

## Welcome Back to School

Dear Saukview Family,

Welcome back to a new school year. We are extremely excited to be starting a new school year with you. We are very pleased that our school has a well-earned reputation in our community to its commitment of fostering academic excellence while consistently focusing on creating positive social relationships. At Saukview, we are working together in creating a child-centered learning community that involves each and every adult who interacts within a child's life. Acting as our students' advocates is a part we all play to ensure they reach their fullest potential. The greatest gift that we can bestow upon the children is to create an outstanding school atmosphere which will leave an enduring impression on their educational lives. It is from their first experiences of school that we will work together to foster a love of learning and the ability to build long-lasting social relationships. On their paths to becoming lifelong learners, we will provide them with a remarkable series of experiences, so, that they too, can see just how important a role the adults in their lives play. The skills that our children learn at Saukview will lead to future success at Columbia Central School and beyond.

As you visit the school, you will notice many positive changes at Saukview. In classroom news, Mrs. Yates has moved from teaching second grade to teaching third grade, Ms. Naylor has moved from teaching first grade to teaching second grade, and Miss Voullett has moved from teaching fourth grade to teaching fifth grade. Additionally, we have increased our academic programming to meet the needs of students who are English Language Learners. Mr. De La Rosa, along with Ms. Alcantar, has a new full time classroom with academic programming to meet the needs of ELL students. Also, Mrs. Ackerman will be working with students and teachers to meet the needs of ELL students who need some targeted academic instruction. Additionally, please welcome Ms. Sapienza who will be providing Speech and Language services and Mrs. Diehl who will be working with Ms. Kostovski in the Excel program. As we are always looking to improve our curriculum, we are excited to introduce a new Math program entitled Saxon Math. When you have an opportunity, ask your child's teacher about this new and exciting Math curriculum.

In other news, the area around the library and gymnasium has been improved with new lights and ceiling tile. In the lobby, you will be welcomed by a school calendar that provides important information about upcoming activities and events.

One of the biggest programming changes at Saukview is the kick off of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. The PBIS program promotes positive behavior by rewarding students who were following the school expectations of Being Respectful, Being Responsible and Being Safe. Students who are modeling positive behaviors will be rewarded with a "shark coupon". Throughout the year, students will be able to attend our "Shark Mart" and redeem their "shark coupons" for prizes and rewards. In addition, teachers and staff will be modeling and teaching appropriate positive behaviors. By recognizing positive student behavior, we are

building citizenship and positive relationships. I hope that you will reinforce our efforts at home when you talk with your child about positive behavior and building relationships.

In closing, I look forward in meeting you and working with you to create the best educational experience for your child. I believe that students can reach their potential when parents, teachers, students, and administrators work together. The staff of Saukview School looks forward to another year of providing an outstanding education to your child. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or positive comments, please contact your child's teacher or me. Working together we can provide the education your child deserves.

Mr. Nelson