

MARKHAM GATEWAY PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Welcome Back

September 15, 2015

Dear students and families,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back from summer as we look forward to another great school year at Markham Gateway Public School. It is my honour to serve the students and community of Markham Gateway. I thank everyone for making me feel welcome during my first year in this community last year and I am looking forward to meeting even more family members and also extending the relationships begun last year. I wish to extend a welcome back to all staff with special introduction to Mr. Kurt Chin who will partner with me in the role of Vice-Principal. Mr. Chin will be serving two schools in a shared VP capacity this year. Mr. Chin will also be working at Boxwood P.S. I know that all students, staff and community members will extend a warm welcome to him just as I felt welcomed one year ago.

Our school will continue to strive for excellence in academics with a continued focus on inquiry and higher order thinking in literacy and particularly in mathematics. We are also looking forward to further developing our commitment to athletics and healthy living through an active physical education program, extra-curricular activities and competitive school teams. We support the York Region District School Board's commitment to student success and to supporting everyone's well being. This will all be accomplished with the recognition that modern ways of learning are ever changing and evolving.

We are looking forward to reaching out to our parent and community members as partners in our students' learning through the varied programs we offer during the school day as well on designated evenings. One of the first opportunities parents have to be involved in their child's learning is through participation in School Council. Our Council works diligently on behalf of the students, staff and community members at the school. We encourage all members of the school community to consider participating in School Council. Our first meeting will take place on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in our Library. All are welcome.

Please ensure that you have an opportunity to thoroughly read all the material sent home on the first day of school as part of the Board's and our School's start up package. A number of forms require parent signature and are to be returned to the school. We also ask that each student in grades 1-8 have a Student Agenda to support student learning, organization and as one of the ways for parents and staff to maintain ongoing communication. Please consider purchasing an agenda for \$6.00.

Please note that we have made a slight adjustment to our timetable in order to balance the learning opportunity throughout the school day. Entry and dismissal time remains the same as in previous years. The instructional day begins at 8:20 a.m. There is supervision at the school beginning at 8:05. For safety reasons please do not send nor drop off students prior to 8:05. Dismissal is at 2:50 p.m. Recess will be 10:00 – 10:30 with lunch being 12:10 – 1:10.

As part of our healthy living initiative, we encourage all students to walk to and from school each day. Where this is not possible and students need to arrive or leave by car, we insist that for safety reasons all drivers follow the drop off and pick up rules established at the school and observe the instructions of all staff while out on duty. Please remember that safety always comes before convenience. The extra second or two gained by speeding through the parking lot or drop off lanes can never be more important than everyone's well being. Please slow down and be watchful. Also, please be reminded that the drop off lane in front of the school is designated as a Fire Route by the Town of Markham's Fire Department. DO NOT leave your car unattended at any time in this area or you will be subject to a \$200.00 fine from the Town of Markham. Even in the event that the school calls and requests that you drop an item off at the office or pick your child up during the day, do not leave your car in the drop off lane. Please park in the parking lot.

I look forward to working with all students, staff and community members again this year.

Mr. G. Young
Principal



On Common Ground