

# report

## to the community



Hedges Middle School

2009-2010

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Principal: Mr. D. Kalynchuk

### Planning and Goal Setting

Input from parent advisory, our community, students, staff and the school division is recorded in formulating school goals. A community survey is reviewed to provide insights. The goal process is initiated after a review of previous goals and their success. New directions regarding student progress and social development are explored. These goals are reviewed at each reporting session.

### School Goals & Accomplishments: 2008-2009

- A professional Learning Community actively addressed "Differentiated Instruction". The learning community of school staff focused on strategies to meet the needs of all learners. This group met monthly to review articles and then implemented various strategies to support students.
- This school goal was framed around positive school connections between staff and students. Using data driven decision making students were surveyed regarding staff and the school climate. A library of videos for staff was created with educators making positive student "connections". The final spring survey reflected very positive student perceptions.
- Communicating Differentiation and assessment to Hedges, parents were the focus for this goal. Classroom newsletter and information evenings resulted in active conversation with this topic.
- Exploring new teaching practices to improve student learning was practiced by all staff. Individual staff visited colleagues to view effective classroom strategies. Staff viewed a series of teaching videos. School division coordinator visited classes and "team taught" with Language Arts teachers. Exam test scores were reviewed to focus on improvement.
- A Hedges core committee educated students in Healthy Lifestyles. The school canteen reflected healthy snacks while Nutrition Week raised awareness. Fundraising events also utilized distribution of healthy choices. This "on going" committee will focus on greater student involvement in the upcoming year.

### School Profile

Number of teachers: 16  
Number of students: 211  
Grade levels: 6-8

### Our Mission Statement

Hedges School is committed to providing students with opportunities to develop personally, socially, and academically, in a safe environment and to become lifelong learners.

### Key Programs

Special Needs Program: Gifted and Talented, French Language Instruction/Curriculum Studies, Woodworking, Foods, Nutrition, Sewing Technology Instruction.

### Unique Activities

A large variety of athletic programs, Spring Drama production, school based drop-in center, Community Kitchen, Teen Life Skills program, extensive lunch hour programs.

## **School Priorities 2009-2010**

- A positive school climate will be created to promote positive “connections” with school staff.
- ICT development will be explored with staff to enhance and increase understanding of student outcomes.
- Healthy Lifestyles core committee will expand its focus to improve student awareness of healthy living choices.
- Sustainability program will be developed to focus on recycling and resource management.
- Student assessment strategies that engage students in directing their own learning.

## **School Goals & 2009-2010**

1. A positive school climate will be created to promote positive “connections” with school staff.
2. ICT development will be explored with staff to enhance and increase understanding of student outcomes.
3. Healthy Lifestyles core committee will expand its focus to improve student awareness of healthy living choices.
4. Sustainability program will be developed to focus on recycling and resource management.
5. Staff working collaboratively and developing common assessment strategies for implementation

# 2008-2009 School Assessment Report

This section of the Report to the Community details how our students performed on Divisional and Provincial Assessments during the past school year. It also describes the programs the school offers and the actions the school is taking to help students succeed. For more information about student achievement, please contact the school principal, who will be happy to answer your questions.

## How Do We Know We Our Students Are Succeeding?

Our School Division places a high priority on improving student learning and achievement. Providing information on student performance is a very important part of this process. Teachers gather information about student learning on a regular basis using a variety of assessment methods including Division-wide assessments administered in selected subject areas and grade levels. Schools use assessment results, along with information from classroom observation and evaluation, to develop plans for improving student learning.

## English Language Arts

**Grade 6** – The grade 6 Language Arts Divisional Exam results for 2008 – 2009 indicates that 87.7% of students at Hedges Middle School passed the exam. The average mark on the exam for our students was 68.5%, slightly down from last year.

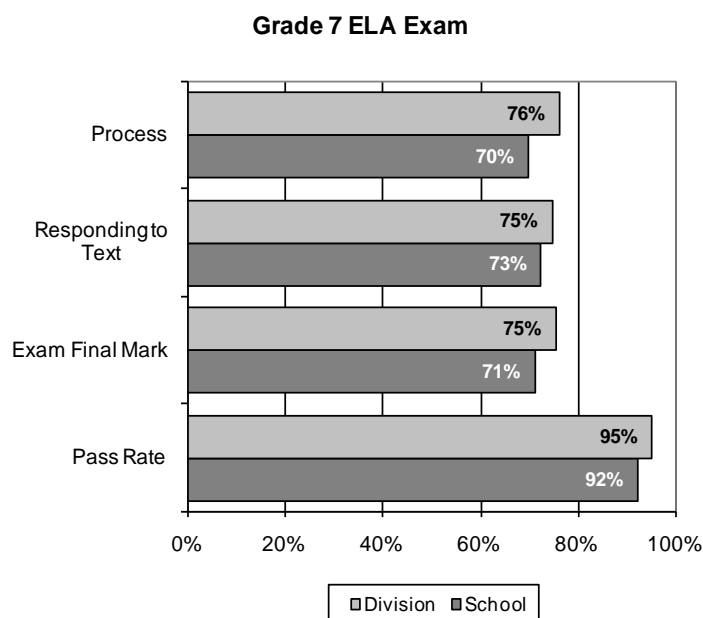
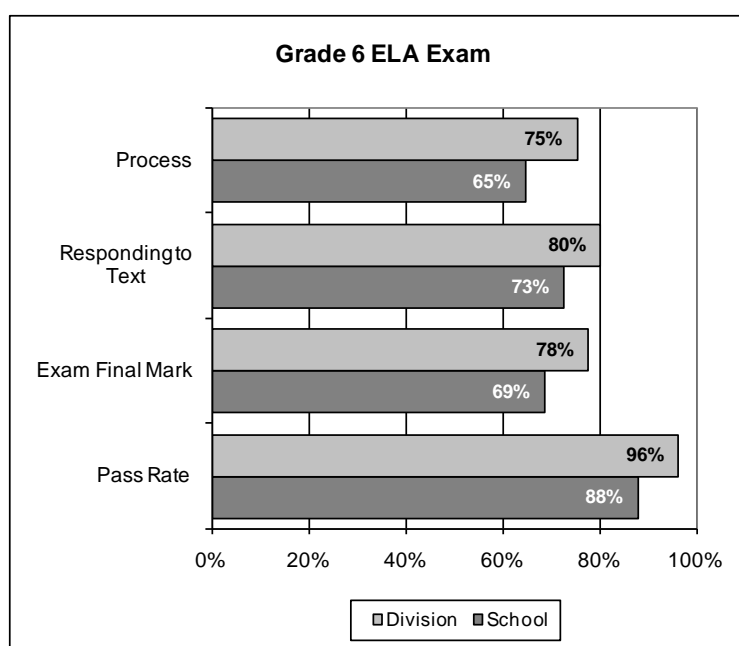
**Grade 7** - The grade 7 Language Arts Divisional Exam results for 2008 - 2009 indicate that 92.2% of our students passed the exam. An increase of 6% over last year pass rate. Our grade 7 students averaged 71.1% on the exam, an increase of 5% from last year.

### 2009– 2010

Our grade 6-8 teams will be administering a diagnostic reading assessment in the first term for all grade 6-8 students at Hedges in order to gather information of our student strengths and areas for improvement. An intervention system with our resource and guidance programs will provide early intervention for struggling students. Twenty minutes of daily reading will be implemented in all grade level ELA classes in order to provide our students with the opportunity to practice their reading strategies. Classroom libraries have been established in all ELA classrooms and will provide students with a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books. As well, our library is now available everyday to meet the reading needs of our students.

The Language Arts Team at Hedges will continue to focus on improving writing skills at all levels through the use and implementation of the 6 + 1 Writing Traits. Common writing assessments based on the 6 + 1 Traits will be used throughout the grade 6-8 levels. A continued focus will be on differentiated instruction methods and materials for our heterogeneous classrooms in order to challenge and to meet the needs of all our students.

The Language Arts Team will develop portfolios with our students. Students will be engaged in establishing assessment criteria with their teachers. Students will critically reflect upon their strengths and needs in all four areas of ELA: Reading, Writing, Communication and Managing Ideas and Information. Students will set goals throughout the school year and identify strategies to reach these goals.



## Mathematics

The 2008-09 school year was the pilot year for new Math curriculum. As a result, there was no Math exam in June, 2009.

## Science

Divisional Science Exams occurred at the Grade 8 level with results very similar to last year. The student's greatest area of strength was the Optics section of the exam, which was a focus for last year. Much emphasis was placed on generating activities to help students develop a stronger understanding. Student's greatest area for improvement was shown to be the Cells and Organ Systems unit. A science essential learning journal has been implemented at the grade 8 level where all students will demonstrate their understanding of the specific learning outcomes as described in the curriculum. This has been designed for the students so they are able to showcase their learning.

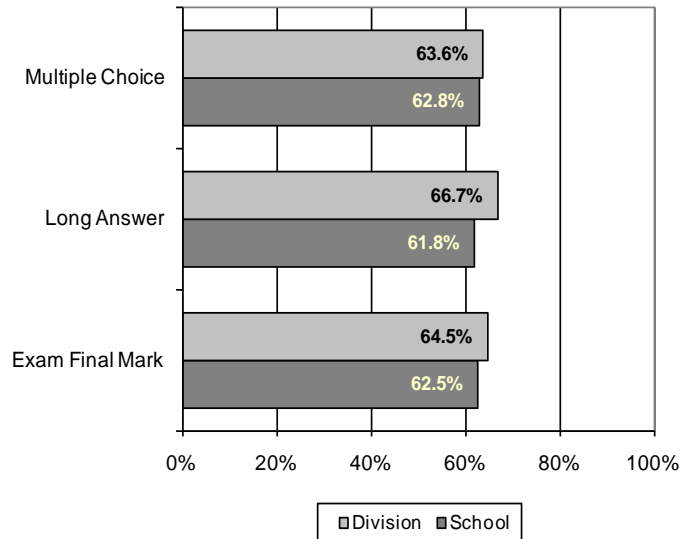
To develop within the students an enthusiasm for Science we implemented Science Olympics. Students tackle different challenges and showed off their creations to the entire school in late June. We are continuing to focus on communication with families by sending out electronic newsletters and notices of assignments on a regular basis.

The Science program at Hedges has a number of goals for the upcoming year, which are designed to develop consistency throughout the three grade levels of Science at the school. They include:

1. Analyzing the June 2009 results through item analysis to improve specific unit understanding.
2. Increase the number of laboratory classes throughout the grade levels.
3. Developing a consistent Science and Technological Skills unit to be delivered across the middle years science program.
4. Use demonstrations and discrepant events to increase student inquiry.
5. Use of portfolios.

The integration of Technology is also of high importance for the Science Department, and we are working towards integration of technology throughout the program with lab reports, assessment portfolios, and smart board technology.

**Grade 8 Science: Exam Means**



**Grade 8 Science: Exam Pass Rates**

