Greetings and welcome back
from the Board Chair and Director of Education

Welcome back to another new year of learning and growing together in Prairie Spirit School Division!

We all play an important role in supporting student learning in Prairie Spirit School Division. Thank you for your contribution to this significant work that makes a difference in the lives of our students.

Many of our staff members have spent the summer preparing for the return of students and staff in September in a variety of ways. Thank you for your hard work these past few months.

For our teachers and in-school support staff, we trust the upcoming week with your colleagues before students arrive will be invigorating and inspiring for you.

Our students will return to school on Provincial Students’ Day, Tuesday, September 3. The Minister of Education designates Provincial Students’ Day each year to acknowledge the importance of all students and to alert drivers that students are back in school. Prairie Spirit Trustee Sam Dyck first suggested the idea of a special day for Saskatchewan students in 2009. As a result, the Provincial Students’ Day has been proclaimed throughout the province at the start of the new school year for the past four years.

Learning

We are very proud of the graduation rates and academic achievements of our students. We know these strong results are due to the diligent work and support of our teachers and support staff. We believe high expectations for both student and adult learning will lead to even greater achievement.

We will continue to create learning environments that are student centered, where higher order thinking is evident as students inquire, discover and apply their learning in the real world. We believe all students can learn and to a high level.

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education recently adopted a three-year strategic plan with learning priorities in the areas of literacy, numeracy, high school completion and First Nations/Métis achievement. This year we will continue to focus our work on these critical learning priorities.

Growing

The 2013/14 school year marks the eighth consecutive year of enrolment growth in our school division, with a projected enrolment of 10,158 students in Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12, an increase of 344 students from September, 2012. We know this growth is evident in many of our communities throughout the Division. The Board would like to thank and acknowledge those teachers and staff members who will have to demonstrate ingenuity and patience as they work in the midst of construction and crowded conditions.

We are looking forward to the opening of Warman Community Middle School next week. We would like to extend our best wishes to that school staff team as they create a new school culture with their colleagues and their students.
The project to expand and renovate Martensville High School will go to tender this fall. The capacity of the school will be doubled as a result of this expansion and renovation project. The addition to the school will be completed in 2015 and the renovations to the existing building are scheduled to be completed in 2016. This project is a community partnership with the City of Martensville, which will build an athletic complex attached to the high school. We are looking forward to seeing that project started as it will provide much needed space for our students in that community.

Together

We would like to congratulate those Prairie Spirit employees who have reached significant milestones in their employment with the school division this year. Please go to the following link to see the list of employees who have reached 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of employment as of September 1, 2013. We would like to thank each person on this extensive list for their dedicated work for our students.

Best wishes as you start a new year and thank you once again for your work for our students. We look forward to learning together throughout 2013/14.

Larry Pavloff, Chair
Prairie Spirit Board of Education

John Kuzbik, Director of Education
Prairie Spirit School Division