



## Media Release

**January 26, 2005**

**For Immediate Release**

### **BOARD APPROVES HOCKEY SKILLS ACADEMY**

Trustees of the Greater Victoria School Board have approved a Hockey Skills Academy at Spectrum Community School beginning in September 2005.

The program will serve 30 students in Grade 9 & 10 and involve three on-ice sessions per week at the nearby G.R. Pearkes Arena and two classroom sessions at the school.

The Greater Victoria School District's decision to create a Hockey Skills Academy follows the successful implementation of a Soccer Academy at Reynolds High School and a Baseball Excellence Program at Lambrick Park.

"The Board has identified a need in the community to combine a first class education program with the athletic aspirations of many of our students", said Board Chair Michael McEvoy. "Many of our students would be pursuing these kinds of programs outside the District and there is no reason why we can not keep them here. We have one of the best education systems anywhere."

Program coordinator Darren Smith, who holds a Masters Degree in Coaching will provide instruction in fitness nutrition and sport psychology as well as provide academic support for Academy students. Students will spend 25% of their instructional time in Academy blocks and will receive eight credits in each grade toward their graduation requirements.

A program information evening for interested parents and students is scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Spectrum Theatre, 957 Burnside Road West.

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