



Peter Dubinsky
Superintendent of Schools

September 5, 2023

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to another school year. I hope that your summer was filled with fun and good times with family and friends. September brings anticipation, excitement, and even a bit of fear and anxiety as well. School start-up is always filled with mixed emotions, and it takes a bit of time to get back into the daily routines. Good sleep, nutrition, and reduced screen time are ways to support a positive start to the year. As we have learned, we cannot predict the future, but we can do our very best to plan and prepare for the different scenarios that might emerge throughout the year. Ensuring that supports and resources are in place, seeking to understand first, asking for help when needed, and showing care and compassion for each other will allow us to meet the uncertainties and the ups and downs of the next ten months. The learning journey is fun and exciting but it can be challenging at times.

I wanted you to be aware of the new reporting order set out by the Ministry of Education and Child Care starting this year (<https://rb.gy/b4b34>), and I encourage you review the document and speak to your classroom teacher if you have any questions. I am also excited that we will be unveiling the draft of our new district strategic plan in the coming weeks. The creation of the plan was truly a collaborative effort between students, staff, families, and community, and I am hopeful it will provide clear guidance and direction for the future of the district. There will be opportunities to provide feedback before the plan is finalized so I encourage you to participate in that process over the next month and a half.

One of the many things we learned during our strategic plan consultation process is the need to improve on our overall communication practices. The relationship and partnership between home and school is so critical, and we are committed to improving the ways in which we communicate and invite you to be an active participant in this as well. Our students are better when they have all the adults working together and communicating effectively to help ensure their success.



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I am very excited for this coming year. There are so many wonderful opportunities for learning and growth that are offered in our schools. We live and work in such a special place and our students are blessed to have such dedicated and committed staff, families, and communities that work together to make this district so wonderful. As we move forward, I am reminded and moved by the following:

*The **TRUTH** is that I have physical, mental, spiritual, and moral limitations. But physically, I want to be healthy enough to do good work. Mentally, I want to be clear so that I can let go of thoughts that do not serve me. Emotionally, I want to be aware of my feelings, so I can surrender those that do not empower me. Spiritually, I want to walk in awe, wonder, respect, and humility through this universe. Morally, I want to be a person I can be proud of. I don't need to know what perfect looks like – only better. I can move gracefully toward better every day.*

Richard Wagamese

Sincerely,