

To My Dear Columbia Family,

Well, my office is all packed up and I'm about to leave as your school principal. It's with a knot in my gut that I say goodbye to you.

Here are the 3 things I'd like to share with Columbia Elementary this week (24 June 2022):

- 1. First, I wish to thank our teachers, and as a reminder, I consider all school employees, no matter your position, to be teachers. Thank you for connecting with your students, for trusting and collaborating with me and with each other. These past few years have been like no other. Thank you for staying grounded and serving as a beacon of light and hope for others.**
- 2. Next, I'd like to thank our Columbia parents. Your example and encouragement reflects on your children and they very much emulate you. While there is no such thing as a perfect parent, please do your best to be involved and encouraging. The value you place on education is contagious. A positive and encouraging disposition is a great approach to parenting.**
- 3. Lastly and mostly, I'd like to speak to our students. Whether in school or out of school, please do your best to always follow our three school rules: Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Reliable. They are a great guideline for life. Be happy. Enjoy life. Never stop learning. Think big, and don't let obstacles get in your way. You are amazing and are destined for greatness. You are my purpose, and I love you.**

Be well,

Dr. Darryl Bond Denhalter, Principal