

September 13, 2012

### **POST LABOUR DAY START HAS A POSITIVE IMPACT ON ATTENDANCE**

Students in the Prairie Valley School Division headed back to school on September 4<sup>th</sup> in an overwhelming fashion. According to preliminary attendance numbers, 97 percent of students returned to class on the first day of the school year.

For the past three school years, Prairie Valley School Division has started the school year after Labour Day with similar results.

Director of Education/CEO, Ben Grebinski says the timing simply works better for families. "When we made this change in 2009, we anticipated a favorable response," says Grebinski, "four years into the process we can say it has been extremely positive."

Prairie Valley School Division was able to facilitate the change by adding 10 additional minutes to each school day. The result was an after Labour Day start, a longer Christmas break and a February break.

"In my 30 years in the field of education, I have worked with many different calendar models. This calendar model is one of the first that is tailored to our belief and commitments around student learning," says Grebinski.

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*Prairie Valley School Division serves approximately 8,000 students in 38 schools throughout southeast Saskatchewan. In support of the vision "Leadership in Learning and Life", the Division strives to ensure a high-quality education that provides students with the tools to reach and exceed their potential.*

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