

Friday March 27, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I just wanted to take a moment to connect with our Derrydown School community and firstly acknowledge that this is a difficult and unprecedented time and situation for our generation and that we your child's teacher(s) and support staff continue to think about and seek ways to support the well-being of all students, their families and each other.

I wanted to share a few reminders, as I realize that information is coming very quickly and constantly and rapidly changes from day to day.

First, what we know from the Ontario government that schools **WILL NOT** re-open on April 6th. When we have more information on new timelines, we will share that with you.

Here is the link to the Ministry of Education's [Learn at Home](#) website. This portal provides supplementary learning materials in math and literacy for elementary and secondary students. The website will help keep students learning and engaged during the COVID-19 school closure period. The Ministry has said that these resources do not replace what students have been learning at school, but are intended to help mitigate the loss of learning during the COVID-19 shutdown period.

Here is a second link to the [TDSB Student Learning Resources](#) that will support the Ministry's Learn at Home initiative.

Going forward student well-being and mental health will also be an important focus. Both school-based staff and Professional Support Services share responsibilities for supporting student well-being. There are a variety of [Mental Health and Well-Being Resources](#) for students and families available on the TDSB web.

This week and next are being used to set up our system for success. We are gathering information, assessing needs, and formulating plans about the continuation of learning and will be communicating with our school community and families as soon as these plans are finalized. Some of you may have received a call from Mrs. Romanovich or me inquiring as to your child's access to technology at home as well as a current email address that the school and school board can contact you as needed. If we did not reach out to you, and you have an updated email address or you would like to share any questions or concerns with me directly prior to April 5th, please contact me at sherron.grant@tdsb.on.ca and I will acknowledge and respond to your questions/concerns in a reasonable timeframe given the current circumstances.

Having an up-to-date email address and contact phone numbers is essential at this time as we will be using our automated system *School Messenger* to share information and updates. I will keep the community informed in an on-going way as we continue this work moving forward.

And finally, please refer to this link or refer to the [Parent letters from the Director of Education on our Board's website](#) for updates directly from our Director John Malloy. You can also visit our school website <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/derrydown> or follow us on Twitter at @Derrydown_TDSB for information and updates.

Thank you for reading, thank you for your patience, thank you for your flexibility. We miss working with your children. We miss dialoguing and partnering with you. We look forward to when things return to normal and we can get back to doing what we love to do.

Take care, continue to social and physical distance from others and we'll be in touch.

Sincerely,

Sherron Grant
Principal