

Thank you...

Dear Elmdale Families,

I know it wasn't too long ago, but I can still picture myself on that first day of school, September 2015. I was walking Elmdale playground around 8:30 am, welcoming students off the school bus. I was very excited to meet everyone. As students came walking off the bus they had a look of, who is this guy? Is this our new principal? I would just smile and tell them yep, that's me, I'm Mr. Campbell. One by one students walked off the bus with smiles, welcoming me to Elmdale School. From that day forward, I have strived to lead a school where those early morning smiles and good mornings from students arrive each and every day. On those difficult days for students, we seek to make sure that an adult in our building is there to provide that much needed "good morning" to a student.

One of my dreams is that every child will get up each and every morning and look forward to coming to school. I know this sounds simplistic, but a school is a dynamic social and academic institution that makes obtaining my dream challenging, that is what drives me each and every day.

There have been times where parents have said to me, "my child does not want to come to school because...". This statement saddens me as a school leader. This statement shares so much about how a child is feeling. In understanding that there are external circumstances that can play a role in a child wanting to come to school, when a parent shares with a school leader that their child doesn't want to come to school, it is vital that school leadership find answers with the parents, quickly.

I along with our staff have strived to provide a safe, caring, and engaging school for your child to attend. I am proud of the work our staff do each and everyday. Every person on staff has a specific role and contributes to the greater good of Elmdale School. At times there are hurdles, and difficult times, as in many organizations, but I believe that the staff at Elmdale School strive to look out for each other and encourage each other as a collective. This is the foundation to providing a school environment that your child wants attend each and every day.

I want to finish by thanking some people. I want to first thank our Parent Council. Serving on a Parent Council goes beyond the hours of fundraising, it is an opportunity to ask school leaders great questions about the life of a school.

I want to thank our office staff here as I would not be able to lead our school without their support, organization, and happy smiles every day.

Ms. Marge Thiessen, Thank you! You have always been someone that I can count on but also and more importantly the parents and families of Elmdale have always been able to count on you!

Educational Assistants, your job at times can go unappreciated, I know because that is the job I held as I began my career in education. You work with some of the most challenging students and I thank you for coming in to work each and every day and putting forth your best effort.

Mr. Johnson, you rock my friend! You keep our school safe and spotless.

Mrs. Penner, thank you for having a fun and exciting library for our students to come to and read books.

Teachers, what can I say... you all have hearts of gold. You have welcomed me with open arms and have treated me with respect and dignity and have made partnering with you to lead a public school memorable.

Parents at large, thank you. I hope the our staff have served you and your child in a manner that has met your needs in public education.

Lastly, I want to thank the students. You are what drives me each and every day. I hope that I have served you in the manner that encourages you to get up each morning and want to come to school. I can't wait to see and hear all the great things that you accomplish in your future.

Take care, keep in touch, and wishing everyone all the best!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Campbell', written in a cursive style.

Colin Campbell