June 2022

Much like last year, this year was filled with many unexpected events. Although we moved from single class bubbles and some lifting of protocols, throughout this year, we continued to have masking, school closures and social distancing. Our students once again recognized the importance of these practices and worked as a team to ensure we were all able to remain safely in school as much as possible. On various occasions, our educators and students were asked to shift from in school learning to online learning. The level of engagement during this time was impressive. Students from kindergarten to grade 5 were logging in to Teams daily to see their classmates and teachers; play educational games; listen to reading and share projects they had completed at home. When we were able to learn in school, our students arrived each day, with a smile on their faces; eager to play and learn with their classmates.

This year, more than ever, our students and educators were required to shift their approach to learning. Our ever-changing environment certainly had an impact on students’ social-emotional well-being. Social-emotional learning focuses on the development of social-emotional skills that are essential for working with others, building resiliency, understanding, and managing emotions, and setting and achieving goals. SEL is the foundation for success in school and in life. A growth mindset is especially valuable when working on social emotional learning. At FES, we continue to develop our students’ growth mindset- especially during challenging times. We turn setbacks into opportunities and view mistakes as ways to help us grow. This year, after having participated in the book study “A Mindset for Learning, Teaching the Traits of Joyful, Independent Growth”, we were fortunate to have the author Kristi Mraz speak to our staff on ways to incorporate growth mindset into our school culture.

At FES we continue to have a strong focus on outdoor learning. Through partnerships with Nature NB and ASD-S, our students are learning about and engaging with nature, their ecosystem, and the world around them. The children thrive when learning in our outdoor classroom, garden, and nature trail. These experiences build their global competencies by allowing them time to innovate, think, reflect, communicate, and collaborate. As part of the ASD-S Welcoming Schools Initiative, we are dedicated to creating global citizens by promoting cultural diversity. This year our students have had the opportunity to share their culture with their peers and celebrate the important aspects of that culture.

As we move towards the end of the year and restrictions are lifted, we are thrilled to see happy smiles on our students faces; we are excited to re-start student clubs such as Tinker Tray Tuesday (STEAM Club), Lego, Chess, and Running Clubs; and we are eager to welcome families back into our building. We have learned so much this year about ourselves, how we learn best, and how we overcome challenges.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding this school year. We feel fortunate to be surrounded by a dedicated staff, devoted families and curious, enthusiastic students who are eager to learn and grown.

Congratulations to Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Cowan, and Mrs. Steeves on your retirements. Each of you have had a huge impact on the students and staff at F.E.S. Thank you so much for your kindness, wisdom, and positivity. We wish you good health, happiness, and success as you move forward to the next chapter in your lives. Congratulation on extending your weekends by five days! Now every day is Saturday!

Ms. Hierlihy

Principal