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## Ministry Announcement: New Kindergarten to Grade 9 Curriculum Framework for feedback

06 November 2013

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Parents and community are encouraged to go to the website <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/> in order to become familiar with the new proposed K-9 curriculum. To better understand the way changes are occurring it may be helpful to look at one of the subject areas. For example the website provides a sample of the new features in the area of Social Studies. The proposed Social Studies curriculum has four important new features:

- The reduction in the number of content learning standards places greater emphasis on acquiring and developing key disciplinary thinking skills. These skills are built around six major historical and geographical thinking concepts: significance, evidence, continuity and change, cause and consequence, perspective, and ethical judgments. While the Social Studies curriculum focuses on topics from the disciplines of history, geography, political science, and economics, Social Studies can draw topics from disciplines across the humanities and social sciences, such as archeology, philosophy, or anthropology.
- This focus on disciplinary thinking means that students will take part in actively building their own understanding of important concepts and topics. Social Studies covers many interesting topics with no agreed-upon answer, such as questions about the causes of major historical events or debates about which policy decisions government should make to address a societal problem. Using disciplinary thinking tools, students will learn to develop and support their own answers to these questions, as well as challenge the answers and information obtained through various sources.
- Less detailed and less prescriptive content allows teachers and students to go in directions of particular interest or local relevance.
- In order to build greater understanding of Aboriginal history and culture, the study of these important topics and perspectives are embedded throughout all grades.

We encourage everyone to read further and discuss these changes through Parent Advisory Council meetings. Talk with your school Principal about how input can be provided to the Ministry of Education.



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