



April 24, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Re: [COVID-19 Information Bulletin](#)

We have completed two weeks of formal instruction, but for some of you it might be feeling more like two months. I know how difficult this time is for everyone and I want you to know our staff are doing what they can to support you. We are hearing from administrators and teachers that some families are having success and thriving with at-home learning. We are also hearing some parents are overwhelmed by the change, the new role they play in their child's education, and the expectations they may have. As we go through this new way of learning, I want to remind you of our District's guiding principles in this challenging time: *meeting health and safety needs, supporting essential services, supporting vulnerable families and students, and continuing learning*. With these considerations, I encourage you to be kind to yourself and each other, put your family's health, safety and wellbeing first, and do what you can to support moving your child's learning forward. Please continue to ask your child's teacher or support staff for assistance. You are not alone; we are here to help.

#### Tier 1 and Tier 2 Essential Service Workers Childcare

The District is continuing to provide support for Essential Service Workers in our community and making plans to expand childcare service. The District has sent a survey to all families of children in grades K-7 to assess the needs of the community. This will help our staff determine what resources and supports may be needed to provide childcare for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Essential Service Workers. If you have not completed the survey, please do so [here](#).

#### Graduation Events

The provincial ban on large events of 50 people or more remains in place for the foreseeable future. As a result, all large-scale events planned before the end of June will not proceed. This includes in-person grad ceremonies, grad banquets, and dances. If circumstances improve, provincial guidelines change, and a date can be established beyond June, schools may choose to work with their communities to organize some form of event. In relation to ceremonies, secondary school administrators and staff will look into creative ways to honour our grads. We acknowledge this is disappointing and devastating for grads. We know this was not the end of the year we expected. I'm confident our school communities will work together to help make Grad 2020 meaningful and memorable.

#### Transitioning Learning

As we see improvements in the provincial fight against COVID-19, we are continuing to work closely with the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Health Office. Please note there are still many factors that need to be considered before we can move closer to some form of in-class instruction. We will update the community as information becomes available.

Supporting our Community

As you continue with remote learning, you may not be seeing or hearing about all of the positive news in our District. Everyday there are stories about staff, students, and members of our school community doing amazing things. Some of this is taking place in-person at our five Learning Hubs or even virtually. The [Langley School District Foundation](#) is helping more than 600 families by providing them with grocery store gift cards, thanks to their generous donors. Langley Meadows Community Elementary and Shortreed Community Elementary have been handing out non-perishable food to families. At Douglas Park Elementary School, support staff are helping pack up lunches for more than 60 students as part of their Grab and Go program. You can read the full story on our website [here](#). I hope these examples bring you joy, comfort, and motivation during this tough time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gord Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

Gord Stewart  
Superintendent of Schools