



## ***Message from the Superintendent***

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

As we near the end of the 2017-2018 school-year, this is a good time to look closely at how the Portrait of a Graduate helped to support teaching and learning in our schools, and how we can improve its use in the future.

The Portrait of a Graduate enabled us to align what we collectively value for our children's education into a symbol that students, staff, and parents can all identify with. We agreed that if students left River Vale as global communicators, compassionate citizens, collaborative innovators, problem solvers & solution makers, and fearless trailblazers, they would be better prepared for a world where they will be applying for jobs not yet created, using technology not yet invented, and solving problems that have not yet emerged.

To support this, staff worked diligently to help improve students' ability to communicate and collaborate, and better define what we mean by that in the classroom. In an effort to ensure parents could see this work as well, examples were routinely highlighted on the district's *Twitter* and *Facebook* pages, along with the district's Fall Community Forum, Parent Curriculum Showcases, and the River Vale Educational Fund's Dedication to Excellence Awards.

As we reflect on this school-year and begin preparing for the next one, now is a great time to get your feedback on how the district communicated the Portrait of a Graduate, along with your perceptions of how it is helping your child.

To that end, please [click here](#) to complete a brief survey that will remain open until Monday, June 11th. The results will then be used to help inform how we prepare for next year's focus on critical and creative thinking, building upon communication and collaboration and bringing us closer to meeting the Portrait of a Graduate for all of our students.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of our schools and please always feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you have.

Sincerely,

*Rory McCourt, Superintendent of Schools*

