We are 6 days into the 18-19 school year. I'm grateful for the change in weather, but not nearly as grateful as the teachers and your children! This summer an air conditioning unit was installed in our library, and many classes took advantage of this to spend a quiet cool-down period reading as temps rose.

Despite the heat, we've had a very good start to this school year. We have about 33 new students in grades 1-5 - 16 of them in grade 1! We've also said goodbye to about a dozen students who moved to new districts in and out of state.

As exciting as the beginning of the new year can be, some children may experience varying levels of anxiety as they move into new rooms with new faces and expectations. Donald Graves, writer, author, and teacher of writing said that "you cannot teach a child well until you know 10 things about him/her." Teachers have been working to build their knowledge of their new students, and to have students get to know one another well. The time spent doing so helps to create a classroom culture where learning is valued by all and students and teachers respect each other in words and actions. Learning is far more collaborative than in the past, and we work to build skills that allow students to work together successfully in a variety of groupings - skills that we want students to carry over into the workforce in years to come.

Computers were issued to students in grades 4 and 5, and this week our district Integration Specialist, Amy Chartrain, worked with third graders to teach them how log in to Google Classroom. This account will follow them all through their years in Salem's schools.

Thank you for your support in readying your child for school and completing all of the paperwork sent home on day 1!

We also thank you for your patience with our end of day parent pick ups. This year this number has increased significantly. We worked on a few issues and the process seems to have improved.

Upcoming.....

- Tuesday - Picture Day! Envelopes and information went home late last week. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PURCHASE A PHOTO PACKAGE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW VIA EMAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CLIX has donated several "F" photo packages for families.
- Tuesday - Grade 5 Band starts
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- Tuesday - Primary Voting Day - Voting takes place in our Gym and this may cause some disruption when trying to park. Please be aware.
- Wednesday - Open House. 6-6:45 for K-2  WHOLE GROUP MEETING IN CAFÉ 6:45-7:00  Grades 3-4 7 -7:45  This is a night for adults to learn about teacher expectations and curriculum. I will be speaking about school safety at the whole group meeting. Our special educators and special area teachers (art, music, PE, guidance) will be available to chat. Come meet our new special educators! Meet our PTA Executive Board, sign up to be a PTA member....
- Thursday - Please refer to last Friday's email regarding final paving of our end of Zion Hill Road and its impact on traffic.
- Salem Scramble - This is our third Scramble and is becoming increasingly popular each year. Information and sign ups for this September 29th event can be found at https://sau57.org/salem-scramble

Looking forward to seeing you Wednesday night!

Janice Wilkins, Principal