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École Élémentaire Richardson Elementary School

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April 9, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians;

I hope that during this time of uncertainty posed by the COVID-19 pandemic you and your family are safe and well. As we work with our Provincial Health Officer's decision to combat the spread by indefinitely suspending in-class instruction, we ask for your patience and understanding as we navigate this new situation together as a community.

We know this decision has a significant impact on all, but there is nothing more important than the health, safety and well-being of our students, families and staff. Our teachers care deeply about their students, and are committed to ensuring your family is provided with learning opportunities as they learn at home. We have been working with our staff to figure out ways to shift to this new learning environment. It will take time for teachers and students to establish new routines. Please be patient with us, your children and yourselves.

We understand the challenges of juggling children, managing a household, working from home and remote schooling all while dealing with the stress of these very challenging times. As such, we will be starting slowly in our approach for home learning. Each of our teachers reached out to their families last week and were able to establish if support was needed. If your situation changes and you are in need, please don't hesitate to give the office a call. This week teachers have begun to slowly send out some learning activities that hopefully your child(ren) are able to complete. If you have any questions about your child's activities, **please email the teacher directly** so it can be dealt with promptly. Having said that, our teaching staff are not available 24/7 as they have families/a life of their own to take care of, but they will do their utmost to get back to you in a timely manner.



In Delta, our priorities for home learning K-7 are captured in the following graphic. As you can see, the focus will be on maintaining and building Connections, Health & Wellness, Literacy (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) as well as Numeracy (Math).

Please watch for weekly communication from your child's teacher with opportunities for home learning.

While teachers and schools will support continuous learning in the weeks ahead, the BC government has launched Keep Learning BC. This is a central place where families can find ideas to help children learn and stay well while they are at home. Keep Learning BC is available at:

www.openschools.bc.ca/keeplearning

Setting up a Home Learning Environment (Suggestions from the BC Ministry of Education)

These are exceptional times and while it's important for children to keep learning, there are no expectations that the pace and rigour of a normal school day be duplicated at home. Teachers will continue to provide instruction and parent involvement will depend on the age and ability of the child and the time that parents are able to give. Every family will determine what works best for them in discussion with their child's teachers. Make use of what you have available and don't worry that your child is missing out if you don't have the latest technology. Simple everyday items and activities offer great learning opportunities.

Routine

Disruptions in routines can be stressful. A regular schedule helps maintain a sense of normalcy and stability. As a family, it's good to set up a weekday schedule including:

- Regular bedtime, wake-up and meal times
- Getting dressed and ready for school (even though they're at home)
- Time for learning
- Time for breaks
- Daily physical activity
- Daily communication with friends and family

Space to Work

Setting up a home learning space to work can help children focus. If possible, the space should include:

- A quiet atmosphere
- Good lighting
- A desk or table at a comfortable height for the child
- A storage basket or bin to keep supplies (paper, pens, pencils, markers, books, etc.)
- Access to a computer/tablet or other smart device if possible

Reminders -

Together we can make a difference

With the long weekend about to start, I know the temptation to spend time with friends and family, often in gatherings or at favourite locations or even on trips out of town, is strong.

But this long weekend is different. **Please stay home.** Stay in your local community. And if you do go out, stay at a safe distance from others – at least 2 metres. Please enjoy the weekend but find ways to connect virtually using video calls or phone calls.

By doing this, together we will help slow the spread of COVID-19 and more importantly, we will be protecting our loved ones and our health care workers.

Essential Services Workers

If you have children and are an Essential Services Worker as defined by the [provincial government](#), please email ESW@deltasd.bc.ca with your contact information and needs.

Please include a phone number to make it easier for the staff to get in touch with you. Someone from the school district will be in touch as soon as possible to discuss next steps. If you have already emailed and have not received a response, please check your junk email folder and/or email again including a phone number. We have received a large volume of emails and want to ensure we have not missed anyone.

We hope you all have a terrific long weekend.

Sincerely,

Mrs. J. Schierer
Acting Principal