

April 9, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers:

As we end this first week of supporting our families and learners from a distance, I want to send out what has happened in schools this week and provide you with some information regarding next week.

I'm hearing that the majority, if not all, of our families and students were contacted by teachers this week; and, in the event that you missed your call from one of our teachers, you may have received a warm voice recording. I have heard from our educators and principals how much these calls meant to them; and, I know that call also brought smiles to our students and parents.

We attempted to coordinate our communication to homes so that you were not barraged with many, many calls; but, I do know that families with a few children in our schools likely heard from all their teachers.

Over this past week, all our employees were oriented to our 'Health and Safety' protocols to ensure the well-being of our employees, students and families. The majority of our principals and educators are working from our schools, but we do have some of our staff working from home.

I know that you were asked a variety of questions this week in terms of the best way for us to connect with and support your children. Our teachers will be working collaboratively with their principals to create plans for supporting students. As I have mentioned before, please know that the learning opportunities that will be provided over the coming weeks/months will not look or feel like regular school. I can only imagine the anxiety that many parents have about supporting their children with learning and as our learning plans come together over the next week, I hope to share in more detail next week how parents can support their children and the approximate allocations of time recommended dependent on your child's grade. At a minimum, please know that we don't expect parents to support their child(ren)'s learning from 9 – 3 pm Monday to Friday.

What to Expect Next Week:

- Families can expect to be contacted again by their teachers in the coming week as plans for supporting continued learning are developed. Please know that these plans will continue to be developed and be responsive to the unique contexts of our students and families.
- Schools will be communicating how student materials can be picked up at the school. ***Please do not stop by the school to pick up materials as there will be a process communicated by each of our schools..***
- Parents whose children were accessing services from District Counsellors or other school district professional staff should ensure that they let their teacher know so that a referral to Learner Services can be made.
- Please know that our supports for the children of tier 1 essential service workers will be beginning sometime in the coming week in most of our communities.

We know that this is not an easy time for our parents or students; and, we look forward to opening our doors and welcoming back our students. As British Columbians, we are all doing our part to ensure that the COVID-19 curve is flattened for the safety of our communities.

I will send another letter to parents next Friday with further updates but would encourage parents to access the following [Ministry of Education link](#) containing many answers to frequently asked questions.

Sincerely,

Manu Madhok
Superintendent of Schools