



Kidston Elementary School News

April 2020



Growing Together ...

Caring, Capable Citizens in a
Changing World

Navigating these unprecedented times

First and foremost, we hope that this school news finds you and your family healthy and safe during these very challenging times. This would typically be a time when we would all be excitedly awaiting the students to return and all the learning and activities for the spring term. Instead we are faced with much uncertainty as we set sail in new and unfamiliar waters. Our district administration team have been busy over the past weeks helping us to prepare for the weeks to come.

This news is to provide families with information about what to expect this week.

Safe and healthy schools

Our work in the schools this week will begin with focussing on establishing safe and healthy protocols for our school sites. This includes guidelines for social distancing and safety and cleaning protocols for access to school sites for staff. A big thank you to Mr. Ferguson for all of his work cleaning our school over the break. He will continue to be a big part of keeping our schools safe and clean.



Connecting with Families

Teachers will be connecting with families this week. Our primary focus for this initial contact is to check in with each other. As we begin our planning for continued educational opportunities for students, we will be wanting to understand how we can support our students and families. Things like access to technology, possible support for learning, best timing for contact. More importantly, it's a time for us to let our families and students know we are here for them. Teachers will be eager to let their students know they are missing them and here to help.

Where to find information

Our school and the school district website will be kept updated with all the latest information. All of our actions are guided by public health and ministry directives.

<http://www.sd22.bc.ca>

If you have questions, you can also email me at dcullum@sd22.bc.ca

If you have any library books please drop them in the box outside of the main doors. *Thanks Mr. Beck & Mrs. Fehr*

The school is closed to all public access at this time.

Continuity of educational opportunities

After initial contact with families this week, teachers will begin planning for providing learning opportunities for students. This is new territory for almost all educators and it will take some time to decide and design how to make this happen. We also know that it is a brand new experience for students and their families. We want to be considerate of families and students by not setting unrealistic expectations or pressures on anyone. We can all get through this if we work together and stay calm and kind.

Picking up student belongings

We will be making plans for families wanting to pick up their student belongings from the school. We will contact parents with our plans once set.



As parents will be receiving more emails than normal please check the Kidston website regularly for any messages and updates coming from our office or the school district. We will post there to try and minimize emails.

Principal's message

It only seems fitting that during these challenging times, our motto of *Kidston Kindness* applies more than ever. We are lucky we have been practicing Kidston Kindness each day we have been at school.

Be Kind - to the world - by staying safe, healthy and home. Be a positive part of making a difference for everyone.

Be Kind - to your families - help each other out and stay connected. How wonderful that we have so many ways to reach out and support others.

Be Kind - to yourself - do all of those healthy, stress-reducing activities we know make a difference. Eat well, exercise, wash your hands, and stay rested. Parents - don't compare yourself to others as we enter this new format of learning and parenting.

Be Kind - to your teachers - they are in this with you and have their own families to keep healthy and safe as well. They are having to learn new things to support your learning and they will all find a way to do that for you. They love their students and are missing them. Please don't compare what one teacher does to another. They too will be doing their best to help each of their students and families.

Be Kind - to your neighbours - reach out to them and let them know we are all in this together. Bang those pots and pans for the health care workers or make those hearts for your windows. Deliver some food for someone elderly or compromised. Wave from the window when you see your neighbours walking by.

What do I always say at the end of morning announcements?

“Remember to use kind words and kind actions”

Mrs. Cullum