



3143 Jacklin Road. Victoria BC, V9B 5R1

February 5th, 2010

Dear School District 62 Parents and Partners in Education,

The District PAC of School District 62, would like you to boycott the media publications of the Fraser Institute's ranking of schools.

By February 6th, 2010, The Vancouver Sun and the local papers published by Black's Press will have published The Fraser Institute's Report Card of Schools. The Fraser Institute's Report Card is an assessment of school achievement based almost solely on the Foundational Skills Assessment that occurs once a year, and given to grades 4 and 7 students only. Can such a narrow view of success and achievement accurately describe the schools in our district?

Absolutely not.

The Fraser Institute's Report Card gives the impression that comparing schools is apples to apples when anyone who knows our schools can tell you that is not the case. The institute's rankings do not take into account statistical variance related to our smaller schools, nor does it address the diversity of our learners. The rankings do not tell you about how welcoming a school is, the feeling of community contained inside, the special programs and passions of the staff and volunteers alike.

What can you do about the Fraser Institutes ranking of schools?

- 1) Don't purchase a publication that has the rankings listed. Just stop buying the paper for those days. Don't look up the rankings on the internet. The media makes money from encouraging controversy over the rankings, so don't get caught up in the debate. Encourage someone else to discount the ranking of schools and put down the paper.
- 2) Celebrate your school. There are wonderful things going on in this district, take the time to notice them. From Port Renfrew Elementary to Lakewood Elementary, and all the schools in between, have dedicated staff, vibrant parent and community volunteers, and warm welcoming environments. Take the time to notice what we do well, and let someone know. A neighbour, a friend, someone considering where to send their children.



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- 3) When you are making educational decisions for your children, see beyond a test score. Don't make a decision based on a ranking based on test taken once a year. Walk our hallways. Talk to parents, to principals, to staff. As parents it is our job to find out about all the factors that make up an excellent learning environment. It is our right, and responsibility to make educated and informed decisions about our children's education.

Thank you,

Kelly Dvorak,

SPEAC President.