



Happy Holidays!

October was election time this year and we have a few new faces within our community representing us for the next four years.

I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to our returning and new SD43 School Board Trustees Michael Thomas, Christine Pollock, Jennifer Blatherwick, Carol Cahoon, Craig Woods, Chuck Denison, Kerri Palmer Issac, Lisa Park and Zoe Royer.

I would also like to congratulate both Michael Thomas and Craig Woods for their acclaimed positions of Board Chair and Vice Chair respectively. I look forward to working closely with the board toward our common goal of a better educational experience for the children in our community.

My sincerest thanks go to our outgoing trustees Barb Hobson and Keith Watkins for their time and service to our community. I wish you both health and happiness as you choose to focus on your families and other endeavors.

I would also like to congratulate all the city councilors and mayors elected in our district for this term. The Tri-Cities is a fantastic place to live and raise our children. Hopefully, our city councilors and mayors will continue to help grow our cities and make us all proud.

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to attend the DPAC Summit in Richmond. How great to meet other DPAC executives from all across our province and collaborate on how to make our districts better. Discussions on how to engage with parents, the board of trustees and district leadership teams was at the forefront of our conversations, along with how to make the ministers aware of the shortfalls and help find solutions to these problems.

Another key takeaway was from a presentation by Minister of State for Child Care, Katrina Chen, who announced that as of December 1st, this year, there will be an up to \$900/month reduction in daycare fees for 0-5-year-olds! In addition, in September 2023, we will see a drop in the before and after school care fees by half! These new changes should help many parents reduce the burden of stress placed on trying to balance work and child care.

November has come to an end and as we look towards the end of term, we have the winter break to look forward to. Unfortunately, we are also dealing with respiratory illnesses at a heightened level during this time.

Spending quality time with our family and friends should be of utmost importance! Take this time to reflect, enjoy and refocus on the precious things life has to offer.

The next DPAC meeting will be on Jan 25th where our special presentation will be on Preparing our Children for Post-Secondary education by Josh Keller.

Stay healthy and prosperous, enjoy the winter break and see you all in the new year!

Rosey Manhas

DPAC43 President

