



# Summer Street Newsletter



## September, 2018

### Issue 1

#### **Message from the Principal**

Dear Summer Street Families and Friends,

I hope you had a wonderful and relaxing summer! The teachers are excited to begin the school year. They have attended workshops, collaborated on projects and recharged themselves with families and friends. We had two days for professional development, focusing on the district and school improvement goals, including Personalized Learning and social-emotional learning. In the social-emotional learning teachers are focusing on Morning Meeting as a way to greet every student in the class and be certain that every voice is heard. I encourage you to ask your children about Morning Meeting and find out what they think of it.

I would like to extend special thanks to the PTO for transforming the APR into a summer garden and providing a delicious lunch. The faculty and I felt very special that you took such good care of us!

#### **Kindergarten**

We had a successful Kindergarten Meet and Greet on September 29th. There are so many parents with first borns in this class! On August 30th, we formally met the parents for Kindergarten Orientation.

#### **New Staff and Changes in Staff:**

Benjamin Zavisza is our new music teacher. He has taught in Methuen and Burlington previously. Though we were sorry to see

**Upcoming Events:**  
**September 7, 14, 21, & 28:**  
**Family Coffee**  
**9 am**

**September 11:**  
**School Council**  
**3:15 pm**

**September 24:**  
**Newcomer's Picnic**  
**5-7:30**

**September 26-27:**  
**Preschool Picture Day.**

**No School:**  
**September 10:**  
**Yom Kippur**

**September 19:**  
**Rosh Hashanah**

Harry Wagg leave, it is terrific that he is at the high school. I think the students will enjoy Mr. Zavisza's teaching too!

Megan Cella joins us in the special education department. Megan joins us from Sudbury. Mary Valle, another special education teacher, is new to the school, but not to the district. She has taught at Huckleberry Hill and the middle school and previously taught in Foxborough. We welcome both for their care and expertise.

Elizabeth Watts has switched her role from special education teacher to preschool teacher. Meg Burchill Sullivan has changed her position from special education to first grade teacher. This year our Merrimack Fellows are Elizabeth Dever, Christine Lannon, Taylor Simpson, and Cassandra Connelly. They are full-time interns and terrific additions to our staff.

Despite the heat, we had a successful start of school and Open House. The number of parents who came was impressive as were the many compliments that parents gave to the teachers. The students and faculty have been wonderful about adapting to the heat and creative in finding ways to cool down--the media center, All Purpose Room, and popsicles have all been very popular! Thank you to the PTO who supplied desserts and water.

As well as the start of the school year has gone, please know that the social, emotional and intellectual well-being of your student is our priority. The staff and I think of you as our partners in nurturing your children. Please contact me and your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. It is better for us to be proactive about concerns. We talk about the growth mindset for learning with students, and the staff has that same mindset in terms of wanting to improve Summer Street School whenever and wherever that we can. I am looking forward to this school year and getting to know all of you! To do that, I am hosting Friday coffees at 9 in the All Purpose Room. Please join us if you can!

Sincerely,

Karen Dwyer

Follow me on Twitter: @KarenDwyerSSS



### **Absence, Arrival & Dismissal Information**



