



## *Building pathways to the future*

### **MEDIA RELEASE** – *October 24, 2017*

The 2016-2017 Provincial Achievement and Diploma Examination results released by the Minister of Education demonstrate that Living Waters Schools continue to achieve success in a number of areas. “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,” states Jo- Anne Lanctot, Superintendent of Living Waters Catholic Regional Division No 42. She adds, “Our Living Waters Blueprint for the future outlines our commitment to our students in ensuring that they are equipped with the education, skills and opportunities needed for success and we will continue to focus on student learning.”

Overall, the 2017 Provincial Achievement Tests indicate that students in Living Waters 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. “There is still more work to be done as we continue to find ways to support our students to ensure that they are learning with rigor”, says Lanctot. As for Diploma Examinations, Grade 12 students continue to meet or exceed the province in specific courses at the acceptable standard, and are very close to the provincial standard of excellence in English Language Arts.

#### **Provincial Achievement Test Highlights**

- Grade 6 students attending Living Waters schools outperformed the province in English Language Arts at the acceptable standard.
- Grade 9 students in the Division exceeded the province in English Language Arts at the acceptable standard. Once again, Grade 9 students participating in Knowledge and Employability Achievement tests outperformed their provincial counterparts in all subject areas-especially in exceeding the Standard of Excellence.
- Participation rates for Grade 6 and 9 students exceeded the provincial average in every subject with the exceptions of French Language Arts 6 and Math 9.

#### **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, Math 30-2, and Science 30.
- At the excellence standard, Living Waters’ students were within 1% of the provincial standard for English Language Arts 30-2 and within 4% of the provincial standard for English Language Arts 30-1.

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“We will use the information and 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. “Providing students with flexible learning environments and opportunities for personalized learning in an inclusive education setting will help to ensure student success.”

A divisional as well as provincial focus is improving educational opportunities for First Nations, Metis, and Inuit (FNMI) learners. As a division, Living Waters saw a 16.7% increase in High School completion rates in one year. In addition, Living Waters is significantly above the provincial rate for High School completion for FNMI learners with a difference of 13.6%.

“We are incredibly proud of the work our staff is doing to make a difference for all of our students in Living Waters, but we are particularly delighted with the 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. Visit us at [www.livingwaters.ab.ca](http://www.livingwaters.ab.ca). Living Waters Catholic Schools serves students in Edson, Whitecourt, and Slave Lake.