African Nova

Scotian

Student Support Worker Program

# Introduction

Enhancing the educational experience for our African Nova Scotian Students is a priority at Brookhouse Elementary. In order to assist us in this endeavor, the HRCE has provided us with an African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker (ANSSSW). We are excited to be working with our ANSSSW, Charmaine Willis. **Mrs. Willis is with us every Monday, Tuesday and every second Wednesday.**

## **The ANS SSW role has four elements:**

## **1. Home and School Liaison**: Building relationships with families to build a cultural bridge between the school and home. This can be done by:

## Making positive phone calls home.

## Inviting parents in to discuss their child’s progress, and work together to

## figure out how both the school and parents can increase student success.

## To inform parents about all the great and wonderful ways their children are

## developing academically and contributing to their school community.

**2. Cultural Identity**: Students who have a strong cultural identity, will have a stronger academic identity. This can be supported by:

 Creating a cultural youth group where students have the opportunity to develop and/or expand upon their leadership skills and knowledge of their cultural history.

 Working with school administration and the students to provide speakers, films and engaging discussion to build cultural identity.

**3. Classroom Support**: The ANSSSW will support students in the classroom.

 Being present in the building as students are walking through the door and greeting them

 Engaging students in the lesson, by supporting them with what they are being asked to do.

 Being accessible when students are feeling overwhelmed and need someone to listen.

 4**. Student Advocacy**

 Communicating how a student learns to administration.

 Representations matters—having an adult who looks like them for support.

 Supporting students who sometimes have challenges fitting in or feel uncomfortable in their environment.

 The ANS SSW will reach out to school administration to discuss possible solutions to help the student be successful.

  

For more information or to discuss how Mrs. Willis can support your child, please feel free to reach out to her.

