

## Principal Message-June 2020

This school year will certainly always be remembered. I am filled with gratitude as I reflect on the kindness, compassion, generosity, understanding and growth demonstrated by our students, our Mackie families and my staff. As we continue to face these many challenges of an unprecedented world, I am inspired by the possibilities that are presenting themselves. Of one thing I am certain; there is much hope for better times and positive change ahead. And our students—your children- will be the lead of that change.

I know that you have been inundated by email messages from the school and the board. I hope you will take the time to look at and share the **Mackie Staff Farewell Message** posted on our Website. Our staff members wanted to share a personal summer message as we move forward and hope to be reunited in September. I am grateful that this year our staffing has remained stable so you can look forward to seeing the same familiar faces, when we get back to school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of our **School Council** for their many hours of work, both in and out of school closure. Their last act of support this year provided and distributed a beautiful cluster of helium balloons with personalized messages for each of our 26 Grade 6 graduating students. And with that graduation we send special thanks and farewell to two longstanding members of council, Belinda Becker and Michael John who have contributed countless hours of work in past years on behalf of our school. Thank you and good luck to you both!

Our council is currently led by an executive council of Jenny Gloria our Chair, Anne Turner our Treasurer and Tracy Jansen-Sequeira our Secretary. This council is looking to recruit new membership. New elections take place each school year and we need new voices! Please consider being a part of this supportive network. Our school council is open to any parent or guardian of a student who attends George P. Mackie.

The **Grade 6 Virtual Farewell** turned out to be a marvelous affair in most part due to the exceptional contributions of each student's personal voices and the messages of student Valedictorians, Makhai Lochan and Scarlett Chartrand. There were laughs and tears and heartfelt sharing and we all came away exceptionally proud of this tremendous group of young people. Thank you to our team of Ms. Song, Ms. Harley, Mr. Moutadayne, Ms. Mihaly and Ms. Akhlaq for your preparation of this special ceremony. For those families graduating and moving away from Mackie, I would like to send a personal farewell and thank you for your consistent support of our school. I wish you all the best!!

Our youngest learners have access to our **Welcome to Kindergarten Website**, thanks to the leadership of teacher Ms. Duncan and the kindergarten team. As new families move into the neighbourhood over the summer I know our community will welcome them.

You may be very tired of doing online surveys of any kind at this point. If you do one more survey this summer, I recommend you take a look at the **Secondary Program Review Interim Report**. There is an opportunity for your input and this report will affect your children —do take the time if you are able. See below

### **Secondary Program Review Interim Report**

The [Interim Report of the Secondary Program Review](#) was presented to Trustees last month, a first step in the development of a plan to address the inequities and imbalances throughout our current system. This report supports our next step forward as we start to re-imagine and re-draw our system in consultation and collaboration with our communities to enhance equity and support the achievement and well-being of each and every student in the TDSB, now and in the future.

**We want to hear from you! Any recommendations made through this process will have an impact on current elementary students, as young as Grade 1.** Our plan, if approved by Trustees in the fall, will create the roadmap for changes to our secondary schools and programs over the next 8 to 10 years.

No specific schools have been named for consolidation and no further steps will be taken without extensive local community consultation.

Over the next four months, students, parents, staff and community members can continue to provide feedback and further insight through delegations and their local Trustee, by email to [secondaryreview@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:secondaryreview@tdsb.on.ca) or on our [online form](#). The Secondary Program Review Final Report will be presented to the Board in October 2020.

During this time, some of you have experienced the loss of a loved one. We continue to have you in our hearts and thoughts. May you remember to cherish the moments and memories.

As we wait to hear the outcome of the three possible scenarios for September, please know that there will be messaging around next steps as soon as the province, and then TDSB provide us with next steps. Currently, the first day of school is scheduled for September 8, 2020.

Until then, I have advised my staff (and myself) to take a step back, appreciate how far we have come this year and take some time to relax and rejuvenate with our families. We truly hope you are able to do the same.

Wishing you the very best this summer,

Ms. Ponka

