

September 20, 2012

Dear parents,

As we begin the 2012-13 school year, I want to welcome and acknowledge you as key partners in the educational success of your children. Our goal is to provide better support, engagement and opportunities for each and every child to succeed as we rebuild our province together.

I announced several new initiatives as the last school year came to an end on behalf of the provincial government and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. With new school districts and new investments in inclusion and anti-bullying initiatives, we are continuing to ensure each student can learn and develop in welcome, inclusive, positive learning environments. With our new school districts along with new funding, schools will have better access to the resources they need to create these environments.

As parents, you have a huge responsibility in your child's success and we are continuing to implement new ways to empower you to participate and collaborate with us. We all have the same focus: our children and how we can make the greatest difference. Each child deserves the chance to succeed in our education system. We are working to ensure each child receives the supports to reach their full potential. I encourage you to keep an open dialogue with your classroom teachers and school principal. I also encourage you to be involved with the school parent support committees and keep up on the work of the District Education Council. We have great things happening at your schools and we'll continue working together with you for our children!

I'd also like to take the opportunity to remind you that New Brunswick has a new dental and vision plan for children of low-income families. The new plan takes effect September 2012. If you don't have dental and vision coverage through any other government program or private insurance plan, I encourage you to get more information on this program by calling the Department of Social Development or visiting their website at www.gnb.ca/socialdevelopment.

As always, I invite you to read about the many initiatives at the department and local school districts on our website at www.gnb.ca/education. Also, feel free to let me know your thoughts, I am always available by email at jody.carr@gnb.ca.

Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable school year!

Sincerely,



Jody Carr
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development