

# PUGWASH DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013



Chignecto Central Regional School Board



Pugwash District High School opened in the fall of 1958. It has always been a junior-senior high school housing students from grades 7-12. The first class of graduates was in 1959. Prior to this, students had to finish their grade 12 in a larger community such as Oxford or Amherst .

Additions were made to the original school with the addition of an annex that was completed in the mid 1960's. In 1991, on the night of September 14, a disastrous fire destroyed much of the original structure. However, enough of the school was saved to carry on with the educational process. Within a fairly short period of time, a new gymnasium, cafeteria, laboratories, and classrooms had been constructed (1993).

One of the unique features of PDHS today is the Jean Wallace Art Gallery, which opened in 1996. It contains many high quality works by well-known artists as well as our students.

The school has also been the scene of some very important international events. It was the site of the internationally renowned Thinkers' Conference. In 1997, at a special ceremony, Dr. Joseph Rotblat was honoured when the part of the new section known as "The Hall" was named "Dr. Joseph Rotblat Hall".

Although the student numbers have declined in recent years, PDHS has always produced quality graduates, many of whom have gone on to distinguished careers.

## SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The SAC has been meeting throughout the academic year. As well, the SAC Chair, Mr. Peter Lewis, has met with School Principal, Mr. Brunt, a number of times to discuss how the SAC could provide assistance where appropriate. Some areas in which the SAC has provided advice includes Healthy Living, which supported changes to the cafeteria provider and various student activities. Prom night was also a topic of discussion and will be held this year at Northumberland Links for the first time. PDHS Pins will now be awarded during Promotion Day, whereas they have been given out during 'Pin Assembly' which is held during the day. A major focus of SAC activities this year has been on the

security and accessibility of the school's main entrance. Currently, the main entrance has a buzzer/camera procedure. Once "buzzed in" a person could go elsewhere in the building without going to the main office first. Additionally, the current entrance has two sets of stairs before the main office, which presents difficulties to those who are mobility challenged. The CCRSB has been made aware of these concerns, however cites financial limitations at this point. In the meantime, the school's keys are being changed and the security entrance will be moved closer to the gymnasium. The SAC wishes continued success to the students and staff of PDHS. May you have a safe and refreshing summer!

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### *We Believe Student Involvement Ensures a Safe and Orderly Environment*

PDHS prides itself on high academic standings and ensuring all students are provided with the supports required to be academically successful. Our school also has very long history of extracurricular success. Many championships in sports have been won at district, regional, and provincial competitions. A variety of clubs, groups, and committees also keep our students interested in their school and community.

## PUGWASH DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

# PROVINCIAL, BOARD, AND PDHS ASSESSMENT RESULTS

For detailed information regarding the Assessment results as related to PDHS, refer to the report [click here](#)

### School Profile - Grade 8 Mathematics Literacy Assessment

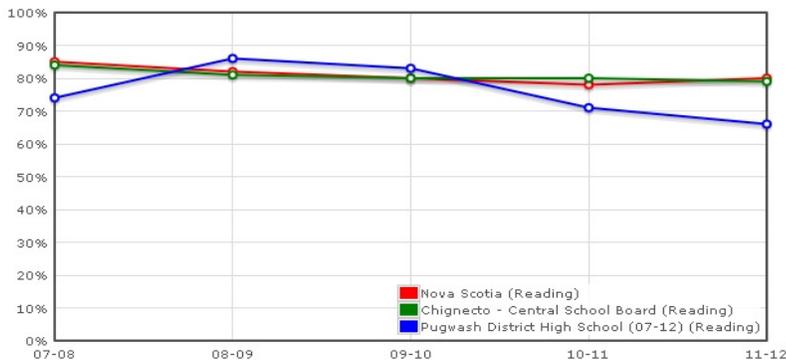
#### Math

	2011-2012	
	Count	Perc
<b>Nova Scotia</b>		
Meets the expectations	4330	52%
Did not yet meet the expectations	3996	48%
Total	8326	100%

	Count	Perc
<b>Chignecto - Central Regional School Board</b>		
Meets the expectations	739	49%
Did not yet meet the expectations	770	51%
Total	1509	100%

	Count	Perc
<b>Pugwash District High School</b>		
Meets the expectations	13	46%
Did not yet meet the expectations	15	54%
Total	28	100%

	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	85%	82%	80%	78%	80%
<b>Chignecto - Central School Board</b>	84%	81%	80%	80%	79%
<b>Pugwash District High School (07-12)</b>	74%	86%	83%	71%	66%



# CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT

Teachers at PDHS assess our students on a daily and ongoing basis. We measure student progress as it relates to the course outcomes in a variety of different ways. Teachers continue to use quizzes, tests and projects as a form of final evaluation, referred to as Summative Assessments, however teachers are more apt to use quizzes or in-class assignments, referred to as Formative Assessments, to provide supportive feedback to ensure student progress. As you may be aware from conversations with your child, teacher, and/or by visiting the PowerSchool Public Portal (<https://sisccrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/>) these assessments are not included in a student's Final Grade, they are simply used to provide direction for students.

Assessments are connected with the Outcomes associated with each course and our teachers are beginning to move away from using percentages as a form of feedback. The CCRSB is following the lead of the Department of Education in the use of Achievement Level. This form of feedback is a direct method to inform students of their strengths and challenges within the course. For example, if a student receives a mark of a 1, the lowest level, for a particular outcome, they have demonstrated a limited knowledge and understanding and are to review the content and concepts again. If a student receives a mark of 4, the highest Level, they have demonstrated they have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the content and concepts of the outcome. Teachers have found these recording process very beneficial for students as they have instant feedback and are aware how to achieve greater success in the course.

assessments are outcome based. Meaning each

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT - HIGHLIGHTS OF THE



PDHS works hard to offer a variety of courses to our senior high students. This academic school year we have decided to rotate on an early basis some of the typically courses we offer. For example, Sociology 12 and Law 12 will be offered every second year. We are also very pleased

to announce we are also offering some new to our school courses such as Crime Scene Investigation 12 (CSI) and African Canadian Studies 11 (ACS). PDHS was delighted to offer the Duke of Edinburgh's Award to our students in grades 9 – 12, this program pro-

vides students with a challenging and fun educational opportunity. Each year our students have an opportunity to enter the Legion's Remembrance Day Poster Contest. This year we were selected once again to move onto the National level, where we have already won twice. We are hopeful we will win again. Our annual science fair was very successful this year, having a student receive fourth place at the Regional Fair and therefore went to the Canadian Wide Science Fair (CWSF).

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

After being Accredited by the Department of Educations during the 2011-2012 school year, PDHS commenced the Continuous School Improvement (CSI) process. Staff spent many PD hours working to develop Goals and Actions to ensure the success of our students.

The PDHS teaching team also worked to apply the CCRSB's Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting Guidelines, making

our grading system more consistent from class to class and grade to grade.

Teachers work hard to meet the needs of all students. This year our teaching staff implemented TIENET, the provincial system for recording and tracking student adaptations, Individual Program Plans (IPPs) and any related meetings. Teachers were provided with general training and six teachers were trained as in-

house support staff has needed to ensure accurate implementation.

Individual teachers were involved in the CCRSB's Trial version of the new Professional Growth and Appraisal program, a new method of assessing and evaluating teacher performance; ultimately ensuring effective classroom practices and therefore increasing the rate of success for all students.

*Eight Pugwash District High School students and their chaperons go to Italy during their March Break!*

***“An experience of a Life Time!”***

## ADDITIONAL SCHOOL SUPPORTS

This year PDHS was excited to be opening a Youth Health Centre (YHC) for the very first time in the history of our school. The YHC has been created in partnership with the Cumberland Health Authority. We are very delighted to welcome Michelle Richard as our coordinator. With the opening of the YHC students will also have access to a Nurse Practitioner. Our YHC was open to students on Wednesdays. It was a very

beneficial and well used service.

Once again our school offers a 'Breakfast Club', which takes place during both Jr. and Sr. Recess. This is a student run club providing students with such items as yogurt, granola bars, fruit, and milk. PDHS has a strong team of dedicated individuals who ensure a number of supports for our students, such as:

- Site Based Support Team

- Learning Centre Coordinator
- Guidance Counsellor
- Educational Assistants
- Librarian Technician
- sports teams and intramurals
- cubs and activities
- and of course, Mrs. Elliott in the main office!



*PDHS Stands up against Bullying during our Annual Pink Day!*



# CONTINUOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

## *DEVELOPING OUR SCHOOL GOALS*

After receiving our Accreditation status during the 2012/2013 academic school year it was time to begin the Department of Education’s Continuous School Improvement (CSI), a similar program to the Accreditation process.

We began this process as we did with the Accreditation program in that we asked students, guardians, and staff to complete surveys in an effort to determine a starting point. The surveys were distributed to our school community in October and they were sent to the Department of Education for the results. The data from these surveys were used as well as the data from both Board and provincial testing to develop our CSI Goals and Actions.

The goals for Continuous School Improvement focus on two main areas; our schools’ climate and academic status. With the data collected staff began to create our goals while keeping in mind current data, the initiatives of the Chignecto Central Regional School Board, and the direction our school community would like to go as indicated on the surveys. Possible areas to focus in the areas of assessment planning and increasing our social justice awareness were reviewed and discussed by staff. After considering all available information, goals and the supporting actions to meet these goals were developed.

## *PDHS GOALS & ACTIONS*

GOAL	ACTIONS
To improve Junior High Math skills in the areas of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division by 5% as measured by the RWM8 provincial assessment and site based assessments by June 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and administer site based assessments to establish baseline data.</li> <li>• Investigate strategies for increasing basic math competencies with Math Mentor.</li> <li>• Increase the use of appropriate technology</li> <li>• Investigate homework-parent involvement.</li> </ul>
To increase the number of Senior High students who are in agreement, 70% or greater, <b>in (specific area or category)</b> on the DEECD performance survey by June 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select and clarify survey questions with the assistance of focus groups in grades 10-12</li> <li>• Use data from last year to establish baseline.</li> <li>• Continue to enhance IPP process</li> <li>• Review school-wide support plan</li> </ul>
To improve Junior and Senior High reading comprehension skills by 5% as measured by the RWM8 provincial and site based assessments by June 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and administer site-based reading comprehension skills assessment to establish baseline data.</li> <li>• Investigate PD opportunities with Education consultant and support staff.</li> <li>• Assessment PD for Speaking and Listening</li> <li>• Initiate/enhance oral reading conferences</li> <li>• Increase school wide reading opportunities</li> </ul>



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