

June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## **Thank You. Merci. Kw'as Ho:y.**

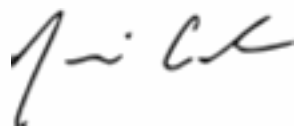
This has been a challenging year. There's no other way to say it. I am so thoroughly impressed by how well our school community has navigated working through a pandemic. I am so thankful we have been able to keep the kids coming to school every day. So many parts of the country, and world, have had to keep their doors shut to their students. I wouldn't call this year anything close to normal, but I am so proud of everyone for giving it their best to approximate this for our kids.

I'd also like to extend my personal thanks to our families for the out-pouring of support and appreciation, to myself, and to our staff. I can't fully express just how much this has meant to us. As much as COVID protocols have disconnected us from you fine folks, we have also felt a lack of connection amongst staff. Our main function may be to teach academics, but the purpose of school is really all about connection and community. We have all felt a little lost. Your lovely children, with all their youthful enthusiasm, have sustained us, day by day, through a difficult year. Your thank you cards, gifts, and notes of support throughout the year have given us the added encouragement we needed to keep our energy up and focus on doing our best.

To stay informed on how September could look, and to see what type of planning is on-going to address the varying impacts of the pandemic, visit:  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-safe-schools>. The Ministry will have a further update towards the end of August, and you can expect to hear from me in the week prior to school reopening.

In the meantime, I wish you all the very best this summer, as you begin to reconnect with friends and family. I hope you all stay safe and stay healthy.

Sincerely,



Mr. Iain Gardner  
Principal, École Cheam Elementary