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March 25, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am writing to provide an update on the announcement made by the Minister of Education on March 17, 2020 indicating that all in-class instruction for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students would be **indefinitely suspended until further notice**. This temporary measure is being put in place in order to help keep students, staff, families and the broader community safe as the province responds to the COVID-19 outbreak. I know that you will have many questions about what this announcement will mean for you and your family.

As stated in his letter on March 17, 2020 (attached), the Minister of Education stated that every student will receive a final mark, all students on track to move to the next grade will do so in the fall, all students eligible to graduate from grade 12 this year will graduate, and that the province is working with post-secondary institutions to ensure the transition for our grade 12 graduates is supported.

The letter also outlines a number of key directives for school districts. School districts are expected to:

- begin planning for continuity of learning;
- develop plans to maintain some level of service for children whose parents are performing essential services;
- address the question of important services like school meal programs and childcare services operating on school grounds.

Our school district has already begun some of the initial planning to address continuity of learning for our students. Principals and teachers will begin working together after spring break to develop learning opportunity plans. It is our goal to have these plans finalized by April 2, 2020 and communicated to parents by April 3, 2020, in preparation for engagement with students by April 6, 2020. We do not have all of the specific information available regarding these plans, but please be assured that information will be provided by the administrator of each school and your child's classroom teacher prior to April 6, 2020.

We will continue to provide updated information on our district website: www.sd78.bc.ca.

A new government website has been launched for parents and guardians with up-to-date non-clinical information on COVID-19: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>

For information about COVID-19, visit the BC Centre for Disease Control website:
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

I understand these are challenging and uncertain times. As Dr. Bonnie Henry, Public Health Officer, has stated: "We need to remember to be kind, be calm and be safe. We will get through this together". Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Karen Nelson, EdD
Superintendent of Schools

cc. Principals and Vice Principals