

# Saanich Schools

January 2016

Dear Saanich Parents/Guardians:

## **FSA - Foundation Skills Assessment**

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) will be given to all grade 4 and grade 7 students throughout the province in January and February, 2016. FSA is a set of tests in reading, writing and numeracy that measure important skills set out in the BC curriculum. The grade 4 tests, for example, cover skills taught from the start of the primary years through to the beginning of grade 4.

This assessment is only one of many indicators of how a child is doing in relation to provincial learning outcomes, with the most important measures being those described on your child's report card. The FSA provides a snapshot of student achievement at a specific point in time.

We would like you to know the following:

- The FSA will include written and on-line tests. Students will complete the multiple-choice questions for numeracy and reading on-line in the school's computer lab. The writing component and part of the reading and numeracy components will be completed by students in the classroom.
- Principals will notify parents of any student whose Individual Education Plan documents a rationale for exclusion from FSA.
- Parents may request that Principals excuse their children from the FSA only in the event of family emergency, extended illness or extenuating circumstances. Contact your Principal if any of these criteria apply to your child.
- Students who do not take part in one or more of the components of FSA will be scored as "performance level unknown".

Please contact your school Principal if you have any questions.

Yours truly,



Mark Fraser  
Assistant Superintendent

MF/skd

Saanich Schools

