

● **DEAR PARENTS:**

This Parent Report is designed to share important new developments in English language arts.

The first is the way the new curriculum for English language arts has been developed. The curriculum framework is based on outcomes defined in a project called the Western Canadian Protocol (WCP) for Collaboration in Basic Education, K-12.

Educators worked together to identify the knowledge, skills, strategies and attitudes students are expected to demonstrate at the end of each grade. Their work is complete for English language arts and mathematics but is continuing on other subjects.

The English language arts student learning outcomes are contained in a document called *The Common Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts (K - 12)*. Informally known as the common curriculum framework, this document is the basis for curriculum developed by each of the WCP partners, Manitoba included.

Those involved in the project believe that having a common curriculum framework will greatly improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment in schools across the West. It will also make it easier for students to move from school to school and province to province or territory.

The new frameworks set high expectations for teachers and students of English language arts. They include more material to be used at greater depth than earlier curricula. Most importantly, they make the development of thinking skills the central focus of all learning experiences.

This Parent Report highlights some features of Manitoba's new English language arts curriculum frameworks and describes ways parents can help their child learn. By working together, we can help ensure that every child can enjoy and experience success in English language arts.

If we work together, we can ensure that every Manitoban is a literate Manitoban.

- *In this document, the term "parents" refers to both parents and guardians and is used with the recognition that, in some cases, only one parent may be involved in a child's education.*
- *Visit the Education, Training and Youth Web site at: <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca>*