



# EDWIN S. RICHARDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2007 - 2008 ANNUAL REPORT TO FAMILIES

## SCHOOL GOALS

E.S. Richards Elementary School has approximately 215 students. The goals of literacy (writing and reading) and the goal to improve students' social and emotional development (social responsibility) are the focus of our School Growth Plan. Our goal has been to raise student achievement to where it meets or exceeds both the district and the provincial expectation averages. We have seen success!

Throughout the school year, our teachers use a variety of assessment tools to determine where each student is in terms of reading, writing and numeracy skills. At year end, we all participate in District Assessments. Our data from 2007-2008 Assessments will be available in September 2008.

### District Assessment Evidence of Change 2004-2007

#### Reading:

- 2006-2007 DRA scores show that Kindergarten students were reduced to 14% "At Risk"
- 2006-2007 DRA Grade 1 was within the district average
- 2006-2007 DRA and grade 2 at 10% was well below the "At Risk" district average
- 2006-2007 DART (grades 3 – 7) indicated that we were above the district average with 59% of our students Fully Meeting or Exceeding Expectations
- 2006-2007 DART indicated that in all categories there is a minimal gender difference (gender balance)
  - 2006-2007 DART indicated that 60% of females vs. 57% of males were Fully Meeting or Exceeding Expectations
  - 2006-2007 DART indicated that 38% of females vs. 39% of males Minimally Meeting Expectation (In the Not Yet category ESR has a minimal total of 2%)

| 2004-07 Reading Assessment (DART)    |         |        |        |        |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| District – Edwin S. Richards Gr. 3-7 |         |        |        |        |
|                                      | NOT YET | MEET   | FULLY  | EXCEED |
| District 2004                        | 17.06%  | 45.10% | 33.95% | 3.91%  |
| District 2005                        | 9.24%   | 39.00% | 43.86% | 7.90%  |
| District 2006                        | 12.35%  | 47.34% | 34.95% | 5.35%  |
| District 2007                        | 8.32%   | 46.42% | 39.79% | 5.47%  |
| School 2004                          | 12.35%  | 55.56% | 29.63% | 2.47%  |
| School 2005                          | 5.96%   | 31.79% | 55.63% | 6.62%  |
| School 2006                          | 6.92%   | 47.69% | 42.31% | 3.08%  |
| School 2007                          | 2.22%   | 38.52% | 47.41% | 11.85% |

#### Writing:

- 2006-2007 District Assessment of Writing reveals that our students exceed district averages with 64% Fully Meeting or Exceeding Expectations. (gender balance - 67% of girls vs. 61% of boys in those categories)
- 2006-2007 District Assessment of Writing also reveals that in the Not Yet Category at 4% ESR is lower than the district average

At ESR, not only did we exceed our expectations in the District Assessments but also in the Fundamental Skills Assessment (FSA) which is a provincial measure of school growth! The FSA is administered to Grade 4 and Grade 7 students. Results are indicated in the following chart. The chart shows the percentage of students Meeting/Exceeding Expectations.

### Provincial Evidence of Change 2003-2008

#### Reading:

- 2007-2008 FSA Reading scores indicated that 88% of our grade 4 students and 89% of our grade 7 students were Fully Meeting or Exceeding Expectations in Reading.

#### Writing:

- 2007-2008 FSA Writing scores indicated that 92% of our grade 4 students and 85% of our grade 7 students were Fully Meeting or Exceeding Expectations in Writing.

### Fundamental Skills Assessment Scores:

| Year --        | School 03/04 | School 04/05 | School 05/06 | School 06/07 | School 07/08 |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Reading</b> |              |              |              |              |              |
| Grade 4        | 79%          | 88%          | 89%          | 82%          | <b>88%</b>   |
| Grade 7        | 72%          | 82%          | 78%          | 79%          | <b>89%</b>   |
| <b>Writing</b> |              |              |              |              |              |
| Grade 4        | 91%          | 92%          | 94%          | 79%          | <b>92%</b>   |
| Grade 7        | 90%          | 97%          | 96%          | 97%          | <b>85%</b>   |

Our goal is to continue to further increase the number of students meeting or exceeding expectations (at all grade levels). With that "end in mind", E.S. Richards Elementary School has applied for, and received, several grants. In 2007/2008 we received the "Science in Action Award". Our teachers received ongoing workshops on Eco Systems. Each teacher was given science kits as well as classroom funds for an ecologically based field study.

Funds from our various grants have helped us to supplement our high interest library books, books for boys, and books on social responsibility. Our previous Achieve BC Project Grants as well as our Network of Performance Based Schools Grants have helped to keep us focused on the reading/writing and thinking connection.

The enthusiastic response of both parents and teachers has encouraged students to join our reading programs and enjoy the wonder of books. The teachers have worked together and have chosen reading materials in order to increase book choices for our Home Reading Program. They also collated, leveled and centralized our books in order to maximize our available resources. Every week, as part of our Home Reading Program, we have a Primary and Intermediate contest draw with a variety of prizes. Our incentive program has given a "boost" to our more reluctant readers. We have been impressed with the increasing number of students who have been reading winners!

We also continue to focus on our school goal of social responsibility. We have had very successful school wide workshops to teach students how to stand up for each other and for themselves, while at the same time learning how to treat others with respect. As a staff, when dealing with conflict resolution, we focus on "Stand By Me" language and strategies. The more that the strategies are reviewed and talked about, the more the strategies become part of your child's way of dealing with daily life. We appreciate the home support that has been given. We are finding that pre-school children in some families are using the language of "Stand By Me"!

### SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

**Our Code of Conduct is simply:  
Respect Yourself, Respect Others and Respect this Place.**

Each student receives a handbook early in the year. Teachers work with their students to assist them with becoming familiar with our school beliefs and expectations. "Stand By Me" strategies are incorporated into our Student Planner and our Student Handbook. Please ask your child to share with you the information found in their handbook.

Our students show their enthusiasm for helping. Students are actively involved in a great number of volunteer activities that range from office monitors to monitors in the primary classrooms. The Student Council was instrumental in organizing and collecting food for our annual Christmas Food Drive. Our Student Council also organized several Spirit Days.

We have continued with the Buddy Program and adapted our Student Peer Support Program. These programs foster social responsibility for the intermediate students while addressing the specific needs of our younger students. In addition, these programs are a model of appropriate behaviour for all students.

### SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is an integral part of our school. Our PAC and our School Planning Council (SPC) have been invaluable in supporting our many initiatives. They have collaborated with us on many issues and have helped to support us financially as we focus on our school goals.

The parents worked with the Student Council and organized the yearly Christmas Food Drive and Spirit Days. They also organized hot lunches and cake walks which all fostered both school and community spirit. The PAC has supported the school through its generous financial donations. The money allocated by PAC has been used to enrich our Library, help to support our field trips and help to support our Arts Programs. In addition, the PAC has given funding for our school wide workshops ("Stand By Me"). The workshops are designed to enhance our students' social responsibility. Our "Friends of Africa Club" has encouraged social awareness, social justice and social responsibility as children find ways to express their concern for those less fortunate.

The PAC has also been generous in their donations to our "Friends of Africa Club". We currently support an orphaned child through both our donations and PAC donations to the Watoto Choir.

In October 2007, our grade 7 leadership team organized an Autumn Festival as a fundraising event for clean water projects in Uganda. All events and activities had an African flavor, from eating fresh pineapple to a walk through a Safari Jungle. In partnership with CIDA, our school raised over \$1500 for bio-sand water filters and pipelines in Uganda.

Throughout the year, our children at ESR have sent many wonderful letters, valentines and booklets to children at Greenhill Village School in Uganda. We have also received letters and artwork back from the children at Greenhill. It has been a wonderful exchange of friendship.

During June, members of our F.O.A. club became interested in helping to fight the spread of malaria in Africa. Through a unique display of mosquito netting, hippos and information posters, our school has generously donated enough funds to purchase 40+ malaria mosquito nets! This amount will be equally matched by ACTS. In September 2008, a Canadian Team will be stationed in Uganda and will purchase and deliver 80+ nets to Village families for their children. The team will send us photographs and letters so that our children at ESR can see the direct results of their giving. The "Friends of Africa Club" has become a meaningful way for our children to connect with another culture and to make a positive difference.

### SPORTS

Our outstanding athletic involvement and accomplishments are further expressions of student, staff and community commitment and support.

**Way to go E.S. Richards Elementary School!**

### THANK YOU

**Thanks to our corporate sponsors for our reading prizes!  
Many thanks to everyone who helped to make a difference!  
The 2007/2008 school year was another incredibly active and successful year. It was a year of change, learning and celebrations!**

### SCHOOL INFORMATION

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