

School Education Plan and Results Report

2012-2015

Year 2



Elk Island Public Schools



School Profile and Foundation Statements

JAMES MOWAT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Michael Lastiwka

MOTTO

“A Caring School”

VALUES

Integrity

Inspiration

Acceptance

Learning

OUR MISSION

Our mission as a learning community is to provide
Our students with the tools that will enable them to be
Successful.

We do this by recognizing individual learning styles
And equipping students with the best strategies to
Learn.

We do this so that all our students achieve the skills
And knowledge necessary to be
Life-long learners.

OUR VISION

A Community of Excellence

James Mowat Elementary School is a K-6 school serving over 385 students each year from the westernmost part of Fort Saskatchewan. In 2007 James Mowat School celebrated its' 25th birthday. The school was named after a civilian, James Mowat. He volunteered in 1885 to travel to Calgary to bring reinforcements to Fort Saskatchewan for the North West Mounted Police. James Mowat made the journey in three days and three nights. Fortunately, the predicted uprising failed.

In addition to the regular elementary curriculum for grades one to six, the school offers a comprehensive music program at all grade levels, daily physical education and intramurals from grades three to six. Students attend ten class periods per day and each class is thirty minutes in length. French as a second language is taught in grades four to six. The entire school participates in daily DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read). The staffing component consists of twenty one certificated staff, and eleven classified staff.

The school's kindergarten (ECS) program teaches a blend of academic and social skills with instruction provided five half days per week, for a total of 475 hours per year. This year we have three ECS classrooms. A full time educational assistant supports the students and the teacher in the classrooms. The program is supplemented with guest speakers, out-of-school field trips, and activities that encourage interaction with students in grade one through grade six.

For the past eleven years, the Drug Abuse and Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program has been used to supplement the grade six health curriculum. A Constable from our local R.C.M.P. Detachment instructs the D.A.R.E program. A Positive Referral Program has been implemented to encourage and recognize outstanding achievement, attitude or citizenship. Our Character Education Program promotes and supports the Safe and Caring Schools concept in the following ways: monthly assemblies, positive referral program, and citizenship projects.

This year we have four classes participating in the *Roots of Empathy* program. *Roots of Empathy* is an evidence-based classroom program that has shown dramatic effects in reducing levels of aggression among schoolchildren by raising social/emotional competence and increasing empathy. We are very excited to offer the program in ECS this year.

Another initiative this year is our participation in the Rainbows Program. Rainbows is a peer support program for children who have suffered a significant loss in their family. The loss may be due to the separation or divorce of parents, the death of someone close or some other painful loss for the family. We have trained eight staff members as Facilitators and they will deliver the program starting in November 2013. The program will be offered at all grade levels.

A number of extracurricular activities are also in place throughout the school including a school choir, safety patrol, student council, intramurals, track team, basketball team, and a badminton team, to mention a few.

As always, our motto is *James Mowat "A Caring School"*. We pride ourselves on becoming involved with numerous fund raising initiatives to support a variety of charities.

School Goals:

- Students at James Mowat are active citizens who are respectful and care for one another.
- Students at James Mowat are increasingly engaged through the effective use of technology and inquiry learning in the classroom.
- Students at James Mowat have reading comprehension skills or are working towards attaining reading comprehension skills that are at or above grade level.

Elk Island Goals:

- Students have engaging and collaborative learning experiences that prepare them to be active, creative, and knowledgeable participants in our global society.
- Students have engaging and collaborative learning experiences that prepare them to be critical thinkers and problem-solvers.
- Students are global citizens who respect and value diversity.
- *All* students have their individual needs met within inclusive learning environments.

Elk Island Public Schools Guiding Principles:

- We provide our students with access to high quality education.
- We make decisions in the best interests of our students.
- We make decisions that reflect our core values and align with division and school goals.
- We make decisions based on equity of resources and opportunities.
- We are accountable to our students, our communities, and our division.
- We meet students' needs through cooperative efforts in the design and delivery of effective programs.
- We share responsibility for creating and nurturing relationships that respect diversity and community uniqueness.
- We form relationships based on trust, confidence, respect, and open communication.

Provincial Goals:**Goal 1: An excellent start to learning**

Children are reaching emotional, social, intellectual and physical development milestones and are ready for school.

Goal 2: Success for every student

Students achieve Alberta's student learning outcomes and demonstrate citizenship, entrepreneurship, and proficiency in literacy and numeracy. The achievement gap between First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students and all other students is eliminated. Student learning needs are supported.

Goal 3: Quality teaching and school leadership

Teacher preparation and professional growth focus on the competencies needed to help students learn. Effective learning and teaching is achieved through collaborative leadership.

Goal 4: Engaged and effective governance

The education system demonstrates collaboration and engagement with Aboriginal communities, business, industry, and the public. Students and communities have access to safe and healthy learning environments.

| School Based Professional Learning Day | Topic and brief description of plan (1 to 2 sentences) | Linked to School Goal |
|--|--|--|
| November 01 | Four of our teachers each lead a session on: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Overview of IDEA summit and Discovery Education2. How to use Google Docs in the classroom3. Guided Math4. How to keep a running record to determine a student's reading level with any book. | This information helped inform our teachers on how to effectively integrate technology in the classroom and assess student literacy skills to assist in the development of student literacy skills. |
| April 11 | We will be spending the morning at Gourneau school Edmonton to investigate how they have integrated Project Base Learning as a part of their regular classroom instruction. The afternoon will be spent giving teachers an opportunity to discuss how they can integrate what they have seen into their classroom and begin to plan projects of their own. | Teachers will gain an appreciation of how inquiry through the use of project based learning collaboratively engages students, develops critical thinking and problem solving skills, allows students individual needs to be met and can develop global citizens who respect and value diversity. |
| May 16 | We will have our teachers lead collaborative session the following four topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Literacy2. Technology (use of google docs and Ipad apps)3. Project Based Learning4. Guided Math | These topics directly relate to our school goals. They are also a reflection of the need for teachers to have collaborative time to change instructional practices. |

School Goal:

- Students at James Mowat are active citizens who are respectful and care for one another.

Strategies:

- Continue developing Restorative Practice at James Mowat with the involvement of Staff, Parents and Students
 - Staff members will participate in a restorative practice training in August and during two subsequent staff meetings. This training will be facilitated by the ACTS society of Edmonton.
 - Staff members will continue to implement the restorative practices principles in their classrooms and will participate in a restorative circle to report on successes and challenges during monthly staff meetings.
 - Students will participate in cross graded circles during monthly character education assemblies.
 - Parent information night on restorative practice.
- Continue active citizenship program developed by the staff and student council
 - Students with support of the staff will take a lead role by modeling active citizenship and sharing their experiences and ideas during the monthly assemblies.
- Continue with “Roots of Empathy” program.

Performance Indicators:

- Continued us of circles to build stronger relationships with staff and students as well as build stronger relationships among students both in the classroom and across grade levels.
- 85% of teachers, parents and students who are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship.
- 95% of teacher, parent and student agreement that students are safe at school, are learning the importance of caring for others, are learning respect for others and are treated fairly in school.

| Accountability Pillar Overall Summary | | <i>Current Result 2013</i> | <i>Previous 3-yr Average</i> |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Survey Results | | | |
| Percentages of teachers, parents and students who are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship. | James Mowat Elementary School | 86.8 | 85.2 |
| | Province | 83.4 | 82.0 |
| Percentage of teacher, parent and student agreement that: students are safe at school, are learning the importance of caring for others, are learning respect for others and are treated fairly in school. | James Mowat Elementary School | 94.7 | 88.8 |
| | Province | 89.0 | 88.1 |

School Education Results Report (2012/2013)

We have completed staff training in the principles of restorative practice. Our teachers have begun or are continuing to hold weekly class meetings where students are able to practice the sharing process that is crucial to the restorative framework. Student council created various videos and presentations for our monthly assemblies. The topics of these assemblies varied but always centered on the themes of respect and empathy.

We exceeded our goal of having 80% of teachers, parents and students who are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship

We also exceeded our goal of having 90% of teacher, parent and student agreement that students are safe at school, are learning the importance of caring for others, are learning respect for others and are treated fairly in school.

School Goal:

Students at James Mowat are increasingly engaged through the effective use of technology and inquiry in the classroom.

Strategies:

- Continue the use of Professional Learning Communities to help teachers learn by sharing current strategies.
- Provide technology professional development during school based professional learning days.
- Increase student access to technology to provide more opportunities for the implementation of new strategies.

Performance Indicators:

- Division one classrooms will make consistent use of the iPads as a part of their regular classroom routine.
- Grade five classrooms will make use of Chromebooks during 60% of their daily instructional time.
- Student engagement will be observed in classrooms where technology is being used.
- Grade 4 and 6 classrooms will make use of google docs in their classroom by having their classes learn to sign into their accounts and share a document.

| Accountability Pillar Overall Summary | | <i>Current Result 2013</i> | <i>Previous 3-yr Average</i> |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Survey Results | | | |
| Overall teacher, parent and student satisfaction with the opportunity for students to receive a broad program of studies, including fine arts, career, technology, and health and physical education. | James Mowat Elementary School | 83.0 | 81.8 |
| | Province | 81.5 | 80.7 |
| Overall teacher, parent and student satisfaction with the overall quality of basic education. | James Mowat Elementary School | 95.8 | 90.3 |
| | Province | 89.8 | 89.3 |

School Education Results Report 2012/2013

Teachers have been working collaboratively to learn about different ways of integrating technology in the classroom. Giving teachers collaborative time to work and learn from each other has been a very successful strategy in improving the number of strategies available to teachers.

We were unable to use the Tell Them From Me survey in June as it is no longer available to our school. We did however see many engaged students during classroom walkthroughs.

By the end of the school year, our computers and iPads were booked during the majority of regular school days. One issue that resulted was the fact that we did not have enough computers for students to use on a regular basis. To resolve this issue, we have purchased five iPad minis for all of the division one classrooms and are working towards one to one computers for students in division two.

School Goal:

Students at James Mowat have reading comprehension skills or are working towards attaining reading comprehension skills that are at or above grade level.

Strategies:

- Teachers will continue to work collaboratively on our school wide literacy program.
- Staff will assess students' reading levels and identify students who need extra support for reading.
 - Teachers will use running records to assess student reading levels.
 - Fountas and Pinnell will be used by the school councillor and Assistant Principal to do assessments on students who will require more in-depth assessments
 - A 0.4 FTE teaching position will be used with students who need reading assistance.
- Educational assistants, students and parents will continue to act as reading coaches and will work with lower level readers to improve their reading skills.

Performance Indicators:

- Students who require interventions will have advanced their reading levels.
- We will have fewer students who are reading below grade level by June of 2014.

| Accountability Pillar Overall Summary | | <i>Current Result 2013</i> | <i>Previous 3-yr Average</i> |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Provincial Achievement Tests | | | |
| Overall percentage of students in Grades 3, 6 and 9 who achieved the acceptable standard on provincial achievement tests.* | James Mowat Elementary School | 87.2 | 90.0 |
| | Province | 79.0 | 79.2 |
| Overall percentage of students in Grades 3, 6 and 9 who achieved the standard of excellence on provincial achievement tests. | James Mowat Elementary School | 21.3 | 24.9 |
| | Province | 18.9 | 19.9 |

| Provincial Achievement Tests Detailed Results | | Current Result 2013 | | Previous 3 year Average | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| | | Acceptable | Excellent | Acceptable | Excellent |
| Elementary | | | | | |
| English Language Arts 3 | James Mowat Elementary School | 94.5 | 21.8 | 89.5 | 18.2 |
| | Province | 81.5 | 17.8 | 81.8 | 19.2 |
| Mathematics 3 | James Mowat Elementary School | 89.1 | 25.5 | 84.5 | 29.1 |
| | Province | 76.5 | 25.5 | 77.1 | 25.8 |
| English Language Arts 6 | James Mowat Elementary School | 81.4 | 14.0 | 91.8 | 19.0 |
| | Province | 82.5 | 16.3 | 83.0 | 18.4 |
| Mathematics 6 | James Mowat Elementary School | 76.7 | 9.3 | 85.4 | 23.8 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | Province | 73.0 | 16.4 | 74.2 | 17.2 |
| Science 6 | James Mowat Elementary School | 83.7 | 27.9 | 88.4 | 35.9 |
| | Province | 77.5 | 25.9 | 76.9 | 26.5 |
| Social Studies 6 | James Mowat Elementary School | 74.4 | 14.0 | 84.7 | 28.2 |
| | Province | 72.7 | 19.0 | 71.8 | 18.1 |

**The percentages achieving the acceptable standard include the percentages achieving the standard of excellence*

Results are based on all students registered in that grade. Students who did not write the achievement test (excused from writing or absent) are included in the calculation of the results.

School Education Results Report 2012/2013

During the 2012-2013 school year we trained and had 9 volunteers working with students who are struggling with reading or who have fallen behind. The volunteers worked with students 1-5 days a week. They always met with the same students and created relationships with them as the year progressed.

The volunteers worked with 26 students ranging from grade one to grade six. On average these students moved 2-7 reading levels. The students who made the most progress worked with volunteers 3-5 days a week.

Many of the students who were involved with this program no longer require reading interventions and are reading at grade level.

Additional Accountability Pillar Survey Results

| Accountability Pillar Overall Summary | | Current Result 2013 | Previous 3-yr Average |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Overall teacher and parent agreement that students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school. | James Mowat Elementary School | 64.5 | 78.8 |
| | Province | 80.3 | 79.9 |
| Overall teacher and parent satisfaction with parental involvement in decisions about their child's education. | James Mowat Elementary School | 77.9 | 86.2 |
| | Province | 80.3 | 79.8 |
| Overall percentage of teachers, parents and students indicating that their school and schools in their jurisdiction have improved or stayed the same in the last three years. | James Mowat Elementary School | 91.1 | 82.7 |
| | Province | 80.6 | 80.0 |

School Council Involvement and Communication of Plan

The school education plan and its goals were review with the school council. At this time, we thanked the parents that took an active role in the literacy component of our school education plan by volunteering to read with students during the school day. We also took this time to report on the success of the first year of our reading program.

A survey was constructed to gather feedback from parents as to how they can become further involved in the educational goals brought forth in our school education plan. The results of the survey were reported to the school council as well and were also included in our school newsletter.

Information on how parents can support literacy at home and about educational uses of technology will be shared with the parent community through instructional videos created by our staff and shared on our school website.

Additional Information

A complete class size report for each school in EIPS may be viewed at <http://www.eips.ca/planning-and-results>.

Please refer to the supplemental data package at <http://www.eips.ca/documents> for detailed school, jurisdiction and provincial results.