



# Office of the Superintendent

*Deb Whitten – Superintendent*

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8  
Phone (250) 475-4162 Fax (250) 475-4112

---

December 20, 2023

**RE: Happy Holidays!**

Dear Families,

As we head into a well-earned winter break, I would like to take this opportunity to share my sincere gratitude to students, staff, and families for a successful start to the 2023/24 school year.

Reflecting on the past four months, I feel very fortunate to be a member of this learning community. It has been busy in our schools as we work collectively to support all students so they can say, "I belong, I have purpose, and I matter." Our staff's level of commitment and dedication to best support our students continues to inspire me.

After over 30 years in education, I continuously learn from school and district staff and am impressed by what we can accomplish when working together. 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 all parents and caregivers 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 the Board of Education and our educational partners for their positive and meaningful contributions: CUPE 947, CUPE 382, the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association, and the Victoria Confederation of Parents Advisory Councils, as well as the Victoria Principals and Vice-Principals Association.

There is excellent meaningful 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 2024.

Until then, I hope you enjoy a restful and 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