

On October 5, EIPS joins countless other countries in marking World Teachers' Day and recognizing the essential role teachers play in the lives of current and past students. After all we've been through since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in early 2020, one day hardly seems enough to acknowledge and thank teachers for everything they've done and continue to do.

Over the past year and a half, EIPS educators worked tirelessly to encourage, support and teach students, in-school and online, through disruptions to learning that posed challenges no one had ever encountered before. For many students, the contact they had with their teachers and classmates, even remotely, provided an important sense of connection during a very tumultuous time in their lives.

This September, students returned for in-school learning, and school staff were the first to see the effects the many learning transitions and general unpredictability had on children and teens. As always, teachers immediately focused their efforts on welcoming learners back, finding ways to nurture relationships, and helping assess extra programming needs to get students back on track academically.

Equally important, teachers understand the value of the school community for students. School is where students can work and play, make friends, find common interests with classmates, and discover new skills and opportunities. It's a little harbour of "normal" in a sea of uncertainty, and teachers help create a space where students can feel safe, cared for and supported.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, administration and all the families and students in EIPS, I want to thank you for your ongoing efforts to enhance and encourage learning regardless of constantly shifting circumstances. Your compassion, expertise and dedication are inspiring and so appreciated.

Trina Boymook EIPS Board Chair

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