



ÉCOLE GLENMORE SCHOOL

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June 25, 2017 - Learning Log

Dear GME Parents and Guardians;

RE: Looking Back and Looking Forward

At this time we are both looking back at 2016-2017 and looking forward at 2017-2018. If you think sometimes we are looking in two directions and a bit confused, the following tidbits may help explain.

To give you an idea of how we are looking in both directions, please consider the following wicked and wonderful challenges that we are working through. We are still in the process of hiring the last group of teachers to complement the GME Dream Team. We are also building learning communities for your children based on a complex group of criteria, dealing with human beings who are continually changing-both staff and students, and juggling the change to our physical plant to comply with the recent Supreme Court decision to go back to contract language from long ago which reduces class size.

If those challenges are not enough, we are also trying to plan to give our amazing teachers time to think, plan and learn together to provide rich learning experiences for each of your precious children. This requires some deep thinking. We have made plans to give interested teachers collaborative time each week to work in inquiry groups on themes that they believe are crucial in designing learning in line with our transformed BC curriculum and assessment. At the same time, students will be engaged in valuable learning in the areas of Physical Literacy, Applied Skills and Design Technology and Critical and Creative Thinking (Habits of Mind-fairmindedness, open-mindedness and empathy).

As our common spaces are nearly disappearing, at least to begin the year, we are getting creative with space and having to change some of our programming. The Fine Arts room will be used to begin the year as a classroom and the OgoPogo lab will now be a classroom. For this reason, the Element Hour we began this year during school hours at no cost will continue and we will not be able to offer the before and after school programs. We simply no longer have the common spaces to share with before and after school programs as we struggle to house our own classrooms. The Element Hour that we began this year with grades 4-6 is being planned for next year with some modifications, again, at no cost to any student, during school time and with student choice and voice based on the Scanning information from all students gathered in March. We are trying to be creative and do the best for the most.

Our work grant work with UBCO will continue for the next two years. Dr. Latta and team pass on their sincere gratitude for all your help and cooperation. We are also planning to be a part of the new Teacher Education Program at UBCO. These opportunities are rich gifts to our learning community.

This is a most challenging and exciting time of year!

Wendy Briggs
Principal Learner