

# Media Release



**Saskatoon Public Schools**  
Inspiring Learning

## **August 26, 2011 – New school year starts at Saskatoon Public Schools!**

Over 2,000 staff at Saskatoon Public Schools are ready to welcome back over 20,000 students as the 2011-2012 school year kicks off. Staff gathered at TCU Place earlier today for their school opening celebration.

The theme of this year's school opening celebration was *Saskatoon Public Schools ...Open to the World*. The "division pep rally" included a video presentation, student dancers, and remarks by Director of Education Mr. George Rathwell, and Chair of the Saskatoon Board of Education, Mr. Ray Morrison.

What's new at Saskatoon Public Schools this year?

- Elimination of basic student fees in elementary schools;
- Expanding full day every day Kindergarten to Caswell, Fairhaven, Westmount and W.P. Bate Schools
- Four new pre-kindergarten programs at Fairhaven, Howard Coad, Lester B. Pearson and W.P. Bate schools;
- Enhanced English as an Additional Language (EAL) programming for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 including the opening of our Newcomer Student Centre in our downtown office on August 15, 2011;
- Increased funding for facility improvement projects at a number of schools;
- Enhancement of special education programming through instructional technology and staff development;
- New career education initiatives enhancing the work of the Industry Education Council and the Saskatoon Skills and Trades Centre at Mount Royal Collegiate; and
- Development of the PotashCorp Eco Science Centre at our Brightwater site.

Saskatoon Public Schools is the largest school division in the province operating 43 elementary schools, 10 secondary schools, and two associate schools. Learn more at [www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca](http://www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca)

*Saskatoon Public Schools.... Inspiring Learning*

- 30 -

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