



WEST SECHELT ELEMENTARY

A Vibrant Learning Community

March 18, 2020

Dear West Sechelt Elementary Community:

I hope you are able to enjoy this time with your family and do your best to adapt to this unprecedented situation.

I am writing to update you on the COVID-19 situation. Today the principals and vice principals joined the Superintendent in an on-line conference to discuss the impact COVID-19 is having on us and to look at how to best move forward. The Ministry of Education, the District and our schools are working to respond to this emerging situation. At this time, we require patience as we navigate a path that is both ambiguous and worrying for everyone. As you have heard, schools will remain open after the break, but **all K-12 classes have been suspended for students indefinitely**. It is clear that school will not be the same after the break but just how it will be is still under discussion. Please understand that teachers will not be expected to roll-out a program for you on March 30 – that will take time and collaboration – but they will work hard to provide the support and guidance that you seek. I have heard that some families have already started to home-school. Please pause. After the spring break, school staff will work together on educational and other supports for you and your children. If you want to do something, one of the best things you can do support your children's learning is to read with them: please continue to do that as you always have.

We are committed to communicating with you during this time of uncertainty and as updates are provided I will share them with you. It is most important to recognize that many in our school community are feeling an overriding sense of anxiety and uncertainty. Let's do our best to look out for each other and provide understanding and care to our neighbours in the days ahead. When I reflect on the concerns of adults I worry about the impact on children. Please filter their exposure to newscasts and use your good judgment to decide what is discussed in their company.

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Don't hesitate to share your questions or concerns with me. I will do my best to find the answers. Some of you have inquired about how to retrieve your children's items from school: after the break I will share a plan so that students' possessions and their learning materials can be picked up in a responsible way that respects social distancing.

Again, enjoy your time away from the school. We will be okay if we care for ourselves, our families and each other.

Warm regards,



Jeff Marshall

Principal