  
Diane Barrett – Parent Representative  
Fred Earle – Community Representative  
Genevieve Barron Babb – Teacher Representative  
Patti O’Keefe – Parent Representative  
Richard Rossiter – Parent Representative  
Sonya Nolan Baker – Parent Representative

2010-2011 has been another successful year! This year we were recipients of a Mental Health & Addiction Grant. With the grant a committee of Davis Elementary teachers and a parent organized Family Fun nights; these events were held monthly and were a huge success. The school received many positive comments and it brought the students, staff and community together as a whole. In terms of community support, this year the Bank of Montreal sponsored the school with a Christmas Dinner so that every child could have a free turkey dinner to celebrate the holiday season. Throughout the year students participated in many activities involving sports, music and the arts. We avail of many opportunities to showcase our students’ talents.

The school council has promoted and advocated for a new school for our town for a number of years and now as construction has started we are delighted that we have had a role in continuing the educational futures and success of the students of Carbonear.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the staff and administration of Davis Elementary who continue to make our school the best possible learning environment for our children. I would also like to commend them for their focus on ensuring students receives the best education possible.

Finally, I would like to extend a thank-you to the parents and guardians of the children at Davis Elementary. Your ongoing involvement and commitment ensures that Davis Elementary continues to provide the best possible education for which it is renowned.

Sincerely

Kelly Coombs  
Chair Davis Elementary  
School Council



## **Overview of School**

### ***Our School Community***

The school as of June 2011 had an enrolment of 282 students and offers Grades K - 5. This total includes 140 males and 142 females. There are 4 buses servicing our school. Approximately 80% of our students are bused to our school from within the catchment area of Carbonear and Freshwater.

During the 2010-2011 school year our school had a total of 19 professional staff. This allocation includes: 11.5 regular teachers including 2 teachers who are mainly responsible for Music and Physical Education; 1.5 administration; 0.55 part-time Guidance Counselor, and 3.0 Special Education personnel. In addition to the staff based at the school, we have access to District Office staff including: a speech-language pathologist, an itinerant teacher for the hearing impaired an itinerant teacher for the visually impaired, and an educational psychologist. The school also has the services of: a secretary for 35 hours a week; a full-time janitor for 40 hours a week and a part time janitor for 17 .5 hours a week and five student assistants for a total of 26.5 hours a week.

### ***Key Highlights/Special Projects***

Davis Elementary is an extremely busy and active school. In the 2010-2011 school year our school received a five thousand dollar grant from the Community Addiction Prevention and Mental Health Promotions Fund. With these funds, a committee comprised of staff members and one parent, organized "Family Fun Nights". The events took place once a month for seven months. The idea of the program was to allow families along with staff, opportunities to interact outside of the normal school day. Each night had a theme and offered both opportunities for fun and education. For example, one theme we enjoyed was healthy nutrition. We had a local dietician as a guest who assisted parents along with their children to make and create healthy snacks; they also played games that involved knowing nutritional information about common foods. This program ended in June with the entire school community attending a "Family Fun Day", this was held on our school grounds and it was organized with a garden party style atmosphere. It was a great way to end our year; staff, students and families thoroughly enjoyed the day and the program as a whole.

Davis Elementary has many great programs that are part of our school culture. Some have been in existence only a year or two others have been here awhile; each of these special programs/projects are endeavours we feel are very worthwhile for our students. One such program is our skating program, offered as part of our Physical Education curriculum. The Kindergarten and Grade Ones participate once a month in learning to

skate. The Physical Education teacher organizes opportunities for parents to either swap or donate skates and helmets, plus the school purchased some skates and helmets; all students are able to learn basic skating skills. A second program is our string and band programs. With the assistance of an Eastern Education Grants, Davis Elementary was able to purchase a set of violins for the school. With these violins we are able to add a string component to our school band.

Grants also helped us to deliver other special events to our students. A grant from the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council allowed us to have a local artist to come to our school and have an art class with every grade level. Each student was able to produce an oil painting of their own, they were very proud of their creations. An Eastern District Math Grant helped us to buy math manipulatives and games that we also used to help us celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School. The Healthy Commotion Grant helped us to buy fruit and other necessities to help us further celebrate our Healthy Commotion Day. We were also appreciative of a visit to the school by Ed Kavanaugh, who spent time with all students in the school, reading stories and having a discussion about the writing process.

Two years ago Davis Elementary started a new Christmas tradition. The last day of school before Christmas holidays, all students sit together and have a turkey dinner provided free to all students. In December 2010, costs of the meal were paid by our local Bank of Montreal. It was a wonderful event and a great way to start off the holiday season.

Davis Elementary also practices Positive Behaviour Supports (PBS). Staff and students believe in being proactive as opposed to reactive when dealing with behavior. We promoted PBS by teaching our Code of Conduct: Be Safe, Be Kind and Be Prepared. Last year every homeroom teacher had a student of the week in their class. Those students' names were announced over the school intercom every Monday; we have been using PBS for four years. In the 2010-2011 school year we also continued with special programs that we felt were beneficial for our students, such as the "Swim to Survive" program for Grade Twos and the "Greenhouse Initiative" program for the Grade Threes.

## ***Partnerships***

Davis Elementary is also supported within the community by many different groups and organizations. From monetary donations for our school breakfast program, to donations of book bags and school supplies, our school is very fortunate to be part of such a generous community. Groups who consistently support our school are:

- Kiwanis Club of Carbonear
- Canadian Tire
- Carbonear Swimming Pool
- Eastern Health
- Powell's Grocery Store
- North Atlantic
- Bethany United Church
- Tim Horton's
- Wal-Mart
- Robin's Donuts
- Concord Paving
- Bank of Montreal
- Super 8 Motel
- Kids Eat Smart
- A&W
- McDonald's
- Subway



### 3-4 Year School Development Plan

<b>Goal 1: To maintain a school culture that fosters a safe, caring &amp; collaborative learning environment by June 2011.</b>		
<b>Objective 1.1:</b> Students will respect and appreciate differences in each other.	<b>Objective 1.2:</b> Students, staff and parents will develop positive relationships in all school settings.	<b>Objective 1.3:</b> Establish and adopt Safe, Caring and Socially Just Policies and Procedures.

<b>Goal # 2: To improve student learning and achievement in Reading, Writing and Mathematics by June 2010.</b>		
<b>Objective 2.1:</b> Students will improve in the area of Reading.	<b>Objective 2.2:</b> Students will improve in the area of Math.	<b>Objective 2.3</b> Students will improve in the area of Writing.

## **Operational Issues**

Operational issues at Davis Elementary are primarily due to lack of space. In this building we do not have a science lab, proper music room, a cafeteria, proper multipurpose room etc. However we are in the consultation process with the Eastern School district in making plans for our new school. We expect all operational issues will be rectified when the new school is ready.

**Report on School Development Plan for Previous Year (2010-2011)**

<b>Goal 1: To maintain a school culture that fosters a safe, caring &amp; collaborative learning environment by June 2011.</b>		
<b>Objective 1.1:</b> Students will respect and appreciate differences in each other.	<b>Objective 1.2</b> Students, staff and parents will develop positive relationships in all school settings.	<b>Objective 1.3</b> Establish and adopt Safe, Caring and Socially Just Policies and Procedures.
<b>Commendations 1.1:</b> Code of Conduct created and displayed school wide, and taught to all students. It was reinforced daily. PBS program has been successfully implemented and embraced by all staff and students.	<b>Commendations 1.2:</b> Events were organized inviting community families into the school, one night a month for fun and family time.	<b>Commendations 1.3:</b> School has become a Phase Two Inclusion Pilot School.
<b>Recommendations</b> <b>1.1</b> Explore existing programs that encourage or teach respect and /understanding differences.	<b>Recommendations</b> <b>1.2:</b> Continue to host events that help build a relationship between home and the school.	<b>Recommendations</b> <b>1.4:</b> Teachers will reward and celebrate personal accomplishment as opposed to competition between students.

<b>Goal 2. To improve student learning and achievement in Reading, Writing and Mathematics by June 2011.</b>		
<b>Objective 2.1</b> Students will improve in the area of Reading.	<b>Objective 2.2</b> Students will improve in the area of Number Operations, Number Concepts and Shape & Space in all strands.	<b>Objective 2.3</b> Students will improve in the area of Writing.
<b>Commendations 2.1</b> Flexible grouping was used to create a smaller teacher-student ratio to target student literacy skills in Grades One and Two. School wide daily reading has become part of school culture. All elementary teachers have had P.D. on the Camet reading assessment resource. More literary genres were covered in instructional practices.	<b>Commendations 2.2</b> Classroom teachers are making use of math manipulatives and math games to excite students about learning in math. We also hold a Math Day each year.	<b>Commendations 2.3</b> A school wide Writing Plan was developed. A professional development day was spent on Writing Rubrics and CRTs.
<b>Recommendations 2.1</b> Improving student critical response to reading.	<b>Recommendations 2.2</b> Continue to expand on growing repertoire of mathematic instructional and assessment strategies.	<b>Recommendations 2.3</b> Flexible grouping will be used to target both reading and writing skills, in grades one and two, writing only will be targeted in grade three.

## **Summary Report on the School's Most Current Data**

### Davis Elementary Data Summary Analysis: A Brief Commentary

The data provided to Davis Elementary through assessment results help to shape our school growth plan and to determine the strategies that are needed for school improvement. The data collected this year highlights areas of strength as well areas where our school still has to grow.

As a school we have flagged our Primary Language Arts results as an area of concern. We are below the province in both Grade One and Two Reading. To help address this need we are targeting student reading skills. As an inclusion pilot school we are using flexible grouping strategies and using our Special Education Teachers and Vice - Principal to decrease our student-teacher ratio to focus on improving literacy skills.

Our Grade Three CRT results highlight areas where improvement is needed and areas of success. This year our results in Language Arts indicate that students need to do more work on Demand Writing. However last spring during the CRT's many of our grade three students ended up with Chicken Pox and ultimately only had opportunity to write one demand piece as opposed to two. The administration contacted the Department to let them know that over half of our students were not in school to write their pieces but the CRT had to go ahead as planned. Therefore, we are not sure how accurate the results for the demand writing are. On a positive note last year Poetic Language was flagged as an area of concern and this year we are above the province in that area; indicating to us that strategies we put in place to tackle this area of concern were effective.

Our Math results indicate that we have dropped significantly in the last two years. In 2008-2009 our math results showed our school significantly above the province in most areas, last year we were either on par with the province or just slightly below, this year we are below in all areas. This indicates an area of concern for us. We have to increase our concentration on Number Operations and Number Concepts and put further emphasis on our Math skills.

## **PRIMARY LANGUAGE ARTS ASSESSMENT**

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

<b>07-08</b>		<b>08-09</b>		<b>09-10</b>		<b>10-11</b>	
<b>School</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Province</b>
67.5%	63.5%	59.1%	65.0%	48.9%	62.6%	39.6%	63.7%

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

<b>07-08</b>		<b>08-09</b>		<b>09-10</b>		<b>10-11</b>	
<b>School</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Province</b>
58.7%	68.9%	79.1%	72.4%	44.7%	72.6%	65.0%	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
<b>Multiple Choice:</b>								
Reading	86.9%	88.5%	81.2%	88.3%	88.2%	92.1%	72.3%	79.7%
Listening	90.0%	85.0%	93.9%	95.4%	79.8%	80.9%	89.0%	88.0%
<b>Constructed Response: Percentage of students achieving Level 3 or above</b>								
Demand Writing	59.9%	72.6%	74.4%	74.9%	80.0%	73.9%	64.5%	71.9%
Poetic	42.6%	56.1%	64.3%	68.8%	64.1%	71.5%	80.6%	77.9%
Informational	66.0%	70.8%	57.1%	55.1%	61.5%	63.6%	47.3%	52.8%
Listening	56.4%	70.2%	53.3%	70.5%	61.9%	59.9%	81.9%	68.9%
Grade 3 Mathematics								
	07-08		08-09		09-10		10-11	
	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
<b>Multiple Choice:</b>								
Number Operations	70.0%	76.0%	84.0%	85.0%	70.5%	76.0%	66.4%	74.5%
Number Concepts	73.8%	76.3%	68.8%	73.5%	81.0%	77.3%	71.4%	77.9%
<b>Constructed Response: Percentage of students performing at Level 3 or above</b>								
Reasoning	55.4%	65.7%	88.7%	54.3%	60.5%	62.1%	50.1%	61.2%
Communication	50.0%	59.8%	90.9%	54.2%	67.5%	61.6%	58.7%	60.6%
Connections & Representations	48.2%	61.3%	93.2%	69.0%	72.5%	68.2%	60.9%	65.3%
Problem Solving	66.1%	76.2%	93.2%	68.8%	71.8%	68.3%	71.8%	77.2%

## **School Development Plan for Current Year**

Davis Elementary is a Phase 2 Inclusion Pilot School. Our Goals for the year continue to reflect both academics and safety with the additional focus of Differentiated Instruction and Inclusionary practices. We strive to increase our Language Arts and Math results while reflecting on the diverse strengths and needs visible in each class. Trying to meet individual student needs in terms of both academics and learning styles, while keeping in mind the social justice aspect, is a challenge but well worth the effort. Our staff has concentrated on Professional Development on helping us to be more inclusionary in our practice. Our overall plan for the year involves regular feedback at staff meetings, grade level and divisional meetings and how we are moving forward with Differentiation in our school.

## *Davis Elementary School Development Plan*

<b>Goal 1:</b> To maintain a school culture that fosters a safe, caring & collaborative learning environment by June 2012		
<b>Objective 1.1:</b> Students will respect and appreciate differences in each other.	<b>Objective 1.2:</b> Students, staff and parents will develop positive relationships in all school settings.	<b>Objective 1.3:</b> Establish and adopt Safe, Caring and Socially Just Policies and Procedures.
<b>Indicators of Success:</b> A decrease in the number of Student Conduct reports.	<b>Indicators of Success:</b> The degree to which the Code of Conduct is followed.	<b>Indicators of Success:</b>
<p><b>Strategies:</b></p> <p><b>1.1.1</b> Teach PBS lessons ( Lunchroom, Hallway, Washroom, Classroom, and Bus) in September; refresh again in January and March.</p> <p><b>1.1.2</b> Assemblies will be held each term to reinforce PBS lessons; the first to be held during the second week of school.</p> <p><b>1.1.3</b> Explore opportunities for presenters from outside groups to visit the school and highlight PBS; eg. Bullying.</p> <p><b>1.1.4</b> Go over expectations with parents at Meet the Teacher Night (explore incentives to improve attendance).</p> <p><b>1.1.5</b> Explore existing programs that encourage or teach respect and /understanding differences.</p>	<p><b>Strategies:</b></p> <p><b>1.2.1</b> All teachers will incorporate a Bullying Program into their Health curriculum.</p> <p><b>1.2.2</b> Students will complete the following programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grade K – 5 – Living Healthy Commotion held twice per year.</li> <li>-Grade K - 3 – Bicycle Safety</li> <li>-Grade K - 1 – Skating Program</li> <li>-Grade 2 – Water Safety (People Savers); Care Program</li> <li>- Grade 3 - Boating Safety</li> <li>-Grade 4 - 5 – Look for a program/presenter on Drugs and Violence</li> <li>-Grade 4 – Emergency First Aid</li> <li>-Grade 5 – Grandparents day</li> </ul> <p><b>1.2.3</b> Teachers will increase the use of Eastern Active Schools (EAS) resources and strategies. At Grade Level Meetings each grade will choose an activity to focus on for the following month.</p> <p><b>1.2.4</b> Host more events that involve parents and community members; i.e. Christmas concert Matinees, Grandparents Day, K- Circus, Family fun Night/Day, Flea market, Greenhouse visits, Visiting artist program with an Art Gallery Day, Parent Volunteers</p>	<p><b>Strategies:</b></p> <p><b>1.3.1</b> Teachers will reward and celebrate personal accomplishment as opposed to competition ( certificate presented to each student at year end to celebrate the same).</p> <p><b>1.3.2</b> Teachers will review and refocus the current PBS program. (Possibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a token system whereby students receive tokens for good behavior which are redeemable for other prizes.</li> <li>- Student of the Week in each classroom.</li> </ul>

<b>Goal # 2: To improve student learning and achievement in Language Arts and Math by June 2012.</b>		
<b>Objective 2.1:</b> Students will improve in the area of Language Arts.	<b>Objective 2.2:</b> Students will improve in the area of Math.	
Indicators of Success: Improved scores on internal and external assessments, observations and anecdotal records.	Indicators of Success: Improved scores on internal and external assessments, observations and anecdotal records.	
<b>Strategies:</b> <b>2.1.1</b> Flexible grouping will be used to target both reading and writing strategies and skills <b>2.1.2</b> Teachers will choose/use the following Differentiated Instruction (DI) strategies: Sample list: -Red Light, Green Light -Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down -Entry and Exit Cards -Clock Buddies -Think Tac Toe -Jigsaw -Think, Pair, Share -SmartBoard Technology	<b>Strategies:</b> <b>2.2.7</b> Teachers will offer students assessment options including assignments, portfolios, worksheets, observations, checklists etc. for at least one third of the units for the year. <b>2.2.8</b> Teachers will offer opportunities for reassessment where outcomes have not been met. <b>2.2.9.</b> Teachers will ensure that manipulatives, math games and Smartboard are used to capture student's interest in math class.	

## Appendix A – Summary of School Fundraising

Fundraiser	Revenue (\$)	Expenses(\$)	Profit(\$)
Veggie Hampers	6269.00	4278.99	1990.01
Nor Card	13711.00	6557.79	7153.21
Flea Market	942.55	n/a	942.55
Christmas Ticket Raffle	1564.00	75.00	1489.00
Recycling	2854.10	1427.05	1427.05
Christmas Concerts	2358.31	184.13	2174.18
Disaster Relief (Hurricane Igor)	554.52	n/a	n/a
Book Fairs	2720.53	n/a	1304.21(of products)
TCP Health Foundation (Penny Drive)	526.66	n/a	n/a
Janeway Day	303.90	n/a	n/a
Kindergarten Flea Market	1297.00	125.00	1172.00
Family Fun Day	782.12	48.50	733.62
Terry Fox Run	204.55	n/a	n/a
Disaster Relief (Haiti)	673.55	n/a	n/a
Gym Rentals	710.00	n/a	710.00