



ÉCOLE GLENMORE SCHOOL

(S.D. #23, Central Okanagan)

960 Glenmore Drive, Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 4P1

PHONE (250) 870-5136 FAX (250) 870-5030

April 22, 2017 - Learning Log

Dear GME Parents and Guardians;

RE: Words Matter

What I have learned this year is how important it is to communicate your message with few words. The Dean of Education at UBC and UBCO, Blythe Frank, told us to pay attention to "how we write and speak others into existence". I have taken these words to heart and I am trying to do what I am learning.

Words matter because they can build and they can destroy. We are GME at trying to frame our words in a growth mindset framework about what we can do and what we are continuing to work on. Instead of looking at life through a lens of limits and deficits, we are choosing to use an appreciative lens where we see our strengths and what we need to grow. This may seem obvious to some of you; however, this makes an incredible difference in our learning journey as we have a lifetime of learning before us. Our words frame how we think ourselves into existence. How we think about ourselves is influenced by how others speak to and about us. Our own words and the words of others can build or destroy.

My husband gave me a t-shirt for my birthday that says, "Too Cool for School". I wore it to school and one grade 5 student told me that my t-shirt was inappropriate. I asked the student "Why?" and I was told that the principal should love 'school' and I responded by saying "That depends on your definition of school". For me and many others, school was not always a pleasant place to be or learn. At our staff meeting this week, I shared a bit about myself and my experiences with school as I was a student in elementary and secondary in this school district.

My hope is that we can change the name from 'school' to 'centre of learning/centre d'apprentissage'. This is a more reflective term of what we are trying to do each day with your children. The Westbank First Nation calls their building a "house of learning". Their building is modelled after a traditional house of the Okanagan people. Our building looks more like a prison than a house. Hopefully, we can change the exterior appearance of our building to better reflect what happens on the inside. We have students working on this transformation right now.

This week we began the work on the survey about learning which we hope to send to you on June 1. A group of outstanding teachers and one expert parent are currently building a survey that will take 10 minutes to complete and make you feel like you are having a conversation with us. We hope that we will design the survey to get as much pertinent information from you in the shortest and less painful way possible. We will use your feedback to shape how we share learning with you in the future.

Happy weekend,
Wendy Briggs
Principal