

# Annual Report to the Community

September 2013 - June 2014

# Pentz Elementary School



## A note from the Principal

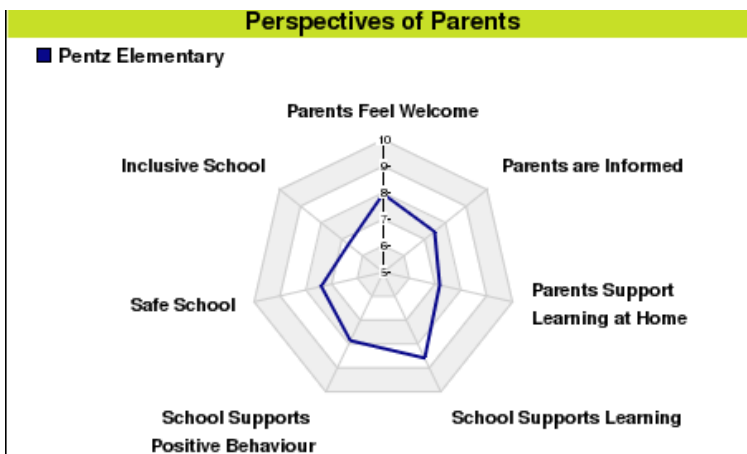
The students and staff at Pentz Elementary had a successful year in 2013–2014. Students took part in activities designed to enrich their learning experience, and to connect their learning to the real world. Collaborative learning opportunities supported a sense of connection both among students in various classrooms, and within the larger community. Teachers continued to develop ways to support students' passion for learning and to develop students' individual strengths. Teachers participated in both individual and shared professional development opportunities designed to improve and foster effective teaching strategies, with student achievement as a central focus.

The school community had an active year during 2013-2014 and we look forward to continued productivity. Pentz Elementary school is a place where student learning is supported, critical thinking skills are developed and personal strengths are fostered. Students are encouraged to reach their full potential. The school, the home and the community will continue to communicate to strengthen partnerships in support of student development. Strong ties among these partners is essential in the support of our youngest citizens.



## Data and Results

Evidence gathered from Tell Them From Me surveys from students and teachers, indicated an interest in increasing the use of and proficiency with technology. Parents, students and teachers indicated a need to further support positive school culture. The following graph, derived from Parent Tell Them From Me data, collected in the spring of 2014, indicates concerns in many areas. The number of parents participating was quite low, which is another area of concern as we want to address.



## Professional Learning

The professional learning connected to our school goals will focus primarily on examination of student work samples and development of strategies to further support learners based on their needs and skills. Opportunities to collectively assess student work is the best practice in moving forward to support students in their learning. Teachers will develop their competencies and practices throughout the year in using technology and supporting students in the use of technology, ultimately supporting student learning potential and achievement. Teachers will actively promote learning opportunities that promote community building both within individual classrooms and between classrooms. Embedded time allows for collaboration which will support these initiatives.

## Continuous School Improvement

At Pentz Elementary it is our goal to support students to achieve their greatest potential. We view students as individuals and understand that their needs and learning styles differ. In an attempt to support student development, it is our goal to address academic, social and emotional needs of all of our students. The use of technology is one teachers focus on supporting students in various and engaging ways. By implementing an environment of exploration and acceptance in which technology provides a framework for learning and expression, teachers at Pent z Elementary focus on the achievement of all students.

Our school is continuously striving to be a supportive place for our students to develop academically, socially and emotionally. Positive school climate is essential in providing this support. Our children belong to a community school and it is our goal to build on the sense of community already present within our building. and the broader community. Research supports the idea that children learn best when they feel comfortable, supported and adequately challenged in heir learning environment. It is our goal to create an atmosphere conducive to both academic achievement and strong social and emotional development. Student achievement is the primary focus at Pentz Elementary.

### School Goals

The school goals for Pentz Elementary are in the areas of technology and positive school culture. The information gathered from the school community indicated a desire to continue to address technology use in our school. Teachers and students will continue to expand their use of technology in support of increased student understanding and achievement. Technology allows students a broader range of ways to show what they know, as well as opportunities to experiment in current methods of presentation of information.

Positive school climate will support student engagement, which is directly related to student achievement. Community members, families and students will focus of initiatives to build on a currently strong and supportive school community by providing and becoming involved in additional opportunities to bring the broader community into the school. At the school level, the focus will be on building on the strengths of our students, and teaching them both how to be optimal learners, as well as providing opportunities to interact cooperatively as part of a broader community of learners.

The goals for our school are :

- To increase opportunities for students to use computers and other technology in support of increased student achievement.
- To increase opportunities designed to improve school climate .

These goals will provide the focal points for school improvement planning as we move forward throughout the 2014-2015 school year. We will continue to collect data to determine our level of success and to track any other areas in need of improvement within our school.



**Pentz Elementary School**

**[www.pentz.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.pentz.ednet.ns.ca)**

**Pentz, NS B4V 1R3**

**(902) 688-3210**