

September 6, 2011

Principal's Message

With the beginning of a new school year, I am once again reminded of the incredible energy and excitement that is in the air as the staff prepare their classrooms, and students ready themselves for a new school year. It is indeed a very special time of the year.

As the new principal of Chantrell Creek, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Chantrell Creek community for the warm welcome I have received from parents, students and staff alike. It is evident that our school is a special place for learning. I am excited to be part of the Chantrell team, and look forward to the prospects of a very productive and rewarding year.

If you are new to our school, we look forward to getting to know you. To our returning families, welcome back! In the spirit of the new school year, I encourage parents to take an active role in your children's learning by becoming involved in the various school activities. A strong partnership between home and school helps to ensure your child's success.

I anticipate that the year ahead will bring with it the theme of change. At the school level we will be dealing with the challenges of increased student enrollment. At this time the school has gained a new division to accommodate the growth. We anticipate an enrollment of over 415 students at Chantrell this school year. Given our school growth, yearly student changes and to plan for the best educational placement for each student, grades one through seven students will be going through a detailed grade group orientation process during this week with all their grade level teachers.

We are expecting the students to be in their new classes with their teachers by **Monday, September 12**. Your patience with this process is appreciated.

Please be assured that the process of student placement is thoughtful and collaborative. We endeavor to ensure each student's class placement will result in a positive learning experience.

Criteria for placement

- *Students social, emotional and intellectual development
- *learning styles and strengths of students
- *Degree of independence in student work habits
- *integration of special needs students

Initially some students may be unhappy about his or her placement. We ask that you give this some time and help your child adjust to his or her new class. If by the end of September, significant problems still persist, come and see us at that time.

Communication

Hard copies of the monthly newsletters will be sent home with the youngest and only children in the family. Letters will be available on the Snap Agenda and the school website.

A more comprehensive letter will be sent next week.

Sincerely,

Deborah Thorvaldson
Principal