



Rainy River

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

August 26, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back! As we start another school year, I want to recognize those who have been very busy this summer, preparing our schools to be welcoming and inviting to students, their families, and staff. Our Maintenance Department, our Information Technology Services Department, and all school caretaking staff have been busy at work, ensuring that our facilities are ready for the first day of classes for your children.

With the start of a new school year, there are many things to celebrate and to look forward to in our District. During the 2012-13 school year, the Rainy River District School Board developed a five year Strategic Plan that provides a roadmap for our system for continued success. The four main areas or pillars for this plan and the focuses within these areas are as follows:

Purposeful Learning

In addition to implementing Early Learning in three additional schools this year, our efforts will be on ensuring that our earliest learners have the necessary supports to be successful in school, through enhanced community partnerships and our Reading Recovery programming. Throughout this year, we will be deepening our focus on the development of resources that personalize the curriculum for our students, reflecting the local communities' cultures and histories.

Capacity Building

The Rainy River District School Board focuses on lifelong learning, for our students as well as our staff. This year, we will be continuing our professional development within the classroom setting, providing teachers on the job training to integrate technology. Other areas of focus will be supports for our Early Childhood Educators in their professional growth, as well as training for staff to ensure that our schools are safe and inclusive.

Well-being of Staff and Students

Knowing that the emotional well-being of our students is the foundation for their achievement, we are so pleased to have a Mental Health Leader this year, to formalize the work that we have begun in developing supports for students with mental health issues. Over the past few years, schools across the District have adopted a strengths-based approach, building on each child's abilities both in relation to his or her achievement and well-being, and this approach will be further expanded this year. Further work will also take place in ensuring that our schools have safe learning environments, as we review our procedures related to student safety.

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Heather Campbell

Engagement of Students and Parents

The fourth area of focus, engagement, speaks to our most valuable relationships – those with our students, and with you, their parents and guardians. In addition to supporting students through technology in a purposeful and responsible way, we will be working with you as partners in your child’s education. Please visit our website, www.rrdsb.com, to learn more about our initiatives and inquiry learning, to find out more about school councils and the Parent Involvement Committee, as well as resources to support you and your child with respect to his or her learning.

As we begin this school year, please know that it takes exceptional staff, informed parents and involved community members to create the best possible arena for learning.

Our most important endeavor, as a system, is supporting the growth - social, emotional, physical, and intellectual - of every child in our system. With that in mind, I wish everyone the best for the 2013-2014 school year. We truly are an innovative community that nourishes the hearts and minds of all of our students!

Yours in education,



Heather Campbell
Director of Education

c. Trustees

Useful resources:

[Rainy River District Transportation Services Consortium](#)

[RRDSB website](#)

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[Parent Involvement Committee Spring 2013 Newsletter](#)

[SchoolHouse](#)