

Greetings, Brandon Families!

Can you believe that we are already entering the second month of school? It seems like just days ago that I was writing a summer welcome letter! Now that I have the first month under my belt, I would like to take a moment to update you on where we are on our quest to be "Intentionally Exemplary". I had the opportunity to share my vision with many of you at our Parent Information Nights last week, and I left each evening feeling even more encouraged by the warm welcome and signs of partnership I received from our parents. For those of you who may have missed it that night, here are the highlights of my vision and action plan for not only maintaining the high level of success that is synonymous with Brandon, but for continuing to move us forward so we become a model of school success.

As I have shared, I have four main areas of focus for this school year. These are below with a few updates on our progress to-date.

### **Communication:**

It is my intent to ensure communication channels with all stakeholders are open, transparent, and provide for ongoing two-way communication while creating opportunities for shared ownership of school improvement. By now, you should have noticed the following in relation to this area of focus:

- Consistent communication through the Bee Mail with a survey link provided to submit your feedback
- Weekly (at a minimum) communication from your child's teacher
- Websites for your teachers with helpful resources for you and your child to use at home
- A new twitter account (follow me @MBEPrincipal) where I will begin to share more updates and photos to share the Brandon experience with the world

### **IB (International Baccalaureate) PYP (Primary Years Program)**

This year we want to implement the IB PYP with fidelity so that inquiry-based, real-world, and interdisciplinary learning become commonplace for all students consistently. Many of you met Ms. Nza Branton, our new IB Coordinator, at a Parent Information Night. She was sidetracked slightly at the beginning of the year to teach a class, but she is now back in her role. Look for the signs in and around the school that show evidence of the inquiry-based learning that is a cornerstone of the IB philosophy. Stay tuned for more opportunities to learn about IB throughout the year.

### **Special Education**

We are committed to improve the implementation of Special Education practices school-wide resulting in increased student experience and achievement for Special Education students. For parents of students in the Special Education program, you will be seeing me in IEP meetings throughout the year. It is through involvement at this level that I will learn your students, their needs, and how we as a school can best support the development and progress of all students. Together with Ms. Scharff, Special Education Lead Teacher, we are working to improve our training for our Special Education teachers as well as the collaboration with regular education teachers to improve the experience for all students.

### **Growth for All Students**

We have already implemented effective Professional Learning Communities with our teachers that focus on tailoring teaching to meet the student learning needs of all students in order to create a collaborative community of professional learners and above average academic growth for students. As mentioned in a recent edition of the Bee Mail, students are just wrapping up the beginning of the year assessments that are used for teachers to tailor instruction to students' needs. Your children have participated in screening assessments to identify their current academic levels in Math and Reading. With this data in hand, we are now ready to work with teachers to ensure they are consistently monitoring student growth throughout the year. Our goal is above average growth for each of our students!

Through working strategically in each of the four areas outlined above, we are poised to achieve my vision of maintaining our level of excellence while becoming “Intentionally Exemplary”. We strive to provide an excellent education “on purpose”!

Thank you for taking the time to read about the work ahead for this year. I look forward to continuing to meet new parents and families. Please stop and say hello when you are visiting the school, and do not hesitate to reach out if I, or any member of my team, can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Kara Stimpson

Principal