



A note to Grade 5 Parents

It's that time of year again, and schools are gearing up to be ready again for September. The more information we have at our fingertips at SIMS about our students the better. But first...

About the Placement of Children...

The placement of each individual child into a class at SIMS is the result of a careful and thoughtful decision on behalf of the SIMS professional staff, which will consider many facets:

- academic strengths and weaknesses especially in reading, writing, and math;
- aptitudes and interests;
- learning style;
- what motivates the child;
- special needs; areas where the child excels or requires more assistance;

- friends to either be with, or separated social, emotional, and physical development; and,
- class and teacher history (combined classes, same or different teachers, etc.).

Every effort will be made to place children in the best situation academically, socially, and emotionally, within the larger context of the needs of all the children, and the realities of limited resources, personnel, contract obligations, and space.

We want your input!

Of course, parents have insights into the needs of their children that could provide us with valuable information in making the right decision about placement of their child for next year. If you have any information that might assist us, please feel free to share it with us. You are invited to fill out the **Student Information Form** on the other side of this note which provides a format for parents to offer us information that could be very useful in determining appropriate placement of their children. Completion of the form is by no means mandatory. Please bring the

completed form back to your child's grade 5 teacher before June 7, who will send it off to SIMS, to the attention of Keiko Taylor.

Please be aware that suggestions like "I want Johnny to be in Mr. Jones' class because I heard he was a good teacher" are not particularly helpful to us. Mr. Jones may well be the best teacher for your child, and if the educational reasons are valid, we'll try to accommodate that. However, forming classes based upon "requests for teachers" results in putting kids in groups for the wrong reasons. We want to create effective learning groups based upon sound educational decisions, rather than parking lot gossip. Otherwise, issues such as ethics, fairness, and morale come into play.

Having said that, however, the realities are that we may not be everything to everyone, and through the balancing act of trying to make the best situation for the most children, some compromises will have to be made.

Nevertheless, I have great faith in the integrity of SIMS staff and their ability to do a conscientious and sensitive job in creating classes that are best not just for your child, but all the children at SIMS. It is our intention to make each class the best working group it possibly can be.

Keiko Taylor
Vice-Principal

Student Information Form

May 2019



Name of child:	Currently in Grade:	Today's date:
My child's strengths as a learner are:	He/she most enjoys or does well at:	
He/she find the following challenging:	Notes regarding friends, support groups, or peer associations to be avoided:	_____ Parent's/Guardian's signature

School for 2019-2020: _____