



25 June 2020

Dear Langley Fine Arts families,

I am writing to inform you of an unfortunate incident from my time as Vice-Principal of this school in 2007. For Halloween in that year, the school's principal and I chose to dress up as each other. I was in blackface as part of my costume. A yearbook photo documenting this incident and showing me in blackface is currently circulating on social media.

This happened and it never should have. It was wrong. I understand how offensive it is to appear in blackface, and how it diminishes and demeans members of our black community. I also recognize that it is just one symbol of a long history of racism throughout our society. I take responsibility for my actions, recognizing I come from a privileged position in our society and that as a Caucasian person in a position of authority I should never have put myself in this position.

I am deeply sorry. I am human. I make mistakes and I am committed to unlearning and learning and being better. I know this apology letter to the community is only the first step I need to take. All students, staff, and members of the school community need to feel they are in a healthy, safe, and inclusive environment.

If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail: feedback@sd35.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Bonnar".

Jon Bonnar
Principal