

Office of the Superintendent

Greater Victoria School District No. 61
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February 19, 2026

RE: Continued Support for Our Learning Community

Dear Families,

Thank you for continuing to support students and each other in the wake of the tragic events in Tumbler Ridge. As an educator, a district leader, and a parent myself, I am overwhelmed with the compassion I have witnessed over the last two weeks. To our entire learning community, thank you for spreading kindness and empathy, and for checking in with the youth in your lives.

On behalf of the Greater Victoria School District, I want to reassure you that student and staff safety remains our highest priority and our schools remain safe, affirming spaces to learn. The district's Safe Schools Coordinator, Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT), Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee, and school-based teams continue to collaboratively lead district-wide [safety planning](#) with guidance from our Ministry partners, local emergency response teams, and community services. I also commend each team's collaborative commitment to continuous improvement of [emergency drills](#) to reflect trauma-informed practices and emerging needs.

Our schools are staffed with talented, considerate individuals who have dedicated their careers to educating and nurturing students. Principals, Vice-Principals, teachers, counsellors, and support staff care deeply about your children. Their dedication to care extends beyond learning and physical safety to include emotional and psychological well-being as well. Each of our schools continue to provide reassurance, structure, and support for your children.

Students seeking inclusive spaces and communities within schools are invited to engage with their school's SOGI lead and GSA clubs, which play a vital role in ensuring that 2SLGBTQI+ students feel seen, valued, and protected.

Please know that families and staff have a shared responsibility to the youth in our lives, and that you are not alone in this work. If additional resources or coordinated supports would be helpful, do not hesitate to reach out to your school directly.

With kindness and appreciation,

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

Deb Whitten
Superintendent of Schools