



May 17th, 2021

A Message from Ms. Paredes and Ms. Scott

We are excited to see the sun shining and the removal of three portables from our school last week. We are approaching the final six weeks of this school year. It has been a very unique period of time, requiring many changes to routines and celebrations. Many of our school wide events have been made virtual or cancelled due to Covid restrictions. We want to thank our amazing parent community for their continuous support and partnership during the year, especially during the many dynamic changes. We have really appreciated how parents and staff have worked together to support students during this school year. We do not yet have details to share regarding our September start up, as we wait for more directions from the Provincial Health Office and Ministry of Education with regards to what our next school year will look like.

We are anticipating some changes next year as our school begins the [10-classroom addition](#) expansion project at the front of our school. In the next few weeks, families will see that trees on our site will be fenced for protection. Once our school shuts down for the summer, metal fencing will be erected to enclose the [construction area](#) as building commences. We anticipate this work will begin on June 28, 2021. Please have a look at the images in each of the links including a [rendering](#) of the exterior of the addition. We anticipate that construction will be completed and the new classrooms ready for us to move into by August 2022.

We can't believe it is already time to say farewell to our amazing group of Grade 7 learners. We are looking forward to recognizing our Grade 7s with a Covid-friendly send off this year. Grade 7 students will be part of an individual class leaving ceremony on Friday, June 11, 2021. We will have individual classes come to the gym to commemorate this important transition to high school. During this in-school assembly, each student will be presented with their Grade 7 medallion and leaving certificate. Due to Covid restrictions, parents will not be joining us at school for this event. Please know we will record the special moment for families to enjoy from home. Our staff will create a video including all of our 72 students, face-to-face and blended students and a link will be sent out for sharing with Grade 7 families before year-end.

We would also like to take a moment to thank our PAC for another year of outstanding support for our school community. Despite the limitations brought on by Covid, our PAC continued to meet monthly through Zoom to work together to support students. We have been able to purchase additional technology, team jerseys, class incentives, and library book collections which directly supported student learning in our school community. Thank you for everything our parent community does to support students and staff at Sunnyside. Our staff also very much appreciated the Staff Appreciation Week in May that the PAC put together. We thank our PAC executive members: Jennifer Ciere – President, Gina Cavaliere Esposito - Secretary, and Gina Lawson – Fundraiser. The work you do makes a difference for all our students.

It has been an exciting year full of learning, growth and memories, and we look forward to the many adventures we will have together in the fall.

Warm Regards,

Ms. L. Paredes and Mrs. B. Scott
Principals

Placement of Students for the Upcoming School Year

A number of educational factors are considered by staff in organizing the classes from Grade One to Grade Seven. We anticipate, as in past years, to have both single and combined grade classes. After new registrations are confirmed in September, class organizations are finalized. Educational considerations used to develop student placement include:

- social/emotional development
- study/work habits
- program characteristics
- compatibility of students
- intellectual development
- student history (teachers, classes)

Parental input can be helpful in determining an appropriate placement for a student. If you have information that you wish to bring to our attention for consideration in regards to your child's placement, please complete the attached form at the end of this newsletter and return to the school principal, Ms. Paredes (paredes_l@surreyschools.ca). *Please do not send requests to individual classroom teachers, all requests must go through the office for consideration.* Please note that requests for a specific teacher are neither appropriate, nor are they possible to fulfill. Information from parents which may be helpful in the placement process includes:

- past school experiences
- curricular/extra-curricular strengths
- emotional needs/concerns
- social strengths/needs
- special medical needs
- learning style

Key points to keep in mind about class placements:

- It is not appropriate to request a specific teacher. The focus should always be on placement based on the most appropriate learning environment
- Combined classes are not inferior learning environments. In fact, research suggests that students in combined classes do just as well, if not better, than students in single-grade classes
- In many cases, students are either placed together or apart depending on dynamics observed by previous teachers
- From year to year, teachers communicate important information regarding a student's ability in numeracy and literacy, as well as work habits and behaviour. This information guides teachers in the formation of classes

If you are asking for a placement consideration, please complete the attached form and return it to Ms. Paredes via email by Wednesday, June 9th. These requests will be reviewed for consideration as part of our process to understand individual student needs. Please understand that placements of students are ultimately determined through school-based professional evaluations. This includes the collaborative work of classroom teachers, Learning Support Teachers, Childcare Worker, Counsellor, and Administration. School-based staff have knowledge of the overall needs of the children and therefore can best determine where individual children should be placed.

Please fill in one form per child and feel free to attach additional information.
Please email request to: paredes_l@surreyschools.ca

STUDENT NAME _____ GRADE (in Sept.) _____

Educational information regarding my child's placement:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Your name: _____

Your phone number: _____

Your email address: _____