

## ANNUAL TRUSTEE ZONE REPORT

Trustee Bailey	School Year: 2022/2023
<p><b>School Names/Zone:</b></p> <p><b>Ladysmith Secondary School, North Oyster School, Ladysmith Intermediate School, Ladysmith Primary School</b></p>	
<p><b>Annual Highlights:</b></p> <p><b><i>North Oyster:</i></b></p> <p>North Oyster is located in the Yellow Point area (south end) in a beautiful, rural setting. The school has a lot of demands. It is a dual track school which can have its own challenges as they navigate two languages in one school. Additionally, they have a significant Indigenous population with most of the students coming from the Stz'uminus Nation.</p> <p>North Oyster experienced two floods this past year and the work is just finally being completed. Construction has been a bit of a hinderance for the learning environment. The staff and parents are glad it is coming to an end.</p> <p><b>Activities (Extra Curricular)</b></p> <p>Students have been able to participate in Cross Country, Volleyball and Football with much success.</p> <p><b>Outdoor Education:</b></p> <p>North Oyster appears to be thriving in this area of learning. The location of the school helps, as they are surrounded by forests and have two large fields as well. The school has received some funding for French Immersion in the area of outdoor education. In January, they will be receiving lessons on how to make a tent and fire making. This will be taught by an outdoor education teacher from NDSS. The French Immersion kindergarten classes have been embracing the location. Every morning from 8:30 until 10:30 the students spend their time outdoors and, in the forest, where they do activities and creative play. The teacher who has spearheaded outdoor education for kindergarten students has worked very hard to connect indigenous learning to the curriculum. It is wonderful to see them utilizing the location and helping students feel that important connection to land.</p> <p><b><i>Ladysmith Secondary</i></b></p> <p>When you walk into Ladysmith Secondary you feel such positive energy and a strong sense of community.</p> <p>They faced flooding recently, in one wing of the school which has been taken care of in an expedient manner. They will also soon have gender neutral bathrooms and I was able to do a viewing of the construction. There will be floor to ceiling doors and two of the six cubicles will have urinals. There is a wash area in the centre of the washrooms. The students and staff are looking forward to when it is usable.</p> <p>A standout for Ladysmith is their Land Based Learning course, which encompasses indigenous</p>	

teachings, language and cultural activities. It was born from “Nutsumaat Syaays” which was a multi phased project that allowed students to learn cultural practices such as weaving, carving and the local history of the Stz’uminus culture. Every class they start with a prayer and song. This class is open to all students, and it is wonderful to see many non-indigenous students participating.

Anti Racism is something that Ladysmith Secondary has taken on with the Intermediate school. The three administrators have put their hearts and minds together and have jointly organized video showings of films that focus on racism. Together, the three administrators went to an Anti-racism conference. In addition to collecting data for the ministry around schools’ needs to support anti-racism education, there was also a great deal of learning and sharing of ideas. In the coming months, this team will be working with the school to take on projects around anti-racism to help foster a more inclusive and just school community.

### **Activities/ Extra Curricular**

#### **Truth & Reconciliation Week**

Students and staff united as a family this week to continue their journey towards Truth and Reconciliation. As a school, they had the opportunity to engage in several cultural activities, which culminated with a school wide circle with traditional singing and dancing.

#### **Drama**

The drama program at LSS has been one of their shining examples of staff and student dedication to the arts. Last year was no exception. The Improv team, which has gone to the Nationals more than several times, went again after both the junior and senior teams finishing second on the Island. They placed third at the national championships!! It should be noted the immense commitment made by the teacher who brought Improve to LSS. They have practices at 7:00 am in the morning and in the afternoon after school as well.

#### **Sports**

Ladysmith has had a history of being involved and successful in the area of sports. They have teams in cross country, aquatics (they are right beside the town pool), basketball and volleyball. Their teams did very well this past year with the junior girls cross country placing 10<sup>th</sup> in the province at the provincial

### ***Ladysmith Intermediate***

Ladysmith Intermediate welcomed back their former principal Dionte Jelks. He is very happy to be back at the school.

Ladysmith Intermediate is a very old structure, and we are hoping that the approval for seismic will turn into the approval for a new school which will more than likely be build at the old Davis Road elementary school.

Ladysmith Intermediate, like Ladysmith Secondary exudes community involvement. I was able to sit in on a PAC meeting and learn about the immense fundraising they do to support the school in their activities and events.

On Mondays, Ladysmith Intermediate has “Tiger Pride assembles where they give out awards to

students who demonstrate compassion, kindness and empathy. This is a wonderful way to recognize those who demonstrate those attributes as well as encourage others to do the same.

### **Extra-Curricular**

#### **The Arts:**

The Arts are alive at Ladysmith Intermediate. In October, Pitch Black Radio Theatre production performed “Dark Whispers”, which was directed and run by Mr. Michalopopolous and Mr. Paugh. It was a resounding success. Prior to this, in April, they presented “A Slightly Shakespeare Festival” which was also successful. The time and energy put into these performances should be recognized.

#### **Sports**

Students successfully participated in cross country and basketball and track and field.

#### **Graduation from grade Seven:**

I was able to attend the Grade Seven graduation which was held at Transfer Beach at their outdoor auditorium. It was very lovely, with community leaders present to witness the end of this stage of the student learning. The staff organized a beautiful celebration, and it was a great closure to the students’ elementary years.

### ***Ladysmith Primary***

Ladysmith Primary is a unique school in the district as it is the only grade K-3 school. It has a population of 305 students and is situated beside Ladysmith Secondary.

As a result of the age level of this school, they do not participate in organized sports but do their own cross country and because they are located next to the high school, they use the LSS track and do their own track and field within their school. They meet at 8:05 in the morning on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s. Swimming lessons will be starting for the grade three age children, and they are very fortunate as it is only a three-minute walk to the pool. Grade One and Two started their lessons earlier in the month.

In previous years, they have had an Indigenous Cultural Club during recess, but it has not been running this year.

The school had a family Halloween dance this past October and it was a success. Once again, community is very present like the other schools in Ladysmith.

Multiple spaces are rented out to Inquiring Little Minds, which is a day care. They have two day-cares, one that is for 3 years of age to school age and one for before and after school day care.

I have only been able to visit this school once, but I have exchanged emails. When I visited, I was welcomed with beautiful artwork in the hallways and a welcoming staff. The principal, Shonna Sneddon loves the age level of this school. On a final note, Ladysmith Primary has had approval to do the expansion of Ladysmith Primary. This is great news for the community of Ladysmith.