



The End of Another School Year

Beginning in Kindergarten, a student's journey through our public school system is one of many adventures leading towards high school completion. With the end of the school year around the corner, this is a time to reflect not only on the foundation that education provides for residents of our city, but to celebrate the accomplishments of students exiting our school system.

Despite the many changes occurring in Calgary, the province of Alberta and around the world, our education system continues to be part of the fabric of our community. We depend on our education system to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed by our citizens to maintain civil, democratic societies.

Staff at the Calgary Board of Education believes that, although change is constant, there are fundamental knowledge, skills and attitudes students will need now and into the future. In addition to academics, student learning in CBE schools includes personal development, character development and the acquisition of citizenship skills; outcomes explained in the Calgary Board of Education Board of Trustees' Ends policies. Underlying each of these Ends is the students' ability to take ownership for their learning; to make learning personal, meaningful and authentic – relevant to their lives outside of school. By developing greater levels of self-understanding, students can identify their strengths and areas for growth. These understandings will help to ensure our school system is able to best meet students' learning needs.

Complementing and supporting the CBE Ends are a number of initiatives underway at the provincial level. Alberta Education has engaged stakeholders in a variety of discussions on how

to sustain a viable, vibrant and effective education system. Three provincial initiatives – Inspiring Education, Setting the Direction and Speak Out – have sought to gather input from all sectors of our province to guide educators in ensuring our education system is inclusive, innovative and engaging for students, now and into the future. For more information on these initiatives, please see the following sites:

<http://www.inspiringeducation.alberta.ca/>

http://education.alberta.ca/media/1082136/sc_settingthedirection_framework.pdf

<http://www.speakout.alberta.ca/>

We are privileged to have one of the best public education systems in the world. Results of the 2006 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) showed Alberta's 15 year-old students in second place in science, third place in reading and tied for fifth place in the world in mathematics. Standings such as these are the result of many hours of hard work by students and educational staff members in our city and across the province.

Congratulations to all students for completing another school year and best wishes to those students who are completing high school. I hope the skills, knowledge and attitudes you have developed while in our school system have prepared you effectively for life beyond high school.

Thank you to all staff and students for your hard work this year. I wish all of you a restful and relaxing summer break.

Naomi E. Johnson
Chief Superintendent of Schools

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