

# report

## to the community



Ness Middle School

2016-2017



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*The Middle Years (Gr. 6 -8) provides a stimulating and supportive learning environment where high expectations, collaboration and continual learning are promoted. Early adolescents have unique emotional, social and developmental characteristics. Staffing, curricula and programming in middle schools are focused on meeting these needs. The programs in the Middle Years build on the programming in the Early Years.*

### **Last Year's School Accomplishments (2015-2016)**

#### **Ness' professional staff focused on the area of student assessment with emphasis on numeracy.**

- ✓ Report card and provincial assessment data were used to inform instruction.
- ✓ Students were exposed to a variety of mental math strategies and were encouraged to solve problems in multiple ways.
- ✓ Students received appropriate programming (intervention, enrichment or remediation) based on their performance from the baseline assessment.

#### **Ness' professional staff continued to focus on creating a learning environment where students have a strong sense of safety and belonging.**

- ✓ Staff helped students to better understand other students' needs through restitution.
- ✓ Students had the opportunity to take part in many clubs, teams and other extra-curricular activities depending on their interests.
- ✓ Staff developed personal relationships with students in order to foster connections.

#### **Ness' professional staff continued to focus on deeper reading across the curriculum.**

- ✓ Many classes recorded their thoughts and feelings about what they were reading in their Reader Response Journals and students were given opportunities to share their responses with the class on a regular basis.
- ✓ English Language Arts classes spent time learning how to accomplish deeper reading (making connections, evaluating, predicting, etc.) and students continued to practice these skills throughout the year.
- ✓ Staff modeled their own love of books & reading to promote a love of reading in school.

#### **Our Vision Statement**

Collaborating with parents and community in a bilingual setting, we empower students to develop their personal road to success while fostering accountability, integrity, and self-esteem.

En collaboration avec des parents et des membres de notre communauté, nous accordons aux élèves le pouvoir de manifester leur propre succès en promouvant la responsabilité, l'intégrité et l'estime de soi dans un environnement bilingue.

#### **Our Mission Statement**

Our purpose is to provide a safe, nurturing and cooperative environment that will guide and encourage each individual:

- To develop mind and body to full potential;
- To foster respect for school, home and community
- To foster respect for self, others, and for concern of others;
- To enjoy and take pride in learning, belonging, achieving and caring.

These goals are promoted in a setting dedicated to providing a full education in both official Canadian languages.

La mission de Ness Middle School est de fournir un milieu épanouissant où règnent la coopération et la sécurité et qui encourage l'individuel:

- à développer pleinement son corps et son esprit;
- à développer le respect de soi et

## A Quick Snapshot of the Classroom

**Mathematics:** Students worked towards using a variety of mental math strategies to support solving mental math problems. Students explored Mental Math skills in numerous ways like estimation, not only with sums, differences, products and quotients, but also in calculations of circumference and area of circles using the value for pi as simply 3.0. Teachers used report card and provincial assessment data were used to inform instruction.

**English:** Throughout the year, students had the opportunity to focus on deeper reading across the ELA & Social Studies curriculums by using their critical thinking skills while researching and reading about various topics. Through regular and ongoing discussions, debates and practice, students become independent thinkers and problem solvers. Students were asked leading questions to draw information, inferences and predictions about various topics in Social Studies and used those answers to understand the world we live in. Thinking through inquiry continued to help students understand ideas/concepts at a deeper level.

**Arts:** The visual art program is a comprehensive program that introduces the students to the elements of art in Grade 6 and the principles of art in Grade 7. The Grade 8 students build on this foundation by exploring more complex ideas and mediums. The program provides the students the opportunity to experience a wide variety of art movements and artists, different art media, and tools and techniques.

**Science:** In Science students focused on creating scientifically literate students. The science learning experience incorporated the essential science and related applications. Scientific knowledge is necessary for understanding the relationships among these related applications. To understand these relationships, it is essential that students understand the real world values related to science, technology, society, and the environment. To achieve an increase in scientific literacy students focused on answering more in-depth questions, solving problems and making decisions.

**Social Studies:** The Social Studies department focused on building common language to use with students in relation to each of our four Essential Learnings. By doing so, students were able to understand what skills are required for the communication of their understanding, managing their ideas and information, thinking both critically and creatively and being active democratic citizens.

**Physical Education/Health:** The ultimate goal of the Ness Middle Physical Education/Health Education Program is to actively engage students in a wide variety of movement and fitness-based activities that will teach them the knowledge and skills necessary to lead active healthy lifestyles. We strive to offer our students with numerous opportunities to discover activities that will keep them active and healthy, daily, through a variety of seasons. Our Interscholar athletics program is also structured to provide athletes with sporting opportunities in which they may find individual excellence.

**Student Services:** As our community continues to become more diverse, our school continues to provide different programming to support student learning, including English language learners. In a small group initiative, EAL students

- des autres;
- à valoriser l'apprentissage;
- à développer la responsabilité;
- à être fier d'être membre de l'école.

### School Profile

Number of teachers: 13  
Number of students: 121  
Grade levels: 6-8

### School Highlights

These include:

- Bilingual Counselling and Resource Programs
- Choir and Band
- Dual Track school (Programming in French and English)
- Practical Arts
- Visual Arts
- Choir and Band

### Extra-curricular Activities

Large variety of activities and opportunities:

- Card Club
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Cross Country
- Field trips
- Rugby
- Social Justice Group
- Track (indoor and outdoor)
- Ultimate
- Student Leadership
- Volleyball
- Yearbook Committee

(English as Additional Language) had the opportunity to reflect on cultural identity and learn about Canadian culture through visual arts.

## **Planning & Goal Setting**

School goals are created using the Divisional Strategic Plan as the guideline ([www.sjsd.net/planning](http://www.sjsd.net/planning)). The goal setting process begins in early Spring and includes input from students, teachers, parents and the community. Goals are developed around the needs and direction of the various departments with student progress and achievement and our mission and vision statement as our focus.

## **This Year's School Goals and Priorities (2016-2017)**

- 1. By the end of the school year, students will have made measurable progress in demonstrating understanding of the reading-writing connection through purposeful, authentic and cross-curricular writing pieces in both languages. Students will develop increased stamina and grow as thinkers through daily, sustained, authentic reading and writing.**
- 2. By June 2017, students will increase their proficiency in Mental Math estimation.**
- 3. By June 2017, all students will demonstrate knowledge, skills, and values consistent with being a good local and global citizen.**