



June 12, 2020

Hello Groves Families,

I've begun every parent bulletin with these words, and I have to say that I've enjoyed saying them. Groves is a great place to say "hello" to, just as it's a great place to which to return. You have been gracious as you welcomed me back in February and this warm welcome has been ongoing for the past five months as we negotiated the global pandemic together. Thank you for that, and, hearty congratulations on the end of a truly extraordinary school year!

I am simply in awe of how masterfully our teachers have dealt with this – adapting lessons, embracing a fully online delivery model, and zooming like crazy. And, then you as parents got very busy. As a parent of three grown and gone children I often was amazed at what you were faced with. Parenting is a full-time job all on its own, and you added tutor, teaching partner, and organizer of lessons and due dates to the mix. Well done. Be proud. You deserve all the accolades we can give you. And, you are so well deserving of a summer off. Please take the time to turn off your computer and get outside together.

Someone once said that there is nothing as constant as change, and this school year certainly bore that out. You've been through a lot – along with two principals came COVID-19 and a whole new world of challenges. At this point, it isn't known how the new school year in the fall will be conducted. Whether it is again in an online setting, or in person, or a hybrid plan that involves both, please know that Birmingham is committed to providing challenging and vibrant instruction that aims to serve the unique needs of each of our students.

I will be on board through the month to help wrap things up and get ready to transition to a new principal. I know that Dr. Smith is excited to begin and, once she has been confirmed by the board of education on June 23rd, will be communicating with you.

Senior parents and parents of students who will not be returning to Groves next year, please be reminded of the material return dates next Thursday and Friday from 9-3 at Groves.

One bit of news – as we bid a fond farewell and extend our best wishes to Linda Garcia, we will be also be welcoming Lori Rondello to the office staff to assume Linda's duties. You may remember Lori as a Groves parent, and she most recently has been an office secretary at Quarton. I have known Lori since my days of serving as principal at Berkshire, and am very confident that she will be a fine addition to the Groves family. There will be more staffing news during the summer as we look to hire a special education and business education teacher.

Lastly, I will borrow the exiting words from Garrison Keillor (before he was involved in controversy) and say:

Be Well.

Do Good Things.

Keep in Touch.

Fondly,

Jim Moll
Interim Principal

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