



Message from the Director - Dr. Jennifer Adams **Report Card Time! (November)**

By now, parents with children in grades 1 to 8 have received their first formal report indicating their child's progress for the 2011–2012 school year. It's an important time for discussions with your child and with your child's teacher(s).

Students in the OCDSB are performing well in relation to their counterparts throughout the province. Last year's provincial assessment results demonstrated that OCDSB students performed as well or better in 5 of the 6 categories of primary and junior reading, writing, and mathematics. OCDSB students also outperformed students across the province in Grade 9 Academic mathematics and on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). [Click here for more information on Student Achievement in the OCDSB.](#)

As a parent, what you want to know is how your child is doing in school. The Progress Report Card provides an early indication of your child's progress towards meeting the expectations defined in the Ontario curriculum and perhaps most importantly, on specific learning skills and work habits.

The six learning skills/work habits - responsibility, organization, independent work, collaboration, initiative and self-regulation, are essential for your child's success in school and later in life. The Progress Report Card provides parents with an opportune time to help children understand the importance of developing these skills. It makes for a great conversation because parents can give examples of how important these skills are at home, in the workplace and in the community. Our teachers and administrators understand the important role of ongoing communication with students and parents. Both you and your child should have a clear understanding of what he/she has learned, his/her strengths and next steps for improvement. A conversation with your child's teacher will establish the means of communication that works best - phone calls, notes in agendas, comments on tests and assignments, e-mail, and web pages. When parents and teachers communicate well together, and the child is kept in the communication loop, the child's learning benefits greatly.

International Reach

Your child's progress is part of a bigger picture on student achievement. Did you know that Ontario is one of the highest achieving educational jurisdictions in the world? Along with 65 countries, Ontario participates in international assessments in reading, mathematics and science. The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) measures the performance of 15 year olds. In 2009, Ontario was one of the top scoring jurisdictions in all three assessments, with the strongest performance in reading. Only Finland, Hong Kong - China, Shanghai - China, Korea and Singapore outscored our students. For a complete summary of PISA results visit the [EQAO website](#).

Join in the conversation. I am interested in hearing your thoughts on this or on any other topic related to teaching and learning in the OCDSB. You can send your comments to director@ocdsb.ca. I will read each submission personally.

Sincerely,

Jennifer