

# ASHERN CENTRAL SCHOOL

## Report to the Community 2006—2007

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## Highlights on School Priorities and Initiatives from the 2006—2007 School Year

As part of our continuing efforts to keep our communities informed we are pleased to share with you some of our successes and challenges faced during the last school year. We will also take this opportunity to share with you some of the highlights of our school plan for the 2007-2008 school year. As you are probably aware, it is very difficult to change priorities each and every year and the reason for this is that each and every year the priorities are to improve ways and means of delivering educational services to our children. The school plan for the 2007-2008 school year will still be available for viewing at any time after the end of October 2007. You are free to contact the school at that time if you would like a copy.

Some of our priorities for the 2006-2007 year were to increase Literacy and Numeracy levels at all grade levels, to help students learn how to take ownership of and for their education and performance, to increase the use of technology in classes and to increase our Apprenticeship options. The successes and remaining challenges will now be detailed.

### Successes

- All students were involved in the learning of strategies to help them improve their abilities in both Literacy and Numeracy. Students learned how to draft, edit and proof read material before it was handed in as a report or project. Proper vocabulary and terminology were used, taught and reinforced at all levels.
- All staff were given the opportunity to network with other teachers in and out of our division for the purpose of improving their technology and teaching skills. These were set up as training sessions and sharing sessions and everyone learned from their experiences.
- Our Fall barbeque was a great success, with well over 200 students and parents coming to share some relaxed time with the teachers. This was such a success that we are hoping to make it an annual event.
- Our senior girls volleyball team won the Provincial Tournament this year and they were great model citizens of Ashern Central on the road to their glory. One of our senior students won the annual divisional Proficiency Award this year as well and she brought the trophy home to Ashern.

## School Profile

Ashern Central School is a regional school that provides educational services for grade 5 to grade 12 students from the town of Ashern as well as several surrounding and outlying communities. As of the end of September 2006, there were 272 students enrolled here, with 83 of them in grades 5-8 and 189 in grades 9-12.

Our teaching staff for the 2006-2007 school year included a full time Principal, a 1/4 time Vice Principal, a 3/4 time guidance counsellor, 1.5 resource teachers and 19 classroom teachers. In addition to this professional staff, we had a full time librarian, 2 office personnel, 4 caretakers, several educational assistants and several bus drivers that all provided positive support so that our students could all achieve some level of success.

Ashern Central School offers an Academic program and 2 Vocational programs (Power Mechanics and Business Education) to the high school students and all of these courses are very popular. There are times when we even have to ask some students to wait for a term or two for entrance into these programs to prevent overcrowding.

## Success cont'd:

Whether it was for the volleyball, the Proficiency Awards, any other sports, the Band program or any other activity, there would not be this level of success without the assistance of parents, coaches, drivers and other community volunteers that give freely of their time for no other reason other than that they are willing, We all thank you so much for your efforts.

- Our grade 11 and 12 French students went on a marvelous trip to Italy and France. What an experience.

- We once again had a great graduation ceremony, with 28 of our students reaching varying levels of success. Several of our students graduated with well over 30 credits, even though only 28 are needed. We also had a couple of students graduate with Dual Diplomas. What an effort.

- Our Apprenticeship program has grown with more students and more community businesses interested in becoming part of our school programs. We must again thank the community for their assistance.

- Our grade 7 and grade 8 students went to Minneapolis and everyone enjoyed it tremendously.

- Our grade 6 class started a community based recycling program. The students all worked very hard to accomplish this and a small part of the community got on board. We are hoping to continue this in the new year.

- Our grade 8 class started a Positive Playground Program, where the grade 8 students developed, organized and ran activities all year for the grade 5-8 classes. This was also a very successful venture and one of the successes was shown in the fact that there were fewer and fewer office visits when these activities were running. We are again hoping to continue this activity in the new year.

- All of our grade 5 to grade 8 students had a unique learning experience when we brought in a guest speaker to teach the Seven Virtues. The students loved it. This program was brought in as an addition to our Health and Guidance classes

- The Grade 12 Provincial Exam results are finally in and our students have done very well. The ACS students are either meeting or exceeding the Provincial averages in several of the identified areas in both Pre-Calculus and English. Well done!

## Challenges

- We will continue to work very hard on trying to get the students to take ownership and responsibility of and for their education and daily performance.
- We will continue to model and reinforce positive behaviors and attitudes with all of our students.
- We will continue to help our students strive for their own level of excellence. High school has to become, in their minds, more than something that they just have to finish.
- We will continue to increase the level of exposure to technology for both our teachers and students.
- We will continue to try to offer a wider selection of courses at the high school level, even though this may have to be through the expanded use of Web ct courses and Apprenticeship opportunities.

## Priorities for 2007—2008

We will continue to focus on the challenges identified earlier, as they are things that will always require time and effort. In an attempt to continue on this course, our 2007-2008 plan will have the following as priorities:

-We will work towards increasing the Literacy and Numeracy levels of all of our students.

-We will work towards an increase of the use of technology in our classrooms for both staff and students.

-We will work towards increasing the availability of high school courses, even though this may be through the Apprenticeship and Web CT programs.

-We will work towards helping students learn how to take ownership and responsibility of and for their education and performance.

-We will have community meetings to discuss the implementation of multi grade classes at the grade 5 to grade 8 levels.



**Sarah Schwartz won the Lakeshore Proficiency Award in May 2007**