



"Strong Beginnings"

September 5, 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

This letter is to inform you, that Strong Beginnings will be taking place on Friday, September 13 and Monday, September 16. **There are no regular classes on these two days. There are also no buses running for elementary students these two days.** Your child will be attending a one hour assessment meeting on only one of these two days and will be dismissed following their assessment.

We are looking forward to meeting with our students during *Strong Beginnings*. Assessment is the foundation for planning and instruction to accommodate students as we work to address the standards and outcomes of our curricula. All of the information we gather will help us to get to know your child better. It will allow us to plan for each student in a way that builds on strengths and promotes academic growth.

You will receive your child's assessment details from their teacher.

As of Wednesday, September 4th, please visit <http://arb.schoolappointments.com> to book your child/children's appointments. **As of 10:00pm Thursday, September 12th, online booking will be closed.** Please make sure to schedule your appointment before that time.

Attached to this letter, you will find helpful and step-by-step information on how to book online using this program.

Should you not have access to the internet or should you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school at 204-424-5607 or Mrs. Stoesz & Mrs. Stalman at arb@srsd.ca

If you plan to wait at the school while your child is with his/her teacher, we invite you to go to the designated area in the school where refreshments will be served and information about school initiatives will be available.

We are very grateful for your support of this project. The opportunity to meet with children this way greatly enhances our learning about them and being able to address learning and curricular issues early in the school year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Meilleur
Principal



STRONG BEGINNINGS

What is *Strong Beginnings*?

It is an assessment project designed to enhance the beginning of the year assessment, which begins in all classrooms on the first day of school and continues throughout the year. The *Strong Beginnings* activities are not tests. They are tasks designed to help us to get to know our students and how they learn in order to know where to begin with instruction.

How will it work?

On either Friday, September 13 or Monday, September 16, each student from Kindergarten to Grade Eight will attend school by appointment for 60 minutes to participate in assessment activities in literacy and numeracy. During this time, they will meet individually or in small groups with their teacher. This is an opportunity for teachers to gather data about each child's learning that may not be evident during whole class assessment activities. It is also a chance to further develop the teacher-student relationship.

What will teachers learn through *Strong Beginnings*?

As a result of individual or small group assessment in an atmosphere of support and encouragement, teachers will collect first hand information on each of the children about:

- ◆ How they learn
- ◆ Their confidence as learners
- ◆ The extent to which they possess the learning strategies needed for the new grade
- ◆ Their literacy and numeracy skills
- ◆ Their engagement in school and learning
- ◆ Setting individual goals for personal success

How will the assessment information be used?

- ◆ To enhance teachers' instructional planning
- ◆ To improve curriculum implementation in Seine River School Division
- ◆ Your child's numeracy and literacy results will be shared with you at oral reports in October/November

Please contact the school if you have any questions.