

St. Matthew's School Receives Inclusive Education Award

Date: February 10, 2023

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Today, Inclusion Canada Newfoundland and Labrador presented its Inclusive Education Award to a school that has shown an exceptional spirit and commitment to creating a space that is welcoming and inclusive for students with an intellectual disability.

Inclusion is a way of thinking and acting that allows every individual to feel accepted, valued and safe. Inclusive school communities are those with an open, welcoming attitude that respects every individual while celebrating differences and diversity.

This year, Inclusion Canada is thrilled to present the Inclusive Education Award to St. Matthews Elementary in St. John's. The school's application gave many examples of how they go above and beyond to appreciate each child. St. Matthews Elementary provides effective support and accommodations to ensure equitable opportunities for students, allowing them to see and feel the encouragement of love, acceptance and inclusion within the school community.

St. Matthews Elementary has already qualified for funding so they may upgrade their adaptive equipment in their play area and ensure a safe, caring, inclusionary playground. The school uses adaptive equipment during field trips, a Friendship Club where students of all ages and stages spend time together, and a breakfast and lunch program, which provides a safe place for children to interact with their peers. Teachers volunteer after school for activities that allows students of all abilities to have access to physical activities and participate in an eight-week session at Easter Seals where para-athletes teach students to play a number of different sports. St. Matthew's holds an awareness week for neurodiverse learners who participate in spirit days and different activities that help celebrate each other.

Inclusion Canada NL believes that inclusion in education leads to a well-rounded and inclusive life in the community for all students. Each year, our organization is proud to honour a school that has embodied the spirit of inclusion by creating a welcoming environment and the organization is thrilled to present this year's award to St. Matthew's School. Inclusive schools build inclusive communities that celebrate diversity and the unique contributions that we all offer.

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