



230 Coalbanks Blvd. West Lethbridge, Ab – T1J 4V4 Phone: (403) 394-9076 Fax: (403) 394-9628
Mr. J. Gentile, Principal Mrs. Ainsley Croil, Vice-Principal

To: Grade Four Parents

From: Mr. Joey Gentile

Re: Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Surveys

From mid-January through February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. Parents in Grades four will receive a survey in the mail from Alberta Education. (All teachers and students in those same grades complete the surveys at school as well). All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with your child's present school. These surveys provide us with current information on parent levels of satisfaction and are reviewed at the school and district levels.

In order to assist in the completion of this survey, we are providing you with the attached information on Coalbanks Elementary School. The document provides information about Coalbanks Elementary School in relation to the Accountability Pillar Survey areas, which might be helpful to parents as they complete the surveys, providing current information about the things the school provides in each area. We invite you to please keep this document as a reference as you complete the survey.

Survey results are provided to jurisdictions and schools in the late spring and are reported as part of our annual 3 Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Reports as required by the Province and District. Therefore, we encourage you to please take time to complete and return these surveys. Parents will have the option to complete the hard copy survey received in the mail or to complete the survey online. We hope you will find time to help us reflect on the various things we do at Coalbanks.

Should you have any questions or require clarification, please call the school anytime.

Sincerely,

Mr. J. Gentile
Principal



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CATEGORY 1: SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS

Parents are asked about their level of satisfaction that students are safe at school, are learning the importance of caring for others, are learning respect for others and are treated fairly in school.

At Coalbanks Elementary School we:

- Teach and provide opportunities for students to develop leadership skills (Leadership Club to be starting in February, various leadership opportunities throughout the school year)
- Teach the importance of respect through COBRA (Citizenship, Outstanding, Bravery, Responsible, Academic), emphasizing the importance of mutual respect throughout our school.
- Teach bully prevention in health classes and through the CARE team (Teacher Counsellor, Making Connections Worker, FNMI Liaison).
- Provide safety education through Kids in the Know.
- Provide counseling to support students and families in need.
- Schedule adult supervision is provided before school on the playground starting at 8:10
- Teachers donate time to provide extra-curricular activities for children, including: choirs, noon hour activities, sports teams, field trips, etc. We also have the following clubs for student to participate in: Robotics Club, Coalbanks Cheerleading (Slither and Venom), Green Team (recycling team).
- All staff members contribute to making Coalbanks Elementary School welcoming, warm and caring for each child, parent and visitor. Staff members greet students at their classroom doors as students enter their classrooms. Administration greets parents and students as they enter our school.
- Teachers and administrators utilize a counseling and teaching approach to student discipline with the intention of helping students to make principle-based choices and decisions.
- School-wide implementation of the Zones of Regulation.
- Locked entry way into the school building and exterior doors locked at all times to ensure student safety.

CATEGORY 2: LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Parents are asked about their level of satisfaction with the opportunity for students to receive a broad program of studies including fine arts, career, technology and health and physical education.

At Coalbanks Elementary School:

- We offer all programs required by the Alberta Program of Studies. Teachers have been exploring and becoming familiar with the new curriculum that the province has created and endorsed.



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- We provide numerous students with learning and other needs individualized instruction delivered through an Individual Program Plan or Behaviour Support Plan.
- We offer instructional programs that make learning meaningful, at the proper level, and motivating for students.
- Teachers utilize instructional approaches, which engage students in their learning, such as collaborative/cooperative learning strategies, inquiry and problem-based learning, critical and creative thinking activities, etc.
- We utilize computer technology (laptops, iPads, Padcaster, Epson boards, 3D printer, etc.) as a teaching/learning tool in our classrooms.
- Offer instructional programs in Art, Music, Health and Physical Education that includes daily physical activity (minimum of 30 minutes per day / classroom).
- Have teachers who specialize in all areas of the Alberta Curriculum.
- Extend the instructional programs to provide extra opportunities in Physical Education through extra-curricular activities such as: Grade 5 Basketball, sports day, school sports teams, etc.
- Extend the instructional programs in the arts through extra-curricular programs such as: choir, Christmas Concerts, talent assemblies, etc.

CATEGORY 3: PREPARATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, WORLD OF WORK AND CITIZENSHIP

Parents are asked about their level of satisfaction that students are taught attitudes and behaviors that will make them effective citizens and successful at work and when they finish school as lifelong learners.

At Coalbanks Elementary Community School we:

- Provide numerous leadership opportunities for students throughout the school (Lunch Leaders, Green Team, classroom responsibilities, etc.).

Strive to achieve Coalbanks Vision - *Building community through nurturing relationships and developing global, empathetic citizens.* Mission - *We will strive to nurture an inclusive environment where students learn the skills to be dynamic members of the global community.*

- Encourage student participation as citizens of their school (Student Leadership).
- Encourage students to develop and demonstrate effective work habits.
- Model for students and teach them the value of lifelong learning.
- Utilize technology as a learning tool for students and a teaching tool for teachers.
- Acknowledge and celebrate student leadership and citizenship (COBRA Award).
- Encourage and model love of reading and love of learning at school and home.



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- Create protected literacy times across grade-levels. 90 minute blocks of Language Arts for all grades.

CATEGORY 4: PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents are asked about their level of satisfaction with parental involvement in their child's school and education.

At Coalbanks Elementary School we:

- Have a School Council that meets once a month to discuss school related activities, fundraising, learning opportunities for our students, etc.
- Offer numerous daily opportunities for parents to volunteer at school.
- Listen to the parents' voices as they offer suggestions, input and feedback.
- Invite parents to participate in field trips, school functions and special events.
- Maintain an "open door policy" inviting parents to feel welcome and valued.
- Collaborate with parents in setting and achieving goals for individual students.
- Communicate with parents through newsletters, agenda books, school website, social media, goal-setting and parent-teacher conferences.

CATEGORY 5: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Parents will be asked about their perceptions that the school and district have made improvements.

At Coalbanks Elementary Community School:

- Teachers participate in District and school-based professional development and in-service activities.
- Teachers have been involved in staff development - Lucy Calkins writing and reading programs, Project Based Learning, Concept Based Curriculum, Fountas and Pinnell Reading Assessments.
- Individual teachers dedicate their own time to professional growth and development in workshops and conferences throughout the year to strengthen their teaching practice.
- Teachers and Administration participate in Generative Dialogue and Monthly Grade Level Team Meetings to help facilitate common planning.
- Teachers collaborate with grade level colleagues within the school and across the district in Collaborative Communities to share best practices and to improve the instructional programs offered at the school.



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CATEGORY 6: PROGRAM ACCESS

Parents will be asked about their satisfaction with the accessibility, effectiveness and efficiency of services and programs for their students.

At Coalbanks Elementary School we:

- Provide small group skill development sessions (Girls Group) through our Making Connections worker.
- Offer universal mental health capacity building programs through the CARE team that involves all students.
- Encourage and support healthy choices through implementing the district policy on healthy choices. Also, our district provides healthy snacks to our school on a monthly basis.
- Provide additional supports to students with specialists in Speech and Language Development, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Adapted Physical Education Specialist, Music Therapist).
- Enjoy the support and service provided by our Learning Commons Facilitator, ensuring all students have access to the Learning Commons throughout each day.
- Provide literacy intervention programs offered from K-5 involving Blitz and Levelled Literacy Interventions.
- Offer a Sensory Room available to all students who require a quiet space to self-regulate.