

**ANNUAL SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

**2009-2010**

**ST. LAWRENCE ACADEMY**

# **MISSION STATEMENT**

**St. Lawrence Academy fosters a safe and caring school environment for teaching and learning where effective communication and leadership from all stakeholders promotes student achievement and lifelong learning.**

## **Message from the Director of Education**

Since Eastern School District's inception in September, 2004 many changes have occurred. Our efforts have now moved beyond structural reform and reorganization to developing our schools as caring, professional and purposeful places of learning and excellence. The School District has engaged in a process designed to accomplish this. Our strategic plan identifies the mission of our District to enhance achievement and success for all students within a healthy, active, safe, caring and socially just learning environment.

On behalf of Eastern School District, I acknowledge the many efforts of our teachers, administrators, support staff, parents and community representatives, particularly through School Councils. I encourage you to review this document and to converse with your school representatives. It is in this conversation that the school's goals and expectations come to life, in an atmosphere of support and accountability. When a community is better informed about its school, participation and ownership increases. The value of this report lies not only in what it says, but also in what it does.

I wish to congratulate each school for their commitment to achieving success as evidenced by this Annual School Report. Keep up the good work!

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

## Message from Administration

This annual school development report recognizes the various aspects of our school community including student achievement, co-curricular programs, partnerships within the community and our three year school development program.

As a school team we work together to ensure that we provide a safe and caring school environment where all students can develop to their potential. We acknowledge the support of the community in helping us achieve our goals. It is only through collaboration with parents and the community that we can provide a safe and caring school environment for our students. A sincere thank you to all who have supported us along the way and continue to support us in our daily endeavours.

Dawn Brushett

Principal

Dwayne  
Evans

Assistant  
Principal

## **Message from School Council**

As chairman of St. Lawrence Academy School Council I know first hand the importance of positive partnerships between the school and community to enhance the education and well being of the children at St. Lawrence Academy. Working together we can provide a safe and caring school environment for our children allowing all students the opportunity to achieve curriculum outcomes. By working together we were able to address the challenges and demands of the school community.

As a school council we will continue to enhance the partnership between school and community by involvement in the overall development of their children in the global and school environment.

On behalf of the school council I would like to thank the parents, students and school staff for their support over the past year. Through a shared commitment we will continue to work together to provide a quality education for our children through the framework of the school development process and the strategic plan of Eastern School District.

Frank Lambe  
School Council Chair

## **OVERVIEW OF OUR SCHOOL**

St. Lawrence Academy is one of 127 schools under Eastern School District. The school enrollment is 225 from K-12. Our school has a total of 22 educational staff including 1 guidance counselor, 4 specialist teachers in the areas of music, physical education, french, and library resources. We also have 1 student assistant, 2.5 units of maintenance time and a full time secretary.

Support from District Office Staff in the areas of Speech Language, Educational Psychologists, Technology, and Itinerant Teachers is also critical to the successful functioning of our school. Having an educational psychologist assigned to our school on a weekly basis was a very valuable asset to our school environment.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES**

Special needs services are provided to students in grades K-12. Services include support in the areas of Language Arts and Mathematics and working with classroom teachers to meet the needs of students requiring Pathway supports. This may include alternate or modified courses, alternate evaluation procedures and technology support.

Courses are developed around student needs in the various subject areas and range from one year duration upward. There are currently 4 special education teachers working with students requiring special needs supports.

The Guidance Program at our school consists of counseling, student consultation, assessment, referrals to outside agencies, training sessions and extra curricular functions. Counseling is done on an individual and group basis and includes personal, family, educational behavioral and career components.

## **K-6 NUMERACY/LITERACY SUPPORT**

Our school was fortunate to have the support of a .5 unit to implement literacy initiatives in the areas of mathematics and reading this year. Ms. Sandra Rennie was the lead teacher for Numeracy while Ms. Carol Anne Clarke was the lead teacher for Language Arts. Both teachers worked with classroom teachers in K-6 to plan and implement strategies to teach outcomes to individuals and small groups in an effort to develop skills to improve reading and mathematics skills. This support was a valuable asset to the school for students and teachers.

## **CLASS SIZE/ENROLMENT**

The following table shows enrollment per grade. Class size for specific courses will vary especially from Levels 1-3.

Kindergarten	-	16
Grade 1	-	12
Grade 2	-	16
Grade 3	-	10
Grade 4	-	10
Grade 5	-	18
Grade 6	-	16
Grade 7	-	19
Grade 8	-	19
Grade 9	-	22
Level I	-	14
Level II	-	27
Level III	-	26
Level IV	-	4

## **ATTENDANCE**

The overall attendance rate at St. Lawrence Academy is 95%. Chronic absences are restricted to a limited number of students. During the 2009-10 school year a total of 9.5 days were lost, 2 for PD Inservice and 7 weather days and .5 day due to power outage.

## SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Enrolment in the St. Lawrence system has decreased dramatically over the past number of years due to the fact that less children are being born and a number of families have moved away for employment. The following table summarizes the decline in enrolment from the 98-99 school year to its current status in 09-10.

98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
387	365	356	341	324	275	275	251	240	231	225

## **PROGRAMS/HIGHLIGHTS**

### Preschool

Our preschool program had another successful year under the guidance of Ms. Beth Edwards. There were a total of 15 participating in the program. The emphasis of this program is to prepare the children to enter kindergarten in September. With the help of many parent volunteers the children learned many needed skills to assist them with their transition into kindergarten. The program concluded in June with a preschool graduation ceremony complete with a graduation cake and a special lunch.

### **Tutoring for Tuition**

The tutoring for tuition program continued during the 09-10 school year. A significant number of students were trained as tutors and a large number of students identified by teachers and parents as needing tutoring services. Tutoring was conducted as a one on one service once again this year since the large number of children in a homework haven setting posed difficult challenges for some of the tutors. Overall this program was successful and beneficial to those who used it on a consistent basis.

### **K-6 Reading Program**

For the fifth year in a row K-6 teachers implemented a reading initiative in an effort to improve reading levels and to promote a love of reading. This year's theme was "Climbing the Cape". The adventure began with a hike to the base of the Cape Trail where each student had their picture taken to attach to their Cape Trail Map at school. These maps were proudly displayed on the corridor walls showing each student's progress. Students, parents, and students signed pledge sheets outlining each person's commitment to the reading program. There were many reading celebrations throughout the year with the final celebration being held in June. Students, teachers, and parents hiked to the top of the cape. It was quite a climb but well worth it. Students proudly displayed their flags at the top of the summit acknowledging their success with the 2009-2010 reading challenge. Upon their return to the school students were treated to a pizza party. A special thank you to all who supported us in our efforts to promote the importance of reading to our young children. We look forward to next year's challenge.

## **DARE Program**

The DARE Program was offered to the grade 6's during the 2009-10 school year. Constable Carla Humes taught the program and did an excellent job providing the students with the tools to say no to drugs. On June 10<sup>th</sup> we had our DARE Celebration. Part of the celebration involved the making of a time capsule in which students placed pledges about their future. The capsule will be opened during their Level III graduation.

## **Hallowe'en Fair**

Our first fundraiser for 2009-10 was held on October 29th in the form of our annual Hallowe'en Fair. This event is very popular for students, staff and parents. It receives much support from all stakeholders in the community and for this reason is very successful. This year we raised \$1,700.00 and a good time was had by all. Monies raised are used to support school programs and student involvement in various activities throughout the school and district. If you haven't participated in our fair it would be worthwhile to take an afternoon to see the excitement it generates.

## **Science Fair**

Twenty-five projects entered the school science fair, held March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Five projects were chosen to represent our school at the regional science fair, hosted at St. Lawrence, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Project winners were:

Junior Division- Tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place. Peter Slaney- "Green Fresh Bags: Do They Work?"

Jonah Kettle and Adam Kelly- "The Effects of Energy Drinks"

Junior Division- 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Katie Kettle and Christina Slaney- "Blow Me Away"

Intermediate Division- 1<sup>st</sup> place. Melissa Loder- "What a Mix"

Intermediate Division- 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Blair Stacey- "DNA"

As the host school we were able to enter more projects. Other projects represented were:

Chad Beck and Lucas Clarke- "Action Reaction"

Kellie Beck and Sydney Brown- "Music and Learning"

Riley Slaney- "The Potato Clock"

Our students did quite well and received several recognitions. Five of the projects

won bronze medals. As well there were one silver and one gold.

In the Special Awards category, Caitlyn Loder and Hope Parsons received recognition for their project, winning the WISE Award.

## **Sports**

The sports program at St. Lawrence Academy continued to remain strong and a vital part of student life during the 2009-10 school year. Throughout the year we offered 8 school sports to our student body. We had both male and female students participate in those sports. With such a variety of activities, students were able to find a sport that suited their taste and there was something for everyone to enjoy.

The gymnasium is an extremely busy place in our school as we run all of our school sports in the gym and basketball for grades 3 - 12 is also offered through the minor basketball program.

St. Lawrence Academy hosted the 4A boys provincial soccer competition which saw our boys claiming the Provincial Championship.

Grade 4 - 6 students participated in an intramural program (house system) that included a variety of fun activities that are aimed at maximizing student participation in a relatively non-competitive environment. Shotokan Karate was also offered to students for the fourth consecutive year. Students received their yellow, orange and brown belts at the annual seminar and grading held in June at Donald C. Jamieson Academy.

A big thank you goes out to students, staff and parents who gave of their time to coach, organize and supervise our sports programs.

## **Drama**

The Regional Drama Festival was held at St. Joseph's All Grade I Lamaline this year. Our troupe The Blues Players presented an outstanding performance with their production Stupid Cupid. The troupe received many awards and had a fun time attending workshops and training sessions to help improve their acting skills. Ms. Alana Walsh-Giovannini directed the troupe. She was recognized for her dedication to drama over the years and was presented the "Cecilia Bungay Award" acknowledging her contributions to the arts in this area.

## **Math Team**

Last year at St. Lawrence Academy we competed in both the Junior and Senior High Burin Peninsula math leagues. Our school performed very well overall with the junior high team winning the fall competition and one of our senior high teams placing second and receiving silver medals for overall performance.

We also competed in the Canadian mathematics competitions which are competitions written in school during class time. Students in grades 7 – 11 completed the Gauss, Fermat, Caley and Pascal competitions. The students performed very well and certificates of distinction and medals will be presented at this years awards ceremony.

We held our second annual Math Day in April. We applied for and received a grant of \$1000 to provide snacks, prizes and supplies to run our math day. It was a great day filled with fun, educational mathematics activities. All reports from students were that the day was great and everyone is looking forward to this years math day.

## **Awards Ceremony**

Our annual awards ceremony was held in December to celebrate the achievements of our junior/senior high classes during the 2008-09 school year. This ceremony was held during the final week of instruction prior to the Christmas break to allow Level III student to attend the event. Most of these students have returned home for their semester break at this time. We are pleased to report that there was a high level of academic achievement attained by our students. There was a 98% pass rate among our junior high students with the outcome in senior high being equally as impressive. Almost half of the students passed with honors at the senior high level. All our Level III students graduated with 50% of the class achieving academic or honors status. Congratulations to all on their efforts and achievements.

## **Senior Prom**

The graduating class of 2009-2010 held its prom on Friday May 28th. This years class opted for Senior Prom followed by a Safe Grad.

The celebration began with a church service at 5 o'clock followed by a graduation supper and dance. We were pleased to have Mr. Larry Blanchard in attendance as representative of the Eastern School District as well as Dr. Darin King, and Hon. Judy Foote, Provincial and Federal Government Representatives for St. Lawrence constituents.

Safe grad followed the prom ceremony in the school gym with numerous activities planned for students by the Safe Grad parent committee. The prizes donated by local businesses were given out throughout the night. A successful event thanks to parents, staff, community and board support.

## **School Council**

St. Lawrence Academy is very fortunate to have a very dedicated school council consisting of representatives from the school, community and parents. The council meets the first Monday of each month to discuss matters pertaining to school improvement. Members are pro-active in organizing meetings and activities that benefit our school community and promotes the well being of our students. Our school council is highly valued within our school and we extend a special thank you to those who give of their time to be members of this particular group.

## **Breakfast Program**

St. Lawrence Academy was successful in implementing a breakfast program during the 2009-2010 school year. With the help of Kids Eat Smart Program, generous community donations, and dedicated volunteers breakfast was served 3 days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Breakfast consisted of cereal, toast and juice. On special occasions pancakes, fruit and breakfast sandwiches were served. Thanks to all who made the program successful especially teacher

sponsors Donna Tilley and Eliza Cull.

### **Partnerships**

St. Lawrence Academy extends thanks to all those who have supported our school throughout the year. In particular we wish to thank the parents and the business community for their support. Without their valued assistance the task of educating our students would be a much more difficult one. To the many volunteers who enter our doors we cannot thank you enough for your time and dedication.

Thank you to Eastern School District for your financial and moral support in educating our students. Also thank you to the school council for your valued contribution in helping us maintain our successful endeavors and for your efforts in helping us improve the school community for all stakeholders.

To all those who have contributed in any way in making our school a meaningful and auspicious learning environment we extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

## **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The School Development Team at St. Lawrence Academy has identified three goals that it wishes to achieve under the School Development Plan. They include:

- (1) To improve student achievement
- (2) To create a safe and caring school
- (3) To improve communication among all stakeholders in the school Community.

Goal 1 – To Improve Student Achievement

### **OBJECTIVES**

To improve students performance on CRT's especially in the areas of problem solving and mental math

To promote literacy awareness through the implementation of a reading program in grades K-6

To design and implement action plans to improve the performance of students on public exams in identified areas of need.

Goal 2 – To Create A Safe and Caring School

### **OBJECTIVES**

To develop a safe and caring school policy

To develop a school wide discipline policy

To develop supportive relationships with parents and community.

Goal 3 – To Improve Communication Among All Stakeholders

### **OBJECTIVES**

To produce a monthly newsletter

To produce a school newspaper at least 3 times a year

To use TV in lobby to display school news and digital images of school happenings.

Staff at St. Lawrence Academy have continued to work towards achieving the outcomes and goals outlined in the school development plan. To help improve student achievement the resources of a half time literacy unit dedicated to implementing math and reading initiatives to develop skills in these areas was invaluable. The literacy and numeracy teachers teamed with primary/elementary teachers and Ms. Trudy Whittle-Upshall at Board Office to develop programming to best suit the needs of the students at these levels to improve grade level performance in Mathematics and Language and to improve CRT results in grades 3 & 6. The K-6 reading initiative continued to be implemented for this purpose as well. Teachers from 7-12 also implemented plans to improve performance on public exams in areas identified from the previous years results in English, Mathematics and the Sciences.

Work continued on the development of a school wide discipline policy as well as a safe and caring school policy. Administration and staff continued to develop supportative relationships with parents and the community by involving all stakeholders in the decision making process when appropriate. Communication seems to have improved among all stakeholders. Synervoice has helped considerably in this effort as has the use of the main lobby at Canada Post to display memos regarding pertinent school information. Efforts will continue to improve communication since it is an essential component to help ensure a safe, effective, caring school environment.

Going forward in the School Development Process, St. Lawrence Academy completed parent, student and staff surveys in the spring of 2010. Data from these surveys will determine the direction of school development for the 2010-2011 school year.

## PRIMARY LANGUAGE ARTS ASSESSMENT

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

07-08		08-09		09-10	
School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
40.0%	63.5%	56.3%	65.0%	76.9%	62.1%

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

07-08		08-09		09-10	
School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
87.5%	68.9%	50.0%	72.4%	62.5%	71.3%

## CRITERION REFERENCE TESTS

Grade 3 Language Arts								
	06-07		07-08		08-09		09-10	
	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
<b>Multiple Choice:</b>								
Reading	85.6%	89.7%	91.6%	88.5%	85.0%	88.3%	89.6%	92.1%
Listening	83.3%	93.3%	72.5%	85.0%	97.5%	95.4%	94.0%	80.9%
<b>Constructed Response: Percentage of students achieving Level 3 or above</b>								
Demand Writing	81.8%	74.5%	92.9%	72.6%	90.0%	74.9%	80.0%	73.9%
Poetic	72.7%	65.8%	42.8%	56.1%	50.0%	68.8%	77.8%	71.5%
Informational	81.8%	74.4%	71.4%	70.8%	10.0%	55.1%	66.7%	63.6%
Listening	33.4%	64.1%	42.9%	70.2%	80.0%	70.5%	100.0%	59.9%

Grade 3 Mathematics								
	06-07		07-08		08-09		09-10	
	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
<b>Multiple Choice:</b>								
Number Operations	70.0%	77.0%	72.0%	76.0%	89.0%	85.0%	82.5%	76.0%
Number Concepts	56.3%	71.3%	70.0%	76.3%	76.3%	73.5%	74.0%	77.3%
<b>Constructed Response: Percentage of students performing at Level 3 or above</b>								
Reasoning	8.3%	43.6%	57.1%	65.7%	40.0%	54.3%	70.0%	62.1%
Communication	8.3%	37.5%	71.4%	59.8%	30.0%	54.2%	70.0%	61.6%
Connections & Representations	8.3%	36.3%	71.4%	61.3%	50.0%	69.0%	70.0%	68.2%
Problem Solving	8.3%	51.9%	85.7%	76.2%	70.0%	68.8%	80.0%	68.3%

Grade 6 Language Arts								
	06-07		07-08		08-09		09-10	
	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
<b>Multiple Choice:</b>								
Reading	77.5%	78.0%	79.6%	84.8%	81.9%	87.1%	75.6%	81.0%
Listening	93.3%	93.3%	82.0%	92.0%	90.5%	87.7%	87.5%	86.7%
<b>Constructed Response: Percentage of students performing at Level 3 or above</b>								
Demand Writing	60.9%	76.1%	80.0%	85.1%	58.8%	78.7%	81.3%	81.4%
Poetic	56.5%	73.3%	80.0%	81.2%	82.4%	69.6%	68.8%	69.9%
Informational	63.7%	58.8%	80.0%	78.9%	64.7%	68.0%	68.8%	68.4%
Listening	59.1%	58.4%	65.0%	62.6%	73.7%	47.4%	60.0%	66.7%

Grade 6 Mathematics								
	06-07		07-08		08-09		09-10	
	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
<b>Multiple Choice:</b>								
Number Operations	63.6%	68.2%	78.0%	78.0%	70.6%	77.1%	57.3%	72.3%
Number Concepts	57.3%	62.7%	68.6%	70.0%	61.1%	67.1%	68.2%	76.9%
<b>Constructed Response: Percentage of students performing at Level 3 or above</b>								
Reasoning	21.8%	33.2%	33.4%	48.4%	50.0%	36.5%	53.3%	54.9%
Communication	39.1%	30.7%	27.8%	42.0%	55.6%	30.6%	53.3%	46.5%
Connections & Representations	39.1%	40.2%	38.9%	41.3%	55.6%	36.1%	40.0%	44.0%
Problem Solving	60.9%	50.6%	58.9%	55.4%	44.5%	42.5%	53.3%	55.8%

Grade 9 English								
	06-07		07-08		08-09		09-10	
	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
<b>Multiple Choice:</b>								
Poetic	72.6%	79.4%	80.9%	77.2%	73.3%	71.0%	80.5%	85.1%
Informational	75.6%	74.5%	82.5%	78.1%	73.3%	83.1%	74.7%	79.3%
<b>Constructed Response: Percentage of students performing at Level 3 or above</b>								
Demand Writing	96.3%	83.5%	100.0%	86.2%	91.7%	83.0%	68.4%	85.4%
Poetic	77.8%	71.1%	91.4%	73.0%	91.7%	79.5%	61.1%	73.1%
Informational	96.1%	75.7%	86.9%	77.5%	100.0%	75.5%	52.9%	70.1%

Grade 9 Mathematics								
	06-07		07-08		08-09		09-10	
	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
<b>Multiple Choice:</b>								
Number Operations	47.7%	59.5%	51.2%	60.3%	51.9%	55.8%	66.7%	69.5%
Number Concepts	29.6%	47.1%	73.9%	68.9%	29.6%	39.3%	50.5%	59.0%
Patterns & Relations	44.4%	55.6%	62.2%	59.3%	74.7%	68.9%	72.2%	75.4%
Measurement	60.7%	55.3%	58.5%	55.1%	77.3%	59.9%	60.5%	67.6%
Geometry	65.4%	69.4%	53.6%	55.4%	64.7%	61.8%	58.8%	69.4%
Data Management & Probability	41.7%	48.6%	55.4%	63.2%	50.0%	53.7%	59.2%	65.9%
<b>Constructed Response: Percentage of students performing at Level 3 or above</b>								
Number Operations	12.4%	32.5%	47.8%	51.0%	28.4%	44.5%	46.7%	48.9%
Patterns & Relations	21.0%	32.5%	56.5%	61.3%	57.6%	57.0%	49.1%	60.4%

## PUBLIC EXAMS

Exam Mark	06-07		07-08		08-09		09-10	
	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
<b>French 3200</b>	75.4%	70.2%	77.4%	65.1%	57.2%	68.3%	62.4%	68.1%
<b>Math 3204</b>	67.8%	62.7%	57.1%	57.4%	51.9%	58.9%	54.2%	58.0%
<b>Math 3205</b>	70.4%	73.8%	78.2%	78.9%	75.5%	74.9%	69.0%	75.3%
<b>World Geography 3202</b>	65.2%	61.8%	66.3%	63.1%	60.6%	63.2%	62.8%	58.8%
<b>Biology 3201</b>	65.5%	61.4%	60.6%	61.2%	59.4%	58.4%	62.6%	60.7%
<b>Chemistry 3202</b>	54.5%	61.3%	69.8%	64.6%	80.8%	62.2%	52.3%	66.4%
<b>Physics 3204</b>	75.3%	65.8%	72.2%	68.3%	69.4%	67.2%	61.2%	65.5%
<b>English 3201</b>	58.2%	59.1%	65.5%	65.3%	55.4%	60.2%	67.0%	64.6%

## GRADUATION STATUS

	06-07		07-08		08-09		09-10	
	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
<b>Honours</b>	22.7%	22.9%	36.0%	25.1%	24.0%	23.1%	9.1%	25.2%
<b>Academic</b>	27.3%	40.4%	20.0%	35.7%	20.0%	40.9%	27.3%	39.5%
<b>General</b>	50.0%	36.7%	44.0%	39.3%	56.0%	36.0%	63.6%	35.2%