

Principal's Column

Brent Gray

As week two of the new school year comes to an end, it is a good time to look at the tone of the school and how everyone has settled, especially new children to the school.



Mt Somers Springburn School has always prided itself on having a family feel to it, and values the care and concern each child has for another, no matter what their age. I'm not saying that things are always perfect, but we like them to be as close to that as we can.

As each new child transitions to the new surroundings, new community, new children and new teacher, it appears as though they are accepted almost immediately. Children seem to have a remarkable resilience to change, certainly made easier by coming into an environment where children and adults are open to change.

But what about the parents and caregivers of these children? How smooth is their transition? What kind of environment are many of them coming into? Is it one that is as welcoming? You would certainly hope so when they walk into the school their children attend. So what about out there in the community?

Often a family shifts because of a new job and perhaps the transition for the person who has been employed is reasonably comfortable. What about the person who is the main caregiver? If they are not working, then how do they fit into the community?

As rural communities we assume that the people have been welcomed in some way, and hope that someone has popped in to say hello. Maybe you are the person that has.

If not, think about doing so. This may not be necessarily the beginning of a close friendship, but I'm sure we would all like new people to a community to put a name to a face and have someone to call upon if needed.

If the boot was on the other foot and you were new to a community, I'm sure you would like someone to welcome you.

It doesn't take much to extend a hand and introduce yourself and let a person know that they are welcome in their new community, the one we are all proud to be a part of.