

Incredibly, we have arrived at the final month of the year. June is truly a time for simultaneous reflection and projection. We find ourselves looking back at the course of the year -in some cases several years -in wonderment. At the same time we are looking forward to the spirit of summer and, farther, with excitement toward a new class, grade level or school to come in the fall. Quite often we find these feelings in conflict with one another, bringing meaning to Shakespeare's line; "Parting is such sweet sorrow ..."

June is a time of celebrations, recognition and a sense of accomplishment. Over the course of the entire year, Gordon Creek students, staff and community have seen, experienced and accomplished great things. I feel most fortunate to have been part of many of these outcomes and events, and look forward to those remaining.

In terms of instruction and classroom activities, we are at a point where extension and deep experiential activities add a constructivist element to topics. One example being the fourth grade egg drop event. After a yearlong investigation into different types of force and motion, as well as density of certain materials, they put their knowledge and their collaboration skills to the test. Groups work together to create and build a structure that will keep an egg from breaking when dropped from a height of approximately 85 feet! A year of work is also captured and presented in our fifth grade Social Studies & Science Fair. Student projects are on display for the rest of the school community and big ideas and concepts become the topic of discussions.

Many of the components of Gordon Creek's unique culture also culminate with events. Our year end Character Education assembly will feature our student Ambassadors presenting a gift to the Saratoga Animal Shelter on behalf of our school. Our final "Scottie Day" party will also afford students the opportunity to engage in enriching activities and rewards during their humanities blocks. We will also wrap up our year of fine arts appreciation with a concert from the talented and inspiring band [Flame](#). Of course there are formal celebrations representing milestones. To this end, we will have our Kindergarten Celebration and our fifth grade "Moving Up" ceremony. Each of these events signaling the end of one era and ushering in a new one.

I extend a sincere thank you to Gordon Creek staff, parents and school community members for your contributions to the success of this year. Thank you for helping to provide rich and engaging, well-rounded experiences for our children and knowing that education is about joy, wonder and fostering curiosity, along with the development of social skills needed to succeed. For these, and countless other forms of support, I am truly grateful.

Kent Baker

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**June events -your attendance and support are always welcome.**

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- **Character Education Assembly | Thursday, June 11th, 2015**
  - **5th Grade Yearbooks & Ice Cream Event | Thursday, June 11th, 2015**
  - **Flame Band | Monday, June 15th, 2015**
  - **Scottie Day Party | Tuesday, June 16th, 2015**
  - **Kindergarten Celebration | Wednesday, June 17th, 2015 | 2:00PM**
  - **Field Day | Thursday, June 18th, 2015**
  - **5th Grade Social Studies & Science Fair | Friday, June 19th, 2015**
  - **5th Grade "Moving" Up Ceremony | Tuesday, June 23rd, 2015 | 12:30PM**
  - **Half Day for Students | Wednesday, June 24th, 2015**
  - **Half Day for Students -Last Day of School | Thursday, June 25th, 2015**
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