

North Vancouver School District SCHOOL PLAN for 2013-2014

School: Highlands
Address: 3150 Colwood Drive
 North Vancouver, BC V7R 2R6
Phone: 604-903-3540

School/Community Context:

Our Mission Statement and our Philosophy form the foundation of our activities at Highlands, and both are reflected in our School Plan.

Walking into Highlands Elementary School, visitors are struck not only by our beautiful four-year old building with its huge gym, built-in sound field systems and Smart Boards but, more importantly, by the welcoming atmosphere created by staff, parents and students alike. It is a vibrant warm environment in which students thrive. Highlands is supported by a strong parent community, an active, leadership-oriented student body, and an experienced and pro-active staff who are fully engaged in continuously broadening their expertise with respect to new initiatives for improving student learning.

Highlands has a cohesive music program from kindergarten to grade 7, including extra-curricular band and strings. Students also enjoy a wide variety of extra-curricular athletic opportunities which are sponsored and coached by staff and parents. Student leadership examples at Highlands include the Grade 7 Leadership Program, the Peer Counselling Program, Student Council fundraising and sponsorship of a World Vision child, and a Crossing Guard Program involving over 50 students. The Highlands Green Team is supported by parents and teachers in various “green” endeavours such as gardening and recycling.

Highlands staff and students work in partnership with parents to foster and maintain a safe and caring environment for all children through consistent application, practice and discussion of our Code of Conduct. Lastly, regular and ongoing community events, such as our annual Pumpkin Patch/Spring Fair, Bike Week, Gingerbread House Workshop, Parent Dance and Silent Auction, and Talent Show, highlight the value placed on school and community interaction.

Demographics (2012-2013 school year):

Total number of students: 428 Male: 206 Female: 222

Number of students per grade								
Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
English	50	47	52	60	45	60	51	63

# FTE Teachers & Administrators	% Aboriginal Students	% Special Needs Students	% International Students	% ESL
21.70	1.2%	6.3%	4%	3%

Progress Analysis:

Review of School Goals – Previous Year(s)

Previous School Plan Goal 1: To improve the reading proficiency of identified primary students

Objective 1.1:

To increase the percentage of students in Grades 3 and 4 (2012-2013) who are meeting or exceeding expectations in reading

Trend Data Table:

Key Performance Measure: Percentage of students who are meeting or exceeding expectations in reading as identified by teachers in March of Grade 2 (2012)			
	Baseline	Target	Actual
2011-12	79%	84%	80%
2012-13 (current Gr. 3 students)	80%	83%	88%

Trend Data Table:

Key Performance Measure: Percentage of students who are meeting or exceeding expectations in reading as identified by teachers in March of Grade 3 (2012)			
	Baseline	Target	Actual
2010-11	74%	82%	73%
2011-12	73%	80%	76%
2012-13 (current Gr. 4 students)	76%	80%	73%

Trend Data Analysis: (indicators of progress over time – 1 to 3 yrs)

- The grade 3 student objective met the target and will be discontinued.
- The grade 4 student objective did not meet the target. There has been static growth over time with a significant group of students who continue to struggle with reading achievement. This objective will be continued.

Previous School Plan Goal 2: To improve the mathematical proficiency of students in Grades 6 & 7

Objective 2.1:

To increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed expectations with basic computational skills in mathematics (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) in Grades 6 & 7

Trend Data Table:

Key Performance Measure: Percentage of students by grade who meet or exceed expectations as measured by school-based assessment tool in May 2011			
	Baseline	Target	Actual
2011-12 (current Grade 7's)	68%	80%	Not available
2012-13 (Current Grade 7's)	67%	79%	77%
2011-12 (current Grade 6's)	67%	80%	Not available
2012-13 (Current Grade 6's)	67%	79%	61%

Trend Data Analysis: (indicators of progress over time – 1 to 3 yrs)

- September performance on the benchmarks for the preceding grade (e.g., Grade 6's wrote the Grade 5 assessment) confirmed the need to support both Grade 6 and Grade 7 students through Objective 2.1
- Classroom performance with basic math skills in Grade 6 and the decline from 67% to 61% highlight the need to continue tracking this cohort in their Grade 7 year before their transition to secondary

Previous School Plan Goal 3: To Increase students' ability to transition with confidence into kindergarten and from Grade 7 into Grade 8**Objective 3.1:**

To increase the percentage of students who report feeling confident about their transition from Grade 7 to 8

Trend Data Table:

Key Performance Measure: Grade 7/8 Transition Survey administered in September 2012 (baseline) and again in May (actual), Question 6: "Are you confident entering into the larger school community of secondary school?"			
	Baseline	Target	Actual
2012-13	56%	85%	65%

Trend Data Analysis: (indicators of progress over time – 1 to 3 yrs)

- Although there was an increase, the target was not met; objective will be continued

Objective 3.2:

To increase the number of students who are able to transition quickly and easily into kindergarten as measured by teacher observations

Evidence: (Qualitative)

- Qualitative Baseline:**
- Teachers noted many students entering kindergarten in the fall of 2010 and 2011 who exhibited anxiety by refusing to stay without their parent, by preventing their parent from leaving, by crying or by arriving late. This anxiety persisted for many of these children for many weeks.

Qualitative Target:

- Teachers will note that most of the kindergarten children are able to separate from their parent and begin their school day on time by the end of September.

Qualitative Actual:

- While most students were able to separate from their parent(s) by the end of September, there were still several students for whom separation continued to be an issue. We also recognize that this cohort of students had a high number of younger siblings for whom the school was a familiar place. We would like to ensure that a strong transition becomes the norm regardless of the specific make up of the cohort.

Opportunities for Further Development:

- While we will not formally track the Grade 3 reading cohort in the School Plan, we will monitor their reading achievement to ensure that they continue to be successful in Grade 4
- We will continue to track the Grade 4 reading cohort through Objective 1.1 and analyse the strategies to determine if different supports/interventions will be more successful in improving their reading achievement
- Report card data for the second term for Grade 1 students identifies 21% of students who do not meet expectations in reading. We will add this cohort to Objective 1.1 in the 2013-14 School Plan
- Grade 7 students at risk in math will be identified through the articulation process with Handsworth to ensure that the necessary supports are put in place for them
- We will continue to track the Grade 6 cohort in math through Objective 2.1 to ensure continued growth in basic skills for their transition to secondary school
- We will continue to implement current strategies in Objective 3.1 for Grade 7 students at Highlands and work with the Handsworth Family of Schools to strengthen the Grade 7-8 transition for all students
- We will continue to implement strategies with kindergarten families and within the school through Objective 3.2 to ensure that the beginning of kindergarten continues to be a natural comfortable transition for students and their parents.

School Goals for 2013-2014:

Based on the review of student achievement using Provincial, District and school evidence, the goals set out in the Highlands School Plan for 2013-14 are:

- 1. To improve the reading proficiency of identified students**
- 2. To improve the mathematical proficiency of identified students**
- 3. To increase students' ability to transition with confidence into Kindergarten, from grade-to-grade in primary and from Grade 7 into Grade 8**

School Goal 1:

To improve the reading proficiency of identified students

Goal Rationale:

We believe that all students deserve to acquire the skills that will help them be successful members of society. Central to this skill-set is literacy. We have been tracking a cohort of students (Grade 4's) through the school plan. Because their reading performance has not improved from last year's baseline, we believe they should continue to be supported and tracked through this plan in Grade 5. The Grade 1 cohort has been newly identified through report card data. We feel that early intervention has the potential to improve the achievement of this group.

Objective 1.1:

To increase the percentage of students in Grades 2 and 5 (2013-2014) who are meeting or exceeding expectations in reading

Strategies/Structures:

- Assess referred students through a variety of measurements to identify specific areas of need and determine appropriate supports
- Identify strategies, supports and interventions through SBRT discussions
- Use Reading 44 strategies and classroom adaptations to assist students
- Implement Instructional Intelligence strategies, skills and tactics in a strategic manner
- Provide additional reading support to the identified students through the classroom, the Learning Assistance Centre, the Learning Support Worker, the Literacy Centre and the home
- Provide remedial computer programs and technology at school to support referred students
- Track and communicate progress & adaptations to facilitate transition from grade to grade
- Continue to provide strategies for the home to support parents whose children are struggling
- Provide a wide variety of reading materials at a variety of levels
- Purchase books to build classroom, home reading and library resources
- Provide fluency practice for struggling students through daily buddy reading opportunities with younger buddies

Evidence: (Quantitative)

Key Performance Measure:	Baseline	Target	Actual
Baseline: Percentage of students who are meeting or exceeding expectations in reading as identified by teachers in March of Grade 1 (2013)	79%	85%	
Target: Grade 2 Report card March 2014			

Key Performance Measure:	Baseline	Target	Actual
Baseline: Percentage of students who are meeting or exceeding expectations in reading as identified by teachers in March of Grade 4 (2013)	73%	80%	
Target: Grade 5 Report card March 2014			

School Goal 2:

To improve the mathematical proficiency of identified students

Goal Rationale:

In our knowledge-driven and technically-oriented society, mathematic skill is a critical success factor for our children and is central to our philosophy of creating well-rounded students. However, teachers have noted that students lack the skills to compute the basic facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division efficiently, fluently and accurately. This, in turn, negatively impacts their ability to apply these skills in increasingly complex tasks such as multi-digit questions and word problems. We have identified one cohort of students whose basic skills in math are not meeting expectations and who would benefit from increased attention in this area.

Objective 2.1:

To increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed expectations with basic computational skills in mathematics (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) in Grade 7 (2013-2014)

Strategies/Structures:

- Implement strategies from Math 44 and classroom adaptations to assist students
- Develop consistent math vocabulary from grade to grade and school to home
- Provide additional classroom, LAC, SEA and home support
- Increase the use of manipulatives in a strategic manner
- Recommend websites and activities for home practice
- Provide remedial computer programs at school for referred students
- Use results of Grade 6 Math Assessment to identify at-risk students
- Continue to provide strategies for the home to support parents whose children are struggling
- Track and communicate progress & adaptations to facilitate transition from grade to grade

Key Performance Measure:	Baseline	Target	Actual
Baseline: Percentage of students in Grade 6 who meet or exceed expectations as measured by school-based assessment tool in May 2013	61%	74%	
Target: Assessment in Grade 7 May 2014			

School Goal 3:

To increase students' ability to transition with confidence into kindergarten, from grade-to-grade in primary and from Grade 7 into Grade 8

Goal Rationale: The transition from pre-school into kindergarten and from elementary school to secondary school can be challenging for many students not only academically but also socially and emotionally. Pre-schoolers are moving into an environment with less support, longer days and greater expectations for independence. An increasing number of Grade 7 students are presenting with anxiety and adjustment difficulties in Grade 8 which can have an adverse effect

on their attendance, academic achievement and social success. A focus on developing strategies and supports will help to alleviate some of the stressors for these students.

Objective 3.1:

To increase the percentage of students who report feeling confident about their transition from Grade 7 to 8

Strategies/Structures:

- Communicate important student information to secondary through articulation process
- Provide opportunities for Grade 7's to visit Handsworth
- Survey Grade 7 students to determine how best to support them through this transition
- Encourage tutoring of elementary students by capable secondary students
- Invite secondary students to referee and/or provide athletic clinics at Highlands
- Invite secondary students to talk with Highlands Grade 7's about their transition concerns
- Encourage connections between elementary and secondary clubs (e.g., Green Team, Student Council etc.)
- Encourage participation in FOS volleyball/basketball tournaments
- Communicate academic achievement of Highlands Grade 8 students to Grade 7 teachers
- Continue to provide opportunities for students to attend Handsworth events (e.g., drama, band, strings performances etc.) and perform with Handsworth students (e.g., Zone concerts for bands and strings)
- Implement the Safe Teen program for Grades 6 and 7 students

Evidence: *(Quantitative)*

Key Performance Measure:	Baseline	Target	Actual
Grade 7/8 Transition Survey administered in September 2013 (baseline) and again in May 2014 (actual), Question 6: "Are you confident entering into the larger school community of secondary school?"	TBA Sept	TBA Sept	

Objective 3.2:

To increase the number of students who are able to transition quickly and easily into kindergarten as measured by teacher observations.

Strategies/Structures:

- Provide the parents during the kindergarten parent meeting with strategies to alleviate separation anxieties and increase independence
- Transition the children into kindergarten using a gradual entry process
- Provide additional supervision aide support during the first weeks of school
- Provide additional EA support during the first weeks of school as needed
- Provide peer counsellor support on the playground
- Provide an opportunity for teachers to meet with parents for an intake interview
- Collegial Conferencing Project on continuum of primary learning through exploration and inquiry

Evidence: (Qualitative)

<p>Qualitative Baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Teachers noted many students entering kindergarten in the fall of 2010, 2011 and 2012 who exhibited anxiety by refusing to stay without their parent, by preventing their parent from leaving, by crying or by arriving late. This anxiety persisted for many of these children for many weeks.
<p>Qualitative Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Teachers will note that most of the kindergarten children are able to separate from their parent and begin their school day on time by the end of September. They will also continue to demonstrate increased independence as the year progresses.
<p>Qualitative Actual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-

Connections:

Connections to Family of School's School Plans and/or District Achievement Plan:

The five schools in the Handsworth Family of Schools (Canyon Heights Elementary, Cleveland Elementary, Highlands Elementary, Handsworth Secondary and Montroyal Elementary) work collaboratively to develop commonalities among the five school plans. The administrations from the FOS meet on a regular basis to discuss school directions, instructional initiatives and issues that affect the schools and school communities. School Plans are shared and frequently discussed. This collaborative approach assists with and strengthens the development of the goals, objectives, data sources and strategies to ensure success for all students.

Over the past six years, the School Planning Councils in the Handsworth Family of Schools have met annually for in-service regarding the process of developing a school plan and to provide an opportunity to share and discuss current goals and objectives. The five schools within the Handsworth Family of Schools share a focus on one or more of the goal areas of reading/writing, mathematics and safe school/social responsibility.

The school plans from each of the schools within the Handsworth Family of Schools also connect to the District Achievement Contract 2011-14, specifically Goal 1: To improve students' achievement in literacy (Reading: Canyon Heights, Cleveland, Handsworth and Highlands; Writing: Canyon Heights, Handsworth and Montroyal) and Goal 2: To improve students' achievement in numeracy (Cleveland, Highlands, Montroyal and Handsworth).

Consultation Process of Highland School Planning Council:

- School administrators, staff, parents and students have been actively involved in the development of the School Plan.
- A summary of the approved Highlands School Plan will be posted on the school web site by October 31, 2013.

School Planning Council Approval of Proposed School Plan:

Date: May 1, 2013

	Name	Signature
Chairperson (Principal)	Arlie Thompson	<i>Original Document Signed by SPC Members</i>
Parent	Anna Archer	
Parent	Kathy Bright	
Parent	Eva Veraghtert	

Board Approval of School Plan:

Approved by:

Dr. Pius Ryan, Assistant Superintendent