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**“The purpose of the Prince Edward Island public education system is to provide for the development of children so that each may take a meaningful place in society.”**

## ***How are we doing?***

The more I learn about education and schooling, the more I turn to the issue of assessment. Here are some preliminary thoughts:

- A person’s level of achievement is determined by (1) the nature and range of competencies, the skills or outcomes that can be demonstrated and (2) the level of performance on each skill demonstrated.
- Levels of student achievement should not be linked to a person’s age; showing the level achieved in a subject is more important than showing the age-group in which a student has been placed.
- Employers should not rely on school subjects and grades as criteria for selecting potential employees; employers should do their own testing; TOWES (Test of Workplace Essential Skills) is a popular alternative.
- Schools should use the same criteria for assessing achievement as are used in real life.
- Formative assessment is an integral part of the teaching function; summative assessment (establishing qualifications) is not a school function.
- Diplomas and degrees are credentials that describe what has been studied rather than what has been learned; they need to be supplemented or replaced by a “National Qualification System” that certifies what one can do with what one knows. Canada and the USA are the only two developed countries without a national qualification system.

## ***Watch for***

- **A presentation** by Barbara MacNutt, Manager, Literacy/Essential Skills, Department of Workforce and Advanced Learning.

**Literacy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**  
**Wednesday, September 14, 2016**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Southport Room,**  
**Stratford Town Hall**

Find out where PEI adults stand compared to the rest of Canada, and, in particular, compared to the other Atlantic Provinces. The presentation will include discussion about availability of literacy training, what more needs to be done, and, generally, why literacy is important to the future success of PEI.

- **A film**

**Beyond Measure**  
City Cinema  
Sunday, October 16, 2016  
2:00 p.m.

A film based on a book of the same name by Margaret Heffernan; the film addresses the issue of an “overscheduled, over tested and underestimated generation.

- **A presentation in October** on the importance of social & emotional learning, and its links to well-being.

Editor – Don Glendenning

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