



7-14-23

Greetings and Salutations Parents, Guardians, and Community:

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome everyone to the 2023 – 2024 school year. The start of each school year brings much anticipation, energy, and perhaps even some anxiety. Students look forward to seeing friends, some of whom they may not have seen since June and are excited about all that the new school year will bring. Parents and guardians are happy to see their children off for the start of another successful school year yet are amazed at how fast their children are growing. Even teachers, re-energized from vacation and summer professional learning, may be trying to tame those nervous butterflies as the first day of school approaches.

With this new school year, you also get a new Superintendent/Principal. I would like to share a little about myself. I grew up in the Okanogan Valley and completed my college work at Central Washington University and Seattle Pacific University. I have been in education for twenty years. I have taught, coached, and been a principal. I have also worked as a lifeguard, behavioral specialist, and college professor. All my professional positions and training have established me as a student first leader and advocate. I believe in and practice the three “BIG Cs,” community, collaboration, and communication.

Building community, deepening collaboration and improving communication, when done well, have the potential to profoundly shape how Wishram School operates. By focusing on community, collaboration, and communication, we will strengthen academic achievement for all learners, build strong social emotional supports in our school, empower educators and staff members to make wise school-based decisions, and develop long-term fiscal plans that support our school. Most importantly, we will be better able to unlock the talents and gifts of each and every one of our students, providing the foundation that each of them needs in order to realize their full potential and achieve the dreams they have for themselves and for their future.

In our public schools walk the scientists, researchers, educators, doctors, artists and political leaders of the future. What we know, and what makes Wishram special, is that our community cares deeply about our kids and will always do right for them. Likewise, in partnership with the Yakima Nation and the Indigenous Wishram Native People, we work to create an educational environment that meets the needs of all kids.

I am honored, humbled, and excited to work with you and our incredible team of educators, staff, administrators, and school board members as we work together to harness that advocacy and leadership to continuously improve our school district. Welcome back and it’s great to be here!

Sincerely,

*Mr. Schumaker*

Superintendent/Principal