



Tuesday April 3, 2018

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to be offering the Canadian Test of Basic Skills during the spring term. The Canadian Test of Basic Skills is a set of standardized tests designed to provide a measure of many of the important skills that students learn at school. The main reason Glenn Arbour administers the CTBS is to provide parents and teachers an opportunity to view a student's educational progress with a focus on some of the most important areas of the school curriculum such as language and math skills.

Teachers gain knowledge of student abilities through a variety of sources: class work, regular assessments, unit tests, conversations and conferences, and extracurricular activities. In addition to these important sources of information, the CTBS scores add another valuable perspective in the picture of educational achievement, by providing objective evidence of achievement.

The CTBS tests can help identify a student's strongest areas and the areas in which greatest improvement is needed. Tests like the CTBS are designed to make it possible to measure year to year growth.

These tests do not measure all of the important things that are learned in school. For example, the tests do not measure speaking ability, creative writing ability, achievement in art or music, nor do they measure such things as leadership quality or ability to work well with others. The test scores tell some of the story about a student's school progress, but there is much that they do not tell.

### **Description of Tests**

*The Vocabulary Test* measures how well the student knows the meanings of written words. The test requires the student to choose the best synonym for a given word from among several alternatives.

*The Reading Test* measures a student's ability to comprehend and interpret a cross-section of reading materials.

*The Total Language Score* comes from the average of four separate scores that are measures of the skills used in standard written English, (1) Spelling, (2) Capitalization, (3) Punctuation and (4) Usage and Expression.

*The Total Math Score* comes from the average of three separate scores: (1) Math Concepts and Estimation, (2) Math Problem Solving and Data Interpretation, and (3) Math Computation.

These tests will be administered in 15 to 45 minute sessions over several days during the month of April. It is also important to note that when the CTBS are administered they require a specified time limit for each section.

We look forward to conducting this testing to learn more about your child's learning profile. CTBS results will be shared with you and your child's classroom teacher by the end of May along with detailed descriptions of each score and what they mean.

We strongly encourage any absenteeism during the month of April be avoided and any appointments that may cause your child to miss school during this time be rescheduled. Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,

Lisa MacKinnon Nora Harris