



# GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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April 12, 2011

Mr. Chris Toy, Consultant  
12 Eagle Point Road  
Bath, ME 04530  
USA

Dear Chris:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for coming to Victoria and working with our 120 District administrators for three very informative, exciting and enlightening days. Chris, as you are aware, I issued a directive to our administrators that we expected that they would all attend the workshop. This commitment included giving up an evening and a Saturday to be in session with you. Your work in engaging every participant prior to the workshop, through your conversations on the wiki, was invaluable. To be honest, there was some initial pushback but by the second day of the session, you had a room full of converts.

Pat, Sherri, Deb and I know that this letter is late in arriving but we thought that it was important to share with you that many of your suggestions are still being discussed and worked on today, two months after your presentation. You have certainly left a lasting impression on this District.

Often when we bring in a professional development speaker from out of town, there can be the immediate, positive reviews but little changes occur over time. Chris, your suggestions and insights have created permanent changes in the way that we attack learning in the Greater Victoria School District. As an example, our Principals and Vice-Principals recently hosted "Ed Tech 21". This was an opportunity for our Principals and Vice-Principals as well as our teachers, to come together and share "next practices" within a true collaborative environment. The conversations are continuing through the use of the "Ed Tech 21" wiki and these sessions are scheduled to continue throughout this year and next. The power of this Professional Learning Network has overwhelmed those participating and the ideas being shared have had an immediate impact on student learning.

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Chris, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your manner of presentation. Your soft-spoken style mixed with your wry sense of humour and your incredible knowledge base made learning a real joy. Chris, you have the ability to inspire even the most experienced of educators. Your audience of Vice-Principals and Principals also included administrators who are leaders in technology and those who use technology only out of necessity. Somehow you found a way to reach all of them. Incredibly everybody walked away feeling that they gained invaluable skills and had something to share with their staffs. This was consistent with your stated goal of "model, reflect and transfer"; a goal that Greater Victoria School District now embraces.

Chris, through the use of the wiki, many administrators refer to you as a friend and like all good friends, we miss the fact that you are not here and hope that we will have the opportunity to bring you back in the near future. Please give our best to Bill and to Charlie as they prove to be invaluable to the success of your workshop.

Regards from Victoria, British Columbia, Canada,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Gaipman".

John Gaipman

Superintendent of Schools

Greater Victoria School District