



Merry Christmas

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Senior Administration team, I would like to wish all of our students, staff, parents and guardians, Elders and school community members in general a restful and enjoyable holiday season.

As a newcomer to the Living Sky School Division, I have had a chance to visit most of our schools (with the rest coming up in the new year!) and I am impressed by the Division's focus on equitable supports for student learning – particularly given our diversity and geographic size. As I like to put it, effective school systems operate from the belief that every student is a human being of high value, and there is ample evidence that this belief is shared by our Board of Education and School Community Councils, as well as our Division office and school-based staff.

Effective school systems are also focused on continuous improvement and I am pleased that the Division has undertaken an electronic engagement strategy this past fall in order to encourage our stakeholders to assist with the development of a revised strategic plan. Specifically, we asked participants to provide us with information on those things they felt the Division was doing well and on those areas requiring improvement. Over 1300 people (including parents, students, staff, and members of the Division's Elders' Council) participated in the process, and this feedback will go a long way toward identifying future priorities connected to the improvement of student learning. Thanks very much to all participants for your significant contribution.

As we head into 2017, we have much to look forward to. But it is also important that we take the time to show compassion for those among us who face great adversity. These individuals or families could be in our communities or in another province or nation, but they nonetheless could benefit from the kindness of strangers. Wherever possible, please consider lending a helping hand.

On that note, I hope you have a great Christmas break, and a very happy new year!

Dave Hutchinson
Director of Education
Living Sky School Division No. 202

