MEDIA RELEASE – November 1, 2019

The 2018-2019 Provincial Achievement and Diploma Examination results released by the Minister of Education as part of the October update for the Accountability Pillar demonstrates that Living Waters Catholic Schools continue to improve and achieve success in a number of areas as nine measures increased from the previous year. The greatest gains were seen in the acceptable standard for PATs, Work Preparation, Citizenship, and Parental Involvement. This fits with the mission of the Division because as Jo-Anne Lanctot, Superintendent of Living Waters Catholic Separate School Division states: “The goal of Living Waters Schools is that every student who enters our doors will graduate from a faith-filled, safe and caring environment, prepared for future success.”

Overall, the 2019 Provincial Achievement Tests indicate that students in Living Waters Catholic Schools in Grades 6 and 9 continue to meet or exceed the province in specific subject areas at the acceptable standard as well as the standard of excellence. “We recognize that there remains work to be done and have set a goal to increase rigor and alignment with the program of studies through building coherence and collective efficacy across the division. Our teachers and administrators started this work in the 2018-2019 school year by engaging in collaborative planning and data analysis to improve instructional practice and learning in the classroom,” says Lanctot. “We are continuing along this path as we have seen dividends from our efforts with the increases on our Accountability Pillar measures.” As for Diploma examinations, Grade 12 students continue to meet or exceed the province in specific courses at the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence categories.

Provincial Achievement Test Highlights

- Grade 6 students attending Living Waters schools outperformed the province in English Language Arts at the acceptable standard. This has been consistent for 7 years and speaks to success of our literacy programming.
- Once again, Grade 9 students participating in Knowledge and Employability (KAE) Achievement Tests outperformed their provincial counterparts in all subject areas at both the acceptable standard and standard of excellence categories. Our students especially exceeded at the standard of excellence level. For example, KAE ELA 9 and KAE Math 9 rates for the standard of excellence were four times higher than the provincial average. Similarly, KAE Science 9 rates were more three times higher than the provincial average.
- Participation rates for Grade 6 students exceeded the provincial average in every subject with the exceptions of French Language Arts 6.
Participation rates for Grade 9 and Grade 9 KAE exceeded the provincial average in every subject.

Diploma Examination Results Highlights

- At the acceptable standard, Living Waters’ students exceeded the provincial average in the following courses: English Language Arts 30-1, English Language Arts 30-2, Social Studies 30-1, Social Studies 30-2, and Science 30. Living Waters students were also at provincial average for Physics 30. There was a significant improvement in our humanities courses from the previous year.
- At the standard of excellence, Living Waters’ students surpassed the provincial average in English 30-2.

“We will continue to use the data to identify areas where we need to maintain a strong focus and we will continue to make literacy and numeracy foundational to every subject, at every grade level,” adds Jo-Anne Lanctot. “We are continuing to invest in professional development for our teachers to work towards our goal of building coherence and collective efficacy. This will improve learning across our entire division.”

A divisional as well as provincial focus is improving educational opportunities for First Nations, Metis, and Inuit (FNMI) learners. Living Waters is significantly above the provincial rate for High School completion for First Nation, Metis, and Inuit learners with a difference of 11.8%. This is the third year in a row where our students have surpassed the province. Living Waters also saw a 3.7% increase in our completion rate from the previous year. Our dropout rate for First Nations, Metis, and Inuit learners is significantly below the province at 3.5%.

“We are incredibly proud of the work our teachers and administrators are doing each day to make a difference for all of our students in Living Waters, but we are particularly delighted with the continued gains we have made in relation to our FNMI learners,” says Jo-Anne Lanctot.

We encourage parents to access our Living Waters website to find out more about our Living Waters Blueprint for the Future (5.1). Visit us at www.livingwaters.ab.ca. Living Waters Catholic Schools serves students in Edson, Whitecourt, and Slave Lake.

Contact:
Jo-Anne Lanctot, Superintendent
Living Waters CRD No. 42
Box 1949, 4204 Kepler St.
Whitecourt, AB T7S 1P6
Office: (780) 778-5666
jo-anne.lanctot@livingwaters.ab.ca