



# Office of the Superintendent

*Deb Whitten – Superintendent*

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December 14, 2022

**RE: Happy Holidays!**

Dear Families,

As we head into winter break, I would like to take this opportunity to thank students, staff, and families for a successful start to the 2022/23 school year.

Reflecting on the past four months, I feel incredibly fortunate to be a member of this learning community. It has been very busy in our schools as we ease into a new normal. Our staff's level of commitment and dedication to best support our students continues to impress me.

After nearly 30 years in education, I am continuously inspired by team members and what we can accomplish when working together. While there have been challenges arising from the pandemic, collectively we continue to deliver quality education and nurture each student's learning and well-being in a safe, culturally responsive, and inclusive learning community.

I recognize with appreciation all the work that is done to set students up for success, and the time and effort that takes place before, during and after a school day. As we know, a child's parent or guardian is often their first teacher, and I want to thank you for your active participation in this important role.

I want to express gratitude towards the Four Houses (Esquimalt First Nation, Songhees First Nation, Métis Nation of Greater Victoria, and Urban People's House Indigenous Advisory) for the ongoing heart and hard work to strengthen our relationships and to provide the best supports and services for Indigenous students and families.

I would also like to thank our newly elected Board of Education and our educational partners for their positive and meaningful contributions: CUPE 947, CUPE 382, Allied Specialists Association, the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association, Victoria Confederation of Parents Advisory Councils, and the Victoria Principals and Vice-Principals Association.

There is excellent work happening in our learning community, and we could not do it without you. Thank you! I look forward to working alongside all of you in 2023.

Until then, I hope you enjoy a well-deserved break. Wishing you a very happy holiday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deb Whitten".

Deb Whitten  
Superintendent of Schools