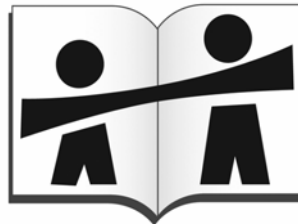


SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 23
(Central Okanagan)



Together We Learn

August 24, 2009

Welcome back to another school year. We hope that the summer months have provided you with much deserved rest and relaxation.

As another school year begins, we have the opportunity and privilege to make a positive difference in the lives of more than 21,000 students. Everyone in our District, including teachers, Principals and Vice-Principals, Board Trustees, senior staff, and support staff, are valuable contributors to progressive, caring work and educational environments. Together, we can reach our goal of building solid foundations for our students' future successes.

In the 2008/2009 school year, a record number of Aboriginal students (131) celebrated their graduation. We also saw positive results from the united efforts to increase our overall graduation rate. In addition, our District made strides in reducing our environmental footprint by operating a hybrid school bus, recycling, composting, and through the use of advanced building technologies at Dr. Knox Middle School and the newly-opened Chute Lake Elementary. Our schools also reached out to the larger community; staff and students gave hope and financial assistance to people locally and around the globe through numerous inspiring fundraisers. Although this may be a tough act to follow, we are confident that this year will be one of new heights for staff and students.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to the staff who helped out at emergency centres during the West Kelowna wild fires in the summer. The makeshift emergency centres established at Shannon Lake Elementary, Constable Neil Bruce Middle and Mount Boucherie Secondary accommodated hundreds of firefighters and displaced residents. Our schools also provided necessary space for firefighting equipment and reconnaissance helicopters.

Thank you for your contributions to one of Canada's most progressive school districts.

Rolli Cacchioni
Chairperson, Board of Education

Hugh Gloster
Superintendent of Schools