

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s):

Welcome to school! Nourishing, nurturing and raising children is worth congratulating! So, “congratulations to you” on making it this far in your child’s learning journey! I assure you, in addition to their own learning, your children have been teachers since they day they were born: teaching you how to respond to their cries, showing you what makes them curious or happy, and dealing you tougher parental dilemmas to attend to. You’ve made it to this milestone, and so have they. Bravo!

We expect that you approach coming the to school with many hopes and fears, wishes and anxious apprehensions. For some of you, having a child in school is a familiar experience, for others it may be your first time. All the same, we all come here with a touch of sentimentality and much hope.

We, the staff of OPA, share your vision of hope. We work hard to provide the best we have to offer of our resources, programs and, ultimately, ourselves, and hope you get a sense of this over time in working alongside us. Please do not hesitate to ask questions at any time during the year; we are here to help. In the end, we know it is the person your children becomes that is the most important, and will work with you to provide them all the support we can give.

Before we depart this letter, I’d like to share a poem with you; one that we think offers great advice:

Make a memory with
your children,
Spend some time to
show you care;
Toys and trinkets can't
replace those
Precious moments that
you share.
Money doesn't buy
real pleasure,
It doesn't matter
where you live;
Children need your

own attention,
Something only you
can give.
Childhood's days pass
all too quickly,
Happy memories all
too few;
Plan to do that special
something,
Take the time to go or
do.
Make a memory with
your children,
Take the time in busy
days;
Have some fun while
they are growing,
Show your love in
gentle ways.

It is my honor and pleasure to welcome you to our school, and to this special time in your and your child's lives. We are excited to grow in our relationship with you and your child and hope that you will consider this letter a warm, friendly welcome.

Together in Teamwork-

Robin Legge and Your OPA Family

- ***HRCE requests all families to self-identify at the time of registration.***

The HRCE asks schools "to promote and encourage the self-identification of all students". Although all of our students are Canadian citizens, we realize that families come from very different backgrounds. We invite you to take this opportunity to **talk with your children about their ancestry** and how this is different from citizenship of a country.

Families arrived in Canada in a variety of different ways and many families would need to go back several generations to determine where their relatives lived prior to coming to Canada. For instance, many of our ancestors came from European countries such as France, Germany, Ireland, Scotland, England, or from Asian countries such as China, Japan, India, Lebanon as well

as Latin America and the Caribbean. We also are aware that we have students who are descendants of Aboriginal people who were the first people to settle in Canada. It would be appreciated if you would take the time to select the boxes on the *Self-Identification* section of the registration form that best apply to your child. This information not only assists us in knowing more about our students' heritage, in the future it could help to secure funding for post-secondary education in the form of scholarships and grants. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.