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**May 19, 2020**

Dear KPDSB Families,

As you may be aware, Premier Doug Ford announced today (Tuesday, May 19, 2020) that all Ontario public schools will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year to protect the health and safety of students during the COVID-19 outbreak. The government stated the decision was made after consulting with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, health experts on the COVID-19 Command Table, and medical experts at The Hospital for Sick Children. To view the complete statement by the Ontario government, please [click here](#).

With the decision made to not reopen schools this year, we want to assure families that our staff are here to support you and your child as we continue with our current distance learning model for the remainder of the school year. Our staff continue to work on plans for a return to school for the 2020-2021 school year and while we know it may look different than previous years, we look forward to being back in our classrooms and seeing all of our students again when it is safe to do so.

Knowing that we will not be returning to our schools this school year, we are making preparations to allow students to access personal items that remain inside of our schools/buildings. The safety of students and staff will be our top priority and any access to our buildings will be approved by our local medical officer of health. Please watch for further communication on this directly from your child(ren)'s school administration.

As always, 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. You can also follow us on social media (search KPDSB on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram) for information and updates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Pharand".

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