



John Malloy
Director of Education
TEL (905) 527-5092 ext. 2297 FAX: (905) 521-2539

September 2, 2011

Welcome back!

On Tuesday morning, our doors will open to welcome thousands of students back to school. We're excited about the months ahead and the prospect of a new school year.

Whether you work in a school or a service department, we all have a part to play in helping our students succeed. Our work may be different but our goal is the same – ensuring our students achieve their full potential.

As we begin the new school year, we have a lot of cause for celebration. We're seeing our new strategic directions come to life and we're showing how achievement matters, engagement matters and equity matters across our system.

We're moving from a system that relies on telling people what to do, to a system that values collective professional judgment. We work together to provide the right tools and resources to meet the needs within our district. We are seeing improved relationships and a true commitment to collaborative inquiry. As a result, there is evidence of improved student achievement and enhanced staff capacity.

There truly is a momentum in HWDSB and excitement in seeing results flowing from our actions.

[Here is the link](#) to the new strategic directions portfolio that was shared at the Director's Breakfast. I've also included the [link to the wonderful video](#) that was presented at the breakfast, and a [link to my Director's Breakfast remarks](#).

This year, it's our job to continue the good work that we've started. We want to continue delivering effective instruction in every classroom, effective leadership in all our schools and departments and making sure we create the right conditions for engaged students to learn.

We want to ensure we know our students, staff, parents and communities. We understand what strengths they bring and the needs they possess and, most importantly, we respond based on this understanding. We will always reflect to make sure we are responding effectively and modify our next steps depending on what we learn. By doing this, we know we will be supporting our students.

We will continue to focus on several key areas. Our pre-K to Grade 2 oral language and literacy strategy, full-day kindergarten, data mobilization strategy, program strategy and our facilities master plan, mental health strategy, 21st-century fluencies as well as the Ontario Leadership Framework.

We have a lot to celebrate in HWDSB because we are making great things happen. Our students will achieve their full potential because of your work and the exemplary work by every staff member.

Our students deserve nothing less. Have a great year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Malloy".