



cmecc

Council of
Ministers
of Education,
Canada

Conseil des
ministres
de l'Éducation
(Canada)



Ministry of
Education

March, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your child's class has been randomly chosen to participate in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), which will take place between April 12 and May 14, 2021. PIRLS is an important educational assessment investigating student achievement in reading and more than 60 countries, including Canada, are participating in this project.

Your child's school is one of many selected in Canada and the superintendent and principal of the school are fully aware of the project. Participation in this project will not affect your child's grades or progress in school and the results will not be reported for individual students or schools. Students will respond to questions after reading two passages and will fill out a short questionnaire. The assessment will take place at school during regular school hours.

PIRLS is an important activity to keep us, as parents/guardians and citizens, informed about how our students in Canada are performing in comparison with their peers in other countries. This study will allow us to compare curricula and teaching practices as well. We will then be able to obtain the latest provincial, pan-Canadian, and international information, which will help improve the teaching and learning of language arts in our province.

This letter is also to inform you that you will be asked to complete an online questionnaire; the login information to access the questionnaire will be provided to you in March/April. The questionnaire covers home and school factors related to your child's learning environment and experiences. It should only take about 30 minutes to complete, and all responses will remain confidential. This questionnaire, along with your child's responses, will be used to gain a better understanding of factors related to how children learn at home and at school.

More information on this project is available at: <https://cmecc.ca/399/Overview.html>. You may also refer to the IEA website at <https://timssandpirls.bc.edu/> (available in English only).

We appreciate your child's participation as we work to enhance the learning experience of our young students across Canada.

On behalf of CMEC/PIRLS and the British Columbia Ministry of Education, we would like to thank you for your support and for contributing to the success of this project.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Wiggins

Director

BC Ministry of Education