**Epiphany Elementary**

**School Development Report**

**2011 – 2012**



***Mission***

***“In active partnership with the community, Epiphany Elementary is committed to providing a child-centered, nurturing environment that focuses on student involvement, learning and achievement.”***

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

[Message from the Director of Education 2](#_Toc340418319)

[Message from the Principal 3](#_Toc340418320)

[Message from the School Council 4](#_Toc340418321)

[Overview of School 5](#_Toc340418322)

[*Our School Community* 5](#_Toc340418323)

[*Key Highlights/Special Projects* 5](#_Toc340418324)

[*Partnerships* 6](#_Toc340418325)

[School Development 7](#_Toc340418326)

[*Report on Previous Year (2011-12)* 8](#_Toc340418327)

[*2 Year School Development Plan* 10](#_Toc340418328)

[Summary Report on School’s Most Current Data 12](#_Toc340418329)

[Appendix A – Summary of School Fundraising 16](#_Toc340418330)



***OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR Chair:*** *Milton Peach, B.A., B.A.(Ed.)*

***C.E.O./Director of Education (Acting)****: Bruce Vey, PhD*

# Message from the Director of Education

In December, 2011, Eastern School District approved 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 2011-2012 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 in the achievement of the specific goals and objectives listed in this plan. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

**BRUCE VEY, PhD**

**CEO/DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (Acting)**

/ms

# Message from the Principal

It is with great pride that I present the school report for Epiphany Elementary School. 2011-12 has once again proven to be a busy and eventful year at the school.

First, I would like to thank the school council for their involvement in our school over the past year. Through their active involvement we have celebrated many accomplishments and have been able to provide many extra learning opportunities for our students.

Of course the main reason we exist as a school is to nurture the academic achievement of our students. This year we were involved with the internal and external review process. I would like to thank the staff for their dedication to continued school improvement and as well the external review team for its work at our school. We are proud of the many commendations that we received from the review team and we will strive hard to implement their recommendations. We are satisfied that we have a solid school plan going forward.

A quick overview of our most current data shows that in most areas we are very comparable to the province; and, in many cases, we are actually above provincial means. That said, there are areas in which we have some work to do. Please see page 10 of this document for an overview of our provincial assessment results for the past four years.

As we look ahead to a new school year I would like to take this opportunity to wish the outgoing Grade 6 class well as it settles into high school life at Crescent Collegiate. As well, I offer special congratulations and thanks to Mr. Leonard Lye who retires at the end of the school year. Mr. Lye will be missed by students, parents and colleagues alike. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

Finally, I offer a big thank you to the many parents, teachers, and staff members of the school as well as the many district officials who work tirelessly to provide the best educational opportunities for our students. It has been a terrific year and we look forward to continued success at Epiphany.

Roger Green, *B. (Ed.), B. (Spec. Ed.), M. (Ed.)*

Principal

# Message from the School Council

2011-12 proved once again to be a productive year for the Epiphany School Council. We are proud of the hard work and many accomplishments of the council as it strived to serve the students of Epiphany Elementary. The membership of the council this year included:

Stanley Reid (Chairperson)

Alun Young (Principal)

Marian Simms

Christopher Snelgrove

Wade Lahey

Kay Piercey

Krista Pretty

Connie Burton

Tina Chislett

Heather Dawe

Leonard Lye.

As usual we have enjoyed terrific community support this year. This was perhaps most evident as we established a hot lunch program for the first time at the school. We also undertook an aggressive fundraising program which provided funds that allowed our students to partake in a number of field trips free of charge.

This year Epiphany was involved with an internal and external review process. We would like to congratulate the staff and students of Epiphany for their work on this file and on the many commendations the school received from the reviewing team. We are confident, based on the work that has been done, that Epiphany is on a course that will maximize achievement for all students.

Finally, as the school district has continued to review the Upper Trinity School System, we, as a council, continue to ponder the prospects of potential school reconfiguration in the area. As a result we continue to reflect on our future. This process has prompted us to identify the characteristics of our school, and indeed the entire school community which, we believe, make Epiphany Elementary a great school. We await a decision from Eastern District in the new school year with respect to possible realignment.

Congratulations again to the entire school community on an excellent year!

Stanley Reid

Chairperson

# Overview of School

## *Our School Community*

Epiphany Elementary is located in the community of Heart’s Delight-Islington. The school serves all K-6 students from the communities of Heart’s Desire and Heart’s Delight-Islington. The school population is 44 students with a teacher allocation of 5.15 units. This allocation includes 0.50 units for Administration, 0.25 units for Guidance Services, and O.50 units for an Instructional Resource Teacher (IRT).

We continue to receive 30 hours each week of secretarial time and 27.5 hours of janitorial time. We currently have one student assistant for 4 hours per day.

## *Key Highlights/Special Projects*

During the past school year students at Epiphany Elementary were involved in a number of initiatives which had as their focus healthy, active living. Students participated in Walk to Breakfast, Harvest Run, Healthy Commotions, and Swim to Survive. The school was successful in securing the After School Physical Education Initiative (ASPEI) grant which allowed us to offer a variety of physical education programs to students within our own school community from Grades 4-6 and, as well, to students in Grades 7-9 from our feeder school, Crescent Collegiate. This program has allowed us to significantly upgrade our physical education equipment inventory too.

We were involved in a number of projects this year aimed at increasing social awareness among our school community. Terry Fox Run, Pennies for Patients, and Janeway Day in the Schools (NLTA) were just a few of the important social justice projects that students participated in during the school year.

We were successful in acquiring a Math Promotion Grant. These grants are aimed at providing students with the opportunity to see the many real life applications of Mathematics. This year students planned and built flower planters which now sit proudly on the front of our building. I would like to thank parent volunteer, Mr. Gene Evans and teacher, Mr. Leonard Lye along with the Grade 5 and 6 classes for their work on this project. Students this year also visited the Brother Brennan Center which was a terrific opportunity for them to gain a new appreciation for the environment and science.

2011 -2012 marked another highly successful year for music at Epiphany Elementary. Our Primary Hip-Hop and Elementary Hip-Hop group continued to meet twice a week during the lunchtime hour to learn choreographed routines that they performed at various special events throughout the year. These events included the Halloween Dance, Christmas Concert, and Spring Concert. Not only did students have the opportunity to get some great exercise, they also learned valuable team building skills by working as a group.

The Epiphany Elementary Violin Group also had an excellent school year. Each member was very committed to the group and met every Thursday after school for rehearsals. The group performed at the Remembrance Day Assembly, the Christmas Concert, Grandparents Day, and Spring Concert. Their repertoire included some violin classics, as well as toe-tapping traditional Newfoundland tunes. They participated in the first annual “Band Day” held at Crescent Collegiate where they got to meet other musical groups from schools all over the area and perform for each other. They were also fortunate to have a private workshop and spent most of the day with renowned music teacher, Susan Quinn, from Holy Heart High School in St. John’s.

The Epiphany Elementary School Choir had an exceptional year as well. They received high praise for their performances at the Thanksgiving Assembly, the Remembrance Day Assembly, and most of all for their performance at the Christmas Concert entitled “Santa’s Holiday Hoe-Down” – a country-themed holiday showcase and drama. In March, they participated in two categories at the Kiwanis Music Festival in Carbonear. In the Junior Choir (K-7) category, they received a second place award. In the Newfoundland Songs category they, once again, received a first place finish. The choir was even asked to perform at the “Stars of the Festival” grand concert, where they even opened the show with the leading of O Canada. In June, the group performed at the spring concert, which was entitled “The British Invasion”. Not only did all of the musical groups in the school participate, but many soloists and small groups were showcased as well. The entire community raved for the wonderful student performances that highlighted some of the best of British music from the past five decades. Another fabulous and successful year of music at Epiphany Elementary!

## *Partnerships*

Kids Eat Smart Foundation continues to be a vital partner of Epiphany Elementary. With its support along with many school and community based volunteers we were able to establish a Hot Lunch program this year. This program offers a nutritious lunch to students once a week at a very affordable price. This is an important program that, with our breakfast program, helps to ensure that students at Epiphany are ready to learn each day.

Also this year, we were successful in acquiring a Raise a Reader Grant valued at $1600 which will be used to support our pre-school story time program. We would like to thank The Telegram and Literacy NL for their support of our literacy initiatives.

Locally, the Heart’s Delight-Islington Volunteer Fire Department has continued to be vitally involved at our school. Whether through presenting during Fire Prevention Week, serving Christmas Dinner to our staff and students, or in anchoring our various excursions into the community, the school has enjoyed terrific support from the local volunteer fire department. The school also partners with Heart’s Delight-Islington Recreation Committee Kids Club on a number of physical education initiatives. Epiphany continues to partner with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) which offers the DARE program to our Grade 5 and 6 students biannually. The Fifty-Plus Club of Heart’s Delight-Islington and local clergy continue to be vitally involved with any number of school initiatives and observances.

# School Development

During the fall of 2011 the Epiphany staff undertook an internal review of all processes and procedures with the aim of developing a school plan that would guide the school into the immediate future. In February of 2012 an external review team endorsed this plan. I would like to thank all staff members who contributed to this process and who were instrumental in the collection of data which has informed our plan going forward. As well, a special thanks to those individuals who served on the external review team.

## *Report on Previous Year (2011-12)*

| **Goal 1:** **To improve attainment in literacy and numeracy incorporating a twenty first century model in an inclusionary school environment.** |
| --- |
| **Objective 1.1**: To improve our students ability to interact with a range of texts through the implementation of differentiated approaches. | **Objective 1.2**: Enhance the quality of students’ writing through a wide variety of differentiated approaches. | **Objective 1.3**: To improve student proficiency in number operations and the communication of mathematical reasoning. |
| **Commendations**:1.1.1 For ensuring that guided reading continues to be a strategy that is employed in our multi-aged classrooms.1.1.2 For using collegial circles and working lunches to provide opportunities for teachers to collaboratively plan around student needs.1.1.3 For continuing to acquire and build an assortment of leveled literature.1.1.4 For continuing to use SMART and other software during both structured and non-structured time each day for a variety of reading and writing activities.1.1.5 For beginning to use exemplars more frequently in your instruction of differentiated reading comprehension activities. | **Commendations**:1.2.1 For providing the opportunity for students to use a variety of text forms to express throughout the school year.1.2.2 For using CAMET and provincial reading rubrics with greater frequency1.2.3 For developing and filing learner profiles for each student that contain assessments of their written work1.2.4 For using technology more frequently in your writing instruction. | **Commendations:**1.3.1 For focusing more on the communication of Mathematical reasoning across all strands and requiring “constructed responses” on a greater number of Mathematics topics.1.3.2 For attempting to integrate a problem solving approach across all strands of the Mathematics curriculum.1.3.3 For using with increasing frequency videos and websites both for instruction and assessment in mathematics. |
| **Recommendations:*** Continue to find ways to meaningfully incorporate reading rubrics into Language Arts instruction.
* Continue to utilize technology as a means of increasing students’ competence with texts of all kinds.
 | **Recommendations:*** Continue to use every opportunity to engage students in self and peer assessment in which they are required to refer to provincial writing rubrics in an “assessment of for and as” learning milieu. .
 | **Recommendations:*** Provide more opportunities for students to practice, communicate, and demonstrate their mathematical reasoning throughout the school community.
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| **Goal 2: To improve the health and wellness of our students through a school and community approach** |
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| **Objective 2.1**: To increase the level of activity of students at the school throughout the school day. | **Objective 2.2**: To improve student’s awareness and choices regarding healthy eating through student and parent education | **Objective 2.3**: To enhance the self esteem and motivation of our pupils through a whole school character education program. |
| **Commendations**:2.1.1 For acquiring an after -school Physical Education grant (ASPEI) which has broadened the number of activities available to students and the number of students who can avail of them.2.1.2 For offering students increased opportunities to be active throughout the school day with a focus on outside play.2.1.3 For working cooperatively with the local council and recreation group to develop opportunities for students to be active in the local community.2.1.4 For modeling healthy choices for various school functions.2.1.5 For keeping active living a high priority in all home- school communication. | **Commendations**:**Strategies**:2.2.1 For implementing a hot lunch program and for providing healthy food choices in the breakfast program.2.2.2 For welcoming representatives from school partner groups that are focused on healthy active schools.2.2.3 For involving senior students in the administration of the breakfast program.2.2.4 For maintaining healthy eating as an important topic across the curriculum.2.2.5 For emphasizing the importance of healthy food choices during school functions. | **Commendations**:**Strategies:**2.3.1 For regular weekly whole school meetings that recognize those pupils who demonstrate “positive behaviors”.2.3.2 For developing whole school routines and expectations that promotes positive behavior throughout the school environment.2.3.3 For providing opportunities for collaborative learning and teamwork in visual literacy workshops.2.3.4 For a staff that models positive behavior for students.2.3.5 For the prominent visual reminders around the school of what constitutes “positive behavior.” |
| **Recommendations:*** Continue to use “energizers “and “brain breaks” during the instructional day to improve the academic and overall development of students.
 | **Recommendations:*** Continue to recruit volunteers that will allow you to expand your hot lunch program.
 | **Recommendations:*** Continue to formalize and adapt a positive behavior support program that is used by all staff and which is responsive to all students
 |

## *2 Year School Development Plan*

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| --- |
| **Goal 1:** **To improve attainment in literacy and numeracy incorporating a twenty first century learning model in an inclusionary school environment.** |
| **Year** | **Objective** | **Objective** | **Objective** |
| 2011-12 | **Objective 1.1**: To improve our students ability to interact with a range of texts through the implementation of differentiated approaches. | **Objective 1.2**: Enhance the quality of students’ writing through a wide variety of differentiated approaches. | **Objective 1.3**: To improve student proficiency in number operations and the communication of mathematical reasoning. |
| 2012-13 | **Objective 1.1**: To improve student competence with a wide range of hard and digital copy texts utilizing twenty first century learning methods. | **Objective 1.2**: To improve students’ writing utilizing a wide variety of differentiated, twenty first century teaching methods in an “assessment of for and as” learning milieu. | **Objective 1.3**: To improve student proficiency in the communication of mathematical reasoning. |

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| **Goal 2: To improve the health and wellness of our students through a school and community approach** |
| **Year** | **Objective** | **Objective** | **Objective** |
| 2011-12 | **Objective 2.1**: To increase the level of activity experienced by students at the school throughout the school day. | **Objective 2.2**: To improve student’s awareness and choices regarding healthy eating through student and parent education | **Objective 2.3**: To enhance the self esteem and motivation of our pupils through a whole school character education program. |
| 2012-13 | **Objective 2.1**: To expand opportunities for students to be active throughout the school day. | **Objective 2.2**: To improve the awareness of the entire school community regarding healthy eating and active lifestyles. | **Objective 2.3**: To enhance the self esteem and motivation of our pupils through a whole school character education program. |

| **Operational Issue 2012 - 2013** | **Intended Action** |
| --- | --- |
| Need for extra storage throughout building | Look for funding / community assistance to build shed. |
| Improve safety features in playground | Continue fundraising for new playground / Grant Applications. |
| Electrical Issues (low amp wires) | Identify key lines that need upgraded and act to upgrade them. |
| Lack of flat play area | Tarmac Car Park to create flat, safe play space and outside basketball court. |
| Lack of food preparation area | Rework canteen and implement new appliances and storage. |

# Summary Report on School’s Most Current Data

Demand writing continues to be an area of instructional programming at our school that, we believe, based on internal and external data, requires further attention. As can be seen from the data below, in three of the past four years, our results on “Demand Writing” on the Primary Language Arts Provincial Assessment have been significantly below the provincial average. The same has been true in two of the past four years for the Elementary English Language Arts Provincial Assessment. Informational writing, on the other hand, continues to be a school-wide strength.

We are disappointed in our Elementary Mathematics Provincial Assessment results this year, particularly on those items which required a “constructed response.” Specifically our students struggled on those items that required them to provide written accounts of their Mathematical reasoning. Even though our Primary Mathematics Provincial Assessment results were generally quite strong “reasoning” as one particular strand, was below the provincial average.

As we continue to reflect on instructional programming at Epiphany, particularly on whether or not there might be a connection between the two areas noted above, we have taken a number of measures, as indicated in our school growth and development plan, which we believe will address each concern. We have dedicated objectives in our school plan which targets these areas. As specific strategies, we are endeavoring to use provincial rubrics with greater frequency to assess the quality of student writing, both in Language Arts and Math. We have determined that teacher modeling, self and peer assessment in the “assessment of for and as” milieu will be useful. We have further responded by providing more opportunities for students to demonstrate their written expression and mathematical reasoning throughout the school. This has involved posting and publishing their work throughout the building as much as possible and as well providing opportunities for students, through technology, to communicate with students from other schools online. We intend to revisit how we employ the writing process within our classrooms to improve student writing skills.

In Mathematics, we continue to avail of the services of a Numeracy Support Teacher (NST) who continues to work with us to improve our overall instruction and assessment of students in Mathematics. Generally speaking, our teachers have been placing greater emphasis on the communication of Mathematical reasoning across all topics of Mathematical study. Please see below for further information on our results from provincial assessments.

**Primary Language Arts Assessment**

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



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



**Criterion Reference Tests**





# Appendix A – Summary of School Fundraising/Expenditures

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| --- | --- |
| Fundraising Event | Amount Raised |
| Recycling | $5,760.25 |
| Christmas Concert | $1,846.50 |
| Spring Concert | $1,552.85 |
| Fish Cake Sale | $1,666.00 |
| Scholarships/Donations | $ 680.00 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Expenditure | Amount |
| Field Trips (Bus)  Brother Brennan Trip Year End Trip Kiwanis | $ 900.00$ 468.00$ 452.00 |
| Field Trips (Registration) Brother Brennan Kiwanis  Fluvarium  Geo Centre | $ 900.00$ 192.00$ 70.00$ 60.00 |
| Guest Speakers  Hypnotist | $ 500.00 |
| Instructional Materials  Guided Reading Kits  Literacy Assess. Kit Sound Equip. Rental Data Projector Dry Erase Boards,  Professional Literature School Webpage  Teaching Aids/ Incent.  | $1,045.03$ 573.89$ 323.18$ 310.69$ 279.63$ 262.09$ 71.80$2,000.00 |
| Scholarships Given Engraving | $ 582.47$ 260.00 |