



## St. James-Assiniboia School Division Elementary School Survey

Dear Parents,

Schools in St. James-Assiniboia take great pride in providing a high quality of education for all children. By completing this survey, you can help us to maintain areas of strength and identify areas that need continuing growth or improvement.

**Directions:** Please select the response that most clearly represents your beliefs as a parent. Comments are appreciated.

<b>School Climate/Culture</b>		<b>Comments</b>
1. Our school has a welcoming atmosphere.	Yes <b>44</b> No <b>0</b>	Very Welcoming Most times Very Much I am always greeted where visiting All teachers and administrators acknowledge parents and students in hallways! I am so thrilled to have my son attend this school. Very positive atmosphere. Parents are welcomed with open arms
2. Opportunities are provided for me to be involved in the school.	Yes <b>44</b> No <b>0</b>	Many opportunities are provided for me to be involved in the school. I regret that I work full time. I volunteer at home, in classroom, and on field trips. My involvement is due to limited mobility. Parents are given lots of opportunities with varying levels of commitment.
3. Our school provides a safe place to learn.	Yes <b>43</b> No <b>1</b>	Depends - I believe some issues should be addressed. Except for School Division vans and parents who do not park in proper areas. Door should be locked always. A buzzer at the front. Review child behavior when one child is always the source. Lock down practices, Kdgtn, gr. 1 and 2 teachers meet children at door and usher students out and observe guardian pick-ups.

4. Parent Council plays an active role at our school.

Yes **44** No **0**

Yes, I read the notes and see what they are doing.  
I don't have as much info about Parent Council as I'd like. Who is on it? How were they chosen? etc.  
We have a very active PC.

## Communication

5. I use the school web site as a reference/communication tool.

Yes **18** No **26**

We do not have internet  
Not really - I usually just phone  
I have started using the school web site  
Teachers' individual e-mail addresses would be helpful.  
Would like to but don't know it!  
No, but I e-mail the teacher all the time.  
I use it just a little...e-mail contact with the teacher is very handy!  
Used for reference and contact for general information.  
No, I use the student agenda.  
I haven't found the info detailed/current on the site.  
Yes, to search calendars, teacher lists, and school info.

6. The school Parent-Family Handbook is a valuable resource.

Yes **40** No **4**

Haven't seen it  
Love this handbook!  
Handy for quick reference.  
Excellent! Info at my finger-tips!  
We really have not looked at it since we read it and put it away.  
I love the size!

7. Newsletters, calendars and information sent home are valuable.

Yes **44** No **0**

Keeps me informed and aware of what's happening.  
I use these the most.  
I appreciate the Kindergarten newsletters/calendars etc.  
Sometimes too much useless paper comes home. Calendars are helpful, newsletters from class are helpful, newsletters not that helpful.  
Appreciate overall school information and individual classroom info from teachers.  
Can we go green with the newsletter and have it on-line only?  
I appreciate receiving a hard copy.

8. The school uses a variety of methods to communicate with parents. Yes **40** No **4** Can't say as I only believe they phone, not sure if they will e-mail.  
I think the those are efficient.  
Agenda books are great!  
Somewhat  
It would be easier to speak to teachers via e-mail.  
easy access to teachers via e-mail and daily agenda books and phone, as needed  
Yes, newsletters, e-mail, website, notes home  
Miss devries always lets me know with notes on agenda when Kaleigh has been hurt etc. I LOVE IT! Her communication is GREAT!
9. Sufficient information is provided in my child's report card. Yes **43** No **0** don't really like how the report cards are graded.  
The comments are the only valuable part of the report card.  
This however isn't a reflection on the school but a division-wide issue.  
Would like to know if my child excels in certain areas.

### Human Resources

10. The staff in school care about the students. performances, etc. Yes **44** No **0** Often support students by attending extra curricular activities/choir  
  
All staff seem very caring and fair.  
We have the best teachers and support staff.
11. Teachers willingly provide extra help to students who need it. Yes **43** No **0** Have been very open and quick to meet our needs.  
Our family has been very happy at Athlone.  
From observations, always.  
My son's teacher is great!  
Always!  
Not sure as right now my son does not need it as of my knowledge.  
Just ask!  
Outstanding!  
I really appreciate the extra help that's given.

- |  |                           |   |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| 12. The staff at our school listens to my issues and concerns.                 | Yes <b>41</b> No <b>0</b> | Everyone has gone the extra mile!<br>Any concerns are always addressed.           |
| 13. Staff plans effectively for the needs of the students in the school.       | Yes <b>41</b> No <b>0</b> | And they make changes when applicable.<br>I believe this is true.                 |
| 14. When I have concerns about my child, I can count on the staff for support. | Yes <b>41</b> No <b>0</b> | I feel that I can.<br>Staff are very supportive.<br>I feel my concerns are heard. |

**Facilities and Equipment**

- |  |                           |  |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| 15. The school is clean.                                     | Yes <b>42</b> No <b>1</b> | The girls' bathroom is filthy.<br><br>Excellent!<br>Just don't like the smell at the front door just inside. |
| 16. The school is in good repair.                            | Yes <b>43</b> No <b>0</b> | Excellent!   |
| 17. The school playground and equipment are well maintained. | Yes <b>41</b> No <b>0</b> | Very Well!   |

**Curriculum and Programs**

- |  |                           |  |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| 18. Our school provides a high quality education program.        | Yes <b>41</b> No <b>0</b> | Very strong administration and teaching staff<br>Very Much so.<br>We strongly believe that a higher quality would be provided by putting the "outstanding" category back on the report cards.<br>I think all the extra clubs are a fantastic way to teach the kids new things they're interested in.<br>++ |
| 19. Learning needs are being met at an appropriate instr. Level. | Yes <b>38</b> No <b>0</b> | Teachers are very attuned to each child and instruct several groups at different levels consistently.<br>Definitely!   |

20. I am aware of the various assessment tools used by the teacher  
To assess my child's growth.
- Yes **32** No **5**
- Not really aware of assessment tools.  
Are there different ways of assessing children who have different learning styles?  
The thing about the triad conferences is that it's hard to go into all the details with your child sitting right there but I should be making a separate meeting with the teacher to get that information.  
Not sure about assessment tools used  
Would like to know
21. I am satisfied with the way technology (computers, cameras, etc.)  
is used to support learning.
- Yes **41** No **0**
- Not sure how much the Kindergarten kids use computers  
but I am aware that they have had exposure technology in class (ie. Smartboard)  
I'm not very familiar with how technology is supporting learning.  
Interested in what objectives of computers are.
22. The school provides opportunities to participate in extra curricular  
activities.
- Yes **44** No **0**
- I feel the school is excellent for this.  
Grades 3-5 not younger grades.  
Great variety!  
Transport becomes an issue for those without a car.  
I love all the extra activities this year.  
But i would like to be made aware of sporting intramurals (when she is older)
23. The overall educational experience that my son/daughter
- Yes **44** No **0**
- My child loves to go to school!  
Our daughter is thoroughly enjoying her first school experience in Kindergarten.  
Our child loves her teachers and school. She excels at being challenged.  
Athlone is the greatest! My kids love school.  
Very happy child when she comes home! it's very appreciative!

## French Immersion Schools

24. I am satisfied with the visibility of French language in the                      Yes **22** No **0**    The Intensive French is great when they get to grade 5!
25. I am satisfied with my child's attitude towards learning French                      Yes **20** No **0**

### Additional Comments

I am concerned about so much emphasis on the mental math. I'm wondering if the basics are getting lost in the process. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to make it to the Math Information evening, but I am very interested in hearing more about it.

My circumstances are unusual and I feel that every effort has been made to assist me beyond what one would ordinarily expect. I feel that Athlone – all its staff – are exceptional. Both girls are doing exceedingly well. Thank you.

Our children really enjoy the wii exercise program, jungle gym, the variety of instruments in music that they play. They love the art that they create. They love the hands-on science experiments. They also got excited about the "smart board" screen. My thank you goes out to Mrs. Attenborrow and the teachers and support staff for all the hard work and concern and of course the support for my children and family to succeed. Thank you all!  
Overall, I believe Athlone is a great school. I look forward to my youngest daughter attending too.

I would like to see more homework sent home. Not large quantities, but enough to encourage a homework routine. It would also allow parents to see the work their child is doing in class and to know if the child understands it.

My children attended school in another school division for many years and we never had to fill out the lengthy permission slips required here. They are way too involved for what they are needed for! It gives me a negative feeling instead of a positive one when my child is going on a field trip.

It is a pleasure and a joy to see the excitement and enthusiasm with which my children embrace their educational experience at Athlone School.

We are very happy with Athlone - my daughter's teacher and her overall school experience. If there was one thing we'd change it would relate to triad conferences. We do appreciate student involvement, but like most of our friends, we feel there should be a few minutes for parents to talk to the teacher alone (in addition to students sharing portfolios). We understand that depending on class size (and especially kindergarten which has 2 classes), scheduling the time might be a challenge, but even 5 minutes would be sufficient. We are aware that if there are any major concerns/problems we could set up a separate meeting with the teacher (not the case with us). Overall, Athlone school and staff is very deserving of its great reputation!

Would like to hear about activities at recess and lunch – supervised games ie. Red rover, 4 square, etc.

My concern is how the school deals with a child who behaves poor by harming other children and teachers. How children of a class of 23 run while 1 is left behind, instead of 1 leaving while 23 stay. How that one child gets food/drink from teachers for bad behaviour. How I have to worry every day that that 1 child does not harm my kid. Where I work the school division won't even tolerate a kid spitting.

Athlone's teachers and other staff are fantastic! We feel really welcome in the school as parents. The school has given our children excellent opportunities to extend their learning - ie. Environmental program, and fantastic sporting opportunities this year - basketball, roller blading, and cross-country skiing. Excellent!

K. loves Miss Devries and her reading vocabulary has exploded! We are so happy with Miss Devries as well. Her menatl math and math work is very good as well.

I am very impressed and grateful for the quality of education my kids are receiving at Athlone - excellent teachers, leadership, extra-curricular activities available, and school morale. From Mrs. Attenborrow down, it is obvious what a dedicated team there is at Athlone School.