



BANFF COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
BANFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CANMORE COLLEGIATE
ELIZABETH RUMMEL SCHOOL
EXSHAW SCHOOL
LAWRENCE GRASSI SCHOOL

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**HOME OF THE
B E A R S**

May 31, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Let me begin by saying thank you so much for your feedback and contributions to the decision making process regarding our 1:1 initiative. We know that this decision is a financial ask of our community and we greatly appreciate the commitment our parents have as it relates to education and learning for our students. As a staff, we want everyone to know that we have looked at all of the feedback from our students and parents. We also want our community to know that our main goal as with any decision is to improve our educational process and to positively impact student learning.

Based on feedback, we have made the decision to move forward with our 1:1 laptop initiative asking all grade 9-12 students to bring a laptop to school every day in the 2012-13 school year. At this time we also highly recommend that students in Grade 7 and 8 bring a laptop as well. The following represents main points in our decision making process:

- All parental feedback indicated agreement that we engage high school students right away; including grade 9.
- Why 9-12 and not 8-12 as initially proposed? We do realize the financial impact on parents and we listened. Our staff is supportive of our families and their feedback and by beginning in grade 9 we can help with the number of computers required.
- We want to make sure that our first year is successful. Moving ahead with 9-12 addresses what we believe to be the critical grades to begin with.
- By moving forward with the initiative we allow our staff to learn and develop their pedagogy (instructional practices) and to continue to focus on education and learning in the 21st century.
- The use of the laptop remains a tool within educational settings and we will continue to develop the use of the tool to positively impact learning.
- Moving our school forward, being innovative and timely is our central focus. Our three main areas of school improvement are Culture, Assessment and Technology use in Education. This drives our thinking and is linked directly to 1:1 learning.

Please visit our website often as we will continue to add parent information, timelines and laptop options with costs. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sincerely

Steve Greene
Principal, BCHS