

May 17, 2019

Dear Families,

With less than six weeks remaining in the school year, we have begun the process of preparing our students for the transition to the next school year. The ability to handle change is an important skill for children to develop. Change may come with feelings of sadness or uncertainty coupled with anticipation and excitement. These are normal and expected emotions. While we address the feelings with our students, we keep things simple. Children don't need to be overly concerned about the future! We are even careful not to say, "*You have to \_\_\_\_\_ so you are ready for first (or second) grade!*" We want our students to feel confident that no matter which school they attend or classroom they are assigned, they are ready and will be safe, comfortable, and happy.

In the coming weeks, each kindergarten class will make visit to a first grade classroom. The students will spend time reading or doing a fun activity together. The teachers and I believe this experience helps build excitement while helping our students feel comfortable about their move over to the first grade hallway!

Our first graders will visit West Side and Lloyd Harbor Schools on June 12<sup>th</sup> to help them envision what second grade will be like next year. They will ride a "big bus" to their new schools where they will have a tour and spend time in the second grade classrooms.

To help parents with the transition to West Side or Lloyd Harbor, Orientation Meetings are being held at each school on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

While we think about the future, we are still very busy and focused on the present! The children are learning new things every day and using the skills they have developed this year in exciting ways. We look forward to celebrating their successes with you at upcoming events, such as classroom reading and writing celebrations. **Field Day** and **Moving-Up Ceremony** dates and times are listed below in the **Important Dates** section. Detailed information about all of our events will be shared with you in the coming weeks.

Enjoy the beautiful weekend!

Lynn Herschlein