



West Jefferson Elementary School News

September 2017

303.982.2975
Main Phone

303.982.2950
Attendance

[Click](#)



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West Jefferson
Website](#)

West Jefferson
Elementary School
26501 Barkley Rd.
Conifer, CO 80433

PLEASE NOTE: This newsletter will be the **ONLY ONE PRINTED FOR THIS YEAR.** In the future, it will be electronic and located on our school website. (www.wjes.net)

Calendar of Events



August

31 Curriculum night (two sessions 5:30-6:30 or 6:00-7:00)

September

4	NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)
6	Band and Orchestra First Day (Monday PM & Wednesday AM)
7	BAM meeting 4:30 - 5:30 in the library
	PTA Meeting Kickball Event - 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
12	Health and Wellness Meeting - 4:00-5:00 PM
15	Superhero Sprint (see running times below)
	9:45 K and 1st
	10-10:45 2nd and 3rd
	1:15-2:00 4th grade
	2:15-3:00 5th grade

continued...

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Calendar of Events, continued...

September

19-22	Book Fair
Week of 18th	Parent Teacher Conferences (please see the sign up GENIUS on our website) ***** Due to class sizes and other factors, some teachers have additional days/times and some may have different days as an option. *****
21	Picture Day
22	Early Release 1:05 Dismissal

October

3	Hearing and Vision Screening
5	PTA meeting 4:00-5:00 PM
	W.A.T.C.H. Dog Dad Meeting 6:00-7:00 in the library

From the Principal



Please read for important information about early release days

Dear Parents,

We are very excited that our achievement and growth scores increased this year and we have improved from an "Improvement Plan" by the state to a **"Performance Plan"**! One of the areas where we focused our attention last year was on using data to better inform our instruction and planning. We are continually working to better prepare all students for success on classroom performance and assessments as well as standardized tests. We want our students to be able to compete with others in school and life.

We are moving in the right direction and seeing a lot of positive improvements in our students'

continued...



From the Principal, continued...

levels of success as measured by classroom performance, classroom assessments and state assessments.

One of our biggest struggles continues to be finding the time to really dig into assessment data TOGETHER and use that data to create interventions, evaluate the effectiveness of our instruction and interventions, create new lesson plans to address the areas we need to address and to create meaningful, challenging and engaging activities for ALL students –whether they are struggling or need to be challenged.

We are proposing that we CHANGE our EARLY RELEASES (starting in November) to FULL DAYS of data analysis and team planning. This will offer us a rare opportunity to work as an entire teaching staff (classroom teachers, special education teachers, instructional coach, principal and potentially district support staff) to more accurately address the root causes of our challenges. If we decide to move in this direction, students would NOT attend school on those days.

We want to hear your feedback about **potentially** making this change. We will be collecting input starting NOW and going through September 22nd about your thoughts and feelings about making this a NON-STUDENT contact day and allowing our teachers this time to be even better prepared to meet the needs of all students. Our Building Leadership Team will be meeting the following week to look at the input collected and making a decision about whether or not we will begin this with our NOVEMBER date. Our September date will still be an EARLY RELEASE at 1:05. However, the POTENTIAL dates for the change to a full day without students at school would be **November 3rd, February 16th, March 16th and April 27th**. This would allow teachers an additional 28+ hours of collaboration with student learning as the focus.

Please complete the following Google Form to give your feedback. We also have paper forms you can fill out. You can also send me an email or set a meeting time if you have questions or other things you want to discuss. We will be discussing it at our BAM meeting on September 7th at 4:30 PM as well. Please give us your input.

We will communicate our decision based on all stakeholder input by the end of September.

<https://goo.gl/forms/JctMuogY4YRBuJnz2>

Thank you for your participation,

Wendy Woodland
Principal
West Jefferson Elementary
303-982-2975
www.wjes.net

District Wellness Policy changes

Due to changes in Federal rules, school districts must have standards for foods provided (not sold) to students. With copious amounts of public input, consideration of food allergies, and equity, as well as guidance from leadership, the below standards will **begin this SCHOOL YEAR!!!!**

In summary, the new standards will include:

- **Holiday Celebrations-** Offer at least half "healthier" food options (using the district definition of healthier or your one customized by your school).
- **Birthdays-** Birthday recognition/celebrations should not include shared food (e.g. food brought in by families for students to share).
- **Rewards-** Do not offer food as a reward for behavior or academic performance, unless approved as a need by school leadership.

If you have any questions, please contact healthyschools@jeffco.k12.co.us.

Thank you all for being champions for the wellness of our schools and young people, and have a happy healthy summer!

Emily O'Winter, MURP, MPH
District Healthy Schools Coordinator
Jeffco Public Schools



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The School
Communications
Agency

From the Office

- Please remember to call the attendance line if your child is going to absent from school (303-982-2950)
- Please sign your child out in the office if they have an appointment during the day or need to leave early.
- Please sign your child in if they arrive past the tardy bell at 8:45.
- GO SLOW THROUGH OUR PARKING AREAS. DO NOT FLIP U-TURNS DOWN ON THE ROAD. USE THE PRESCHOOL PULL THROUGH AREA AND DRIVE AROUND.
- You will begin to see fees for field trips located on your child's Jeffco Connect account. You are able to pay your child's field trip fees online.
- If you are not receiving our weekly school messengers with important information, please update your Jeffco Connect account and click edit user and ensure you have checked the boxes for Events/Activities and General.



School Clinic



Medications:

Please remember that all medications must be brought into the clinic with a completed **924 form**. This includes all prescription and over-the-counter medications (i.e. cough drops inhalers, EpiPen, eye drops and Advil). Medications can't be sent home with a student. All medications must be picked up by an adult.

The clinic is always in need of 5 oz dixie cups, socks, underwear, and pants. (small to medium size). Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Also, please update any health concerns in Connect and call Susan Glueck in the clinic if you have any questions or concerns.

Susan Glueck
303-982-2975
sglueck@jeffco.k12.co.us

West Jeff Preschool News

Our preschool at West Jeff has some exciting updates and changes for the new 2017/18 school year. We have two new wonderful teacher's joining our preschool team with Mrs Treloar & Mrs Kitchner! Both Mrs Hagert and Mrs Carrington have great backgrounds in early childhood education and we are very excited to have them join us. In addition, we are starting a modified full day class (8:45 am - 3:35 PM) for the first time and we will continue to have our 2 1/2 hour AM & PM classroom as well.

Our teacher teams hit the ground running, getting our room environments and educational plans ready for all our new and returning students. Our learning centers will begin the school year with the Family Theme. Each center represents a part of their home complete with a kitchen, family room, baby nursery, backyard, etc. This gives our students an environment rich in individual experiences promoting communication, language, & friendship building. It won't take long for us to form our very own communities in the classroom!

Please feel free to give me a call anytime for more information about West Jeff Preschool!

Sincerely,
Dede Armbruster
Director - West Jeff Preschool
26501 Barkley Rd.
Conifer, CO. 80433
Office 303-982-2951
Fax 303-982-2913



PTA

Visit our new website: <https://sites.google.com/view/wjesbobcatspta/home>

Or email us at: wjebobcats@gmail.com



DON'T FORGET TO PURCHASE YOUR YEARBOOK THROUGH PTA !!!!!

Greetings From Our PTA President

Welcome to the start of another great school year at West Jeff Elementary! The WJE PTA is looking forward to again providing enriching and enjoyable programs and activities for the students and families of WJE. We will be supporting “old favorites”, such as Movie Night, Trunk or Treat, Elf Shop, Carnival, and some exciting additions this year including regularly scheduled Parent’s Night Out, a new PTA website and email. In order to make all of these things happen, we need your support and assistance, especially via volunteering.

A great first step in doing so is to stop by WJE PTA Kick-off Cookout and Kickball game. Thursday, Sept. 7 at 6:00 p.m. The kick-off is an opportunity to meet new people, learn about school happenings for the year, what WJE PTA is all about and our goals for the year. You’ll also gain insight as to what the PTA actually does for your child and where the funds we raise are spent. But until then, best of luck getting into your new school routine, it’s going to be an amazing year at WJE!

Melana Boyd PTA President

WJE PTA Kick-Off

Thursday, September 7, 2017 | 6:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.



Please join us for a fun night of socializing, playing kickball, and sharing a meal!
PTA will provide hot dogs, water, and lemonade.

More details to follow

PTA Membership Drive

Also, don’t forget we have our PTA membership drive going on until September 29th....join PTA and you child’s class could win a prize....

Please see the PTA membership form on the following page.

PTA Membership, Directory, & Yearbook Order Form

PTA Membership **\$20.00** \$_____

Membership includes access to school directory via **Google Sheets** or **Excel Doc**. Please circle which you would prefer. If neither is circled, we will automatically send it via Google. Membership also includes discounts at PTA events.

Hard Copy Student Directory **\$5.00** \$_____

Check only if you would like a paper copy or choose not to join PTA..

2017-18 Yearbook Delivered at the end of the school year **\$20.00** \$_____

You may **only** purchase your yearbook through PTA or online at Treering.com

PTA Donation See reverse side. \$_____

Total PTA Contribution \$_____

PTA contributions may be tax deductible. Please check with your tax advisor.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email address* _____

Student Name(s) _____

Teacher(s) _____

*You must include an email address to receive the electronic directory

PTA Membership Information

- The #1 reason to join the PTA is to benefit your child. In doing so, you also help our school. More than 30 years of research has proven that children do better when their parents, family and/or guardians are involved both at home and in school. Grades are higher, self-esteem grows and school work improves!
- Every membership counts! We value each member, whether or not you volunteer.
- PTA membership gives you a voice! Only members can vote on PTA issues.
- PTA helps support teachers, students, and staff. Did you know that the PTA provides teachers with assistance to purchase items for their classrooms?
- We need YOU! PTA helps to fund and organize many special projects and events at school.
- It's easy to join. Simply include your membership dues of \$20.00.
- As a member, YOU can vote on how our funds are spent.
- Questions?? Feel free to contact our PTA Board at wjebobcats@gmail.com

Health and Wellness

Hello, my name is Chris Olsen and I am the chair of the Health and Wellness team this year. I am a para at our school, am a PTA board member, and have two students who attend WJES. I have been on the H&W team for two years and have implemented some of it into my school work. For example, I have been giving stamps to our younger students for having fruits and vegetables in their lunches. I am proud to be part of our West Jeff community and am looking forward to another great school year.



Over the past few years, West Jeff has made amazing strides in the H&W community, and I am hoping we continue this momentum throughout our new school year. As most of you may know, we did earn statewide recognition last year when we brought home a CEI award as a promising school for Colorado Healthy Schools. Many other schools look to us as leaders in this initiative and I hope I can live up and strengthen what Liz Murphy has started for us. This all is made possible with our community sponsor, The Mountain Resource Center, who provides us with tools to continually be successful.

This year I am looking for new members and new ideas to lead us forward. Meetings will be held the second Thursday of each month in the library. I would like to encourage not only parents, but also teachers and students to join our team. Please mark your calendar for the first meeting on September 14.

We all learn from modeling and I have started this year with a spotlight on some staff members who tackled the Colorado Trail over their summer break. Make sure to stop by and check out the board located near pod 1. This group of ladies will show that a healthy lifestyle can be fun and rewarding. Thank you for making good choices for yourself and your student!

Sincerely,
Chris Olsen

Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable! Reach parents in your local community and a significant portion of your investment goes back to the school! Businesses that want to sponsor this school, please contact TSCA at info@tscaschools.com or 970-239-1641.

The advertisement features a red apple on the left side. The text "Sponsor This School" is in large, bold, orange letters. Below it, "Your Business Here!" is in white, italicized letters. Further down, "contact (970) 239-1641" and "info@tscaschools.com" are in white, bold letters. At the bottom right is the logo for "The School Communications Agency", which consists of a red speech bubble icon and the text "The School Communications Agency".

Sponsor This School
Your Business Here!
contact (970) 239-1641
info@tscaschools.com

The School Communications Agency

News from the Instructional Coach

I am so excited to be at WJE as an Instructional Coach again this year! My office is located in Pod 2 across from Mr. McGuire's room. Feel free to stop by if you have any questions about your child's assessment results, Jr. Great Books, Burst, or Advanced Learning Plans.



BOY (Beginning of Year) Assessments:

Teachers have been busy assessing students in order to better inform their instruction. They are using the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) test in 1st-5th grade. MAP measures academic progress in reading and math. Please see the information page in this edition of Bobcat News for more information. Also, on assessment days, all students were given reading tests to assess reading fluency and comprehension. These assessments are vital for teachers to inform their instruction. We are so proud of all students for their commitment and endurance. Student's testing data will be shared at parent conferences on September 19th and 21st.

Jr. Great Books will be starting again this fall. This is a resource that was purchased in order to bring rich literature to all students. JGB promotes critical thinking skills and guides students in analyzing texts. Students look forward to this small group setting where they can have these deep discussions. Some teachers are also adopting JGB as a shared reading text in order to work with the whole class around reading skills such as fluency and comprehension.

Justine Creel
Instructional Coach

Superhero Sprint Information

SEPTEMBER 15TH

Running Times are:

9-9:45 - K and 1st

10-10:45 - 2nd and 3rd

1:15-2:00 - 4th grade

2:15-3:00 - 5th Grade

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) – Grades 3 - 10



About MAP

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is an efficient, online assessment in English language arts and mathematics for students in grades 3 through 10. MAP also offers science tests and a test for primary grades. MAP, which is new to Jeffco Public Schools this year, is unique in several ways:

- **Tailored to individual students.** The difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers the previous question. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. Final scores provide an individually-tailored report of each student's achievement level. Progress and growth are precisely measured for each student, helping teachers to pinpoint individual instructional needs.
- **Next day results.** Teachers and students receive results the day after the MAP test is taken. These real-time results can be put to use right away to enhance quality planning and instruction.
- **Time Savings.** MAP tests typically take an hour, about half the time it took for previous exams. It also saves time for teachers because it is graded automatically.

Why is an assessment like this needed?

MAP assesses students on a range of content areas rather than focusing solely on skills at a particular grade level. Results from MAP tests given in the fall, winter, and spring help teachers track progress and growth in basic skills for each student throughout the school year. They let teachers know where a student's strengths are and if help is needed in any specific areas. Educators can use MAP data to identify trends across their classroom, compare their students' achievement with local and national norms, and strengthen instructional planning.

What educators say about MAP

"With MAP, teachers gain the benefit of having years of research and assessment specialists creating a reliable, comparable assessment, and the teachers do not have to create their own benchmark assessment, leaving them time to do more valuable things than creating assessments for comparability."

*Michele DeAndrea, Principal,
Kyffin Elementary School*

"Many teachers quickly see the benefits of MAP, particularly that it's short, adaptive, and provides immediate results with meaningful information."

*Dave Bahana, Director of Assessment &
Accountability, Adams 12 Public Schools
(now in their 5th year of using MAP)*

A secure and private tool

Jeffco has worked hard to ensure MAP meets the strictest privacy and security standards. MAP has passed Jeffco's in-depth vendor approval process. This process measures the security and privacy of software by reviewing various technical features such as encryption, system logging, system roles, and incident response. More information can be found on Jeffco's Data Privacy and Security website (click [here](#)) and the Student Assessment & Testing website (click [here](#)).



More questions?

For additional information about Measures of Academic Success, talk with your child's teacher, your school's principal, or contact Jeffco Public Schools' Dept. of Assessment & Research (303.982.6565).



Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Lap Goal: _____ Laps Completed: _____

Superhero Sprint

Instead of selling STUFF for a fundraiser, West Jeff is having a SUPERHERO SPRINT on **Friday, September 15th**. On this day, students will be allowed to run, skip, or walk in the halls dressed like a superhero to complete as many laps as possible.

Please consider sponsoring on a per-lap basis or with a flat donation. (Each lap is approximately 1/6 of a mile.)

Each participant has a goal to raise \$150-\$200, and all donations are tax deductible.

Donations will be used to buy new Chromebooks, improve our outdoor space (playgrounds/track/garden), and offer more healthy opportunities for students through movement, mental health and outdoor learning.

Thanks you for your pledge and support of West Jefferson Elementary! Return this form on/before Sept. 14th

Name	Address	Phone #	Amount Per Lap* (Circle or write in)	Flat Donation* (Circle or write in)	Total Collected (Cash /Check/CC)
1.			\$1 \$2 \$5 \$_____	\$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____	
2.			\$1 \$2 \$5 \$_____	\$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____	
3.			\$1 \$2 \$5 \$_____	\$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____	
4.			\$1 \$2 \$5 \$_____	\$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____	
5.			\$1 \$2 \$5 \$_____	\$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____	
6.			\$1 \$2 \$5 \$_____	\$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____	

Collect Flat donations BEFORE the run; Per lap donations are collected within ONE WEEK of race. Please **read the back for more information on gathering sponsors and PRIZES!!!*

West Jefferson Elementary --www.wjes.net

When this sheet is full, get a new one in the office.

Paying by Credit Card? Call Allisha in the office 303-982-2975

How to Find a Sponsor

Finding sponsors can be fun and it's not too hard if you know where to look! Here are a few suggestions:

- Ask your neighbors, friends and relatives (people you already know)
- Take your sponsorship form to family get-togethers
- Ask your parents to take your sponsorship form to work with them
- Take your sponsorship form to sporting events like soccer, lacrosse, football or swimming
- Try your friends and group members at clubs, scouts or church groups

Do's and Don'ts

- **DO** get your parents' permission before asking for sponsorships
- **DO** show your sponsorship form to people you know, family and close neighbors
- **DO** explain that money you raise all goes to our school (other fundraisers only give a percentage to the school)
- **DO** share that 100% of donations are tax deductible
- **DON'T** knock door-to-door without parents
- **DON'T** collect money after dark
- **DON'T** collect in shopping centers or other public places

SUPERHERO PRIZES



INDIVIDUAL PRIZES:

Level 1: Raise \$5.00-\$25.00- Get a coin and use the TOY TOWER in Mrs. Woodland's Office
Level 2: Raise \$26.00-\$75.00- Jamba Juice delivered to you by Mrs. Woodland PLUS Level 1
Level 3: Raise \$76.00-\$125.00- West Jeff Bobcats Water Bottle PLUS Level 1 and 2
Level 4: Raise \$126.00-\$200.00- Subway lunch for you with Mrs. Woodland PLUS Level 1, 2 and 3
Level 5: Raise \$201.00-\$250.00-West Jeff T-Shirt PLUS Level 1,2,3, and 4
Level 6: Raise \$251.00 or MORE- Bus to Jump Street and Pizza with Mrs. Woodland PLUS Level 1-5

CLASSROOM PRIZES:

The class that raises the **most funds per student** (average) will have Mrs. Woodland as their teacher for a WHOLE DAY.

****All classes with 100% participation will receive an EXTRA RECESS with Mrs. Woodland!!**

GRAND PRIZES: A Family Zoo Pass OR a FIRE HD Tablet with Alexa (student choice) will be awarded to the following 5 students:

- ✓ The student who runs the most laps in the 40 minutes
- ✓ The student who has the highest number of sponsors
- ✓ The TOP 3 Fundraising students

A TOTAL of 5 students will win the choice of one of the GRAND PRIZES!

****IF we hit our GOAL of \$10,000 students will be have a FALL FESTIVAL during school on Oct.31--This will include crafts, games and dance party.**

****IF we hit our GOAL of \$20,000 Mrs. Woodland will be in a DUNK TANK and every student will get ONE chance to dunk her!**

RUNNING TIMES

Kinder + 1st Grade- 9:00-9:45

2nd + 3rd Grade- 10:00- 10:45

4th Grade- 1:15-2:00

5th Grade- 2:15-3:00

6th Grades Transitioning

August 2017

Dear West Jefferson Elementary Families & Staff,

As you may have heard, several Jeffco Public Schools' articulation areas are shifting sixth grade students to middle schools. Over the past several years, the district thoroughly examined the topic and last year decided to make the shift. The goal is to migrate current 7-8 middle schools to 6-8 middle school configurations district-wide, beginning with as many articulation areas as feasible in the fall of the 2018-19 school year. We are now moving forward on implementation; the sixth grade transition will begin next school year 2018-19. This introductory letter is to inform you of the process, answer some commonly asked questions, and explain what comes next.

Which middle schools will now have sixth grade and when?

The **Evergreen, Chatfield, and Conifer** articulation areas have already transitioned sixth graders to middle schools.

These middle schools will serve grades 6-8 beginning **2018-19**:

- Arvada K-8 (Arvada)
- Bell Middle (Golden)
- Carmody Middle (Bear Creek)
- Drake Middle (Arvada West)
- Dunstan Middle (Green Mountain)
- Everitt Middle (Wheat Ridge)
- Mandalay Middle (Standley Lake)
- Manning (Option School)
- Moore Middle (Pomona)
- North Arvada Middle (Arvada)
- Oberon Middle (Ralston Valley)
- Wayne Carle Middle (Standley Lake)

The following three middle schools are scheduled to serve grades 6-8 in **2019-20** to allow time to plan for capacity and enrollment:

- Creighton Middle (Lakewood)
- Ken Caryl Middle (Columbine)
- Summit Ridge Middle (Dakota Ridge)

Why are the sixth grade students in the Alameda and Jefferson areas remaining in their current elementary schools?

Two years ago, a process that engaged stakeholders resulted in a decision to implement a K-6/7-12 model. We are excited this model will continue because it is beneficial for students. In particular, students only experience one transition within the K-12 model.

How does this transition impact option schools?

Option schools, other than Manning, will remain unchanged.

continued...

6th Grades Transitioning, continued...

Why is Jeffco Public Schools transitioning sixth grade students from elementary school to middle school?

The 6-8 model allows for expanded academic opportunities for our students. The opportunity for students to be in a middle school for three years minimizes the drawbacks of the two-year “in/out” transition. Three years in the same school promotes the academic progress and social-emotional growth of students and encourages stronger student and family engagement. Students attending sixth grade in a middle school have access to a wider variety of electives in addition to art, music, and physical education. Students performing at high levels in math have greater access to accelerated courses. Science classes typically include more lab work and hands-on learning.

Jeffco Public Schools currently offers several 6-8 middle school options, and those experiences have been extremely positive. Nationally, 75 percent of sixth grade students are in a 6-8 middle school model.

What will remain the same for all sixth grade students regardless of program model?

Sixth grade students will continue to receive core instruction based on the Colorado Academic Standards regardless of program model. All schools are dedicated to meet the academic, social-emotional, and mental health needs of adolescents.

Will transitioning sixth grade students to middle school impact the Outdoor Lab experience?

No. Sixth grade students will continue to attend Outdoor Lab, regardless of program model.

How will this transition impact students in center-based (special education or gifted and talented) programs?

All students enrolled in center-based programs will be supported by both the sending and receiving schools. Students in **special education** center-based programs will work with special education staff to successfully transition with their classmates. Classroom teachers will also be supporting students and families in getting prepared for the transition.

Students in **gifted and talented** center programs are assured a continuous school experience:

- **Evergreen and West Jefferson Middle Schools** will continue to host GT Centers. There is no change in programming or location for these two middle schools.
- **Ken Caryl Middle School**, which serves the Chatfield articulation area, already transitioned sixth grade GT Center students this school year, 2017-18.
- **Creighton Middle School**, which serves the Lakewood articulation area, will transition sixth grade GT Center students in 2018-19. This will accommodate the articulation areas that are transitioning their elementary sixth grade students for the 2018-19 school year.
- **Everitt Middle School** and **North Arvada Middle School** will transition 6th grade GT Center students in **2018-19**. This will accommodate the articulation areas that are transitioning their elementary sixth grade students for the 2018-19 school year.

Where can I learn more?

There will be on-going communication about the sixth grade transition to middle school as we move

continued...

6th Grades Transitioning, continued...

forward, and many opportunities to have questions answered. Your school is the best source for information. You will receive more e-newsletters and be invited to parent/student meetings soon. There will also be a transition committee to help address any issues that arise. We are striving to address concerns early and consistently.

We look forward to this new opportunity for our students!

Sincerely,

Wendy Woodland, Principal