



July 30, 2018

Dear Sprague Families,

It is hard to believe the summer is half over! The weather has been great and I imagine you are enjoying time with your children. This year's teacher summer reading video told the story of a teacher who thought her book was too hard. She gave up on the book and eventually realized she should use her 'growth mindset' and take a chance on reading that hard book. It was a story set to the music of Sinead O'Connor and ABBA which gave a different feel. Hopefully, our students enjoyed the message and are finding books that are 'just right' this summer. Our librarian, Ms. J, and I would like to remind you that summer reading resources are up on our website on the library page:

https://sites.google.com/a/wellesleyps.org/sprague_school_library/summer-reading-lists

If possible, please send a photo of your child reading to our librarian, Ms. Jauniskis (jauniskiss@wellesleyps.org) It will warm her HEART!

Included in this mailing, you will find a letter from our Technology Department with important instructions about updating your child's information and providing important permissions for the school year. Once the Parent Portal window opens in August and you complete this process, you will be able to see your child's class assignment. For privacy reasons, we will no longer be able to share class lists in the summer. A school directory will be available after families provide permission to share their information. This will likely be later in September.

As a reminder, our school hours are: M, T, TH, F: 8:30 a.m.-3:04 p.m. and W: 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Students have recess and lunch on full days but lunch is not served on Wednesdays. Please refer to the notices in the Parent Portal for detailed information about arrival, dismissal, lunch, payments, and more.

We are excited to start school on August 29th. You will see many familiar faces and also many new faces at Sprague this year. Ms. Christine Babicz will be our new nurse. Christine joins us as an experienced elementary/high school nurse and nurse leader from the Medway Public Schools. We welcome Christina Cooney back to Sprague in the role of Literacy Specialist. (She is a familiar face and we are very happy to have her back at Sprague!) Lindsey Farrar joins us as the new ISS 1 teacher. She has been a special educator in Medway Public Schools. Our kindergarten team looks quite different as Katie Bender took a position at Wellesley High School's Child Lab program. Emma McLean joins us as a kindergarten teacher. Emma has a strong background in Early Childhood education and Literacy. Sara Bartelloni has accepted a position as the Literacy Coach at the Upham School. Jessica Ford joins us as our third kindergarten teacher. She has experience as a teacher in Fall River. Bevin Hale, who had been teaching second grade will move to a new position as a Math Specialist/Coach at the Hardy School, also here in Wellesley. With all the changes, please be sure to check the directory and handbook. I have included a list of classroom teachers for your convenience.

Kindergarten—Emma McLean, Genie Madden, Jessica Ford
Grade 1—Dara Gaul, Karen Lindquist, Louisa Blumenthal
Grade 2—Kim Casalena, Alee Rogers, Nancy Bentley
Grade 3—Jayne Byrne, Jen Lundbohn, Kristan Fiore
Grade 4—Jill Heckman, Maureen Henzel, Taryn Drake
Grade 5—Ellen Banthin, Kenn Craig, Joanna Doyle

LC—Kati Okoshi, Rachel Silver, Andrea Stavrakas
ISS—Lindsey Farrar, Tara Mahoney, Katie Doherty

Learning Center teacher Kati Okoshi and third grade teacher Jen Lundbohn both had babies after school got out in June. Jen had a baby boy and Kati had a baby girl. Congratulations to them both! Occupational Therapist Elisha Huff also had a baby last spring and has decided to stay home with her 5 children. We welcome Jennifer Cosenza to Sprague as the new OT. Jennifer joins us with experience as a school OT in the Lynn Public Schools.

Kindergarten and new families are invited to a **Popsicle Playdate on Tuesday, August 28th** at 2:45 p.m. This event will provide an opportunity for these students to have a tour of the building.

As a reminder, the first day of school is Wednesday, August 29, 2018 for grades K-5. Kindergarten students will attend half days for the first seven days and begin full days on Tuesday, September 11th. There is NO SCHOOL on Monday, September 3th in recognition of Labor Day. Please also note that there is NO SCHOOL on Monday, September 10th in recognition of Rosh Hashanah.

The picnic for Kindergarten and new families will take place on August 30st at 6 p.m. Back to School Night is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12th from 6:30-8:00 p.m., and the annual Ice Cream Social is on the calendar for Thursday, September 6nd at 6:00 p.m.

With our busy school day schedule, it can be tricky to fit everything in! As a faculty, we have worked hard to maximize instructional time blocks, while continuing to provide students with opportunities for play/recess. We need your help too! We ask parents to commit to ensuring their children arrive at school **ON TIME** each day. Students will line up outdoors as always and doors will open at 8:25 so students will be unpacked and in their classrooms by 8:30 a.m. Teachers will begin instruction by 8:35. Please help us use time well and be sure your child doesn't miss any important instructional time.

I always feel fortunate to be part of our warm and caring school community. Sprague really does have H.E.A.R.T.! I am looking forward to seeing all the smiling faces back here on August 29th!

Very Sincerely,



Susan Snyder
Sprague School Principal