



# Children of the Earth High School

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Acting Principal: J. Donachuk

January 19, 2024

Dear Caregivers of Grade 9 Students:

We are very excited to share that as of February 5th, 2024 we are changing the way grade 9 is organized at Children of the Earth. This is the first step in transitioning our entire school into a personalized, nurturing, and relevant learning environment for every student, grade 9-12.

Beginning in Semester 2, our grade 9s will have one teacher for most subjects. Mathematics, art, and physical education will continue to be taught by our program specialists. In grade 9 at our school, student voice is valued and strong relationships between students and teachers are essential. Classroom teachers will work with students to develop project-based learning experiences that are connected to the real world, relevant to students' interests and lives, and that help them to develop deep knowledge, skills, and understandings from across multiple curricular areas at the same time. Student assessment will be authentic, reflective, and holistic. Multiple and varied opportunities to learn in the community, on the land, and in a hands-on way are emphasized. Relationships, relevance, and rigour guide our action.

Indigenous language and culture will continue to be foundational at our school. Our Knowledge Keeper will support teachers to plan from an Indigenous perspective, and will spend time in class with students. Our Indigenous language teachers will teach alongside our classroom teachers so students can learn the language in the context of the rest of their learning. Students will continue to learn Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing through land based opportunities and the Golden Eagle Feather Trail programming already in place at the school. Children of the Earth will continue to call for Knowledge Keepers from our families and communities to support our students to learn and grow in balance with each other, the community, and the world.

At Children of the Earth, we are working hard to embrace the vision of the Indigenous, grass roots community activists and knowledge keepers that brought our school into being just over 30 years ago. Our purpose and vision is for our students to learn all they can so they can be best prepared to use their individual gifts and talents to give back to the community, live a good life, and lead our nations with wisdom, courage, and strength. We look forward to doing this work with all of you!

If you have any questions or concerns, I would be happy to talk with you. Please contact me through email or phone at your convenience!

Jenifer Donachuk,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Donachuk".

Acting Principal  
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