

Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status

Dear Teachers:

On World Teachers' Day I would like to offer you my sincerest thanks to the educators of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District for all you do for our students and communities, and also wish you a truly enjoyable day.

The theme for World Teachers' Day 2016 has been established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as *Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status* and I believe the goals of this theme are something we should strive for each and every day. Teachers across our province and indeed across our world, work tirelessly to improve the lives of our students and, as shareholders in education we should strive to improve the professional status of our teachers.


I know that our teaching staff often face challenging situations that only experience and the desire to help can truly help them navigate. Likewise, you may sometimes wonder if your efforts are truly appreciated. I want each of you to know that the work you do and the obstacles you overcome are not just appreciated, but respected and intensely valued. There are amazing initiatives occurring in our schools that inspire our students to learn which are led by our teachers; supported by administrators and the entire school staff, these are the actions that must be celebrated on World Teachers' Day and every day.

Teachers around the globe will be honoured today. Some of your international colleagues teach in modern facilities with the latest technological advancements, some teach students of varying ages and competencies in small schools, and others teach in environments that are dangerous simply because they dare to help children advance their knowledge and abilities. And while the experiences vary, the one common denominator of all those millions of teachers across the world is the willingness and desire to help improve the lives of young people. That is an amazing attribute that should be valued each and every day.

The dedication of our teachers is what inspires me and is why today is set aside as an opportunity for all members of the school community to publicly acknowledge such inspiration. I want you to know your efforts are appreciated and you have an immediate impact every time you enter your school.

I offer you my best wishes for World Teachers' Day, along with my commitment to always value your profession and to work tirelessly to improve your status as school and community leaders.

Regards,


Darrin