

August 31, 2011

Welcome Back!

I hope this letter finds you having had an enjoyable, relaxing, and fun summer. We are looking forward to a great year full of learning experiences that can help us to better support our students and learning community.

What is our staff doing to better support our learners? As should be the case in any learning organization, we will be learning. All staff are working to improve our abilities to include high level thinking, student collaboration, and building trust. Our overarching theme for the year will again be “Paws-itive Community”. We will work as a whole school to support our students in ten subthemes, such as goal setting, self-reflection, and politeness/civility. In conjunction, we will be working all year on personal responsibility for a bully-free school and outside of school. As has been the case these past three years, we will continue our work to improve learning support in math and literacy. Our previous Math Club and Reading Club will now be one Learning Club housed with special education. They will work together to be more flexible and better support each student’s needs. To further our efforts to support healthy living and exercise, we will have a “exercise-a-thon” fundraiser to take the place of our previous magazine fundraiser. Our soon to be installed climbing wall near the field will help to support our efforts. And as you know, we are implementing 4-Day-K to further support our kindergartners. On Fridays, our kindergarten teachers will support the rest of our students through their art specialist efforts. There is much more we are excited to share later.

Our parents and families are critical to our students’ success. There are many ways you can help out. One of the best ways is to talk with your child about school each day to show support and that we are all working on our learning together. We will have many opportunities for you to join us at school. These can include such experiences as participating in our school get-togethers. You can join us for classroom and school celebrations. Daytime and evening student performances are fun to attend. And, of course, we can always utilize the efforts of our great volunteers. Some help weekly in our classrooms or helping with our Read Naturally program. Father figures have been helping us out through our highly successful Watch D.O.G.S (Dads of Great Students) program. Others do not have as much time available and help us when they can, like joining us on field trips. There are numerous ways to help out, and many do not require a great deal of time to make a difference in our students’ lives. Just let us know and we can find opportunities that fit.

We look forward to seeing all that we can do to support our students and learning community during the 2011-2012 school year. Working together, this will be a great year for our learners.

Thank you,

Scott Lincoln, *Principal*
Bonnie Lock, *Associate Principal*