August 2017

Dear Ross Family,

It seems like only yesterday that we were packing up classrooms and looking forward to our summer adventures and now the calendar has suddenly shifted to August! I have enjoyed beach, mountain, lake and pool time with family and friends. It goes without saying that lots of delicious food and plenty of reading time factored into my days as well. August is a bittersweet month for our family since we will be sending both children off to college and becoming empty nesters. Our little rescue pup will now happily assume her position as an only child in our home.

I cannot wait to have all of our children back on campus and hear about their summer adventures.

We remain committed to our vision and mission for the 2017.18 school year and do not anticipate major instructional shifts. We will continue to strive for joyful rigor at Ross Elementary. We will continue to align our instructional priorities with Chancellor Wilson’s goals for increased equity and deeper social-emotional learning.

**Vision:** Embraced for who you are & Empowered to be more

**Mission**: Every student is known. Every teacher is invested. Every family is engaged.

Details regarding DCPS’ new strategic plan are forthcoming.

Our campus hosted many contractors throughout the summer for window replacement, brick repointing, and the installation of our long-awaited canopy. The turf replacement should occur later this fall. Mr. Ashby and Mr. Lancaster are working hard to get Ross ready for the first day of school. Our new business manager, Ms. Campbell, is getting to know our community and preparing for your arrival back at school. A staffing update follows at the end of this communication. I am so excited about our new hires and trust you will give everyone a warm welcome to our community.

**IMPORTANT**: Please order your child’s school supply package before the first day of school. Go to the home page of our website [www.rosselementary.org](http://www.rosselementary.org) and follow the link for online ordering. You will be able to join the PTA and purchase school sportswear at the August 18 Open House and during the first week of school.

I look forward to seeing everyone at **Open House on Friday, August 18** at 2:30 pm.

**First Days of School**

**K-5**: Monday, August 21 (Solar Eclipse viewing included—email Principal Searl if you have access to a rooftop that can accommodate your child’s class. The PTA has ordered viewing glasses for all students)

**PK3/PK4**: Thursday, August 24

*PK3/PK4 families will receive a separate, additional mailing from the teachers.*

Warmly,

Holly Searl, Principal

We continued our hiring over the summer and look forward to working with the following new members of our team:

***Alicia Campbell, Business Manager***: Ms. Campbell has worked at Seaton Elementary school as an educational aide, after school coordinator and business manager. Prior to DCPS, she worked for a public charter school and in the private sector. Ms. Campbell earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Morgan State University. Ms. Campbell will be at Ross M-F 8:00-12:00 and at Seaton in the afternoons.

***Kristen Chelak, Special Education Teacher:*** Ms. Chelak has experience teaching in public, public charter, and parochial schools and most recently worked at Mann Elementary in DCPS. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Economics from the University of Maryland in the Honors College.

***Terri Huet, Educational Aide Grades 4-5:*** Ms. Huet most recently served as a long-term substitute at Stuart-Hobson Middle School and is the proud parent of a Wilson HS graduate.

She has extensive experience living and working abroad and is multi-lingual. She is currently in a graduate program at Georgetown University.

***Mr. Flanagan*** remains on extended leave and will not be returning to Ross in his position as Librarian. ***Ms. Juriga*** will serve as the Ross librarian as she completes her Library/Media Specialist Master’s degree at the University of Maryland through a DCPS partnership.

Educational aide assignments are still being determined.

A complete staff roster will be available at school opening.