

November 14, 2019

Dear Parents,

It has been great to see so many of you here for parent conferences with the teachers and therapists this week. This first term has been very busy and the students have made great progress! It is a joy to witness the growth the students make in their physical, social, and academic development. The teams at Bloorview School are committed to supporting your child's development.

At this time, I wanted to provide a few updates for you. First, we are very pleased to introduce our new School Council for 2019-2020. Chair: Naser Alnaser, Vice-Chair: Zoobia Siddiqui, and Secretary: Jennifer Kotoka. The Parent Reps are: Ana Saliola, Evita Machevin, Iana Ivanova, Martha Lai, and Nicola Betts. Bill Melvin is our Community Rep and the Staff Reps are Heather Whitman and Linda Trimble. The Student Rep at our recent meeting was Sabrina.

As you may have heard in the media, teachers who are part of the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) will begin a Work-to-Rule strike protocol on November 26th. However, we are pleased to let you know that given the unique nature of Bloorview School (a Section 68 school), our elementary teachers will continue with their regular duties during this phase of the labour dispute and not participate in Phase 1 of the work-to-rule. ETFO's strike protocol is incremental in nature and if further actions are taken, we will communicate this to parents five days in advance of any escalation.

Looking ahead, we ask you to 'save the date' for our first Award Assembly of the year on December 10th. Parents of students who will be recognized at this assembly will receive specific information from the classroom teacher. As well, we are planning a Holiday Concert for the afternoon of December 19th.

Finally, it is with mixed emotions that I let you know I have decided to retire. The Board is now in the process of recruiting a new principal for Bloorview School. We expect the transition for the new principal to begin in February but we do not yet have an exact date. In the New Year we will have additional information to share regarding the timeframe.

It has been a pleasure to be part of the Bloorview School community for the past four and a half years. I have learned a great deal from the students and truly feel their determination and commitment to learning are examples to us all. I feel privileged to be part of this program that focusses on building students' self-knowledge and advocacy skills. On a daily basis Bloorview students live our motto of Dream Learn Grow. I thank you for allowing me to be a partner with you as we work together to foster skills and provide opportunities so that each child may reach their full potential.

Sincerely,

Linda Ward