



## PORTLAND ESTATES SCHOOL

### COMMUNICATION FOR LEARNING PLAN 2016-2017

The **assessment** and **evaluation** of student learning are aligned with the learning outcomes framework as contained in the Department of Education curriculum documents. Teachers at our school use these provincial outcomes documents as their primary resource to instruct the students.

- **Outcomes** are the knowledge, skills and attitudes students are to demonstrate as a result of their cumulative learning experiences in the primary-graduation continuum.
- These are broken into **General Curriculum Outcomes** (statements identifying what students are expected to know and be able to do on completion of a course of studies), **Key-stage Curriculum Outcomes** (statements that identify what students are to know and be able to do by the end of grades 3, 6, 9 and 12) and **Specific Curriculum Outcomes** (statements identifying what students are expected to know and be able to do at each grade level).

The terms assessment and evaluation can be defined in the following manner:

- **Assessment** is the systematic process of gathering information on student learning.
- **Evaluation** is the process of analyzing, reflecting upon and summarizing assessment information, and making judgments or decisions based upon the information gathered.

There will be times when students at various grade levels will be involved in large scale assessments. These could be at the School, Board, or Provincial level. The purpose of these assessments is to gather data that will help to support individual student growth as well as to inform schools of their strengths and areas that need continued development. Parents will be informed when large scale assessments will take place.

The optimum way for students to learn varies. For this reason teachers use a variety of assessment tools and strategies to assess student learning. The following are examples of assessment strategies teachers may be using during the course of the school year in order to ensure a balanced assessment:

- Formal and informal observations (written records/checklists)
- Portfolios (a collection of student and or teacher selected work)
- Running records (used to assess reading level)
- Rubrics (specific criteria that the class sets for an activity or piece of work against which theirs will be measured)

- Daily work samples
- Plays/skits/performances
- Reports, projects, presentations
- Tests/Quizzes
- Conferencing
- Journals (informal writing)
- Class trips/special events/concerts
- Self and peer evaluation (students reflect on their work and ask for feedback from peers)
- Models

#### **Parent Concern Protocol:**

Parents/Guardians who have a concern about their child's progress or any other issue regarding their child should first contact the child's classroom (or subject) teacher. Following this, parents/guardians who wish may contact the principal.

#### **Planning for Students with Special Needs:**

Portland Estates School is committed to supporting the learning needs of all students. The school has a Program Planning Team which meets on a regular basis to discuss children who have been referred to this team. Portland Estates School has the support of a resource teacher, learning centre teacher, literacy and math specialists, school psychologist, speech-language pathologist, Social Worker, Autism Team and other professionals who can be members of the Program Planning Team as deemed necessary. Parents are always involved in the program planning process for their child.

**Homework:** The purpose of homework is to reinforce skills, extend on curriculum content covered in class and communicate to parents/guardians regarding curriculum and student achievement. Assignments should be purposeful, engaging and of high quality. In grades Primary through Grades 2, teachers have established a nightly Home Reading Program. The books, that are teacher selected, will be at the "Just Right Level" for the child. Students, in consultation with their teachers, are expected to complete work missed during absences. Please call your child's teacher if concerns arise regarding homework assignments.

**Report Card:** We are presently using a Provincial report card developed in consultation with school boards, teachers, parents and students. The report card includes a Learner Profile which indicates students' social development and work habits. In grades 1-6 a letter grade indicates the achievement of expected learning outcomes as well as anecdotal comments on each subject area as prescribed by the Public School Program. Primary reports consist of anecdotal comments only. Reports for students on an Individual Program Plan (IPP) are written in terms of the specific outcomes developed for the child.

***If we are to have real peace, we must begin with the children.***

***-Mahatma Gandhi***



***School Calendar of Events 2016-2017***

- September 29, 2016 Curriculum Night
- Hold and Secure
- October 3, 2016 Fire Drill
- October 3-7, 2016 Grade 3 Reading & Writing Assessment
- Grade 4 Math Assessment
- October 2016 Grade Two Math Assessment
- October 10, 2016 Thanksgiving – No School
- October 11, 2016 Bus Evacuation Drill
- October 20, 2016 Bus Evacuation Drill (raindate)
- October 27, 2016 School Dance
- October 28, 2017 Provincial Conference
- November 10, 2016 Remembrance Day ceremony
- November 11, 2016 Remembrance Day
- November 14, 2016 Assessment & Evaluation Day
- November 24, 2016 Report Cards home
- November 30, 2016 We Day!
- Parent –Teacher evening – 6-8 pm
- December 1, 2016 PD- am
- Parent-teacher pm

- December 3, 2016            Cookies with Santa
  - December 13, 2016        Holiday Concert
  - December 21, 2016        Last Day before Winter Break
  - January 3, 2017            First Day back
  - February 13-17, 2017      Readathon Week
  - February 14, 2017        Valentine's Day
  - February 15, 2017        Lockdown Drill
  - February 24, 2017        Bingo
  - March 13-17, 2017        March Break
  - March 22, 2017            Assessment & Evaluation Day
  - March 30, 2017            Reports go home
  - April 6, 2017              PD-am
  - Parent-Teacher pm and 6-8 pm
  - April 22, 2017            Consignment Sale
  - May 9-11, 2017            Musical
  - May 19, 2017              PD Day
  - June 2, 2017                School Dance
  - June 6, 2017                Fire Drill
  - June 22, 2017              Field Day
  - June 23, 2017              Field Day (Raindate)
  - June 28, 2017              Recognition Ceremony
  - June 29, 2017              Assessment & Evaluation Day
  - June 30, 2017              Last Day of School
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- October 24- NSTU Provincial Conference Day (No classes)
  - November 17 – AM-School-based PD Day/ PM- Parent Teacher Interviews (No classes)
  - December 8- 1<sup>st</sup> Term Report Cards go home
  - February 16- Viola Desmond Day (No classes)
  - April 22- AM-School-based PD Day/ PM- Parent Teacher Interviews (No classes)

- May 15- School-based PD Day (No classes)
- June 26- Grade 6 Closing
- June 30- Final Reports sent home