

# UNIVERSITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUMMER NEWS

## JUNE 6, 2018

June 6, 2018

Dear University Elementary Families and Friends,

Parents, students, and district leaders joined Mrs. D'Eliso and me in a schoolwide parade on May 21 as we surprised faculty with the news that we have achieved International Baccalaureate (IB) World School Authorization! It is with great pride that we shared this news; we finally received international recognition for our efforts over the four year journey. What an amazing way to culminate and celebrate our school year! This achievement truly belongs to all of us that have actively participated in the University Elementary Learning Community. We are grateful for the continued support of all constituents who enabled our vision to become reality for our students. Thank you.

I love that the IB Primary Years Program curriculum framework has enabled our faculty and staff to create opportunities for our students to become globally minded learners at University. I love that we have embraced inquiry as the catalyst for authentic learning. I love that our teachers are continuously inspired to collaborate and create units of inquiry that integrate all subject area disciplines into conceptual themes, which enables our students to connect important ideas, think critically, and problem solve. I love that our students learn empathy and compassion for others and initiate meaningful change to improve our world.

This school year we earned a designation of "A" for our school letter grade. We were one of four schools within MCCSC to earn Four Star School Status as recognized by the state, the highest designation possible based on student achievement and growth measures. These are certainly accomplishments to celebrate because they demonstrate the exemplary teaching and learning that occurs every day at University Elementary. These accomplishments are one dimension of the opportunities we provide for our students. We are remiss if we focus entirely on performance and achievement. Our world needs our children to be smart and to have knowledge and skills to be successful as they enter the job force and their professional endeavors. However, our world needs much more than that; we need our children to be our hope for people and hope for our future. In this vein, I wish to leave you with a quote that continues to resonate with me when I think of nurturing our children to be hope for our world. I hope this quote is as meaningful for you as it is for me.

"The plain fact is that the planet does not need more successful people. But it does desperately need more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers, and lovers of every kind. It needs people who live well in their places. It needs people of moral courage willing to join the fight to make the world more habitable and humane. And these qualities have little to do with success as we have defined it."

-David W. Orr, *Ecological Literacy: Educating Our Children for a Sustainable World*

I wish all of you a wonderful summer. I am forever grateful to have served as principal at University Elementary School. My best to all of you . . .

With gratitude,



Dr. Gretchen Morgan

