

GOLD TRAIL
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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(GOLD TRAIL)

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Gold Trail News



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER, 2009

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Dear Partners in Education,

We're living in a world where change is a constant. The only way to stay focused on reality in a world moving as fast as ours is to look for global trends. That's what educators in Gold Trail are doing – we're looking at the way our children learn new things. We watch them when they are totally engrossed in an activity and consider how to implement that kind of engagement in classrooms. It's through the eyes of our youth that teachers are fundamentally challenged about the world we live in and the future that awaits our students.

The use of technology as a tool for learning is one strategy for successfully capturing the interest of our students. The world of technology is the world that youth live in. Youth know a lot about being 'on line' but most of our youth don't really know how to use technology to improve their knowledge base, and how to use their mind with technology – in other words to engage in learning through technology. The school system needs to incorporate technology tools into the learning experience to teach students how to use it appropriately to prepare them for their new realities in the 21st Century.

A walk through any of our schools in Gold Trail is an exciting opportunity to see how technology is being used to support learning. Interactive whiteboards allow students to participate in small and large group instruction and ultimately increase their level of engagement. Sharing instruction within our district and units of study being taught from experts in other places are possible through the use of the video conferencing equipment. Students using laptops to increase and improve their writing abilities and networks of students challenging each other from community to community through interactive computer programs are all common activities that occur in our small rural schools. Courses from French, to Math and Physics right through to guided reading and literature circles have become common place for the students of Gold Trail. Through these technology tools we are teaching students to research, to assess and filter new knowledge, to work collaboratively with their peers, to communicate effectively, to think critically about the world around them and learn to creatively solve problems as they arise.

Preparing students for the 21st Century will require teaching in 'Networked World'. Teachers will need to shift their practice so they are facilitating learning and allowing students to find new knowledge through their own exploration assisted by technology. Our teachers' new role will allow them to be learners along side the students and be the facilitators of the information flow rather than the presenters of information.

As we prepare our students for the 21st Century, educators in Gold Trail haven't lost sight of the fact that our focus is on the learning and technology is just a tool that makes learning more engaging for the youth of today.

Pat Pearce, Superintendent

Board Highlights

Quote from the Chair

" I am very pleased that the Board has decided to move ahead with two very important decisions. The Aboriginal Student Achievement Project is so inspiring. It is an exciting venture that we are confident will improve student achievement for not only our Aboriginal students, but for all students. The Human Rights Exemption Policy is another step towards inclusion of all cultures; helping our students experience a sense of belonging."

**~ M. Varcoe-Ryan,
Board Chair**

Our MISSION

is to support success for all students in a safe, supportive, culturally rich environment, reflecting the unique strengths of our rural communities.

The Board of Education, School District No.74, held their second meeting of the year at Kumsheen Secondary School.

Highlights from the October 27th meeting of the Board of Education include:

- Kumsheen Secondary staff and students demonstrated and shared information regarding the newly introduced Outdoor Program—mountain biking. The enthusiastic group is working cooperatively with the community to ensure the program's success. Zane Spencer, Principal, spoke passionately for the need to engage students in learning so that they can experience success. As well, Zane congratulated the staff for implementing a healthy lifestyle/nutrition program that is very popular with the students.
- Chair Varcoe-Ryan spoke to the Aboriginal Student Achievement Project (ASAP). The Board approved moving forward with the project. In the very near future the district will see interviewers conducting student interviews, collecting stories with the intent of eliciting change in classrooms by developing relationships with students.
- Chair Varcoe-Ryan spoke to the Director of Instruction's Report. Early Learning reported the Kindergarten speech and language screening was near completion. The three Elementary Connected Classroom sites held an Open House which provided parents an opportunity to learn about the project, meet the teachers and to see the technology being used by their child. Secondary Literacy reported on the progress in planning the district's professional development day in November. Leyton Schnellert, guest presenter will share ways to plan for diversity within the classroom. Elementary Literacy's primary focus was the reading and writing assessments which will be reviewed in the upcoming month. Numeracy reports on the completion of district wide numeracy assessments for students in grades 3—9 and the development of baselines to narrow the focus of instruction and begin to measure growth.
- Trustee Adrian spoke to Policy No.8.90 Employment Equity/Human Rights Exemption. The Board approved the adoption of Policy No.8.90.
- Trustee Rempel spoke to the SmartTool (Carbon Neutral Reporting), a mandatory program to measure, aggregate and report carbon emissions.
- Trustee Ranta shared information on a Partnership in Claims Management between SD No. 23 and SD No. 74.

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