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Sherri-Lynne Pharand
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May 1, 2020

Dear KPDSB Families,

Recently, the Ontario Government has announced that school closures will continue until at least May 31, 2020, to protect the health and safety of students and staff. Please [click here](#) to see the news release from the government.

Below you will find some updates with regards to school closures being extended and continuation of Distance Learning through the month of May.

- As we continue to learn from a distance, we wanted to assure families that we are aware not all of our students have access to devices and/or internet in their homes for a variety of reasons. You may have heard recent government announcements around the Government of Ontario working with Rogers Communications and Apple to help meet the educational needs of students and families in southern Ontario during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Board, we have been working behind the scenes to find a local solution and put supports in place to allow access to internet and devices for families who need it. Additional information and details will be coming soon.
- We know that learning from home puts additional pressure on families that we are actively trying to reduce. Please understand that this time is less about marks and more about learning. Our staff are here to support students and their families with their learning. Please reach out to our educators and school administrators if we can be of assistance to you. We are grateful for your ongoing support and communication.
- We have been receiving requests from families to access personal items that were left at their child's school. At this time, our schools and buildings are still closed by Ministerial Order. To date, we have been granted permission to access our buildings for learning supplies that are critical to distance learning only. We have requested to be permitted access to our buildings by the Ministry of Education to retrieve personal items for students and will advise families when we are able to do so.
- The Minister of Education has stated they are not considering extending the 2019-2020 school year into the summer. The Ministry has indicated there will be expanded summer learning opportunities available to students for the summer of 2020 that will focus on credit recovery, supports for vulnerable students, and course upgrading. When we have more information on what will be available for our families, we will share that information with you.

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

- Thank you to all of our families for sharing your thoughts with us through the Distance Learning Survey for Families. We received responses for almost 800 of our students! Our staff are currently going through your feedback and working on appropriate next steps as we strive to provide the best possible support for your child(ren). Please watch for further updates on the survey, we will be providing an overview of the feedback we received from families next week.
- Initial feedback from families through the Distance Learning Survey has shown some parents/guardians have indicated they would like some additional information and support around some of the distance learning platforms currently being used by our staff and students. As a result, we will be offering parent/guardian information sessions for families. Our first session will be Wednesday, May 6, 2020, on the features of Google Classroom with frequently asked questions. Details on joining the session will be shared next week. A Zoom session will also be held the week of May 11, 2020.
- Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, has written a letter to families, please [click here](#) to view the letter.

Please remember that we are here to support you during this time. Our website has a [COVID-19 section](#) with additional supports for students and families during the pandemic, including Mental Health resources, how to access free wifi at all KPDSB buildings and a listing of community supports by area. You can also follow us on social media (search KPDSB on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram) for information and updates.

Sincerely,



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