**Dr. Oberg:** Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise before you in the middle of Education Week to speak about Alberta's learning system. Each year the province designates a week dedicated to celebrate learning. This year Education Week is April 29 to May 5, and the chosen theme is A World of Opportunity.

I had the privilege this week of attending the opening of the Strathmore storefront school. This school began operation in 1996 with an enrollment of eight students, and as of April 2001 there were 140 students enrolled. Between 60 to 65 percent of the students end up returning to the regular school system. Fifty percent of the graduates have gone on to postsecondary education. These students have overcome their unique personal issues and tragedies that caused them to drop out of the traditional school system.

This did not happen by accident. The Golden Hills school division had the foresight to establish and continue funding this school. The community embraced the concept by providing space and furniture and generally assisting whenever help was needed. But the unsung heroes of the Strathmore storefront school are the principal, Denise Peterson, and her staff. Denise has the compassion and ability to make the school a success, but more importantly, she cares for and about her students 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. She and her staff are providing a world of opportunity for their students on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, the many school boards we have like Golden Hills, the many communities we have like Strathmore, the many unsung heroes like Denise Peterson are what makes the world of opportunity for the students of Alberta. As parents and politicians this government and Legislative Assembly thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The most important thing to remember here is that there have not been any changes in the negotiation with teachers. There is a minimum amount that will be given to school boards to pass on for teachers. The negotiation of the contracts will still be between the ATA locals and the school boards involved.