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September 2015

Welcome back to school!

The new 2015/16 school year brings wonderment for our kindergarten students as they start their first day of school, enthusiasm for students new to our district, and optimism for our grade 12 students as they progress towards graduation in June. For everyone there is the excitement and promise of a new school year and the friendships, opportunities and accomplishments it offers. Thank you very much to all of our administrators, teachers, support staff, and managers who worked hard to prepare our 70 schools for the return of our 30,000 students.

It is an exciting time in the B.C. education system bringing both opportunities and challenges. We are working with a new student administration system – MyEducation BC, new kindergarten to grade 9 curriculum and learning standards, and a new generation network for high speed Internet access. There will also be an emphasis on assessment and new ways to report on and communicate student learning, among several other initiatives. There is a continued focus on personalizing learning and tapping into students' interests to help them learn. The core competencies of critical thinking, creative thinking, positive personal and cultural identity, personal awareness and responsibility, social responsibility, and communication are balanced with a solid foundation of skills in reading, writing and math.

It is also an exciting time for our school district. We are in a period of stability and positive transition which provides us with opportunities to try new ideas, rethink practices, improve efficiencies, and embrace new concepts. It is an opportunity for everyone to engage and contribute to our school district as we work together with our many stakeholder groups to ensure that our students gain the skills they need to enter post-secondary and the workforce. Our goal is to provide our students with the skills to excel personally, socially and in the global economy.

The time is right for action. We will continue to provide professional learning opportunities for teachers, administrators, and support staff, and I encourage students, families and communities to engage with our schools in reaching the goal of our Board of Education to embrace *Learning Without Boundaries: Success In Life For All*. Together we will take action to advance our school district.

We look forward to working closely with our students, parents, and partner groups to build upon the world-class education system that School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) consistently provides to the communities we serve.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and successful school year.

Patricia Gartland
Superintendent of Schools
School District No.43 (Coquitlam)