

## SCHOOL DISTRICT # 22 (VERNON)

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES 1401 – 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET VERNON, BC V1T 8S8  
TELEPHONE (250) 549-3331 FAX (250) 549-9200 Website: [www.sd22.bc.ca](http://www.sd22.bc.ca)

Dear Parents/Guardians of grade 4 and 7 students,

The annual Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is a province-wide assessment of BC students' academic skills that provides a snapshot of how well our students are learning the foundational skills of Reading Comprehension, Writing and Numeracy.

The main purpose of the assessment is to help the province, school districts, schools and school planning councils evaluate how well students are achieving basic skills and make plans to improve student achievement. The FSA is designed by BC educators and are linked to the provincial curriculum and provincial performance standards. The FSA will be administered from January 18 to February 26, 2010.

The Vernon School District and your school use the FSA results as one measure of achievement. Other measures include classroom assessments, teacher observations, school wide writes, PM benchmarks, WCRA (Whole Class Reading Assessment) and report cards. Schools and School Planning Councils also use surveys and other forms of evidence along with your assessment to establish school goals.

The FSA will take approximately four and a half hours to administer over a six week window. The reading and numeracy components consist of multiple choice questions and written answers. The writing section has two writing tasks – one shorter and one longer. The written section is scored in Vernon School District by our Vernon educators. Results will be shared with schools and schools share individual results with parents. The individual results are not counted towards your student's report card marks.

All students are expected to write the FSA. More information is available on the Ministry of Education website at [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa) or by contacting your school principal.



B. Rundell  
Superintendent

**A great place to learn . . .**

