

**August, 2007**

A warm welcome to all of our students and families from Glenforest Secondary School. I hope the summer offered a time of relaxation for you in between summer jobs, summer school, travelling, etc. As the summer has flown by there has been a lot of preparation to ensure that your start is exciting and positive.

I always think of September as a time to celebrate Happy New Year since for us we are on the cusp of an action packed year of learning together. As I am the new Principal of Glenforest S.S., I am equally excited about getting to know you.

Glenforest S.S. has always been a school that has opened its doors to students from around the world. In combination with our International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program, you will find that there is a focus on global issues and responsibilities. Since we are a 'world class' school, we strive to live up to our values. They are as follows:



### **1) High standards of work and behaviour**

As a strong proponent of Professional Development, many of our staff who continuously study throughout the year and summer offer a high level of instruction to our students. Staff who are teaching in the IB courses attend workshops throughout North America to learn new approaches and strategies which they also implement throughout other courses. As an overall goal to aim for School Success in all dimensions, all staff will have ample opportunity to access ways to enhance their teaching repertoire and share best practices with their colleagues.

A student agenda will be issued to you during the registration period which will contain a concise description of how you can have a most successful year. At the top of our list of expectations for everyone associated with our school is mutual respect.

***The positive tone of this school is not something we can take for granted and is only accomplished if we all pull together and help each other when needed.***



### **2) A safe and healthy learning environment**

During this past summer a new and updated Public Announcement system was added to the main office. This technology will allow for an even more effective way of communication particularly during our safety practice sessions such as fire drills and lockdown procedures. Both of these are conducted twice a semester to allow us time to audit our 'rehearsals' in case of a true emergency.

In addition, new doors were added to the second floor so that in cases where there is a night time performance or school event, this area can be secured and inaccessible to any possible intruders.

One area that we need full support from the parent community is to please use the **south** parking lot to pick up your child after school. The front entrance driveway must be kept clear of vehicles from 2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. to allow for buses to travel through safely. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.



Our school mascot is the **Griffin**. The griffin was a product of Greek mythology which had the head and wings of an eagle, the body of a lion, and the tail of a serpent or a lion. They were used to guard treasures of gold and drew the chariot of the sun and were considered fierce guardians against theft. He typifies vigilance, courage, and strength which I think are very appropriate qualities for us as a school to remember and model.

***May the Glenforest Gryphon guide us safely throughout the school year.***



### 3) The diversity of our learning community

Our staff represent many cultures from around the world which hopefully helps you as the student, to identify and feel comfortable in your school setting. You will notice a brand new banner in the main foyer that states "**Glenforest Secondary School welcome students from around the world**". We have a tremendous amount to learn from each other by our heritage and our life experiences.

***We are responsible for our neighbour.***

### 4) Learning beyond the classroom

As you enrol for the upcoming school year you will be made aware of many co-curricular activities in many areas that you will be able to access. Please take advantage of these clubs – they can offer so much to you to learn new skills, make new friends, and get to know your teachers in a different way outside of the classroom. Glenforest S.S. has a strong history of high achievement in many areas throughout the entire school board. As many of you know, being involved in volunteer or athletics or arts activities helps to make you a more well rounded individual. This characteristic is highly prized by not only post secondary institutions but employers as well.

***Plan for the future.***



### 5) Personal responsibility and global citizenship

As a student of Glenforest S.S., you will be treated in a mature and adult fashion. You must take responsibility for yourself and your actions. If you ever need help with a situation or need someone to talk to, please feel that you can approach myself or any member of the Administrative Team, your teachers or your guidance counsellor. This is a healthy way to deal with school and life challenges.

The Glenforest S.S. learning community strongly believes in modelling what we would expect of each other. You will notice two posters in the main foyer that describe how we can build a community within our Glenforest area as well as a global community. Globalism is something that will be incorporated throughout all of your courses and will be a schoolwide approach where possible.

***Make sure you take time to read these posters.***



A special welcome to our incoming Grade 9 students. There will be a registration period scheduled for Wednesday, August 29. Students with the last names from A – L will be registered in the morning and names with M – Z will be registered in the afternoon. A pizza luncheon will be provided for you.

All other students will be registered on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> during the day. Please visit our website: [www.glenforestlibrary.com](http://www.glenforestlibrary.com) for further details.



If at any time you have ideas or suggestions on how to make Glenforest S.S. an even better school, please do not hesitate to share your ideas with me or any member of our staff. Working together I am sure we will have a world class year!!

Sincerely,

C. Horvath  
Principal