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Dear KPDSB Families,

Further to our letter to families from April 6, 2020, ([click here](#) to view the April 6, 2020 letter), we wanted to share some additional information with families of students in our secondary schools (grades 9-12).

On March 31, 2020, the Ontario government announced that Ontario schools will remain closed until Monday, May 4, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The government has emphasized that this decision will be re-evaluated based on public health advice as these dates become closer. Families should be aware that the closures may be extended if necessary to protect the health and safety of students, families and staff.

As a Board, we launched teacher-led distance learning this week. This is a new way of teaching and learning and we thank our students and families for their patience as we worked to put supports in place for our students.

Distance Learning for Grades 9-12

The government expects that every student will continue to learn while in-school classes are suspended. Our shared goal is to ensure the successful completion of the school year for all students, and to support students to earn credits and graduate.

At the secondary level (grades 9-12), distance learning is for credit. Expectations set out by the Ministry of Education state that secondary students should be actively participating in three hours of work per course per week for the remainder of Semester 2 (those hours refer to the approximate amount of time students would spend on the work assigned by teachers, not that students are necessarily required to be in a virtual classroom for that amount time each week). We want to assure our students and families that our staff will do everything they can to assist students in completing their Semester 2 credits.

Please note that the Ministry of Education has suspended the mid-year (March/April) report cards for all secondary students for this school year.

Students On-Track to Graduate in June

A priority will be placed on students scheduled to graduate this year and any student on-track to graduate will be supported to graduation. Teachers of graduating students will be providing mid-term marks for graduating students by April 23, 2020, in order to meet admission requirements for post-secondary education (as mentioned above, schools will not be issuing a

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formal mid-term report, but we will be sharing marks with potential graduates and returning graduates). The Ministry of Education is working closely with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and sector stakeholders to ensure no student's graduation or transition to post-secondary is jeopardized as a result of the school closure period.

We know many students and families, particularly graduating Grade 12 students, are concerned about the loss of special events, including graduation ceremonies. At this time, until we know how long these closures will last, it is difficult to say what decisions will be made. We want to assure our students and their families that we know how important these events are and we will continue to look into options for postponing/rescheduling should classes not resume in early May.

Graduation Requirements

The requirement that graduating students must complete 40 hours of community involvement to receive their Ontario Secondary School Diploma has been waived for this school year. Students not graduating this year who still require hours, as well as graduating students who would like to still work towards those hours, as long as the health and safety of the student can be assured, could consider specific volunteer initiatives that support communities' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as letter-writing campaigns to seniors.

The Ministry of Education has also suspended the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test requirement for this school year (students not currently in Grade 12 and on-track to graduate will write the test in the 2020-2021 school year).

Scholarships and Bursaries

The process for scholarship applications and bursaries for graduating Grade 12 students will go ahead for this school year. More details will be shared with families by their school soon.

Free Internet Connections

As a Board, we have made the internet connections at our schools and buildings available to anyone who may need it. Anyone accessing the wifi connections at our schools will have to do so from outside the buildings and follow all government direction around limiting the spread of COVID-19. To access the connections, all that is required is to select the 'KP-Public' option from the list of available wifi connections and agree to the terms of use.

We will continue to share information with families throughout the closures. Questions or concerns should be shared with your child's principal. We want to assure families that staff are here to support our students throughout the closures.

Sincerely,



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