



# Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary Growth Plan



2023 - 2024



# Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary Growth Plan 2023 -2024



## Where We Are

- This is the first year for a new focus in our school. As new administration last year, we reviewed and assessed goals related to numeracy throughout the year and determined that an elementary goal around literacy and a secondary goal around school connectedness would be our focus for this year.

## Who We Are

- Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary is a rural Kindergarten to Grade 10 School servicing the communities of Jaffray, Elko, Baynes Lake, Grasmere and surrounding properties. Employment in this region is primarily in the resource-based sector as well as agricultural. We currently have 219 students enrolled in the school who are supported by a teaching staff of 13.686 FTE, as well as 6 Education Assistants, a School Counsellor (0.3 FTE), an Indigenous Education Support Worker (0.5 FTE) and a full time Youth Care Worker. Upon completion of Grade 10, students typically transfer to their catchment High School located in Fernie.
- Of the 219 students in our school, 39 students are of Aboriginal ancestry and 29 students are receiving additional supports through our Student Services Teacher for their diverse learning needs.

## Mission Statement

- Growth, success and confidence through the collaboration of students, staff and the community.

## Process

- During staff meetings last year, administration and teachers discussed the challenges we face regarding early literacy as well as remedial work with older students, especially those in intermediate grades whose learning was disrupted by the pandemic. When looking at our students' achievement levels in literacy as compared to numeracy, using school data (report cards) as well as FSA results, the data indicated there was more work to do around literacy than numeracy. This conclusion was validated by the year-end summative progress reports.
- During staff discussions in September the staff felt that changing our elementary goal to a literacy focus made sense. Staff feels very supported by our District Literacy Support Teacher and the initiatives that she is supporting. All primary staff is now trained in UFLI as well as in how to administer the Acadience Screening Tool. There is interest and excitement around improving literacy in our school.
- Our staff is also committed to maintaining and fostering a sense of community in our school. At the start of last year, thirteen Jr. Secondary-aged students chose to leave Jaffray School early, and began their year either in Fernie, or in Cranbrook. A further five students left Jaffray part way through the year. We agreed that we need to explore actions that might make more students want to stay here.
- This plan was discussed with the Parent Advisory Council at our first meeting and final input was asked for in our October PAC meeting. Any input or potential changes coming out of these discussions or future discussions with our parent group, will be brought back to school staff to ensure that the perspectives of our stakeholders are reflected in our growth plan.

## Our Goals

- Our academic goal is to improve students' skills and confidence in reading and writing, through the implementation of common grade-wide strategies, as well as ongoing teacher professional development. Improving literacy skills will allow our students to be successful as they advance through school and transition into the workplace or post-secondary education.
- Our social-emotional goal is to have Jaffray School be a school of choice for South Country students and families – a place where students feel welcome, have a sense of belonging, and want to stay here to the completion of Grade 10.

## Our Targets

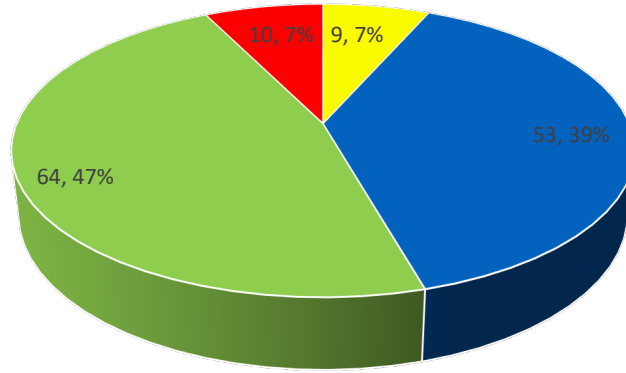
- To have 70% of all elementary students achieve Proficient or Extending in relation to literacy expectations for each grade level, as reported by teachers on their year-end summative progress reports.
- To have fewer students opt to complete their Kindergarten to Grade 10 journey in another school.

## Data:

### With Respect to our Academic Goal:

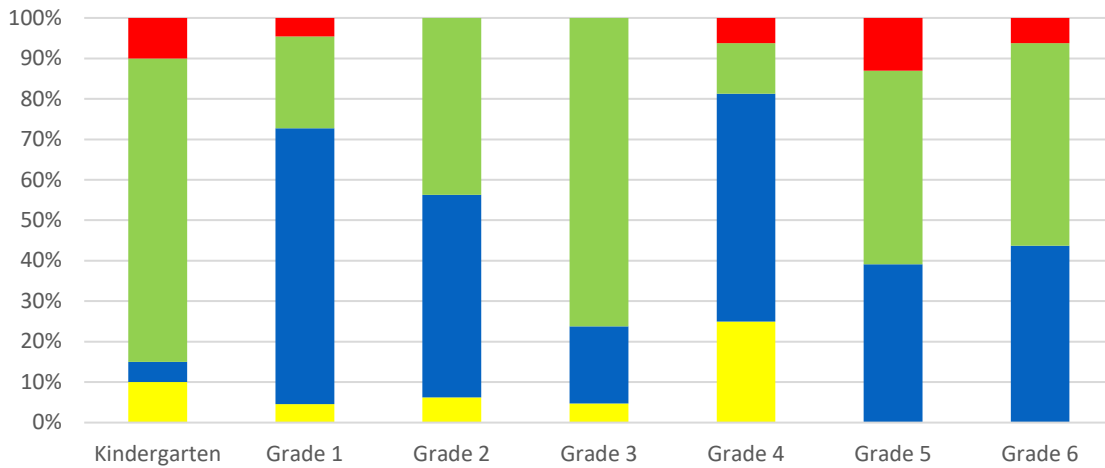
- Looking at our data from last year, we have 42% of Primary Students (Kindergarten to Grade 3) not meeting a level of Proficient in Language Arts on our summative final report cards.
- Last year, 51% of our Intermediate Students (Grade 4 - Grade 6) did not meet a level of Proficient in Language Arts on our summative final report cards.
- Two Grades skewed the overall data with a higher number of struggling learners in Language Arts.
  - 27% of Grade 1 students last year achieved a mark of Proficient or Extending on the final report card, while 68% of Grade 1 students were assessed as Developing in Language Arts.
  - 19% of Grade 4 students last year achieved a mark of Proficient or Extending on the final report card, while 56% of Grade 4 students were assessed as Developing in Language Arts and 25% of students were assessed as Emerging at year end.
- Indigenous Learners are achieving similar results in Language Arts to our overall school data.
  - A slightly higher percentage of Indigenous Learners achieved Emerging or Proficient final summative assessments.
  - 50% of Indigenous Learners are Proficient or Extending in Language Arts compared to 46% when considering all learners

### Summative Progress Report Results for Literacy All Grades (K-6)



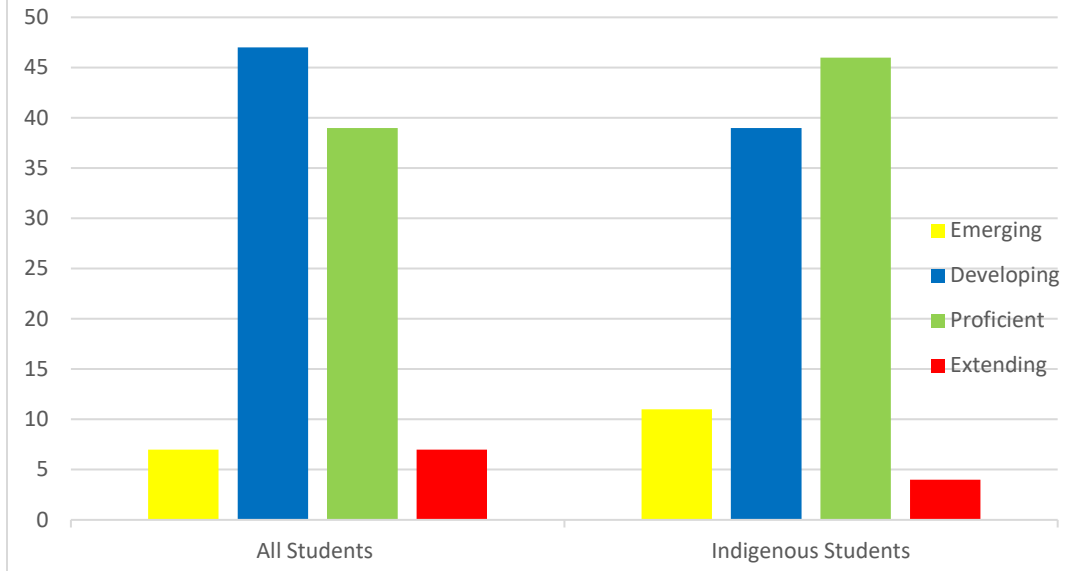
Emerging Developing Proficient Extending

### Summative Progress Report Results For Literacy 2022/2023 By Grade



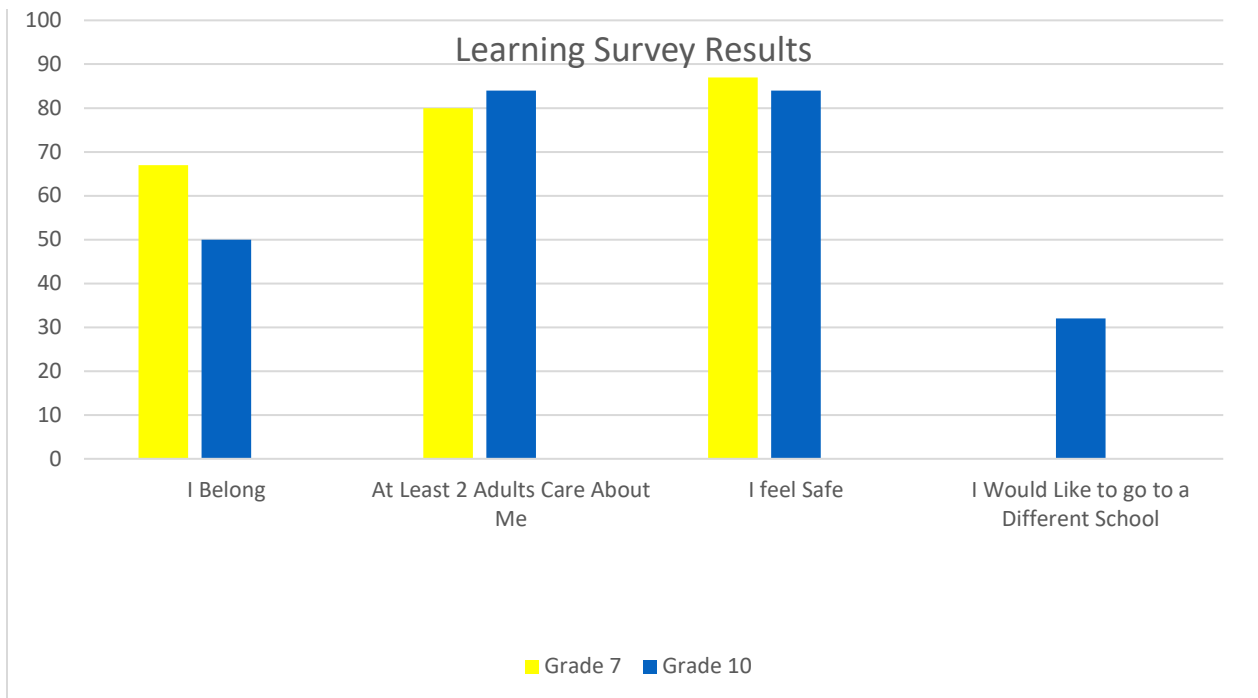
Emerging Developing Proficient Extending

Elementary Summative Progress Report Results For  
Literacy 2022/2023  
All Students vs. Indigenous Students



With Respect to our Social Emotional Goal:

- Prior to the start of the 2022/2023 school year 13 students withdrew early from Jaffray School and an additional 5 students transferred to another school during the year.
- Prior to the start of the current school year 6 students withdrew early from Jaffray School
- We have baseline data from the Student Learning Survey that we can continue to track in years to come to see if there are trends related to questions about school connectedness.



## Next Steps

Looking forward we as a staff are committed to the following:

- Participating in District Literacy Initiatives
- On-going, regular assessment of all learners
- Participating in Professional Development Opportunities related to UFLI and Acadience
- Utilizing Erin Jones' expertise and support
- Including Indigenous Education Support Worker to aid in embedding Indigenous perspectives in all classes including Language Arts
- Identifying and supporting readers who would benefit from our Rebel Readers One-to-One Reading Program
- Scheduling a Common Literacy Block to allow for utilization of additional staff
- Scheduling a Common Literacy Block to allow for multi-aged grouping
- Using the Oct 20<sup>th</sup> Pro-D Day to discuss common approaches, language and Tier 2 Supports for struggling Learners
- Incorporating the First People's Principles of Learning
- Offering additional elective options, including Drama and Photography
- Welcoming and collaborating with our Full-time Youth Care Worker
- Making counselling services more accessible with a relocated Counselling Office that is closer to the Jr Secondary wing of the building

- Re-establishing a Student Government to give students a voice
- Making kindness and compassion part of our daily culture. “Kind is Cool at Jaffray School” messaging is very visible each day.

## Expected Outcomes

With our staff’s continued commitment to our school’s Growth Plan, we hope and expect to see improvement in both skills and confidence in relation to literacy. We expect to have a greater proportion of students achieving Proficient or Extending on year-end summative report cards. We will also look at the questions related to literacy on the School Learning Survey to get a baseline on how students feel about their learning journey in Literacy. We expect positive responses to these survey questions to align with our summative data.

We also expect to see more students, especially in Grades 7-10, have a positive experience at Jaffray School. We will continue to monitor the number of behavioral referrals, attendance rates and withdrawal rates as these are often indicators of student satisfaction. We expect to see positive trends in each of the previously mentioned areas as well as positive feedback on the Student Learning Survey from our Grade 4, 7 and 10 students.

## Reaching All Learners

At JEJSS, 18% of our learners are Indigenous. With our highly visible and involved Indigenous Support Worker, these students have access to our Gathering Space, as well as many extra-curricular opportunities that serve to give all learners a sense of belonging and worth in our school. Our school is committed to embedding Aboriginal world views and perspectives into all classes and to celebrate the diversity in our school community.

Of our school population, just over 13% of students come to us each day with diverse learning needs. These students are supported with additional plans and goals created with input from all stakeholders (parents, teachers, students, student services teacher, Youth Care Worker, Counsellor, Indigenous Support Worker, Education Assistants). These goals allow us to set meaningful and achievable targets for our diverse learners and allow them to find success in their journey at JEJSS.



