



October 14, 2010

Our Report Cards are Changing

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s),

The Ministry of Education has introduced a new policy document entitled Growing Success that directs the assessment, evaluation, and reporting of student achievement in Ontario schools.

One of the first changes that you will notice is in the reporting and communication of your child's progress and achievement. In the past, elementary students in grades 1-8 received three report cards – November (Term 1), March (Term 2) and June (Term 3). With the implementation of Growing Success, students in our district in grades 1-8 will now receive an **Elementary Progress Report** on November 4th, followed by two **Elementary Provincial Report Cards**, the first on February 2nd and the second on June 29th.

The **Elementary Progress Report** provides an early indication of a child's progress and does not contain grades or percentages. The progress report has two areas of focus. The first is the development of six learning skills (responsibility, organization, independent work, collaboration, initiative, and self-regulation). Each will be reported as "excellent", "good", "satisfactory", or "needs improvement". In addition, the progress report indicates how well a child is progressing towards the achievement of the curriculum expectations. For all subject areas, teachers will check whether students are: (1) Progressing with Difficulty; (2) Progressing Well, or (3) Progressing Very Well. The N/A (not applicable) box will be checked for subjects in which instruction did not take place. Students will receive teacher comments on their learning skills and in their overall progress in subject areas.

Ministry of Education policy focuses on the use of the **Elementary Progress Report** to conduct rich discussions and proactive interviews or conferences with parents and students to establish a positive tone for the remainder of the year, reflect upon progress to date and set next steps for improvement.

The **Elementary Provincial Report Card** in February and June will contain grades/marks along with comments and next steps related to the achievement of the curriculum expectations. Evaluation of the six learning skills/ work habits will remain a focus in both report cards.

For more information regarding the Ministry of Education's Growing Success document and overview of the provincial assessment, evaluation and reporting of achievement policy, visit: www.edu.gov.on.ca. For detailed information regarding the progress report, including questions and answers for parents, please visit <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/nr/09.12/faqs.html>

Please feel free to contact your child's principal if you have further questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barrie Hammond".

Barrie Hammond
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board