To PIE parents, regarding the B.C. Writing Performance Standards Package:

The papers you have just received make up a package that shows parents and students what the B.C. education system's expectations of a student's writing ability are for the end of the year at your child's grade level. Our goal is to provide a step-by-step overview of the expected development in your child's **personal writing** from the beginning of a school year to the end of the year, using the rating scale and the progression from 'not yet meeting expectations' to 'fully meeting expectations.' We believe that this package will be of benefit to you in assessing your child's learning, and guiding each of them in improving their pre-writing and writing strategies and abilities. Our first priority is to improve student learning.

The BC performance standards describe levels of achievement in key areas of learning. The performance standards answer the questions: "How good is good enough? What does it look like when a student's work has met the expectations at this grade level?" We divide the expectations for writing for each grade level into four categories (which are probably familiar to you from the report card format that we use): not yet meeting expectations, meeting expectations at a minimal level, fully meeting expectations, and exceeding expectations. In the package we've given you, you will find an explanation of what each of those categories means in the areas of meaning (what the piece of writing is about), style (how language is used), form (following the models of writing) and conventions (following the rules of writing).

Each package also includes a writing sample that gives an example of what a student's writing might look like in each of the four categories of expectations, including some general observations on why each sample fits into that category. These are intended to be helpful in assessing your own child's writing, and in giving direction to you as parents in guiding each of them to improve their writing skills.

Some ways that B.C. performance standards can be useful are:

- They provide feedback to students about their writing;
- They support self-assessment by each child;
- They provide a consistent standard of assessment among teachers, students and parents;
- They document evidence of student growth from the beginning of the year to the end;
- They provide examples teachers and students can refer to.

Some practical suggestions for using these performance standards are:

- Using the rating scale as a checklist with your child to keep track of improvement and growth;
- Using the rating scale with your child(ren)'s teacher at each reporting period to help in assessing your child's progress in writing;
- Using the writing samples provided to help you in evaluating your child(ren)'s own work in order to challenge them and focus on specific learning goals in writing.

We are looking forward to using these performance standards as a shared tool with you to encourage writing skills, to make reporting on writing more meaningful, and to engage your children in assessing their own writing and improving the quality of their personal writing. Please let us know if you have any questions — as partners in education we are truly committed to working with you in encouraging each child's full potential, and we know that this is an excellent way to do that.

BC Performance Standards

Writing GRADE 6

◆ Personal Writing...211

Quick Scale . . . 213

Rating Scale . . . 214

Sample Task: Journal Writing . . . 216

Writing to Communicate Ideas and Information . . . 225

Quick Scales

Reports, Articles, and Letters . . . 228

Instructions and Procedures . . . 229

Rating Scale . . . 230

Sample Task: Research report on a

World Region . . . 232

♦ Literary Writing ... 245

Quick Scales

Stories ... 247

Poems . . . 249

Rating Scale . . . 250

Sample Task: Animal Folk Tales . . . 252

Personal Writing

tudents are frequently asked to write about their thoughts, feelings, and opinions in reaction to current issues, materials they have read or viewed, or their own experiences.

In Grade 6, students often write journal entries, record their responses to reading and viewing, offer views on current issues, and share their experiences. In some cases, these pieces of writing are eventually crafted for an audience; however, most often, they are not revised and edited, and the audience is the teacher or the student himself or herself.

Key Qualities

The following is a summary of the key qualities of each aspect of personal writing in Grade 6. The *Quick Scale* and *Rating Scale* provide more details regarding specific criteria related to these key qualities.

MEANING

 comes from thoughts, feelings, opinions, memories, and reflections

STYLE

demonstrates clarity and some variety in language

FORM

 begins with a clear introduction and follows a logical sequence through to a conclusion

CONVENTIONS

 follows standard conventions for basic spelling, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure; has been checked for errors

Prescribed Learning Outcomes

The BC performance standards for Grade 6 personal writing reflect the following prescribed learning outcomes from Grade 6 of the *English Language Arts K to 7 Integrated Resource Package*. Using the writing performance standards in a comprehensive way will provide teachers with many opportunities to assess these learning outcomes.

PURPOSES (WRITING)

It is expected that students will:

 write a variety of clear, focused personal writing for a range of purposes and audiences that demonstrates connections to personal experiences, ideas, and opinions [C1]

STRATEGIES (WRITING)

[C5-7] Addressing these learning outcomes helps students in using strategies to develop their writing, but the Writing Performance Standards describe the product not the processes used.

THINKING (WRITING)

It is expected that students will:

- use writing and representing to express personal responses and relevant opinions about experiences and texts [C8]
- use writing and representing to extend thinking [C9]

FEATURES (WRITING)

It is expected that students will:

♦ use the features and conventions of language to express meaning in their writing and representing [C11]

Quick Scale: Grade 6 Personal Writing

This Quick Scale is a summary of the Rating Scale that follows. Both describe student achievement in March-April of the school year. Personal writing is usually expected to be checked for errors but not revised or edited.

Aspect	Not Yet Within Expectations Meets Expectations Fully Meets Expectations (Minimal Level)		Fully Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
SNAPSHOT	The writing offers some ideas related to the topic but is often hard to follow. The writer may need a great deal of support.	The writing is somewhat general but completes the basic task; includes some errors.	The writing is straight- forward, direct and easy to follow, with few errors. Develops the topic and offers some personal reactions.	The writing is focused and easy to read. The writer develops ideas with some analysis and complexity.
MEANING • ideas and information • use of detail	some ideas related to the topic; tends to rely on retelling or listing parts are inaccurate, illogical, repetitive, irrelevant, or copied insufficient details, explanations, examples; often extremely short	 some opinions and reactions information and ideas are relatively simple some explanation, details, and examples (may be very brief or partly irrelevant) 	 relevant personal reactions and ideas with some individuality ideas and information are direct and straightforward some relevant explanations, details, and examples 	 relevant personal reactions and ideas with some analysis; sense of individuality ideas and information show some complexity logical explanations, details, and examples
• clarity, variety, and impact of language	 simple, repetitive language; may make errors in word choice sentences are often short and repetitive 	 language tends to be simple and often vague sentence length may be varied; relies on a few basic patterns 	 language is clear; some variety and description variety of sentence lengths; may vary sentence beginnings 	 language is clear, varied; some precise, expressive language flows smoothly, with a variety of sentence lengths and patterns
FORM • opening • organization and sequence • conclusion • connecting words	 begins without establishing the topic, purpose, or context may attempt to develop the topic, but often wanders, loses focus no real "ending" overuses simple connecting words 	introduces the topic; purpose and context may be omitted or unclear generally sticks to the topic and is easy to follow, but may wander in places ending is weak or abrupt may overuse a few connecting words	introduces the topic and purpose; may provide some context sticks to the topic; easy to follow, with related ideas grouped together ending is logical but abrupt uses a variety of connecting words	 opens with a clear intention or purpose; provides context develops the topic with a logical sequence of ideas effective ending uses increasing variety of transitional words and phrases; may take risks
• spelling • punctuation • complete sentences • grammar	frequent errors interfere with meaning	some noticeable errors; these may cause the reader to hesitate or reread parts to confirm meaning	few errors; these do not interfere with meaning	sense of control; few errors; these are usually the result of taking risks to use complex language and structures

Rating Scale: Grade 6 Personal Writing

Student achievement in personal writing by March-April of Grade 6 can generally be described as shown in this scale.

Aspect	Not Yet Within Expectations	Meets Expectations (Minimal Level)
SNAPSHOT	The writing offers some ideas that are related to the topic, but it is often hard to follow. Often very short. The writer may need a great deal of support.	The writing is somewhat general but completes the basic task; includes some errors.
MEANINGideas and informationuse of detail	 offers some ideas related to the topic; tends to rely on retelling or listing parts are inaccurate, illogical, repetitive, irrelevant, or copied insufficient explanations, details, or examples to accomplish the task; often extremely short 	 offers some opinions and reactions related to a main idea information and ideas are relatively simple some explanation, details, and examples (may be very brief or include irrelevant material)
STYLE • clarity, variety, and impact of language	 simple, repetitive language; may make errors in word choice sentences are often short and repetitive and/or poorly constructed 	 language tends to be simple and often vague sentence length may be varied; tends to rely on a few basic patterns
• opening • organization and sequence • conclusion • connecting words	 begins without establishing the topic, purpose, or context may attempt to develop the topic, but often wanders and loses focus, with frequent breaks or abrupt shifts in the sequence of ideas no real "ending" omits connecting words or repeats a few simple ones (e.g., then, but, and) 	 introduces the topic at the beginning; purpose and context may be omitted or unclear generally sticks to the topic and is easy to follow, but may wander in places, especially toward the end ending is weak or abrupt may overuse a few connecting words (e.g., next, then, after, when, so)
• effect on meaning • spelling • punctuation • complete sentences • grammar (e.g., use of pronouns; agreement; verb tense)	 frequent errors interfere with meaning some words are spelled correctly; however, many basic words are misspelled or misused (e.g., their/there/they're); often omits letters frequent punctuation errors; often inconsistent in use of capital letters many sentences are run-on or fragments frequent errors in grammar and word choice (e.g., adjective instead of adverb form; wrong pronoun, verb form, or tense) 	 some noticeable errors that cause the reader to hesitate or reread parts to confirm meaning most basic words are spelled correctly; includes some errors, especially in homonyms (e.g., their/there/they're) basic sentence punctuation is usually correct; may use commas and capital letters inconsistently some run-on sentences and fragments includes some errors in grammar and word choice (e.g., adjective instead of adverb form; wrong pronoun, verb form, or tense)

The rating scale may require adaptation when used for different purposes and tasks.

Fully Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
The writing is straightforward, direct, and easy to follow, with few errors. The writer develops the topic and offers some personal reactions.	The writing is focused and easy to read. The writer develops ideas with some analysis and complexity.
 offers relevant personal reactions and ideas with some sense of individuality ideas and information are generally straightforward and direct includes some relevant explanations, details, and examples to develop ideas 	 offers relevant personal reactions and ideas with some analysis; there is a sense of individuality ideas and information show some complexity (e.g., speculation, generalizations) gives logical explanations, details, and examples to develop and clarify the main ideas
 language is clear, with some variety and description variety of sentence lengths; may vary sentence beginnings, use subordinate clauses (result may be awkward in places) 	 language is clear and varied; may include precise, expressive, or figurative language flows smoothly, with a variety of sentence lengths and patterns
 introduces the topic and purpose at the beginning; attempts to provide some context sticks to the topic, with related ideas grouped together; sequence is easy to follow ending is logical but abrupt uses a variety of connecting words (e.g., while, suddenly, also, so, because, then, after, when, but) 	 opens with a clear intention or purpose; provides context develops the topic with a logical sequence of ideas ending is effective uses an increasing variety of connecting phrases and words (e.g., although, therefore, at the same time, while, also)
 few errors; these do not interfere with meaning most familiar words are spelled correctly basic sentence punctuation is correct, including dialogue; may have minor errors in use of commas most sentences are complete and correct; may include occasional run-on sentences or fragments follows basic rules of grammar; may include occasional errors (e.g., adjective instead of adverb form; wrong pronoun, verb form, or tense) 	 sense of control; few errors; these are usually the result of taking risks to use complex language and structures most words are spelled correctly punctuation is correct, including dialogue and use of commas sentences are complete and correct; may have some problems when taking risks with more complex constructions follows rules of grammar, including noun-pronoun and subject-verb agreement; verb tenses are consistent and accurate

Sample Task: Journal Writing

CONTEXT

The teacher in this classroom emphasizes the importance of daily writing to improve writing skills and engages students in a wide variety of planned and impromptu writing tasks, including a weekly journal entry.

In their journals, students write thoughts, feelings, ideas, memories, and opinions in response to selections and current issues they have recently read, viewed, or experienced. The writing is not planned, revised, or edited for presentation; however, students are expected to demonstrate clarity of language, begin with a clear introduction, and follow a logical sequence, as well as applying conventions of standard English. The teacher reads and responds to the journals. On occasion, students share their journals with others. The journals are also a source of ideas for other kinds of writing.

PROCESS

Students were asked to look back at the journal writing they had completed and find something they wrote previously that they would like to develop further. The teacher asked students to extend the topic and tell why they liked this activity or discuss why the topic was of interest to them.

NOT YET WITHIN EXPECTATIONS

Teacher's Observations

This journal entry has some ideas that are related to the topic; however, it is very short.

- insufficient explanation, details, and examples
- very short journal entry
- simple, repetitive language
- sentences are short
- attempts to develop the topic
- wanders and loses focus, with no real ending
- many sentences are fragments

	Not Yet	Meets	Fully	Exceeds
SNAPSHOT				
MEANING				
STYLÉ				
FORM				
CONVENTIONS				

later as	e very	smart a	animals	
 3		N.7	•	
 Criffer, te like n	5 to g	p outs	de al	74
1 11/1e P	ly car	- C//7-16		and the second of the second o

TRANSCRIPT

Cats are very smart animals.

I have a cat his name is Critter. Critter is very playful he likes to go outside alot.

I like my cat Critter.

I think my is speacial. I don't like when my cat jumps on me and scratches.

Web onCats

- -cute
- -smart
- -fury
- -playful
- -fun
- -cudley

MEETS EXPECTATIONS (MINIMAL LEVEL)

Teacher's Observations

This student's journal entry is somewhat general but completes the basic task.

- information and ideas are relatively simple
- some explanation, details, and examples
- language tends to be simple and often vague
- sentence length is varied
- relies on a few basic patterns
- generally sticks to the topic
- ♦ wanders in places, and the ending is weak
- most basic words are spelled correctly
- includes some errors

	Not Yet	Meets	Fully	Exceeds
SNAPSHOT				
MEANING				
STYLE				
FORM				
CONVENTIONS				

Myfamily
I have five members in my family I have two brothers named — and —
named and is 25 he
are and smoker she is 6
named and is 25 he is turning 26 in December. My farent's are and and smoker she is 6 years old. My Mom and Dad are trom singapore they were born in

TRANSCRIPT

My family

I have five members in my family. I have two brothers named ———and ———, —— is 21 ——— is 25 he is turning 26 in December. My parent's are ——— and ————. I have a cat named smoky she is 6 years old. My mom and Dad are from singapore they were born in singapore same with my brothers I'am the only chil

that was born in canada I am the youngest child in my family I was born in the Royal columian Hospital. My mom and me and my elder brother went to singapore this year all by my self. My brother —— is a nurse and my older brother goes to university and comes back on fridays. My Dad is a nurse too he goes to beavlen loge, Simon hospital in langlece or surrey, My mom is a cook. We all way in the summer go camping And we go to Whistler every winter to skie and I never been skieing. When we go skieing my friend KoKo that's her nick name and her mom and dad are coming with us. my dad and mom and me last time we went on the gondola its a ride its really high and sorda scary to see the view. So like I was saying my family is a really cool family but sometimes my two brothers bully me and i don't like it! My mom is 42 She is a very good cook She doesn't really like snow and she is afraid of animals, my dad is a nurse he likes me.

Web on Family

- -My parents are ——— & ———
- -I have two brothers
- -One cat named smoky
- -My mom is a cook
- -My Dad is a nurse
- -I have five members in my family
- -My brother goes to university
- -I went to Singapore Twice
- -My other brother is a nurse too.

FULLY MEETS EXPECTATIONS

Teacher's Observations

This student's journal entry is straightforward, direct, and easy to follow. It has few errors.

- offers relevant personal reactions and ideas with some sense of individuality
- gives logical explanations, details, and examples to develop and clarify the main idea
- language is clear, with some variety and description
- introduces the topic and purpose at the beginning
- sequence is easy to follow
- ♦ basic sentence punctuation is correct

	Not Yet	Meets	Fully	Exceeds
SNAPSHOT				
MEANING				
STYLE				
FORM				
CONVENTIONS				

Hockey

My favorite sport is hocker. You play on Ice with the goalies and players on each tham. You wear a jock socks knee pads. Skates pants ellow pads neak gown Shoulder pads gloves and a helmet. You to put the puck in the net past the goaly with your stick, when you scare the crowd goes wild. You play on ice with skates.

TRANSCRIPT

Hockey

My favorite sport is hockey. You play on ice with two goalies and 5 players on each team. you wear a jock, socks, knee pads, skates, pants, elbow pads, neckgaurd, shoulder pads, gloves, and a helmet. You try to put the puck in the net past the goaly with your stick. When you score the crowd goes wild. You play on ice with skates.

In one season there are 82 reaglar season games. After the 82 games 16 teams go into the playoffs hoping to win the stanly cup. Lasy year the New jersy Devil's won the Stanly Cup.

Wayne Gretktzy holds almost all of the records like scoring, asitst and so on. Wayne Grektszy is in the hockey hall of Fame after playing many Years in the N.H.L. (Natinal Hockey Leage). Wayne Grektzy is good but my favorite player is on the colorado Avalance he is Joe Sakie.

I also play hockey. I have played since I was 5 the first game I played I scored three goals (a hat trick). When I was ten I went to Calgary for a tunament. This year I made the A1 team. I had to do triouts out of 120 kids and 9 forwads, 6 defenceman, and 2 goalys make the A1 team. I hope to play hockey in the N.H.L. when I get old enough. Hockey the coolest game on earth.

centre ice (illustration)

Web on Hockey

- -I play hockey
- -A1 hockey
- -Team first place
- -records
- -hockey hall of fame
- -ice
- -favorite player
- -Joe Sakie
- -sticks
- -pucks
- -net
- -crowd
- -playofs
- -82 games
- -Stanly Cup playoffs

EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Teacher's Observations

This journal writing is focused and easy to read, and it features some analysis and complexity.

- offers relevant personal reactions and ideas
- gives logical explanations, details, and examples to develop and clarify the main ideas
- flows smoothly, with a variety of sentence lengths and patterns
- opens with a clear intention or purpose
- provides some context
- develops the topic, leading to an effective ending
- most words are spelled correctly
- punctuation is correct, including use of commas

	Not Yet	Meets	Fully	Exceeds
SNAPSHOT				
MEANING				
STYLE				
FORM				
CONVENTIONS				

In my spare tim	ne I like to me	le my scooter
		s. One of the most of one of the best around \$50. There
the best kind I	sist one very cheap	of One of the best
are many more	Ligherent kinds,	W MIONINA \$50. MER

TRANSCRIPT

In my spare time I like to ride my scooter.

There are lots of differnt kinds. One of the most popular kind of scooters are the "Razors." They are not the best kind but are very cheap. One of the best kinds are the "Jale Bing." They cost around \$150. There are many more different kinds.

I like doing tricks on my scooter. So, far I can only do seven tricks. My best trick is probably a bunny hop, regular to goofy and bar spin all in one jump. I can only do this trick off my friend's driveway. Some other tricks are; wheelie, donkey kick, 360, 180, airwalk, and handstand.

Mini scooters are very easy to use. They can fold up so you can carry them around. Some scooters are easier to fold then others most scooters will allow you to adjust the height of the handle bar.

Companys are coming up with lots of new features. Scooters can now have coloured hand grips and wheels. The "Razor" just came out with bars at the back to stand on while doing a wheelie.

Scooters are a big craze!

Web on Mini scooters

- -very popular
- -laws
- -tricks
- -different kind
- -transportation
- -hard to find
- -all ages
- -value
- -Easy to use

GRADE 6 WRITING: Additional Tasks/Samples

Personal/Impromptu Writing 1 tasks Writing to Communicate Ideas and Information 6 tasks Literary Writing 6 tasks

Grade 6 Personal/impromptu Writing: Additional Sample 1 Journal Writing

Context

Journal writing was a weekly activity for students in this class where students wrote thoughts, feelings, ideas, memories, and opinions in response to selections they had read, viewed, or experienced. The personal writing was not planned, revised or edited for presentation. Students were expected to demonstrate clarity of language, begin with a clear introduction and follow a logical sequence. They also practiced using the standard conventions they had learned in class. The audience was the teacher and on occasion, other students. The students also used their journals as ideas for other kinds of writing.

Process

Students were asked to look back at the journal writing they had completed and find something they had previously written that they would like to develop further. The teacher asked students to extend the topic and tell why they liked this activity or discuss why the topic was of interest to them.

Meets Expectations (Minimal Level)

	NOT YET	MEETS	FULLY	EXCEEDS
SNAPSHOT				
MEANING				
STYLE				
FORM				
CONVENTIONS		#		

Teacher's Observations

This student's journal entry is somewhat general but completes the basic task.

- information and ideas are relatively simple
- some explanation, details and examples
- language tends to be simple and often vague
- sentence length is varied
- relies on a few basic patterns
- generally sticks to the topic
- wanders in places and the ending is weak
- most basic words are spelled correctly
- includes some errors

Excitement le sept maren Just a Lew reselve ago I got a Call Learn sease modleing Company. My mom entered me in a moderne Contest and I was one of the people that won. These going to give me modeling lessons. I also have a care to go to tocontor and mode for sease catalog. I was very exicited at that moment and I still am.

Fully Meets Expectations

	NOT YET	MEETS	PULLY	EXCEEDS
SNAPSHOT				
MEANING			5,32	
STYLE			3	
FORM				
CONVENTIONS				

Teacher's Observations

This student's journal entry is straightforward, direct and easy to follow. It has few errors.

- offers relevant personal reactions
- ideas have some sense of individuality
- gives logical explanations, details and examples to develop and clarify the main idea
- language is clear with some variety and description
- introduces the topic and purpose at the beginning
- sequence is easy to follow
- basic sentence punctuation is correct

Encitement le Novembre Excitment for ne could be anything a new dress, or even just watching a sun set throw the evenings sky Domething that excitment does to me is bring me happyness. Happyness can be found only if something wonderful is going like an election for moyon, or a trip to an exciting place. Excitment is so wonderful its like that tingle feeling you get when your older brother is tickling you all over but in your heart.