April 12, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

I am excited to announce that this year’s theme for Education Week (May 3rd to 7th) is **Preparing Our Students for Future Success**.

Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate all of the excellent work happening in our schools. I know that many of you are already planning Education Week activities — to showcase the wonderful accomplishments of our students.

Every day, educators and students, support staff and parents make our schools engaging and inspiring places to learn. Together, we have already made great strides – our class sizes are smaller and our test scores are rising year after year. This means more students are mastering reading, writing and math skills. More students than ever before are staying in school, graduating and finding the right career path.

This year the theme is reflective of all the good that has already been accomplished by working together and the anticipation of Full-day learning this fall. This significant change to Ontario’s education system, will give our youngest students a stronger start to their education and supports our plan to create a stronger, well-educated work force.

Earlier this month, I was pleased to join the Premier when he announced that Ontario’s graduation rate for 2008-09 increased to 79 per cent. That is another two percentage points more than in 2007-08 and represents an increase of eleven percentage points. That means 52,500 more students have graduated since 2003 than would have previously. As a result, more students are gaining the skills they need to be successful and to make a difference in our world.

I know that your Education Week activities will be inspiring. I encourage you to promote your events and this year’s theme locally.

Thank you for your continued commitment.

Sincerely,

Leona Dombrowsky
Minister of Education