

Millstream Elementary



Message from Ms. Gerow

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January 4, 2016

Happy New Year to you all and thank you for the warm welcome that I have received from many to date. I am very happy to be joining the Millstream community as the new principal. Moving in midyear always requires some adjustment for staff, students and families.

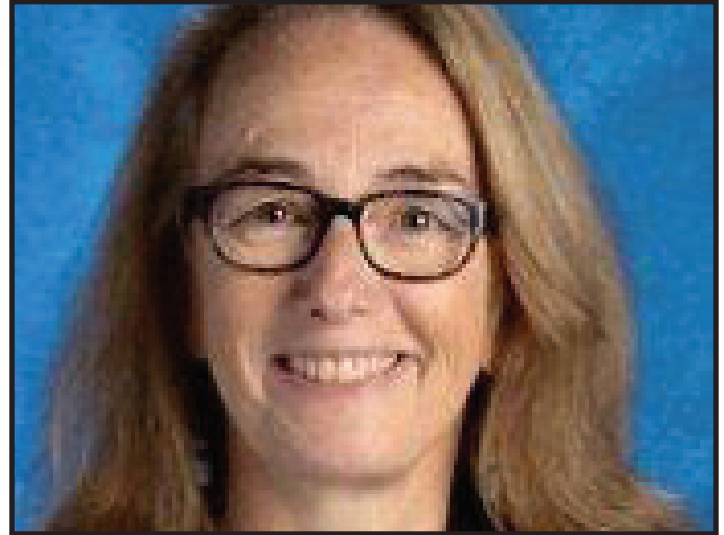
I thank you all in advance for your patience as I get to know a new community, learn about each of the students and earn my place within.

I would like to take this opportunity to give you some of my background as I am sure you may be curious. I am a BC and an island girl, having spent my early childhood and teen hood between Vancouver, Texada Island and Hornby Island. I graduated from high school in Courtenay, attended the University of Victoria. After I graduated with a BA in History and had worked a year, I went on a short trip to Europe before beginning my teaching degree. Instead, as so often can happen, school was delayed as I spent 10

years living and working overseas in the hospital-ity and travel business.

When I returned to B.C., I continued to work in the industry until I realized that I really wanted to be working with children. After completing my Bachelor of Education at UBC, I returned to the island and came directly to the Sooke District where I had been an EA before I had travelled. I have been in the district since 1995 working as TTOC and classroom teacher. I worked at Lakewood Elementary, Ecole John Stubbs, Happy Valley Elementary schools and Journey Middle School as a teacher and for the last four years returned back to Lakewood Elementary as the vice principal.

My experience as a traveler and a teacher have given me many wonderful experiences and at the core, I am a teacher. I believe that collaborative teaching and working together as a school community is essential for building healthy and happy student populace that look



forward to learning and sharing ideas. As you become familiar with me you will learn that I have high expectations for myself. Excellence is something we build by working together as a team. I believe in an open door policy and, even though I will not always be able to fix every problem or make every person happy, I will always take the time to listen and help problem-solve.

As principal, I take my role seriously as there are many layers. I also believe that school should be fun! Students who attend a great school are students valued, safe, and wel-

comed. I am excited to be part of a school that has learning in both English and French. We will continue to celebrate our achievements, and build on past successes, we can create a learning environment where everyone thrives.

I am honoured to be appointed principal of Ecole Millstream and look forward to working with you all throughout my time here as an educator who loves learning and continues to learn on a daily basis from students, parents, and the world around us.

*"Glance at problems,
Gaze at strengths"*
-Karen Hume

REMINDER: Due to the very cold weather, please make sure your child(ren) is dressed appropriately to stay warm during outside play time.