



## Fernwood Elementary School

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Robert L Towner  
Principal

Katrina Reed  
Assistant Principal

August 15, 2018

Dear Fernwood Parents,

It is hard to believe that our summer vacation is coming to an end. In just over two weeks, we will begin the 2018-19 school year. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for yet another great year. We are looking forward to our students being back in the classrooms – eager and enthusiastic to learn! As we plan for the upcoming year, we are reminded of our primary mission – ***promoting and supporting students to develop into confident, competent children who are well prepared for college and/or careers in a culturally diverse democratic society.***

This mission inspires all that we do over the summer, to prepare our school and staff for a successful school year. From the hiring of new energetic professionals, to acquiring the latest technology and ensuring that the building and school grounds are clean and safe. All these things work in tandem to provide your child with the optimum learning environment to grow and achieve.

As parents, your role in this process is simple. Ensure you have prepared your child mentally, physically, and spiritually to enter the new school year ready to declare – ***I am my own Hero!*** This is the theme of our 2018-19 school year, as well as the theme for our Annual Back to School Orientation and Stop the Violence Picnic. ***I am my own Hero.*** So often, in this era of social media, our children are tempted to replicate what they hear and what they see. It becomes “*easy*” to idolize the inappropriate behavior of these “*perceived*”- social media role models. Our focus this year will be to combat this trend and to focus on the development of a positive self-image and a strong self-reliance. ***I am my own Hero.*** We will echo this belief in everything we do. From studying hard to achieve our academic goals, to working hard to become better teachers, better parents and ultimately better students!

Our journey to becoming ***heroes*** will begin August 31, 2018, during orientation. During orientation, you will be able meet your child’s new teacher, visit their new classroom and hear the *State of School Address*. During the State of School Address, parents will have an opportunity to learn about the daily schedule, receive information about state and district assessments, hear about changes to the curriculum, receive updates to the student code of conduct handbook, and hear about the updates to our incentive program. Immediately following the orientation, we will kick off our Annual Back to School Jam in our brand new Fernwood Campus Park!

We have purchased “***I am my own Hero***” orientation T-shirts for all students, which we will begin distributing Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 10:00 and 4:00. Please arrange to send someone to the school to pick up the orientation T-shirt for your child during this time.

Once again, welcome back! Let's get ready to have a “***Heroic***” year at Fernwood!

Sincerely,

Robert L Towner  
Principal