



March 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am both excited and truly honoured to have been appointed principal of Northern Lights School when it opens in the fall. It is going to be an amazing adventure! To help you get to know me before we meet, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. As a child, I grew up in Calgary within the community of Varsity Acres and have lived in the Harvest Hills area for the past 15 years. My husband and I have been married for 27 years and have a 25-year-old daughter named Karli who is also a teacher with the CBE. I have a Bichon-Cocker Spaniel named Snoopy who is 15 and a grandson named Mason who is almost two. When I'm not at school, I enjoy fishing, camping, doing puzzles, playing games, and reading.



For the past three years, I have been the Principal of Varsity Acres School and before that I was the Assistant Principal of Coventry Hills School. During the past 22 years, my work with the CBE has also included the roles of Assistant Principal at Beddington Heights School, Learning Leader at both Panorama Hills School and Crossing Park School, and classroom teacher at Pineridge, Crossing Park, and Panorama Hills Schools. My experiences have given me a great deal of experience with and knowledge about working with students in an Elementary school setting.

As Jane Goodall said, "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." I have reflected on this statement often as I have worked with many students, staff and parents over the years. In my career, I have endeavored to set goals, take risks, and grow and have intentionally assisted staff and students in doing so as well. I firmly believe that building trusting, accepting relationships and connections through open communication is the key to ensuring our future leaders succeed and become the best they can be. As a leader within the CBE, I bring a wealth of knowledge and understanding of powerful teaching and learning and have worked purposefully to advance the teaching and learning based on educational research that informs best practices. Every child has a right to be literate and numerate and these are the foundational tools to access all learning. Students come first; and, as a leader, I strive to make the best decisions that support teaching and learning to advance the achievement of all students.

Under the strong leadership of our Area 3 Directors, Diane Roulson and Scott McNeil, and together with other senior leadership personal, I will strive to create a new school community that you will be proud to be a part of. Additionally, principals, both new and experienced, are encouraged to write an "entry plan". Part of this plan includes gathering information from the staff, students, and parent community to get to know what everyone that is part of this new school community values. The specifics of the information gathered will remain confidential, but the information will be analyzed as a whole. Once this portion of the process is complete, we will all be able to see and talk about the similar and differing views that will impact the work we will do at Northern Lights School. Please take the time to provide information through a short on-line survey at <https://goo.gl/forms/CYTUqLN3OCjFSBHR2>

I truly appreciate your thoughts and look forward to leading the learning community of Northern Lights School as well as meeting the students, parents and guardians this fall.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Michelle Brinson
Principal, Northern Lights School