



April 3, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Staff:

Re: COVID-19 Information Bulletin

As this first week comes to an end, I am writing to provide an update to the community. I hope families are able to manage the challenges we are all facing. I want to reassure you the District is here to help support your child's educational and most important health and safety needs.

Connecting with the Community

Our staff worked this week to begin the implementation of our Continuity of Learning Plan with a focus on the 5 Cs: care, compassion, communication, connection, and community. They've begun to connect and to gain a better understanding of the unique needs of our families to enable us to create a learning plan that will allow opportunities for all of our students to be successful. We know these first phone calls have been emotional and difficult at times for students, staff and families. We will be planning thoughtfully over the next week as to how best approach remote learning to ensure it is both manageable and meaningful.

Supporting Needs

We are learning more and more that we have increasing food and housing insecurities across the District. Our staff are working on a coordination of community support model in order to help meet the basic needs of families. School-based staff will work with District staff to provide direct support and connect families to community agencies to eliminate barriers to accessing support.

The Langley School District Foundation is providing \$50 gift cards per week to all families who need help to buy groceries at several stores throughout Langley. The cards will be available starting next week. To help us with the program please [donate](#) to the Foundation if you are able.

Essential Service Workers

I want to take the time to thank our Essential Service Workers who work tirelessly to help beat this crisis. Our community could not function without you. This week, we helped provide childcare for a small number of Essential Service Workers. Next week, we will be expanding services to meet the needs of approximately 80 families. We've established childcare HUBs at five schools across the District. If you have been identified as a Tier One Essential Service Worker and still require childcare, please e-mail: feedback@sd35.bc.ca.

Visiting your School

As early as next week, some students, staff, and families will be at our school sites. There are new protocols in place to ensure everyone is healthy and safe. Schools will limit all access to the main doors. Upon entering, we will have staff asking basic health assessment questions, and sharing procedures such as hand washing and respecting physical distancing. We will have staff accompanying visitors as they go to their classroom or locker. The purpose is to send information to our custodial staff to ensure touch surfaces are cleaned.

Continuity of Learning

Teachers and staff will continue their professional development and curriculum planning. Some teachers may begin sharing resources next week. The Ministry of Education created a new website called [Open School BC Keep Learning](#). It contains health, safety and educational resources for your family. There are lessons you can download, links to educational websites, and even a link to virtual museums across Canada. We want to encourage students who can start learning at-home to do so.

Communication

I will continue to provide weekly updates on District and public health matters. We will continue to share information from the Ministry of Education and Provincial Health Office. As always, please visit our website for the latest information. This week, we've updated our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section and will continue to do so in the weeks and months ahead. Please also take a look at my latest video message [here](#).

Our District is committed to learning and making health and safety a priority. Our staff care about our students and their families. Thank you for your patience and support. I know together we can get through this challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gord Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gord" and last name "Stewart" clearly distinguishable.

Gord Stewart
Superintendent of Schools