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Dear parents,

Welcome back to school and to what is probably a normal routine again. I have found it very pleasant be able to arrive at school in the daylight and leave while it is still light. The return to school after spring break also reminds us that there are only 3 months remaining before the end of the school year. Back in September, June may have seemed a long way off but it is rapidly approaching. The last few months are always busy ones so I want to start off this letter with some expressions of thanks before they are forgotten amidst the business that lies ahead.

Thank you to the parents and teachers who accompanied our grade 9 and 12 students on their respective mission trips. I also want to thank the parents who helped out in the lead up to these major events by driving and participating in fundraisers to make the Mexico and Belize trips the successes they were. We were blessed to have 12 parents and teachers involved along with over 35 students. What a privilege for our school to be able to participate in God's work like that.

Thank you to Garry Mugridge who did such a great job of keeping our driveways and parking areas clear of snow and ice this winter. He also did a wonderful job of cleaning the same areas of sand and gravel over spring break. I want to express my gratitude to Phil and Pam Macdougall as well, as our caretaker team, they did a great job of cleaning the EC and SC buildings over the break. It is always so nice to come back to a sparkling clean building. Please take the time to thank Garry, Phil & Pam if you have the opportunity, they do excellent work that is too often taken for granted.

And parents, thanks for getting your re-enrollment forms back in to the office so quickly. Our secretarial staff appreciated your patience with them when they asked for only completed paperwork. Your quick turnaround on the re-enrollment forms will assist us in planning for next year.

We have one more student trip still on the horizon, 11 students from our leadership class will be going to Ottawa in May to visit the National House of Prayer. The students have raised funds by contacting leaders in Vernon who are interested in supporting and encouraging Vernon youth who will be leaders of the future. Our leadership team under the direction of Mrs. Hanna Yskes and with the support of Mrs. Sharon Molnar has been focusing on prayer so the trip is a great way to wind up the year. Our MP, Colin Mayes, will spend some time with our students and they will also tour the Parliament buildings and museums of Ottawa. The main purpose of the trip though is to attend daily seminars,

offered by the NHOP, on worship and pray. On a side note, some of you might remember Rob Parker, the director of the NHOP from his days as pastor at Community Baptist Church here in Vernon. If you would like more information on the NHOP check them out at the following link <http://nhop.ca/pages/meet-the-team.php> and please continue to pray for our leadership team as they prepare for this important trip.

We extend our congratulations to Jon & Sandra Buller (our high school counselor) for their adoption of a baby girl, Cassidy Jasmine, a lovely addition to their family.

Let me close by inviting you to our parents Lounge this Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will be held in the EC staff room from 8:45 am – 10:00 am. We provide the coffee and cookies. Check our website for a more formal invitation. You will also find information there on up coming events for April and to the end of the year as well.

Larry Simpson