Dear Parmalee Families,

Happy New Year! I hope this letter finds you all well and excited for 2021. I have to admit I am not sad to see 2020 behind us and I am looking forward to what the new year has in store. In the 2021-2022 school year, we will open our doors to a beautiful new addition to our school in which our students will benefit from modern classrooms and flexible learning spaces. We are hoping that COVID will be in the rear view mirror and school will look a bit more like it used to. I am getting antsy to start traveling, going to movies, and eating out at restaurants as I am sure you all are, fingers crossed this happens.

I am happy to report that our construction project is underway. The removal of the temporary building nearest the playground has been completed and the groundwork has begun to get ready for the foundation of the new addition to be poured. The contractors from Saunders Construction have been so gracious in working with myself and our staff thus far on this project. There have been a few glitches, but they are working through those as quickly as possible. I can’t wait for the kids to return on January 19th so they can see the changes that have already been made and watch the progress of the construction during the remainder of the school year.

Since the location of the classroom addition is going to be connected to the existing building, there is no avoiding the reality that the construction work will be happening very close to the building. Students and staff will need to adjust to the noise and construction activities that will be distracting for many. Around January 13th, a crew will arrive with a large core drill and a number of concrete trucks. We have been told that this is a critical step in the project and have been told the drilling will be loud and a distraction to learning for a few days. Teachers will do their best to adjust their lessons during this time. I am asking that everyone be patient during the construction process.

A few weeks ago, I mentioned in a previous letter, upon the students’ return to in-person learning we will need to retrain our kids on where they will enter and exit the building and their classrooms. Please look for a letter next week which will explain these new procedures. Again, we appreciate your patience and understanding as we adjust our procedures during construction. The challenges this year never end, but we are resilient and somehow we always come up with solutions to whatever we face. Mostly, I’m excited our kids will have the opportunity to watch our addition being erected over the next 6 months.

Please be sure to log into EnrollJeffco to confirm your child’s enrollment for next year. We have had a decline in our enrollment this year. I am hoping our enrollment increases over the next few months. Unfortunately, important decisions are based on enrollment: budget, staffing, configurations, etc. The sooner we have solid enrollment decisions, the sooner we are able to plan and prepare for next school year. We encourage you to complete this task if you have not already.
I would like to welcome our new facility manager who is filling in for Larry Nolte. Larry has agreed to cover the facility manager position at Wilmot and will likely accept the position there permanently. Steve O’Shea has graciously agreed to step in for Larry. Steve has recently served as the head night custodian at West Jefferson Middle School. Larry was an integral member of our staff and his insight during our preliminary construction meetings was critical. I would like to personally thank Larry for his five years of service to the Parmalee community.

I am counting down the days until January 19 when we can welcome back our students and families. See you at the curb!

Sincerely,

Ingrid