

# The Athabasca Advocate

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HEATHER STOCKING/AA

**‘GUITAR LESSONS’ A GIFT FROM BIRTHDAY TRIO TO THE COMMUNITY** – As part of a triple birthday celebration Charlie DeShane (far left), Lori Claerhout, and Mike MacLean (far right) who share Jan. 31 as their birthday, rented the Nancy Appleby Theatre Jan. 29 to show the Alberta-made movie Guitar Lessons starring country singer and Albertan Corb Lund. Director Aaron James (second from right) was also in attendance with the almost 200 people who took part in the event and did a question-and-answer session following the screening.

## Aspen View students on par with province in Grade 6 PATs, but Grade 9 falling behind

*Local Grade 12 students scoring behind the rest of Alberta in every diploma exam*

**BY KEVIN BERGER**  
*Barrhead Leader Staff*

**ATHABASCA** – Provincial testing and diploma exam results all over the map for Aspen View Public Schools (AVPS) students.

While Grade 6 students in AVPS were generally on par with the rest of Alberta in terms of Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) results, Grade 9 students struggled to have the same success, and Grade 12 students trailed the province in every subject tested as part of the diploma exams.

That was the extremely mixed news delivered to Aspen View trustees at their Jan. 19 meeting by associate Supt. Katherine Mann, who presented an update on the 2021-2022 PAT and diploma exam results alongside her human resources report. Both were accepted by the trustees for information.

“Overall, with our Provincial Achievement Tests, you’ll see that at the accept-

**“Our strength is definitely in the Grade 6 and the French Immersion and the Knowledge and Employability.”**

**KATHERINE MANN**  
*Associate Supt.*

able standard, we’re fairly comparable to Alberta,” she said. “When we look at the diploma exams overall, it’s less of a good news story, I would say.”

### From best to the worst

Aspen View had 67.4 per cent of Grade 6 and 9 students achieve an acceptable standard of 50 per cent or higher on all PATs, while 67.3 per cent of Alberta students did the same, a difference of only 0.1 per cent higher.

Also, 14.8 per cent of Aspen View students achieved a standard of excel-

lence, achieving 80 per cent or higher, while 18 per cent of students provincially did the same. That’s a difference of 3.2 per cent less than the provincial average.

Some of the best PAT results were in Grade 6 English Language Arts, where 83.1 per cent of students achieved an acceptable standard versus 76.1 per cent of the province; Science 6 showed 77.5 per cent of students achieved the acceptable standard versus 71.4 per cent of students provincially; and Social Studies 6, where 74 per cent of students achieved the standard versus 67.9 per cent provincially.

### Grade 6 French Immersion

French Immersion 6 also saw local students far exceed provincial results; 100 per cent of local students achieved the acceptable standard in Math 6 and Science 6 versus 77.5 and 73.3 per cent respectively across the province.

Meanwhile, 46.7 per cent of local students achieved a standard of excellence in Science 6 versus 15.9 per cent provincially.

Also, 53.3 per cent of Aspen View students achieved a standard of excellence in French Immersion Social Studies 6 versus 12.5 per cent provincially.

### Grade 9 testing

Grade 9 students taking Knowledge and Employability (K&E) courses also did quite well. A total of 90.5 per cent of local students achieved an acceptable standard in K&E Science 9 versus 57.7 per cent throughout the province, a difference of 32.8 per cent.

As well, 76.9 per cent of local students achieved an acceptable standard in K&E English Language Arts 9 versus 50.5 per cent throughout the province, while 80.7 per cent of local students achieved the acceptable standard in K&E Math 9 versus 54.9 of Alberta students.

**See DIPLOMA RESULTS page 14**