

*From Your  
Superintendent*



## Celebrating CBE Staff

The year 2010 marks the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Calgary Board of Education. Few businesses or institutions in Calgary can boast of that longevity in our relatively young city.

The Calgary Board of Education opened its first school on Stephen Avenue with a total of 12 students in February of 1884. Then, in March of 1885, The Calgary Protestant Public School District No. 19 was officially established and the first three trustees elected; James Lougheed, Stephen Jarrett and C.W. Peterson. Today the Calgary Board of Education has 7 trustees serving 217 schools and over 102,000 students.

The CBE employs more than 9,000 staff members, over 6,000 of whom are teachers. Current research points to teachers as key factors in a student's educational experience. The CBE's own research conducted during the Review of Secondary Education (2007) and the *Mega End* Symposium (2009) demonstrated that students feel the teacher/student relationship is a critical factor in a student's school achievement. Recognizing the importance of this relationship, the CBE takes great pride in hiring outstanding teachers for our programs and schools.

Although many of our teachers are formally honoured through various awards and accolades each year, the CBE values every teacher in our system for their expertise and work with students. The dedication and commitment given to improving student learning outcomes is remarkable and the CBE works hard to support our teachers in a variety of ways, including on-going professional development.

The CBE is thoughtful in ensuring that teachers are well-prepared for their work with students. For example, in August of this year, a new teacher orientation session was held for 195

teachers new to the CBE. These teachers received information on a number of timely topics including student diversity, multicultural services, student assessment, distributed learning, health and safety for staff, work-life balance, and group benefits.

Teaching assignments that include working with students who have exceptional learning needs was the focus for a cohort of 47 teachers during a two-month practicum. These teachers gained valuable professional development knowledge and skills for their work with complex learners. In addition, these teachers became part of a mentorship program that paired less experienced teachers to more experienced teacher mentors. Through this work, teachers felt better prepared to meet the challenges faced in classrooms.

The CBE employs a myriad of staff in supporting roles who focus on the central goal of improving student learning. Examples include facility operators who work to provide healthy and clean school environments, education assistants supporting students with special educational needs, and administrative assistants who not only organize much of the school environment, but are often the first line of contact for our parents and students as they enter our schools.

The bottom line is *all* CBE staff are focused on the common goal of best meeting the needs of our learners. I appreciate the hard work of all and wish everyone – staff, students and families – a restful and relaxing winter break.

Naomi E. Johnson  
Chief Superintendent of Schools