

Message to Families: COVID-19 Update

April 24, 2020

Dear Families,

The learning continues in SRPSD! Our staff have continued to provide learning opportunities for students while we all continue to learn how best to provide those opportunities in these uncertain times. Thank you for the time, energy and effort that you have expended to support your children in learning and in responding to the pandemic in positive ways. We also appreciate the patience, cooperation and support that you have demonstrated to the division's staff. We are not immune to the challenges and problems that exist, but the strong encouragement and mutual support certainly helps us all endure the difficulties.

I am hopeful that after the Easter break this first week back to the supplemental learning has been going as well as possible. I know that most families have been in close connection with teachers and that learning is ongoing. If you have not yet made that connection, please call your school or the division Education Centre and leave a message indicating how best to reach you and we will ensure that your child's teacher connects with you. The Education Centre voice-mail number is 306-764-1571. I encourage each of you to take advantage of the program your teacher provides and work together to find resources, programs and activities best suited to your needs. I also encourage you to care for your own wellness and the mental health of your family. We all respond differently to the social distancing and isolation, so if you or your family is need of support or just some ideas about how to manage the various stresses, please reach out; we can help.

The Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan released on April 23 seems to suggest that teachers, parents and students will continue to pursue supplemental learning for some time yet. The Re-Open Plan contained no reference to lifting the indefinite suspension of classes and schools seem to be included in Phase 5 of the plan. As we continue the current learning program, you may be thinking about a few other things.

1. Graduation plans are still uncertain. We cannot expect to have usual graduation celebrations while restrictions on large gatherings are still in place but schools and the division are considering alternative plans for these events and the related scholarships and awards. On a related topic, there is no more news on the transition plans for students moving into post-secondary. Discussions are happening at a provincial level, and some institutions are communicating with students directly, but those discussions continue and there are no province-wide details yet.
2. Registration for 2020-2021 is well underway. We may not know what the end of this school year looks like but we are excited for the next one. Registration information is on the "Parent" tab of our website at www.srsd119.ca. If you have children ready for **Pre-Kindergarten** or **Kindergarten**, or you have children moving from an elementary school into **High School**, we look forward to welcoming them into our schools.

3. School Board meetings and school board business continues. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board remains focused on student learning and effective governance. The Board holds meetings by teleconference, posts board packages on the division website (www.srsd119.ca) and shares highlights with the public and the media. Further details about the Board and its meetings, are at this link [SRPSD Board Information](#), but you are also encouraged to contact your local trustee. The Board is particularly excited about the Global Sport Academy that is coming to SRPSD in Carlton Comprehensive Public High School and the Cree Language program starting in Kindergarten at John Diefenbaker Public Elementary school.

In closing, please stay connected with your child's teacher(s); continue to work through challenges together and share the successes and celebrations of learning success as well. As you do that, also remain vigilant in your efforts to prevent the rapid spread of COVID-19. You may find this more challenging as the weather warms and the Re-Open Plan is implemented. However, we need to be cautious as we move forward together so stay home and if you cannot stay home then be sure to stay distant from others in public and wash your hands often. Visit the website www.Saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus for more COVID-19 information. Take care of each other.

Yours in Education,

Barry Hollick, Board Chair and Robert Bratvold, Director of Education