

# MERRITT BENCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## June Newsletter



**Last Day of School is Thursday, June 29th:** Please join us for the **kindergarten grad** at 9:30 am in the Library and our **final school gathering - A PICNIC** to be held on the top field beginning at 11:30. **Pack a picnic lunch** and join your child to say good bye to our grade 7s, friends/families who are leaving our school community, as well as departing staff.

We would like to publicly thank **Mrs. Brenda Thompson** for keeping us organized and up and running in the office in such an efficient manner over the past 3 years. She will be missed! Mrs. Vicki Klassen replaces her as School Secretary.

**School Supply Lists** will be sent home with your child's report card on June 29th. There is an option to order on line just follow the instructions. You may also access the forms by checking out our school website at <http://mbes.sd58.bc.ca/>

**For your information**, the first day of school begins on September 5th, 2017. Students attend from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon on that day.

**We welcome Ms. Carmella Mathieu as the new Merritt Bench Elementary principal.** Ms. Mathieu brings a great range of classroom teaching, Student Support Service knowledge and District support experience. She looks forward to working with students and their families in her new role.

*This is proving to be a difficult letter for me to write because the reality of leaving a wonderful school community has felt surreal until now. I would like to thank everyone for the support that I have so generously received over the past 4 years at Merritt Bench Elementary!*

*One of the strengths at Bench is the staff. Our teachers and support staff are experienced, professional and caring. I have learned a lot from them and will treasure the moments spent working together to improve student learning and lives. Your children are indeed fortunate!*

*From day one, our parents and guardians have demonstrated that education is a joint venture. During my time here I worked very closely with our PAC and am amazed at the selflessness of our volunteers. They truly do a lot of extras to provide improved opportunities for all Bench students.*

*Lastly, and perhaps selfishly, it is our students who I will miss most. I call them "my kids" because they have become a part of my heart! I feel truly blessed to have shared a "moment" in their lives! They are creative, energetic, thoughtful, kind and resilient. I am going to miss them but know they are part of a safe, caring, fantastic school!*

*My heartfelt wish continues to echo the district's "Success for ALL learners today and tomorrow"!!*

*Best wishes to all, Lori Stewart , proud Principal . . . almost retired*