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Sherri-Lynne Pharand
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March 23, 2020

Dear KPDSB Families,

With the March Break over and your children staying at home for the next two weeks as a result of school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I wanted to reach out to try and answer some of the questions you may have and provide you with some updates.

- We know that many families are wondering about the possibility of the school closures being extended past April 5, 2020. At this time, we have not received official direction from the Ministry of Education to extend the closures, however, we are aware that Premier Ford did announce students would not be returning to school on April 6. In these unprecedented times, we are participating in teleconferences twice a week with the Ministry and we will let families know by email and on our board website as other information becomes available.
- The Ministry of Education has cancelled EQAO assessments for the 2019-2020 school year. If your child is in grade 3, 6, or taking grade 9 math, they will not be writing the assessments. Students' overall achievement will not be impacted by the cancellation of EQAO.
- The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), while normally a requirement for graduation, has also been cancelled for this school year. If your child is in Grade 12 and was supposed to write the OSSLT to graduate in June, please be aware that the Ministry of Education has waived this requirement for graduation. All other students required to write the OSSLT who are not graduating in June will do so during the 2020-2021 school year. The government has been clear that no graduating student will have their ability to graduate impacted by this two-week closure or COVID-19 developments.
- The Ministry of Education has launched online learning modules for students in K-12. You can access these modules by visiting our COVID-19 page on our website by [clicking here](#), or directly on the Ministry's website by [clicking here](#).
- In addition to the Ministry of Education's online learning modules, as a Board, we are also creating a site for our teachers to support students and families with learning activities for elementary, secondary and special needs students. Included in this site will be mental health and well-being information. This learning resource is currently in development and will be shared as soon as possible.

WWW.KPDSB.ON.CA

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board puts students first by creating a culture of learning.

- Please be assured that we have a plan to support students and staff returning to school once the closures come to an end, including heightened cleaning practices. We will work closely with public health officials and organizations and will implement any recommendations they have for protecting our students and staff from illness.

We know this is a stressful time for families and will do our best to keep you informed as things evolve. Please remember that you can check our website for the latest updates at www.kpdsb.on.ca.

Should you have further questions, please check our [FAQs on our COVID-19 web page](#) or send us an email by [clicking here](#). We will continue to send you updates as they become available.

Sincerely,



Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Director of Education, Keewatin-Patricia District School Board