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**June 17, 2020**

Dear KPDSB Families,

Now in our 11<sup>th</sup> week of distance learning, we wanted to thank our students and families for their support during this time and acknowledge your efforts as we all adjusted to a new way of teaching and learning. While we know distance learning has been challenging for many families, we are proud of the resiliency and perseverance our students have demonstrated.

With just under two weeks left in the 2019-2020 school year (the last day of school is Friday, June 26, 2020), we wanted to share some information around report cards and expectations for the final weeks of the year, as well as provide you with some information around our planning for the 2020-2021 school year.

**2019-2020 Report Cards**

All students will receive a report card for the 2019-2020 school year. The marks on the report cards have been determined based on the learning that took place from the beginning of semester two, to March 13, 2020 (the day before the March Break). Distance learning is being taken into consideration for report cards, with students having an opportunity to increase their overall mark; however, no student's mark will go down from where it was on March 13, 2020. Report card comments will focus on what students have learned, describe significant strengths and identify next steps for learning and improvement.

Please watch for information from your child's school this week regarding report card pickups or mail options for families.

**Student Personal Items in Schools**

If your child still has personal items in one of our schools, please contact the school to make arrangements to pick up their items. You can leave a message at any of our schools and a member of our team will return your call. You will find contact information for our schools at [this link](#), or can send us an email by [clicking here](#).

**Student Chromebooks**

Some students will require their Chromebooks over the summer for summer learning while others will be required to return the devices to the school so that updates and repair work can be completed before the fall. Your child's school will ensure families know what is required around the return of Chromebooks by the end of June.

**2020-2021 School Year Planning**

Planning for the 2020-2021 school year is currently underway. We know there are many questions around what school will look like come September and while we do not have all the answers at this time, we are looking at every possible scenario and format for learning, from a full return to our buildings, to a continuation of distance learning, or a combination of both. To guide us in this planning, we have created guiding principles

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

and have committed that every decision and plan we put in place will be in line with those principles (found below).

*Return to Learn Guiding Principles:*

*The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board is engaged in planning for all possibilities of returning to learn in September. Our goal is to support a physically safe and mentally healthy return to learning for all students and staff.*

*We will use a trauma informed approach and ensure that we consider the following:*

- *mental health and well-being of students and staff*
- *physical safety*
- *educational equity*
- *planning that is responsive to student needs*
- *personalized learning*
- *transparency*
- *regular communication to families*
- *high expectations for all*
- *continued use of technology to support learning needs*
- *continued digital literacy support*

*All Ministry and health guidelines related to COVID-19 will be followed.*

It is important to us that our families know we will do everything possible to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff should schools reopen in the fall. Families should be aware that a return to our buildings would likely look different from past school years; however, we can assure you our staff will continue to provide your child with the best possible educational experiences.

As a part of our planning, schools will be sharing a survey with families before the end of June to ask if, at this time, you plan to send your children to school in the fall should it be announced that our buildings will be open. The survey will also ask if families plan to utilize school bus transportation. Please be aware that this is just an initial step in our planning and that families will have an opportunity to change their response should they wish to do so as we get closer to the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

We know that returning to our buildings may bring different levels of apprehension for students and their families and that is to be expected. We will work through it together and will ensure families know what they can expect before the first day of school. As soon as more information is released by the government with regards to schools and the 2020-2021 school year, we will share it with our families.

As always, we are here to support you and your family. Please remember that our website has a [COVID-19 section](#) with supports for students and families during the pandemic, including Mental Health resources. 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