

Welcome to the 2017/2018 school year at Gordon Elementary School!

Welcome back to all returning students and families of Gordon and a very warm welcome to all the new students and their families. I know that you will find Gordon to be a positive and supportive learning community. I look forward to working together with you over the coming year.

I hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer and that you are ready for another rewarding school year. We are hoping to be able to move into our new classrooms by Friday but until then, most students will remain in last year's classrooms. When you arrive in the morning please line up where you did last year or head straight to your class if that was your routine last year. **To avoid congestion, we are requesting that you remain outside of the school until the 8:55 bell.**

We have a number of new staff members this year: Div. 11 - Grade 2/3 –TBA for Shannon Stamp, Div. 12 - Grade 2 – TBA, Div. 13 - Grade 1/2 – Michael Carter Div. 17 - Kindergarten – Christine Wallace (returning), Div. 18 - Kindergarten – Jessica Virgin, Library – Kyla Macdonald and our new Vice Principal – Sarah McAlister. Also, we welcome the following special needs workers: Jennifer Routtu, Jeanne Morell, Nicolette Fung & Tammy Yazdanyar (returning). Finally, we are waiting to hear who will be filling in for Cathy Wilson (last year's supervision aide) as she has retired. I am excited to watch as our new staff share their fresh ideas and talents with us. It is a privilege to work with such a professional, dedicated team. A huge welcome to all of our new and returning staff members!

During our first week our focus will be on teaching/reminding students of our Code of Conduct – **Be Safe, Be Fair, Be Kind**. It would be fantastic if you have a chance to discuss what they are learning and reinforce the practical value of these words.

There is a clear link between consistent attendance and overall success in life. This year the VSB is rolling out a new Safe Arrival Program. **This year ALL STUDENTS WILL BE PLACED ON THE SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM.** Watch for a notice coming home requesting your contact information. Gordon staff will be working together with families to ensure students consistently arrive at school on time and offer support for students who are often late or absent. This may be phone calls home, notices or parent meetings. We appreciate your support around this important topic.

The online lunch program will not be running the first week of school, so please remember to pack a recess snack, water and a lunch from Wednesday onward. Also, watch for a package of notices that will be sent home in September. This is the package that contains a request for the \$25 supplies fee. Thank you for attending to this package ASAP.

We have planned a few events for September. **Meet the Staff** – Mon, Sept 18 from 5-6 PM. We will meet in the gym and then you will have a chance to wander the halls and meet your child's teacher. Thurs, Sept 21 is the first **PIE Meeting** at 7 PM in the Library. Fri, Sept 22 is our first **Pro D** day. Monday, Sept 25th is the first **PAC Meeting**. Our **Terry Fox Run** will take place from 2 to 3 PM on Thurs, Sept 28th. We hope to see you at these events.

Working together to enhance and broaden the learning experiences of our students is a challenge in which we take great pride. Thank you in advance for your support and contributions in making this a consistent and powerful learning journey for your children.

Hope Sterling, Principal