

Dear Merritt Bench Students, Parents, Guardians,

This has been a year like no other. I want to let you all know how much I have appreciated you as families in your flexibility, patience, caring and kindness over the past few weeks. Your children are missed dearly.

I want to thank you for making it another wonderful and productive school year, despite the disruption. I cannot thank everyone enough for your endless hours of volunteering, teaching, reading, organizing, and doing whatever was necessary to support students—both at home and at school. Special thanks to our PAC who, as usual, went above and beyond the call of duty to provide whatever was necessary to add to our students' and families school experience.

That experience could not occur without the endless energy, skills and devotion of the Merritt Bench staff. Thanks and *well done* to an incredible group of professionals.

A final word to Merritt Bench Students: Thank you for all your hard work throughout the school year. I am so honored to be your principal; you make me proud and I care about each and every one of you. You keep me laughing and inspired by your kindness. I am grateful for your joy, astute insights and amazing talents. Best wishes to our grade seven students leaving. We are not far and although you are at the high school, I am always here for you. I will miss you greatly—please come back and visit. To our Kindergarten kiddos, you are all amazing little people. You brought great joy to all staff this year and we are luck to have you continue with us. I look forward to watching you grow and develop as individuals and as learners. To any students who are leaving us, thank you for gracing us with your time at Bench. Please keep in touch when you can. I will always answer emails. Know that you will be missed.

Everyone have a safe, healthy and happy summer break.

Until next school year, here's wishing you love, laughter and learning.

Respectfully,

Ms. Mathieu