

# Annual Report to the Community

September 2013 – June 2014

## SOUTH QUEENS MIDDLE SCHOOL



### A note from the Principal

The brand new South Queens Middle School (SQMS) opened its doors on in January of 2014 after an extensive planning and building process. Our state of the art school boasts the most recent developments in construction and technology. Students are supported in their programming through technology enhanced learning opportunities facilitated by staff members with on-going specialized training. Each student at SQMS has access to a technology device (usually an iPad) that is personalized to their learning needs and interests. Our focus on learning emphasizes dedicated time for staff collaboration with goals reflective of authentic student engagement and achievement.

In 2013, SQMS staff identified specific areas for planning and Continuous School Improvement (CSI). As a result of the changes in the ways programming is delivered, combined with our changing demographic, we have developed a CSI plan that reflects the needs of our school, with a strong community atmosphere where leading edge programming exists.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the SQMS community for their leadership and dedication during this year of transition from one building to the next.

~ *Leo Campbell* (Principal)

### Data and Results

Selecting data to support identified goals can be a challenge. There are several variables to consider when we examine data sources we have collected over the past several years, including our new school demographic. The grade levels and the way in which programming is delivered have changed quite significantly at SQMS. With a brand new facility, grades six to eight arrangements and an increase in the availability and use of one to one technology devices, all affect how we interpret past results. Our sites are now set on gathering and examining data to increasingly support our choices for goals and our impact on learning and achievement.

### Professional Learning

In conjunction with the Liverpool Regional High School and the Dr. J. C. Wickwire Elementary School, we established a school-based continuous learning community. We were given permission to extend our school day and in turn take that time to embed learning opportunities for our staff.

Not only do we have 14 scheduled Wednesday afternoons, we also have built into each teachers' schedule one period where they meet with a common theme in mind (be it subject area or grade) to discuss how they can better meet the needs of the students they serve. When the school was built, a collaborative room was included so the staff can model collaboration and engagement which we encourage among our students.

## Continuous School Improvement

It is important to note that the grade configuration at SQMS changed in September 2013 (from grades 7-9 to grades 6-8). The CSI baseline data will only include grade 7 and 8 for the first year due to the change in grade levels. The grade 6 results will be included in our baseline data for the 2013-14 school year.

Our staff has grown in many ways over the past few years. We embrace a 21st century learning philosophy where our main focus is collaboration and engagement among our staff and students throughout aspect of their day at school. We have implemented a Project Based (Inquiry Based) learning approach to our teaching strategies and also incorporated the restorative approach to discipline.

Our main focus is to address the whole student, which includes attention to academics. The move to one to one technology devices has enhanced the learning experience of every students based on individual strengths and needs.



## School Goals

During the 2013-2014 school year, SQMS identified two goals as part of their continuous school improvement plan:

**Goal 1:** By June 2016, students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will report an improvement in the area of 'motivated and intellectually engaged', in school. The data from the survey, 'Tell Them From Me', will be used to measure the growth.

This goal is supported by data that informs us that our school is below the national average in three areas on the *Tell Them From Me* (TTFM) national student survey; the percentage of students who report being socially, institutionally and intellectually engaged.

**Goal 2:** By June 2016, students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will indicate an improvement when reporting that the school is a 'safe and positive learning environment', on the 'Tell Them From Me' survey.

This goal is supported by data that informs us that our school is below the national average in the areas of positive relationships, feeling safe and advocacy at school on the *Tell Them From Me* (TTFM) national student survey.



**South Queens Middle School**

**<http://sqms.ednet.ns.ca/>**

**157 Old Bridge Street**

**Liverpool, NS**

**B0T 1K0**

**Telephone:(902) 354-7640**