



**YELLOWKNIFE EDUCATION
DISTRICT NO. 1**

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**ADMINISTRATION SCOLAIRE DE
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July 5, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

Now that the 2018-2019 school year has come to a close, I thought I would take a few moments to introduce myself as the new principal of École J.H. Sissons. I am very pleased to begin working with you at the school starting August 2019.

I began my career in education in September of 1990, just after having earned my B. Ed at the University of British Columbia. I have taught at the elementary, middle, and secondary levels. Approximately half of my teaching assignments have been within French Immersion programs. In addition to other professional pursuits, I have also been fortunate to have worked as a district itinerant teacher, helping colleagues integrate new methods into their practice. I also have experience as a sessional instructor at the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University.

My first administrative position was in 1999. Since then, I have held assignments as the principal of elementary, middle, and secondary schools. I have also worked as a district principal with responsibility for a variety of portfolios, one of which was the district's language programs. While I enjoyed my tenure in a district position, I always found school and classroom visits to be the most enjoyable of my responsibilities. As such, when the opportunity to return to working directly in schools presented itself, I was happy to make the move.

I believe that students achieve success when there is a strong partnership between the school, the students' parents, and the extended community. I look forward to meeting your children and getting to know them as individuals. Similarly, I look forward to meeting you and to working with you to help ensure our school's strong community connections endure and strengthen.



Planning for, and building, a new school is always an exciting time. I have been privileged to have been a part of large-scale school construction projects in the past. My hope is to use these experiences to help throughout the various phases of our project to ensure we have a facility that meets the needs of students, staff and the extended community. As with the education of their children, the advice and support of parents and guardians will be key as we work to complete our next school.

Before closing, I would like to thank Rachell Simmons and Brigitte Rivet for welcoming me into the school. I have also had the pleasure of meeting Jeff McConomy during my recent trip to Yellowknife, and look forward to having him join the school's administration team.

Have a safe and happy summer and see you in August!

Graham Arts
Designate Principal