



# September 2024 Newsletter

Welcome back to another year! I am so excited to be entering my fourth year as principal of this wonderful school. I think it is going to be another amazing year full of learning, fun, growth, and celebration. Thank you for entrusting your children to us - it is such a privilege to have the opportunity to invest in your kids.

For those of you who have been around Sunnyside for the last few years - you will probably recall that we have been working on a new vision/mission for Sunnyside. I'm happy to report that we have settled on some key phrases for our mission: • Kindness • Creativity • Growth • Play • Outdoors • Community •. A more comprehensive document is available on our website under the "about" section - I encourage you to take a look at it.

If you haven't been by the school this summer, please take some time to drive by and see our brand new greenhouse that was built over the summer! This greenhouse has been a labor of love over the past year and we are so close to seeing it to completion! Our fabulous Sunnyside Community Association has funded this project in its entirety, which is incredible. We have a few more inspections to complete and then we will get started on building the raised beds. It is going to be an amazing space where our students can learn by getting their hands dirty!

Just a reminder that we will have our "Meet the Teacher" night on Thursday, September 5th from 5:30-7:30. Come grab a bite to eat and chat with your child(ren)'s teacher(s)! This is always a great event - a good way to connect with our school community, meet our wonderful staff, and have a chance to sign up for some volunteer opportunities while you are at it! We have a new teacher this year, Mr. Johnston, who will be taking over from Mrs. Henderson. I know he would love to meet you!

One of the things that I love about Sunnyside School is its commitment to play and the outdoors. This is something that is near and dear to my heart, but is also research driven. This summer, I read the book, "The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt. He cites many studies that demonstrate the importance of face-to-face interactions for students, as well as having many opportunities for unstructured play - especially in the outdoors. If you haven't had a chance to read it - I highly recommend it. It definitely reinforces many of the things that we are trying to do at Sunnyside.

Lastly, I want to encourage you to be involved in our wonderful school community. There are so many opportunities to help out - working on the greenhouse, volunteering for hot lunch, attending school council meetings (short but very informative!), running a Friday wellness club, or attending events at the school. Without our amazing parents, Sunnyside would not be the fantastic school that it is. We need your help to keep Sunnyside an amazing place for kids!

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas. I always love chatting with parents!

Mitchell Van Dyk



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 First day back to school	4	5 Meet the teacher night 5:30-7:30	6	7
8	9	10	11 School council meeting @4PM	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Terry Fox Run (Tentative)	20	21
22	23	24	25 Orange shirt day!	26 Lifetouch school pictures	27 PD day no school for students	28
29	30 Truth and Reconciliation Day, no school for staff or students					