



Board of Education and Superintendent

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8
Phone (250) 475-4106 Fax (250) 475-4112

September 18, 2023

Dear Families and Caregivers,

We are excited to welcome new and returning students, staff and families this September. Over the summer months, the Board of Education and District Staff have been busy planning and preparing for a successful 2023-2024 school year.

As you may be aware, on May 31, 2023, the Board of Education ended the School Police Liaison Officer Program which involved School Police Liaison Officers from Oak Bay Police, Saanich, and the RCMP (Police Liaison Officers have not been present in Victoria and Esquimalt schools since 2018).

The Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools are deeply committed to creating and maintaining safe, welcoming, and inclusive school environments for all members of our learning community. We believe that every student deserves an environment in which they can thrive academically and personally and want to assure you that the safety of our learning community remains our top priority.

Furthermore, we want to reassure you that our students will continue to receive the necessary support and care from trained, certified, and regulated professionals in schools and the community. Over the summer, the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools worked to ensure that appropriate processes are in place. We will be collaborating with schools to ensure they are informed about how to access and utilize these available services for supporting students and staff during times of need.

The Board is committed to maintaining strong relationships with local police and to clearly defining their roles within our schools. They play a key role in keeping our school communities safe. In the event of a school emergency, we want to emphasize that our existing protocols for lockdowns, critical incidents, and violent threat risk assessments continue to be in effect.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our shared goal of providing a safe and nurturing educational environment for all students.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Duncan".

Nicole Duncan
Chair, Board of Education
School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deb Whitten".

Deb Whitten
Superintendent of Schools
School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

One *Learning* Community

