



## DEVON GARDENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

May 18, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with a heavy heart, that I am writing to let you know that I have been recently informed that I will not be at Devon Gardens next year. Starting this coming up school year (2019/2020), I will be the principal of Beach Grove Elementary School in Tsawwassen.

I want to let you know that I will miss Devon Gardens very much. Some of you know that Devon Gardens was where I first started my career in education, where I had my first teaching contract in a grade 1/2 class. That year, I taught in what is now Ms. Savu's room. I can remember being heart-broken when I was laid off at the end of that year due to my low seniority as a teacher, and knowing that I couldn't stay longer. As you can imagine, I was overwhelmingly happy, many years later, when I heard that I was coming back to Devon Gardens as principal.

I truly loved my time here as principal. It's the absolute truth when I tell people that I come to school every day smiling. The staff here is so loving, welcoming and hardworking. The parents and school community are so supportive and your kids have been such an honour to work with.

I will miss waving to the kids as we walk past each other in the hall. I will also miss the silent "pinky waves" and the occasional enthusiastic hug that always made my day. I will miss hearing about the achievements that your kids make each day and miss the smiles on their faces.

I will be thankful for amazing memories from things like Camp Jubilee, Christmas Concerts, Undefeated Basketball Seasons, and Hip Hop Routines.

Although it is hard for me to leave, I am looking forward to a new set of challenges at my new school. I am also honoured to let you that your new principal in September will be, Mme Greenhalgh. Mme Greenhalgh is currently the principal at Sunshine Hills Elementary and before that, she was the principal at South Park and Devon Gardens. Yes, Mme Greenhalgh was the principal here at Devon Gardens about ten years ago, and she is excited to return to our school. Please join me in welcoming Mme Greenhalgh back to Devon Gardens.

Please note that I would like to try and tell the kids in person. If possible, I would appreciate it if you allow me to tell them about my new assignment face to face. I will most likely not be able to tell them until Wednesday.

Lastly, I want to thank you for all your support over my last three years here at Devon Gardens. It has truly been a privilege to be your child's principal.

Sincerely,

Mark Douangchanh

Principal, Devon Gardens Elementary

