



Principal's Message

It is hard to believe another school year is coming to a close. It has been a busy year at West Hants Middle School. Many of our students are involved in a number of activities and leadership opportunities throughout the school year.

Some of our highlights' for this year include:

- This is the last year grade nine students will attend WHMS. This has been a year of transition preparation and planning for September 2016.
- Many of our school athletic teams were very successful with their competitions.
- Our Music Program had many wonderful presentations including concerts, Brunch with the Bands, Dinner Concert and Music Festivals.
- Our Science Fair was a huge success with many of our students advancing to the Regional Fair. We are extremely proud of their success and the three students that advanced to the Nationals in Montreal!
- We had a number of students represent our school at a Youth Forum, a GSA Conference, at WE Day and at Celebrating Our Sisters Conference in Bear River.
- For our Grade Nine Staff that have been assigned to AVHS, best wishes. Please know you will be missed, however we take comfort in sending our students to you in the coming years. The following staff are assigned to AV next year: Reagan O'Hara, Glen Earley, Mark Tye, Karen Nottage, Eric Comeau, Dave Margolian, Cathy Brine and Tracy Sanford.
- Happy Retirement for Roxann Lake, our Technology Support Person.

I would like to thank all of the WHMS staff and families for helping me navigate through my first year as Principal at WHMS. This is a great place to work each and every day. The positive energy within the building is very contagious!

I am hoping all of you have a safe and relaxing summer,

Mrs. Wallace

Table of Contents

Principal's Message.....	p.1
Professional Learning for Staff.....	p. 2
Student Achievement	p. 2
School & Community	p. 2
RCH Initiatives	p. 3
Safe & Caring Environment.....	p. 3
Student Involvement & Successes ..	p. 4
Parent Group (SAC/PTA/HSA)	p. 4

Student Achievement

Students at WHMS are involved in a number of Academic Contests and Competitions.

14 WHMS' students advanced to the Regional Science Fair with 11 projects, coming home with 30 awards!

3 Science Students advanced to the National Science Fair in Montreal and received Bronze Medals for their work.

Remembrance Contest – 5 students won awards

Music Program students were involved in two Music Festivals: Bronze, Gr. 7 Band; Bronze, Gr. 8 Band; and Bronze, Grade 9 Band

Heritage Fair – We had three students receive awards.

Creative Communication Poetry Contest – We had twelve students selected to have their writings published.

During our closing ceremonies we recognized 185 students with Honours with Distinction.

Grade Eight students participate in the Provincial Assessments each spring. This spring's results have not been published at the time of this report.

Results from 2014-15 Provincial Assessment Results			
Assessment Type & Grade Level	Average Percentage Meeting for all of WHMS	Average Percentage Meeting for all of AVRSB	Average Percentage Meeting for all of NS
Grade 8 Math	61%	59.1%	55%
Grade 8 Reading	70.2%)	71.2%	72.5%

Next year both the grade six and grade eight students will participate in provincial assessments.

School and Community

During the 2015 - 2016 school year, there were approximately 614 students registered in Grades 7-9. There were 34 teachers, 9 Educational Assistants, 2.5 secretaries, 5 custodians, a Principal and 2 Vice-Principals. In total there are approximately 60 adults in the building supporting the students.

We are blessed with many extra supports within our school as well.

- Student Support Worker
- Schools Plus Staff
- Support for students with Learning Disabilities
- Resource & Learning Center Support Staff

Community Support

We are always grateful for support that is offered from the school community. The Rotary Club supported WHMS with the Breakfast Program and also purchased some technology to help one of our students be successful throughout his school years.



Professional Learning for Staff

West Hants Middle School had a unique year of learning and planning. Many of our meetings and PD sessions were focused around our transition activities and planning. We were determined to make sure our students were ready for the move to AV and that we would be ready to welcome two grades of students to WHMS. As most of you know this plan also included many staffing changes with staff going to AV and elementary teachers being assigned to WHMS.

During the school year, staff were involved in the following PD Sessions:

- Training on Anaphylaxis
- Presentation by the Debert Mi'kmaq Cultural Center on the new Mi'kmaq curriculum.
- The Influence of Social Media on Society (Facebook Follies)
- School Culture priorities
- Tienet/Power School
- Conferences
- Mike Rutherford's Teaching Talents
- Andrew Middleton – Youth Trends
- Nolan Pike – Building Gender-Inclusive Practices



Safe and Caring Environment

At WHMS we worked hard to celebrate positive behaviors and actions. This was done through:

- positive announcements
- assemblies celebrating successes
- a student created assembly to discuss bullying
- safe social media use presentations by Ryan Hainstock and Cst. Bryan Leyte
- PASTE – our Leadership Program involved approximately 200 students
- We had a Breakfast Program run by Ms. Brison every day of the week!
- Mr. Tye brought Piper, his trained Therapy Dog, to WHMS once a week.
- Mr. Bunin's group, Teens for Change, held a successful roadside clean-up.

Race Relations, Cross Cultural Awareness and Human Rights (RCH) Initiatives

WHMS had a number of highlights in the RCH area of school life:

- We had two GSA Groups (one for Gr. 8&9 and another for Gr. 7)
- Gr. 7s took part in an IDU during September to learn about WHMS and how they can become part of the culture.
- We had a large number of International Students attend WHMS during the year.
- One of our Gr. 8 classes took part in a program where they learned about Mental Health through drama.
- Mr. MacKenzie taught the entire school about the REDress Campaign through his display and art lessons.
- All Grade 8 classes attended a talk in Dartmouth from a Holocaust Survivor.
- We had a Spanish Club and a Korean Club.
- All Gr. 9 students participated in a Healthy Relationship Program facilitated by Avon Views' Leadership Class.
- A group of our students attended Honouring Our Sisters Conference in Bear River.
- Students of African Descent participated in a number of Drumming Sessions with Dr. Henry Bishop. When the sessions were complete the drummers held a celebration lunch and were recognized for their efforts.
- The Pride Flag was raised at WHMS in June.



Student Involvement and Successes

We are very proud of the extra-curricular offerings at WHMS.

-There are approximately 26 sports teams.

-We offered a number of clubs, including History Club, Debate Club, Creative Writing Club, and Voices.

Students took part in Face Aux Questions.

-Our athletic teams earned 13 Regional Banners and 3 Provincial Titles. This was the most we have ever earned in one school year!

-Our Music Program had two extra-curricular bands. The bands played in two concerts, Brunch with the Bands, a Dinner Theatre, a Music Festival, and entertained at our Spirit Rallies.

-The PASTE leaders offered intramurals at noon hour and organized many events throughout the school year, including the Winter Carnival and Old Fashioned Picnic.

-Our Science Club travelled to DAL and Mount Allison for a field trip.

-One grade seven class took part in the Celebrating Our Sisters Conference in Bear River. They were able to display their Red Dress art work and a few students even spoke about their work.

-Our Concert Band and Jazz Band both received Bronze at the Music Festival

-WHMS had three students awarded the "The Turn Around Award".

-Our developmental hockey program won the Hockey Uniacke Challenge.



Home & School Association

A huge thank you to a small but very dedicated Home & School Group. These ladies were a great sounding board, they held a few fund-raising events and helped with the Gr. 7 Immunization Day.

We will be looking for new volunteers for next year and hope a few parents will attend our opening meeting.

Transition Activity

Throughout this year we held meetings with Home & School Executives, Community Groups, staff groups and students. We tried to communicate our plans, receive feedback and answer questions. At the same time, we invited the elementary schools to visit on a number of occasions and we took our Gr. 8 & 9 students to Avon View, as well as have their staff visit our school for presentations. Students who seemed overly anxious were given extra visits to try to familiarize themselves with the changes.

Some changes that will be in place for WHMS in September 2016:

-Gr. 6 classes will be in the former Gr. 7 wing

-Gr. 7 classes will be in the former Gr. 8 wing

-Gr. 8 classes will be in the former Gr. 9 wing

-The Library has completely moved to the former Gr. 7 Science Lab

-There will be a computer lab in the Gr. 6 wing

-The Learning Center has moved to the former Library

-The Enhanced Support Program from Avon View has moved into the former Learning Center Space.

-Mr. States has moved his VP Office to the Resource Rm. beside the Main Office.

-There will be an Art/Science Room in the Gr. 6 wing

Projects that we are hoping to complete in the near future are:

-Opening the cafeteria up by making a half wall with countertop and stools

-Installing a curtain to divide the large gym into two teaching spaces

-Adding some play structures to outside

-Add some color to our hallways with a painting project