



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the calendar rolls over to a new year and classes resume this week, we want to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy 2019. For many, the start of a new year signifies new beginnings, hope and optimism.

Since welcoming children to the 2018-2019 school year, several exciting developments have taken hold in our schools. Together with partners, we expanded [digital learning initiatives](#) such as FuturePLAY and TEALS that provide students with greater 21st century learning opportunities. We also joined in the Ministry of Education's funding announcements that will result in more seismically-safe learning environments and celebrated alongside students and staff of Jamieson Elementary and Kingsford-Smith Elementary as they returned to their seismically upgraded schools.

In September, the Board of Education adopted an [updated governance model](#) that ensures our public education system is responsive to the needs of students, you as families and VSB staff. The Board reaffirmed the District's commitment to ensuring schools are safe and inclusive for all students including our LGBTQ+ students, Indigenous students, students with special needs, students from different ethnic backgrounds and faith traditions as well as our English Language Learners. The District also welcomed returning and newly-elected [trustees](#) following October's municipal election. To provide easy-to-access information, our committee and Board meetings are now [livestreamed](#) and we encourage you to view these proceedings at your convenience.

With the end of the first term, District staff together with trustees visited many schools and enjoyed many [holiday celebrations](#) and school events. We are heartened that classrooms and corridors throughout the District abound with an enthusiasm for learning.

Our District also worked alongside school staff and parent communities through some difficult situations. Our schools are microcosms of society, and sadly, societal challenges can arise in our schools. Working together with our partners, stakeholders and you as caregivers, we are committed to bringing all our resources to bear to ensure all students are safe and have a sense of belonging in their school.

Together with you as parents, our stakeholders and staff, the Board and District staff are committed to building a stronger school system with student success at its heart. In the months ahead, we look forward to engaging with you and sharing many of the successes that take place each day in schools throughout Vancouver.

We wish you all a prosperous and healthy 2019.

Janet Fraser
Board Chairperson
School District #39 (Vancouver)

Suzanne Hoffman
Superintendent of Schools
School District #39 (Vancouver)