

## **An email that could have been a meeting...but isn't! (Because I value your time!)**

Hi Staff! In an effort to cut down on the time we spend in meetings, I have this memo for you. Please review and discuss in our staff chat within the next week and if this becomes something that really needs a F2F meeting, we can add it to the agenda next week.

### **New Recess Protocols:**

1. We will be balancing safety with the goal of encouraging students to engage in problem solving. Therefore, when students have conflicts that are not related to physical safety or bullying, please give students time and space to figure out a solution without intervening beyond showing them how to let all voices be heard.
2. If their solution seems problematic but still keeps everyone physically safe, please allow students to implement this and check back with them if/when the solution is not working.
3. We will be seeking grants to add more problem-solving and play-inspiring opportunities for students at recess. If you want to join a committee (using internal chat systems....we will not be wasting time F2F!), please let me know.

### **Rationale:**

Students need to play to innovate and to problem solve. This is a HUGE part of helping them be prepared for the changing landscape of work beyond school. In addition to having tech in our schools, we ALSO need to give them the skills needed to succeed in a world that values applying rather than acquiring knowledge.

### **How I am going to support you in this:**

1. I have arranged release time for you to meet and visit the Kindergarten rooms. These teachers and ECEs have been immersed in this for a long time and they are a wealth of knowledge. You will get 20 minutes to visit and ask questions while I take your students outside to play.
2. You are welcome to view this video to help learn about the "why" behind this:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5YfJDkdBUk&list=PLiTNRsZ4ZfYszMHK6OYuGDt\\_tEmzvEMPp&index=6](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5YfJDkdBUk&list=PLiTNRsZ4ZfYszMHK6OYuGDt_tEmzvEMPp&index=6)  
\*\*\*\*\*The video seems bootlegged and yes, it is humorous that a video about innovation in tech was filmed in such a low tech way. Focus on the message...maybe just play the audio.
3. Here is a book with a chapter on play that I found very helpful (Spoiler alert, the Jan 6th insurrection was predicted because of a lack of play! Yikes!!!):  
[https://www.amazon.ca/Coddling-American-Mind-Intentions-Generation/dp/0735224919/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=the+coddling+of+the+american+mind&qid=1675357908&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.ca/Coddling-American-Mind-Intentions-Generation/dp/0735224919/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=the+coddling+of+the+american+mind&qid=1675357908&sr=8-1)

\*\*It's also free on the Libby app so you can just listen to it while you drive or cook or rearrange the desks in your classroom if you want to.

We will have a school assembly in a month or so when we have refined things a bit better.

You're doing a great job! Enjoy your day!

- Courtney Brewer  
Principal