

SUPERINTENDENT WAYNE LECKIE'S MESSAGE

It is with optimism and pride that the 2011 - 2012 school year should be embraced. Sunrise has much to be proud of and much to build upon as we embark on this year's educational journey.

As Superintendent I had the opportunity this past July to attend the National Principals Leadership Institute with a number of Sunrise Principals and Assistant Principals. Each day of the institute, we had the unique experience of hearing a different keynote speaker provide their insight and understanding on the purpose of schooling and on educational leadership.

One of the keynote speakers at the institute was Stacy Allison, the first American woman to climb Mt. Everest. Stacy's journey to the top of Mt. Everest in 1988 exemplifies and parallels the challenges and effective ingredients inherent to our journey in support of student learning and educational success. As we strive to support our students in their learning odyssey and to provide them with the attitudes, skills, knowledge, opportunities, relevancy and sense of belonging and safety, the experiences and lessons Stacy outlined resonate well for Sunrise School Division.

If we compare the journey to the summit of Mt. Everest to the student learning journey we are part of, we recognize that there needs to be a clear vision of what we are trying to achieve as well as engagement in extensive planning, ongoing assessment, adapting and revising plans, tactical training and the development of alternate pathways and strategies in order to be successful. One of the most significant observations of Stacy's journey and of the Sunrise student learning journey that stands out however is that of 'teamwork'. Every step of the climb to the top of Mt. Everest and for student achievement is dependent on all of us playing our positions well and working collaboratively as a team. Stacy had sherpas to assist the climbers. We have numerous colleagues and partners to assist our learners. Teachers, administrators, bus drivers, custodians, secretaries, librarians, technicians, clinicians, and Trustees are some of the Sunrise team members ensuring that our students are successful in their lifelong learning journey. They are all needed and crucial to our students being successful.

Our challenge is to craft and refine our relationships and practices so that we work well as a team and collectively support students in their path to success and learning.

The data we have indicates that Sunrise is doing well in providing our students with quality learning opportunities, quality access to educational services, high quality instruction and safe well maintained learning environments. It is evident that good services are being

provided to our students. Collectively we all want to continue to build on our successful and proven practices while at the same time we all want to be looking for the continuous improvements that will better enable all our students to be successful learners in the 21st Century.

It is with this record of success and our commitment to student learning and continuous improvement that we step into the 2011 - 2012 school year. I believe that we have the talent, the dedication, the expertise, the resources and the caring attitude to not only continue to provide outstanding learning opportunities and services to our students but also to extend, deepen and refine our service delivery to students.

I look forward to working with the Sunrise Team as we collectively strive to optimize the learning opportunities for our students and to better enable our students to be successful.

Wayne Leckie
Superintendent/CEO