

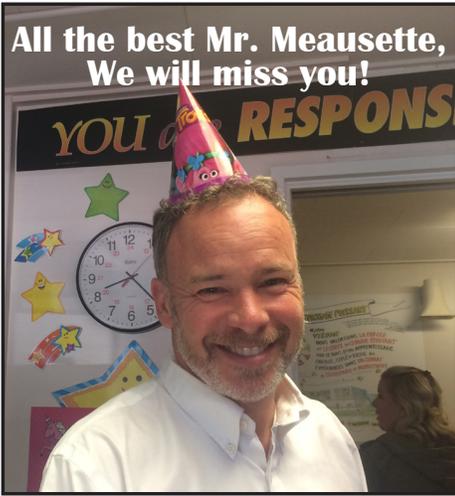
# Millstream Elementary



## Message from Ms. Gerow

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May 10, 2017



### Staffing Update

As you may have heard through the Millstream grapevine, Mr. Meausette will be leaving us at the end June to move on to become the Vice Principal at Savory Elementary School. We are sad to see him leave. Mr. Meausette has done a great job here at Millstream and we will definitely miss him.

As of August, Ms Samantha Ogrodnik, will be stepping in to take over as Vice Principal here at Millstream.

Ms. Ogrodnik is coming to us from the Campbell River School District where she has been teaching French Immersion at Ecole Phoenix Middle School. We are very fortunate

to have her come to the school. As we are expand our French Immersion classes to include Grade 5 in the fall, Ms Ogrodnik will be assigned this class of Grade 4/5.

Her responsibilities will be to teach in the class and share some administrative duties with Ms Gerow.

### Class Placement Policy:

Although we are still very much in the present school year, questions around the next school year are beginning to crop up.

In order to ensure that every parent in the community receives the same message the school placement policy is being provided for all parents.

Please be sure to read the information and follow the procedures as laid out.

### Millstream Elementary Student Placement Policy 2017/18:

#### Our Goal:

Our goal at Millstream Elementary is to provide the best possible learning environment for every child.

The process of student placement is a task we under-

take thoughtfully and there are a variety of important factors to consider. We attempt to provide children the opportunity to experience as many teaching styles and learning environments as possible in order to enhance their lifelong learning skills. The unique needs of all our learners are carefully considered.

### Process for Student Placements:

The District allocates staffing based on projections for student enrolment.

If our school population changes over the summer, our staffing may be adjusted in September.

We anticipate some student and staff movement but do not have confirmed numbers until the fall, when students arrive.

Configuration of classes must adhere to provincial class size legislation as well as District policy and contractual obligations. Our classes are organized to meet these requirements while providing the most optimal learning environment for all children.

Class configurations often include "combined" classes of two grades. This is standard

# Message from Ms. Gerow

## Millstream Elementary Student Placement Policy 2017/18 CONT'D

practice and is educationally sound.

A common misconception is that students are placed in a combined class based entirely on their academic ability. This is not the case. All students work on the provincially Prescribed Learning Outcomes at their grade level and teachers routinely differentiate instruction for all students.

We recognize that there can be some circumstances where it is advantageous for a child to have the same teacher two years in a row. While we recognize that specific friendships are important to children, we also acknowledge that getting to know others and learning to work together is an important part of learning and

social development.

### Considerations for Student Placement:

Once tentative classes are organized, we begin to allocate students to proposed classes. This is revisited in September, when our enrolment and staffing are finalized. Staff discussions concerning student placements will happen during a number of meetings with teachers, support staff and administration prior to the new school year. We carefully consider the following criteria:

- ★ Numbers of students permitted in each class (Collective Agreement / District Policy)
- ★ Academic needs and learning styles
- ★ Social/behavioural considerations

- ★ Gender balance
- ★ Balance of independent and dependent learners
- ★ Previous class placements
- ★ Provision of support staff working with Special Needs students

While we do not guarantee that parent requests will be met, we do consider parent input along with other important educational criteria. Requests for specific teachers cannot be considered.

***In order to ensure your voice is there at the table, please do the following:***

If you wish to contact Ms Gerow about specific educational considerations for your child's placement, please do so in writing by Tuesday, May 31, 2017.

### May 2017

- 11th Engineering for Kids (Thu)
- 11th Div 6&9 to Butterfly Gardens (10)
- 12th Non-Instructional Day
- 18th Victoria Symphony-Belmont
- 18th Engineering for Kids
- 18th French Concert at Belmont 12:30
- 19th Popcorn Day
- 19th Newsletter Home
- 19th 80's Theme Day - Jump Rope Afternoon
- 20th Ballet at 2:00pm
- 22nd Victoria Day
- 24th Spencer Visits Grade 5's at 1:30
- 26th Class Photo Day

- 26th Movie Night at Millstream
- 26th Hot Lunch - Booster Juice
- 31st Div. 2 to Westhills (10)

### June 2017

- 1st Div. 7 to Camp Thunderbird
- 2nd Newsletter Home
- 7th District Field Events - 3:30
- 9th District Track Events
- 13th PAC Meeting
- 16th Popcorn Day
- 23rd Beach Day - Witty's
- 27th Fun Day & Hot Lunch
- 29th Year End Assembly - 10:40
- 29th Last day of school for kids