\*\*\*IMPORTANT EMAIL FOR MONDAY\*\*\*

Dear parents/guardians,

On Monday, we will be moving students into their 2023-2024 classes.

At the start of each school year, students are always excited and a little anxious in regards to finding out about their new classroom for the school year. We are excited that our class placement process has now been finalized.

To help reduce some anxiety for our students, we will not be posting class lists. Students will start the day in their assigned classes from this week and last, and later in the day we will be moving students into their new classes. Teachers will be able to help each student prepare for their new classroom and hopefully make the transition into their new class more enjoyable and less stressful.

**At the end of the day on Monday, students in grade 1 to 3 can be picked up from the same classroom they attended last week and today.**

**New Kindergarten students will remain with the same classes/classrooms they have been attending for the Gradual Entry Schedule.**

**Children in grades 4-7 should arrange for a meeting place with their parents unless going home on their own.**

If your child is disappointed or anxious about their new classroom, please encourage them to be patient and positive. Lots of time, thought and care has been put into class placements to help ensure we are building positive learning communities in each classroom.

**Understanding Combined Classes**

Often, the philosophy behind combined classes is misunderstood by parents.  Children who are placed in the upper grade of a combined class are not placed there because they struggle in school.  In a combined grade 4 and 5 class, we do our very best to ensure that for each grade, we have students who encompass a range of learning styles and abilities.  **We do not place all of our strongest grade 5 learners into a grade 5/6 when a grade 4/5 classroom is also available**.

Teachers are skilled and trained to provide instruction to diverse classes of students, working to meet the learning needs of each child regardless of their grade level.

Combined classes offer enhanced opportunities for all students to demonstrate confidence, positive self-concept, and a strong sense of belonging.  Combined classes can help students form broader and more varied friendships as older students provide role models for younger students.  Sometimes the teacher/student relationship can be enhanced if the same teacher teaches a student for more than one year, leading to increased feelings of security for returning students and a smoother transition in September because the teacher already knows their learning styles and needs well. Teachers in combined classes, like those in straight grades, follow the curriculum requirements defined by the Ministry of Education.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

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| **Students should report to their new class starting on Tuesday, September 12th. A form is coming home to tell you who your child’s teacher is and what exterior door # they should be entering and exiting from.** |

Respectfully,

Ms. N. Widdess Mr. B. Miller

Principal Vice Principal