

Battle River School Division #31

News Release - September 1, 2004

PD DAY SERVES AS PEP RALLY FOR 700 STAFF

Barry MacDonald is surrounded by over 700 Battle River School Division #31 staff during a safe and caring schools professional development day held August 30, 2004 at Camrose Composite High School. MacDonald was the keynote speaker.



The atmosphere was electric, jovial and at the same time academic when over 700 Battle River School Division #31 school-based staffs gathered for a professional development day, August 30.

“You could feel the synergy and the energy in the room,” commented division assistant superintendent of planning and systems, Dr. Larry Payne, who served as the day’s facilitator.

“The day provided our staffs the opportunity to work in groups and to discuss ways of implementing Developmental Assets into their schools and to also talk about what safe and caring messages they want to deliver to start this year,” said superintendent of schools, Dr. Warren Phillips.

“The initiative is being strengthened within the division based on the changing role of schools and the needs of today’s students.

“This PD opportunity supports our division priority of wanting 100% of our students to feel safe and cared for.”

To assist staff with their journey toward enhancing safe and caring schools strategies, the division brought in Barry MacDonald as a keynote speaker.

MacDonald, a consultant, coach and registered clinical counsellor, is well known for his highly practical, direct and positive approach to influencing and encouraging students, educators and parents.

MacDonald kept the audience engaged and enlightened through a presentation that was poignant and humorous. He backed his narrative with true stories on how safe and caring teachers, through some innovative and creative thinking, can make a positive impact on at-risk students. His common-sense approach and safe and caring examples were easy for all to digest, and ultimately practice with success.

His underlying message is that positive relationships are the cornerstone to a successful learning environment.

“It was a pep rally-like atmosphere,” commented assistant superintendent of personnel, Don Gillies.