

MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Learning and Achieving School

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December 2018

Good Morning Magnolia School Family,

I can't believe we are getting ready to break for the holidays already! Seems like we were just welcoming you back to begin a new school year. Over the past few months so many changes have happened. We have welcomed new staff and are having to say goodbye to some cherished ones, beginning with Mr. Ralph Johnson, our principal.

Mr. Ralph Johnson has been a part of Magnolia School for eleven years. During those years, he has been the man who has greeted all the students and staff every morning and wished them farewell at the end of the day. He is the man behind the phone messages that communicated all of the wonderful events happening at Magnolia. He has been the voice of reason and has shared his bountiful wisdom with all who have had an opportunity to listen. Mr. Johnson has always supported his faculty and students and for that we will miss him. As he begins his new journey and the next chapter, let me be among the first to wish Ralph good luck and thank him for all of his service. Mr. Johnson, you made a difference in the lives of many children!

Additionally, we are also regretfully having to say goodbye to Mrs. Geri Doukali at the end of the month. Thank you, Geri, for all of your support in the front office with the staff, families and students. You will be missed and we wish you the best of luck in your new adventure. I'd also like to thank Ms. Catherine Anderson, our third grade long term substitute teacher for Mrs. Jen Pontarelli. Ms. Anderson's last day will be next Friday, December 21, 2018.

As some of you may heard, Mrs. Jean Clayton, after 38 years, will be retiring from Magnolia School at the end of February. Mrs. Clayton will leave with hard shoes to fill. Her endless knowledge of school procedures and her knowledge of our students, staff, and community members will be very hard to replace. I know we all wish her nothing but the best as she begins her new life in retirement.

Saying goodbye is hard to the people who have been part of our lives for so long, but with sadness comes joy of welcoming some new additions/positions to our school. Definitely, not all new faces. I'd like to start off with congratulating Mr. Paul Sorrentino as the new Principal of Magnolia School. Over the past few months, Mr. Sorrentino has served as the Curriculum Supervisor and will be starting his new leadership role January 1, 2019.

Mrs. Jen Pontarelli will be returning next Monday, December 17th, to transition into her new role of Curriculum Supervisor, which will be effective January 1, 2019. We are happy to have Jen back to support our staff and students in learning.

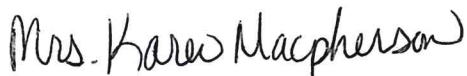
Some of you may also recognize the name, Jen Campbell. She was our School Psychologist several years ago and returned last month as our Child Study Team Supervisor. She will also serve as an additional School Psychologist to help assist our students with special needs. Welcome back, Jen!

We have two last additions to our Magnolia family. I would like to welcome Mrs. Sandy Marlys and Ms. Katie Rickenbach, both of whom will join us the beginning of January. Sandy Marlys will be our new school nurse. Mrs. Marlys comes to us with seventeen years of experience at Jefferson and has recently received her school nurse certificate. Ms. Katie Rickenbach will be our new 3rd grade teacher. Ms. Rickenbach has two years of teaching experience. Both are excited to become a part of our school community.

As you can see, there are many changes in the first part of the year. It has been a very busy first few months, with lots of transitions. I am hopeful as we continue to move forward in the 2018-19 school year, the administration and staff, in partnership with families, look forward to providing a solid educational experience for all our children at Magnolia.

Have a wonderful winter break!

Sincerely,



Mrs. Karen Macpherson
Superintendent