

KINGS COUNTY ACADEMY

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Dear KCA Families and Community,

It is with a great deal of mixed feelings that I share with you that I will be leaving KCA at the end of July to take up a new role with the AVRSB as the new Supervisor of School Support Services. I am excited about this new opportunity, but leave KCA with heavy heart.

This school and this community have been a wonderful place to work and I cannot thank each and every family enough for making my role as your principal a tremendously rewarding one. Your capacity for generosity and for getting behind all we do is unbelievable and stands as a model for how a community-centered school should function to meet the needs of its students. I will miss the daily interactions I had with students and families but will hold to those memories as I work to support schools and students across the Valley. Kentville represents the best of what rural Nova Scotia is all about and I consider myself fortunate to have played even a small role in helping to shape its identity and future.

Thank you to the Town of Kentville and all of their staff. Our school has benefitted so much from the innovative spirit and hard work which typifies all you do. I look out from this school and cannot help but reflect on how lucky my students are to have access to such a beautiful facility in the heart of one of the finest recreational areas in Nova Scotia. I cannot think of a time when a response for help or support was not a resounding "Yes!" That goes for our local service organizations and businesses as well. Your generosity knows no bounds and helped to enhance the learning of all students, but particularly those that need the support most. Part of my role in the coming months will be to nurture and enhance community-school partnerships and I have a shining example of just how well that can work in the relationship KCA has with you.

Lastly, I want to publically thank my staff, especially Victoria, Krista, Barb, Mary, and (not to be forgotten in her recent retirement!) Crystal. They all put up with my unbridled enthusiasm and optimism which, more often than not, left them all scrambling to put the details into a sketchy plan! I simply could not have done this job without them at my side. Their professionalism and dedication are without question, their motivation always focused on students' needs above all else. That goes for all my staff. They make KCA an incredibly enjoyable and rewarding place to work and I will miss them all.

I look forward to continuing to be a part of Kentville, both professionally and personally. Coaching soccer remains a love of mine and former KCA kids always seem to be on my teams and I am always grateful for that. Thank you again for the incredible support over the last 5 years. In the coming days the board will begin engaging in the process of looking for a new principal and, whoever that is, I know they will enjoy the rewards that come from serving this community.

Sincerely,

Mike Ouellette