

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 48

## NEWS RELEASE

-June 18, 2007-

### **FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN AT STAWAMUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THIS SEPTEMBER**

Stawamus Elementary School in Squamish is offering a full-day kindergarten program starting this September. Parents with children of kindergarten age have until July 5 to register them in the program that will cost \$380 a month. The Ministry of Education funds Aboriginal, Special Needs and ESL (English as a Second Language) students for this program.

"We are really excited about the potential of a full-day kindergarten," said School Principal Angela Uren. "The program would meet the unique needs of our school community and support early learner's success in all areas of the curriculum."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rick Erickson commended the school for taking the initiative to offer a new program that extends learning opportunities in a structured, safe and caring educational environment in accordance with the Ministry of Education's focus on the early years as a foundation for success.

Ms. Uren said, "The program will help to build supportive relationships that connect school and families and will extend learning activities in language and literacy, mathematics and science, fine arts and physical education. In addition, there will be a focus on play which develops social/emotional and thinking skills, such as problem solving. Students will benefit from enhanced connections to the school through the use of the library, gym, computer lab and participation in cultural events and field trips."

Ms. Uren added that the program will only be offered if there is sufficient enrolment to support the costs associated with providing a full day program. Parents have until July 5 to register their children in the program. They may register at the school (38030 Clarke Drive) though June 29 or at the School Board Office (37866 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue) July 3 - 5. Registration will be on a first come-first served basis.