

Media Release

May 4, 2007

For Immediate Release

StrongStart Centres

Beginning in September, 2007, the Greater Victoria School District will have StrongStart Centres located at Tillicum Community School and George Jay Elementary School. StrongStart Centres are designed for three to five year olds who will attend on a drop-in-basis; however, the Greater Victoria School District will work to accommodate families, at no cost, with children from birth to five years of age.

“The Greater Victoria School District is pleased to announce that we have received funding for two StrongStart Centres”, stated Michael McEvoy, Chairman of the Greater Victoria School District. “We are delighted to be able to offer literacy programs as well as emotional, physical and social development to the youngest members of our community.”

By working with the community, StrongStart Centres provide opportunities for parents and caregivers to observe and practice activities that support early learning. “We plan on linking parents and caregivers to services offered by health authorities, community agencies and other social service providers, e.g. early screening centres, libraries, English as a Second Language services, parent resource centres, child care services and referrals for children who may have developmental or other special needs”, according to Chairman McEvoy. McEvoy went on to state that it is his expectation that our StrongStart Centres will be able to provide support to vulnerable and Aboriginal families.

StrongStart Centres represents a partnership between School Districts of British Columbia and the Provincial Government.

- 30 -

For further information contact:
Michael McEvoy, Board Chairman
Greater Victoria School District 61
(250) 744-6520