

Beginnings

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Head of Primary School

Our first days of school are filled with learning – about new friends, teachers, classroom spaces and routines. The teachers have shared that every child has been a model Primary School citizen. They are friendly, helpful, respectful and responsible. What a satisfying beginning to the year!

I know that many individuals in our community were unable to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for our new and refurbished Mary K. Chapman Primary School on Wednesday, Aug. 19. Therefore, I am including my remarks in this Campus Connect. It's important to acknowledge that change creates both disequilibrium and opportunity. Our faculty has been flexible, embraced our major construction projects and made the children's continued learning their priority throughout the past year.

Packing and unpacking the total PS has been a daunting task during June and August. The faculty and staff have done a heroic job, especially during the past two weeks. I am overwhelmed by their patience, dedication and the hours of extra work each individual has invested in this effort. They are truly my heroes. I also want to honor some special people. Leslie Kelly, Dwight Lunow, Pam Herman and Raymond Daniels have been pillars of support for the faculty and me. Ryan Rebsamen from Flintco and his colleagues, Mike and Bobby, have communicated clearly, supportively and frequently with me throughout the project. This level of cooperation helped me share timely and pertinent information with the faculty and parent body throughout the project.

We've learned to live the wisdom of Charles Darwin: "It's not the strongest that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the most responsive to change." And it's been worth it. We have beautiful, well-designed, child-friendly new buildings and outdoor learning spaces. Our new library is a shining jewel that celebrates the importance of literacy. The new classroom and extended day building finally brings all of us together. The PreS 3s, JrK, and extended day programs are no longer annexed! Our new gym reinvigorates our PE faculty and provides the kind of physical space we have needed for years. The renovations to the main building inspire all of us; it almost seems brand new.

While we've been very proud of our work with your children in the past, these facilities will optimize our ability to provide an even more outstanding set of learning experiences during these important early stages of development. Our dreams have become a reality, and we are deeply grateful to the Chapman Foundation and all who contributed to this capital campaign.

If you haven't had the opportunity to come visit our new facility, I invite you to stop by.