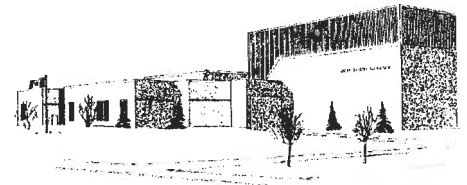


W.H. Ford School



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August 24, 2021

Students, Parents/Caregivers and Community Members.

Welcome back to school! I hope this message finds you refreshed, rejuvenated and ready for a new school year. We are anxiously awaiting your return next week. The first days of school will be staggered, so students with surnames from A-L will come on Sept. 1st and students with surnames from M-Z will start of the 2nd. All Grade 1-8 students will come on Sept. 3rd. Students in Kindergarten, Primary Transitions, and FIAP classes will hear directly from your teacher about your staggered start.

Our dedicated staff is excited about providing a range of engaging and challenging learning experiences to all students. W.H. Ford is a learning community that is committed to helping all students grow their confidence as learners and people. We have some new team members to introduce this year: Mrs. Hicks (LRT), Mrs. Dueck (5-6), Mrs. Fraese (Pre-K), and Ms. Fayant (EA) are all coming on board with us, and we look forward to their contributions as the year progresses.

Our staff understands the critical role that failure and mistakes play in the ongoing process of improvement. As educators, we strive to model that truth. We will do our utmost to celebrate successes, while helping students through the opposite with empathy and support. There has rightfully been much media commentary about the social/emotional toll the Covid pandemic has taken on students. No one can learn, or teach, at their highest levels if they do not feel safe, secure, and respected. We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure our students are learning at their highest potential because they are respected, challenged, supported and cared for. That is our commitment to students and families.

Our school has a motto of Best. Effort. Always. Part of putting forward your best effort is having the resilience to rebound from a setback. And like drawing, writing, playing the guitar or singing, resilience is a skill that can be developed. Having this skill is a competency that we believe is fundamental to one's success and will be part of our focus this year.

Included with this letter is our safe Return to School document. As much as we hoped it would, Covid has not gone away, so we are still in an era of restrictions and guidelines as we return to school. Please be assured the division will pivot as needed and our senior leadership are in regular communication with Regina's Medical Officer of Health, and the guidelines will be adjusted based on their most recent advice. On the positive side, we can make some changes already that will make the school year more 'normal' for students and staff – extra-curricular, library, the Arts. Ed. Room and so forth. We are also excited to be introducing you to Edsby, a new communication and information tool that will enable you to communicate with your child's teacher, access assignment information, and see how your child is doing. More information will be sent home with your child next week.

We look forward to partnering with families throughout the year. We are committed to joining with you to collectively employ best practices to improve the overall well-being of our children.

Please feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns regarding your child's program. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Safe Return to School Plan, please contact one of our admin team.

Thank you for your continued support.


David Gillingham
Principal


Doug Dahl
Vice-Principal

#dontmissaday



@ElemWhford