

For Immediate Release – Updated at 12:03 p.m.

*(September 27, 2013) St. Albert* – David Keohane, Superintendent of Schools shared the following the statement on the accident involving a child that attends Ecole Marie Poburan School.

"Our District was struck by tragedy earlier today, when a school bus was involved in a fatal accident. I am very saddened to tell you the accident has claimed the life of a grade two student at Ecole Marie Poburan. This accident is an immense loss to all who knew the child; and will have a profound effect on the school. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the family, friends and classmates of this child.

The family has been notified of the accident and the District has a critical response team on site to provide support to students and families at Ecole Marie Poburan School. Our emergency response measures were put in place as soon as we became aware of the accident. As with any tragedy of this magnitude, we will be watching students for signs of distress or other adverse reactions to the event such as anxiety or trauma. Our counseling team will be on site throughout the next week and as required by the school community.

While our District does its work to support families affected by this tragedy we will also support our fellow school district St. Albert Public and the St. Albert RCMP as they conduct their respective investigations into this incident. This tragedy is a loss to everyone associated with our schools. As such, it is important that we all pray and support each other to heal and help each other."

Questions regarding the accident investigation should be directed to the St. Albert RCMP. Inquiries regarding the school operation can be directed towards the Greater St. Albert Catholic School District office.

Media Contact: David Keohane Superintendent (780)459-7711 ext. 111 <u>dkeohane@gsacrd.ab.ca</u> <u>www.gsacrd.ab.ca</u>