



Superintendent Report - November 8, 2011

I am sending my regrets for not being able to attend the November 8, 2011 Board Meeting. I am currently in Japan. The Japan Foundation in consultation with Alberta Education invited me to join a delegation that will visit the following:

- Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute, Urawa
- Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, science and Technology
- Saitama Municipal Urawa High School
- Kashiwagi Elementary School in Tokyo
- Fushimi Inari Shrine
- Kinkakuji Temple
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Shinbahi Embujo Kabuki Program

The Japan Foundation carries out programs and activities in the following three major categories:

- Arts and Cultural Exchange
- Japanese Language Education
- Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

I will be one of five Canadian Educators joining a delegation consisting of 30 participants visiting Japan. I look forward to sharing my experience and understanding.

Highlights:

- Our Board Chair Richard Gilchrist and I had the honor of attending the International conference on Innovative Learning Environments in Banff (October 10-12) organized by the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) and Alberta Education. Together we learnt about innovative learning environments and discussed steps in encouraging innovative education around the world. Representatives from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Chile, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Korea, Mexico, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, Hong Kong, and five provinces of Canada collaborated and shared their vision and hope for our children's future, and ultimately, ours.
- Pleasure of attending Keephills and Graminia School Council Meetings
- Pleasure of attending Spruce Grove Composite High School and Memorial High School Awards nights. Parkland School Division grandaunts were awarded \$280,200.00 for Rutherford Scholarships. Congratulations students!
- Memorial Composite High School Live Free student group under the direction of staff (Amanda Olson, Hailey Larsen, Leanne Traverse) raised \$38,000.00 to support Amanda Lindhout's Global Enrichment Foundation. CTV ran a 5 minute broadcast showcasing students at MCHS.

- PSD Crisis Response Team conducted themselves in a very professional manner providing excellent support Greystone Centennial School students and staff with the recent passing of Jolene Cote, a teacher at Greystone.
- PSD Board of Trustees hosted dignitaries from Shikaoi at Memorial Composite High School. Memorial's Foods 30 students, under the supervision of Wendy Payne-Stecyk, cooked and served the guests. Entertainment was provided by the MCHS Ensemble Choir.
- System Review work is well underway for the 2011-2012 school year. PSD Board of Trustees and Senior Executive is moving forward with a very transparent, open approach as focus on enrollment challenges in Spruce Grove is first. In the new year the Board of Trustees will continue their work as they examine the enrollment challenges in West Parkland Schools.
- Brookwood School Council had their first Book Fair and approximately \$10,000.00 worth of books was sold. Literacy is alive and well!
- A grant received from an anonymous donor of \$200,000 over two years to Parkland Village School is being used to focus on building the resilience in children. An experienced coordinator has been hired to develop and coordinate after school and weekend activities in the community. We are modeling components' of the Mental Health Project in Alberta.
- PEASHIP has supported Parkland School Division in the following areas:
 - .6 OT for West Parkland Schools
 - .4 Success coaches
- Learning Coaches have completed their sixth day of cognitive coaching and are expressing a high level of satisfaction with the training.
- Serge LaBrie is working closing with custodians to ensure the greatest level of support to our schools and division. A very successful custodian meeting/learning day was held. I welcomed the opportunity to speak with the custodians.
- Occupational Health and Safety online modules have successfully been introduced in PSD.
- During the month of November I met with Principals to discuss Professional Growth Plans, successes, challenges and school results.
- Lead Team which consists of the Senior Team, School based Administrators and Learning Services staff met to revamp a Lead Team Meeting format. Lead team focus includes;
 - networking
 - Professional learning time
 - Community meetings will be incorporated into the day
 - Business portion of the meeting will continue in the afternoon
 - The team looks forward to a Trustees representative joining the team for the business portion
 - Suggested timely topics from the team include:
 - Technology- enhancement of learning, use of twitter, blogging etc
 - Students achieve
 - New report card
 - Google docs
 - Special Education – Setting the Direction

- Learning services updates
 - Assessment
 - Education Plan/AERR
 - AISI
 - Parent Portal
 - Differentiated Instruction
 - Teacher Evaluation
 - Budget
- Innovation and Teaching focus:
 - Blogging session for teachers (after work in-service) – 30 teachers signed up
 - Twitter for Teachers (after work in-service) – 30 teachers signed up
 - Learning Leader Project – Initial plan was for 21 teachers, it has risen to 59 staff members. Sessions begin November 29 (after work) focused on using technology to enhance learning in the classroom while aligning the work to the curriculum.
- Recent recognition from outside Parkland School Division includes:
 - Silicon Valley schools in California skyping with PSD to learn about the innovative practices underway in PSD
 - News Alberta continues to tweet out PSD learning's through the 184 Days of Learning Project. They have been described as great stories from PSD. There has been an increase in the number of students in PSD willing to share their learning.

The above represents a snapshot of the work underway in Parkland School Division. Parkland School Division is living “collaborate, create, learn”.