



April 9, 2020

Dear Families, Students, Staff and Community:

As we head into the long weekend, I want to take this opportunity to reach out to you to share some updates and thank you again for your ongoing support. As a school district, we have had to quickly reshape how we do business in our schools, in our community, and in the workplace. As we continue to navigate these unprecedented times together, we know you have also been managing substantial changes with how you live and work. While we are, each one of us, doing the very best that we can, it is comforting to know that the Burnaby community remains unwavering in its support of one another.

Continuing Learning

In addition to the conversations already had with teachers, you will be receiving a letter from your Principal next week outlining more specifics about continued learning.

While nothing can replace a teacher in a classroom or a principal in a school, the connections with our 25,000 students over the past week have been heartwarming and informative. From school staff parading in their own cars past students waving and cheering from inside their homes or on their lawns, to emails, letters, videos and projects that touch the heart, the importance of connection during this time of physical distancing couldn't be more apparent. Teachers, students and families have been finding new ways to build community and support each other in the midst of COVID-19.

More than 28,000 users have already explored our Continuing Learning Website, which was launched the first week students were "back." While certainly not intended to take the place of instruction, this site, along with the many resources listed, has provided students with opportunities for continued learning as teachers have focused on connecting with students, collaborating with colleagues, thinking creatively about teaching and learning, as well as planning for their classes moving forward.

Supporting Children of Essential Service Workers

While the suspension of in-class instruction has certainly put a strain on all families, many essential service workers – who are desperately needed at work on the frontlines – require support taking care of their children. To that end, the Burnaby School District is working with our local childcare providers to do just that. Together with our partners, we are providing education support and childcare at several of our school sites for the children of those essential service workers in our community who need it. It is important that those who are providing critical healthcare support in our community have appropriate care for their children during the school day so they can focus on their much needed work.

Supporting Our Community

In addition to the global uncertainty, we recognize that families may face additional pressures and challenges during these difficult times. From worries about the economy, to food insecurity, to no longer having access to community resources and services that were once relied upon, please know that we are working with our community partners and agencies to assist in any way we can. We know some of our families have children with complex needs. These considerations, and more, have been top of mind as we reach out to determine how we can best support you and your child.

We are also working with our partners who have made so many of our efforts possible, including generous donations of time and food. We have been able to support many families whose children rely on our school meal program. This week we have been distributing nearly 500 meals a day and we are building on this to do more. We recognize that some of our families may be struggling during this challenging time and we are working to make sure food support is available. Should you require assistance, please contact your school Principal.

The efforts of so many in our community are helping to make this possible. Without naming them all here, I want to offer heartfelt thanks to all those who have so generously supported our collective efforts.

To Our Students

I want to take a moment to acknowledge our students. From Aaron who is using his skills and own 3D printer to make plastic parts for masks worn by health care workers; to Abby who contacted me personally to offer her ideas so that she could be “a part of the solution” to the challenge of remote learning; to Joon, who also reached out with an idea to produce and deliver food to those working on the frontlines; and to those students who are doing what you can – staying home, maintaining safe physical distance, helping your neighbour - each of you has made a difference. We also cannot forget the remarkable children in our community who warm our hearts with their beautiful messages of hope and inspiration, placed in windows, painted on rocks, and drawn on sidewalks throughout Burnaby.

For your resilience, ingenuity, and generous hearts, I thank you. Please know that your strong voices, creative spirit, heartfelt empathy, and willingness to try something new are leading us all towards a better future.

Supporting Each Other

We will continue to provide the latest updates, including continuing learning opportunities, information from the Ministries of Health and Education, and supports for families, on our website: www.burnabyschools.ca. We will also continue to include links to resources as we receive them.

I would like to close by expressing my deepest gratitude to all Burnaby School District staff, students, families and community members whose extraordinary efforts are, truly, having an extraordinary impact. Life continues to look different for all of us and will likely continue to look different for some time. What must remain unchanged, however, is our belief in and support of one another. I continue to be humbled by the outpouring of kindness, generosity and compassion displayed in our community.

From the cheers and noise in our neighbourhoods honouring frontline workers, to the immeasurable gestures and words of hope throughout our schools, district, and community, our collective actions leave little doubt that we will get through these trying times, together.

Please take good care of yourselves, those around you, and those you love. I wish you all the very best.

Sincerely,

Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent

 <p>BOARD OF EDUCATION BURNABY SCHOOL DISTRICT 41</p> <p>IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE HAVE THIS TRANSLATED</p> <p>RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS Prière de les faire traduire.</p> <p>重要資料 請找人為你翻譯</p>	<p>これはたいせつなお知らせです。 どなたかに日本語に訳してもらってください。</p> <p>알려드립니다 아것을 번역해 주십시오</p> <p>CHỈ DẪN QUAN TRỌNG Xin nhờ người dịch hộ</p> <p>ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵਿਕਲ ਬਰਏ ਵਿਸੇ ਬੇਠੋਂ ਰਿਸ ਦਾ ਉੱਠੋਂਕਾ ਬਰਦਾਰ ।</p> <p>INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE Busque alguien que le traduzca.</p>	<p>اطلاعات مهم و سودمند لطفاً از یک نفر بخواهید که برای شما ترجمه کند</p> <p>ITO AY MAHALAGANG IMPORMASYON Isalin sa wikang tagalog kung hindi maintindihan</p> <p>یرجی ترجمه هذا معلومات هامة</p> <p>ВАЖНАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ Переведите это, пожалуйста.</p>
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