

# The power of language

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Re: "Multilingualism is a noble and useful goal: Our schools and children are equipped for the task," by Kathryn Speck, Opinion, July 28.

Congratulations to Edmonton Public Schools for having the foresight to open doors for multilingual education in our schools.

In the past, math and science had always been the focus of schooling and it did have its merit. However, with language being the basic communication tool and increasing globalism, it is time for languages to take centre stage.

My two children are enrolled in the Chinese bilingual program -- the best and largest Chinese language program run by a public school system outside of China. Students learn the language and culture in Canadian context.

My children are also learning French as a third language in Meadowlark elementary school.

Sometimes, I feel sorry for parents who choose not to take advantage of what our school system offers. Second and third languages are the one of the most valuable lifelong gifts that you can give to your children.

On verge of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, if we do not speak the same language, how can we truly achieve its slogan: "One world, one dream"?

Stephen Tsang,

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