

# Board of Education

Greater Victoria School District No. 61  
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September 16, 2025

## RE: Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year

Dear Families,

We hope you had a fantastic summer and are settling in nicely to your new school year. We are grateful to welcome your child(ren) alongside more than 20,000 other students to our 47 schools located throughout Victoria, Esquimalt, Oak Bay, View Royal, Saanich, and the Highlands— the traditional territories of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations on which we live, learn, and do our work.

Guided by our collective vision to provide each student with opportunities to fulfill their potential and pursue their aspirations, our caring and knowledgeable staff look forward to supporting your family this school year. We are thankful for the ongoing collaboration between Rightsholders, students, staff, families, partners, and the wider community that makes this vision a reality.

Each September we renew our commitment to creating culturally responsive, equitable, accessible, and safe learning environments that support and improve all learners' personal and academic success. This year, we especially look forward to witnessing student achievement in areas of literacy, and numeracy.

Supporting all learners' physical and mental well-being will also continue to be a priority, as social-emotional learning, physical literacy, and mental health literacy are key factors in improving outcomes for all students.

Whether your child is in StrongStart or Kindergarten, a grade-level learner, an international student, or you have enrolled yourself in a Continuing Education program, we are excited to support you, your family, and all who are connected to our School District 61 family.

We wish you success during your school start-up and throughout the year ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Deb Whitten'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Deb Whitten  
Superintendent of Schools

*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.*