

# Message from the Principal

Happy April and welcome back to Spring!



I want to begin by thanking everyone who came out on Student Led Conference evening. It is wonderful to see you participating in your child's educational journey, celebrating their growth and accomplishments. Research shows that your involvement as a partner in your child's education is one of the ***strongest predictors of your child's success***. Being involved also helps you to be more aware of what is truly going on in the school.

School looks a lot different from when you were a child, and hanging out in the school more often will give you a clearer picture of where, and how, your child spends her day while at school. Imagine instead of asking your child, "How was your day?" only to be met with a non-committal shrug of the shoulders and an off-handed, "Fine...", you can engage in rich, meaningful conversations about specific initiatives and events happening at the school. Follow this link to find out more about what the research tells us about the benefits of being more involved with your child's school.

<https://www.edutopia.org/parent-involvement-reaps-big-benefits>

We at DDS would be delighted to have you in any capacity that fits you and your busy schedule. For example, many of you chose to put aside an hour one evening to attend Student Led Conferences – so appreciated by your child and the staff at DDS! Also, have you considered some of these ways to get more involved without stretching yourself too thin? How about:

- Committing to 2 hours a couple times during the school year to help with Hot Lunch?
- Spending an afternoon to read with individual students in your child's class?
- Attending one of our regular assemblies?
- Help out with mini-basketball or mini-volleyball?
- Having an informal chat with your child's teacher at the end of the day?
- Attend a School Council meeting?
- Offer to volunteer in the library to shelve or label books?
- Share your expertise by teaching a lesson on your hobby or skill?

Any of all go a long way to building the connection between school and home, and I know your child will LOVE to see you at school, too!

*Ms. Rogerson*