



April 11, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Over the past year, a number of significant shifts have happened provincially, divisionally and at the school level in regards to how children with special needs are identified and supported.

In the past, students with special needs were required to have a psycho-educational assessment (or other recognized assessment) in order to receive a special education code for students identified with severe disabilities, which was then supported with additional funding. This funding was then used to establish appropriate resources and programming supports for the student (including teacher assistant supports when needed).

At our school, our structures and processes focus on supporting the needs of all students within an inclusive framework. Through these structures and processes, the unique needs of each child are identified and supported collaboratively amongst the student, parents, classroom teacher, learning support teacher, family school liaison counsellor and administration. The current provincial and divisional shift in supporting and funding students with special needs aligns with our current model for student success. A visual of the traditional and inclusive model for our school has been included with this letter. This letter, visual and other informative links for parents can also be found on our website, under the Programs and Services tab (Learning Support).

In the 2011 – 2012 school year, the division will be shifting to an inclusive funding model based on overall student count. Using this overall student funding, we will develop the program structures and supports to meet the overall needs of each child. Support will be provided to children regardless of an educational code, psychological assessment or other criteria traditionally needed to access funds to establish support.

If you have any questions regarding this shift in funding or any elements of our inclusive model, please feel free to contact the school or the Livingstone Range School Division Director of Learning Support, Brenda Bryson.

Sincerely,

Kurtis Hewson
Principal

