

**D**uring the 2009 – 2010 school year, Seine River School Division will be implementing changes to our assessment and reporting practices with our students and their families.

To support these changes in our practices, monthly newsletter inserts will be shared with you to facilitate common understandings of the research behind these changes, and how we can support each other as we learn together how assessment and reporting practices are changing locally in our school division, in our province and globally throughout the world.

## What is the Difference between *Assessment* and *Evaluation*?

*Assessment* is the process that teachers use to collect information (data) on student performance. This process includes observation of students, talking and listening to students, and looking at student's work; such as projects, and assignments. Assessment begins the first day of school when the student enters the classroom and continues until the end of the school year. Good assessment is ongoing, occurs over time, and uses a wide variety of ways to demonstrate what the students have learned. With their students, teachers review student work and collect selected work samples that clearly reflect each student's learning journey. Assessment allows teachers, students and parents to work together to establish where students are in their learning, where they need to go and how best to get there.

Alternatively, *evaluation* involves interpreting and judging the information from the student data, and assigning grades. End-of-term evaluation for reporting (making judgments on that data) takes place four times a year. In our Kindergarten to grade 8 schools, teachers and students will be sharing assessment information at oral reporting sessions twice this year and summative written report cards will be sent out twice this year in January and in June. For High Schools, the reporting processes will remain the same with a written interim and final report card with several opportunities for students and parents/guardians to share together the learning that has occurred over the assessment period.

Ultimately, our education goal is to assist our students to understand what they know as learners and how they learn best to be able to demonstrate their learning. Assessment gives students, teachers and their families the opportunity to work together and celebrate success.

**Source:** Adapted by the author from *Setting and Using Criteria*, Kathleen Gregory, Caren Cameron, Anne Davies, Connections Publishing, 1997.

