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March 27, 2020

Dear KPDSB Families,

Our staff have been busy this week adjusting to the new circumstances many of us in Ontario are finding ourselves in as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We've also been planning and preparing to support our students and families in new ways and look forward to sharing more information on this in the coming week.

We know that many families have questions about their child's education and how school closures will impact their year. We are working to ensure that students will be able to continue their coursework and credit accumulation in different ways, knowing that some students have access to online supports and that we will need to provide supports differently for those who do not. Minister Lecce has said, "We want to make this clear: no graduating student will have their ability to graduate impacted by the two-week closure and the COVID19 developments." Please be assured that we will continue to share information with families as often as possible and that we are here to support you and your child(ren) during this time.

Below are some updates from this week that we thought may be helpful to share with families.

- We know that many families are wondering about school closures being extended past April 5, 2020. As soon as we receive official word on expectations for the length of school closures, we will be sure to share that information with you. We anticipate information next week from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry of Education.
- Staff in our schools and programs began reaching out to families this week to check-in, reconnect, and ask families for some specific information around what you may need from us to support learning at home during the closures. If you have not yet been contacted, you will be very soon. If there are any concerns that our staff may not have your most up to date contact information, you can send us an email by [clicking here](#) to have your information updated. If you would like to email a member of our team but do not have their email address, all of our staff emails use the following format - firstname.lastname@kpdsb.ca.
- Our Board website – www.kpdsb.on.ca – is being updated regularly with resources to support families during the school closures. This week we have added a page with a wide variety of online learning resources that students can access from home, as well as a page with Mental Health resources and support for families. We understand that some families are unable to access online resources for a variety of reasons, please be

WWW.KPDSB.ON.CA

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

assured we are working on creating resources that will be available offline as well. More information on this is coming soon.

- [Please click here to view learning from home resources.](#)
- [Please click here to view Mental Health resources.](#)
- In addition to our schools and offices being closed, all KPDSB play structures outside of our schools are also closed. Research has shown the COVID-19 virus can last on metal and plastic surfaces in both cold and warm temperatures for at least three (3) days. The closure of all school play structures is to keep everyone safe and limit the possible spread of the virus.

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

Please take care of yourself and your family during this time and remember that we are here for you should you or your child need us.

Sincerely,



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