

Annual Report
June 2016
Avon View High School



Principal's Message

The 2015/16 school year has been a historical one for Avon View; this is the last year it will have a grade configuration of 10-12 as next year we will reconfigure to a grades 9-12 high school. Much planning and renovations have happened over the year for this change and we look forward to welcoming grade 8 students from West Hants Middle School (WHMS) who will start grade 9 at Avon View. Grade 9's graduating from WHMS and Uniacke District will be coming to AV to start their grade 10 year.

This past September saw the opening of Avon View's new Skilled Trades Centre with Mr. Lockhart teaching the two new courses: Skilled Trades 10 and Construction Trades 11. Student demand for these courses is high due to the popularity of the course content and also classes are capped at 16 (due to safety regulations). Avon View is only the second school in AVRSB to host these highly engaging courses.

Good byes are extended to our 200+ graduates. The accomplishments of this group are commendable and everyone here at AV is most proud of all they have achieved and wish them well in their post-secondary endeavours.

I speak for all AV staff when I say how proud I am of the achievements of all our students. We see them excel in academics, sports, clubs, fine arts, community projects and volunteer roles.

To all the students who are returning or coming for the first time in September, we look forward to your arrival and know you will enjoy Avon View for all it has to offer. A special welcome is extended to the West Hants Grade 9 students and new staff coming to Avon View. Until September, I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

- P. Johnston

Table of Contents

Principal's Message.....	p.1
Student Achievement	p. 2
School & Community	p. 2
Professional Learning for Staff.....	p. 3
RCH Initiatives	p. 3
Safe & Caring Environment.....	p. 3
Family of Schools.....	p.3
Student Involvement & Successes ..	p. 4
Parent Groups and Contact.....	p.4

Student Achievement

The Department of Education continued with its provincial assessments at several grade levels for 2015/16. At Avon View, these assessments are provincial exams in English 10, Math 10(MT10), and Math at Work 10(MTW10). Students in Math 12 (MT12) also write a common exam that is not provincial but for AVRSB students only. Our board has been instrumental in providing mentorship to Math teachers as they not only implement a new curriculum but prepare for provincial exams. This help, coupled with the hard work of our math students and teachers, is most evident in AV's results. For the past two years, AV grade 10 Math students have achieved one of the highest averages for final grade and well over 90% of our students have passed the course. In 2014/15, 99.2% of MT10 students passed the course! – a remarkable achievement. Math 12 students also were over 90% passing their course and MTW10 students were also successful in achieving favourable passing rates. English 10 exam results were scored differently with results showing performance levels that students achieved in the various exam categories. These results are available via the public portal.

Many of Avon View's students are active in extracurricular activities, most of which are individual and team sports. Several new NSSAF banners have been added to AV's collection from Regional or Provincial competitions in skiing, snowboarding, wrestling, archery, basketball, track and field, hockey, and rugby. Congratulations to all AV athletes!

Avon View was again a host school for the Nova Scotia International Student Program. Over 20 students from over 10 countries spent one or both semesters here at Avon View. The friendships and cultural exchange are life-changing for both our guests and Avon View students.

Avon View students travelled to Halifax for WE Day on Friday November 27th. Under the guidance of teacher Ms. Connors, AV's WE Act group worked hard to fundraise for their local and global initiatives. Locally, AV We Act supported Harvest House, the Red Cross Alberta Fires Appeal, and students of AV. Globally they supported the Me to We Clean Water project in Nicaragua. Almost \$3000 was raised in total for all their initiatives!



FOOTLOOSE! was the word for this year's spring drama production. Ms. Donna MacMillan took the lead in organizing another sensational production that saw 3 sold out shows. Conversation has already begun on plans for the 2017 production – stay tuned!

School and Community

Avon View will have the largest enrollment this coming September as we become a 9-12 school. This means there will be over 50 teachers, 9-Educational assistants, 3.5 – secretarial positions, 1- librarian, 1- Principal, 2.5-Vice Principal positions, 2- Counselors, 1- Student Support Worker, 1- Youth Health Centre worker, and 1-daytime custodian make up Avon View's everyday staff. Avon View will also be hiring a Student Supervisor for 5.5 hrs/day to start in September. With the extra grade level, there are close to 100 course offerings for Avon View students in several programming options that may include Options and Opportunities, Academic and Advanced, Career Access, Learning Centre, Integrated and Immersion French, and the Skilled Trades.



We were pleased to once again have Terra Firma Developments sponsor the Turnaround Achievement Awards for students of Avon View. At a ceremony on April 25th, AV students Dakota Hartt, Jacob Douglas, and Kassadi Lockhart were recognized for their triumphs in overcoming personal and life challenges. Terra Firma awards the winners with medals, certificates, and bursaries or cash prizes as a gesture of the accomplishments. Family and friends were invited to share in the celebrations.



Professional Learning for Staff

Avon View staff continues to learn and support students through professional development. The Continuous School Improvement (CSI) approach is a balance of topic/issue based in-services, as directed by regional and provincial priorities, and school-based Professional Learning Communities (PLC). Schools in AVRSB for 2016/17 will adopt the new provincial improvement initiative Student Success Planning. Some goals staff worked on this year were:

- "to improve cultural awareness at AV with increased communications"
- "to complete a study of Calm, Alert and Learning. We hope to begin implementing strategies in our practice in preparation for sharing classroom strategies through professional development."
- "Develop resources, strategies and plans for use within grades 10-12 Math Games and Puzzle Outcomes."
- "Work on Instructional Alignment"
- "To identify, learn, and present a Google App or Extension which can be utilized in the classroom."

Many groups meet outside of the structured PLC time allotted in the school day. Teachers will meet after school, during lunch breaks, and released days (funded by the AVRSB/NSTU PD fund) to continue working on goals and projects that benefit our AV students.

Avon View staff works hard to meet the needs of our students.

Safe and Caring Environment

Avon View continues to be a proud supporter of the Positive Effective Behaviour Supports (PEBS) model. Staff recognize the positive things our students accomplish on a daily basis. Monthly draws result in several prizes being awarded to students who have received ballots for the great things they do here at Avon View. We will continue this program in 2016/17 for all grade levels. Letters of recognition are sent to students and parents with their report cards.

Our Breakfast Program continued to be a success this year. Over 100 students daily enjoyed a free nutritious start to their day. We will continue this service for 2016/17.

Cst. Brian Leyte had a busy year as the Avon View Family of Schools' new school liaison officer. Cst. Leyte created and fostered a great relationship between school and the policing community. Much of Cst. Leyte's time was spent resolving issues arising from the improper use of technology and social media. Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's use of technology to ensure they are being a responsible digital citizen.

Race Relations, Cross Cultural Awareness and Human Rights (RCH) Initiatives and Family of Schools.

Mr. Shawn Johnson, our Student Support Worker for students of African descent, will continue to offer support to students who have self-identified to African ancestry. Shawn will continue to liaise with community groups and outside agencies to provide connections and opportunities to AV students. His office has relocated downstairs to the main foyer giving him more accessibility and visibility.

Again this year the Hants West Family of Schools met for a Wellness Day. On April 15th, all staff from these schools came to Avon View for the day to listen and learn on a variety of issues. Some topics included:

- Gender inclusive practices
- Gardening at home and school
- Managing stress and anxiety for today's youth
- Food for learning – a school wide approach
- School refusal challenges
- Google classroom
- Digital citizenship

The above topics only represent a portion of the full day all Hants West school staff had the opportunity to enjoy at this annual event.

Student Involvement and Successes

Avon View students lead a busy life this past year. The challenges of high school academics in a semestered school is a full time job for most young people. Many of our students successfully juggle academics with sports, jobs, clubs, volunteerism, hobbies, and responsibilities that leave them with very few hours per day of their own time. We had students compete on several championship sports teams throughout the year; take on large roles in our spring drama performance; compete nationally and internationally with archery; perform with Canada's brightest musicians both provincially and nationally. These accomplishments are only a highlight of how bright our students can shine.

Despite the interruptions of relocation and renovations, AV's Library had another busy year. Our Librarian, Ms. Katherine Meuse was most helpful and accommodating in the changes she faced with the re-design of the Library. The old space has now been transformed into a Wellness Centre, Student Learning Commons and Library. The Wellness Centre will be finished over the summer and will be a fully-equipped fitness area with lots of space and safe, commercial grade equipment. The Learning Commons offers a spacious and comfortable area for students to work and study during available times throughout the day. The new Library space opens into the Commons and allows students to freely browse the titles and relax in a casual atmosphere. In her annual report, Ms. Meuse reported that over 750 titles were borrowed this year and AV's top 20 readers read almost 350 of these books. Ms. Meuse also helped several AV students earn their COOP hours by working in the Library. Now that the renovations are complete, we expect these numbers to only increase for 2016/17.



Avon View's Mission Statement

"Avon View High School challenges students to strive for their academic, social, emotional, and physical best. In a courteous, respectful, and safe environment, Avon View provides opportunities with responsibilities shared by students, staff, home, and community."

Parent Groups and Home Contact

The Avon View and West Hants Band Parents Association had a busy year fund-raising and promoting the music programs at both Avon View and West Hants Middle School. Their hugely successful November craft show continues to be their major fund raiser. They also held Breakfast with the Bands in April which provided a delicious breakfast and morning of music by West Hants Middle School and Avon View bands.

Parents and Guardians are consistently reminded of the opportunities presented by the Public Portal. Statistics for 2015/16 show an increase in the number of times that students and parents/guardians logon to the portal using the web or smart phone app. On average, the monthly login numbers for the portal were:

Students:

Mobile app = over 1700

Web = over 2000

Parents:

Mobile app = almost 500

Web = over 2500

Families that wish to have access to this real time snapshot of attendance and academic achievement are encouraged to contact the school at 902-792-6740.

