

Morrish Public School

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Dear Morrish Public School Families,

Many of you have likely heard the announcement that all publicly-funded schools in Ontario, including those at the TDSB, will remain closed until at least May 31, 2020 as part of ongoing efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19. This does not mean that the school year is cancelled. The Minister of Education will provide more details in the upcoming days and as soon as we have details to share, we will do so. I know families have many questions and face a number of challenges with Remote Learning. I want to assure you that the entire staff at Morrish Public School wants to be as supportive as possible. Please reach out to your teachers should you need any help or have any questions about the activities/assignments. Additionally, our teachers have also been posted a number of fun activities that you can participate in to keep yourself healthy and active. These activities can be found by visiting our [Morrish website](#) under the teacher's link.

Below is an update of the information that I would like to share with you:

- **School Closure Period** – The Education Minister announced that the earliest that students will return to school is May 31, 2020. The government also said that as we approach this date, the decision will be reevaluated and that the closure may be extended based on public health advice.
- **Remote Learning** – As of Monday April 6, teachers have posted activities and assignments for their students to complete. We continue to work with our teachers and students in order for all of us to become comfortable in this new learning environment.
- **Guidelines for learning by grade** -As outlined by the Ministry of Education, educators are to re-establish teacher-led learning by grade groupings as follows:
 - Kindergarten-Grade 3:* five hours of work per student/week (focus on literacy and Math)
 - Grades 4-6:* five hours of work per student/week (focus on literacy, Math, Science and Social Studies)
 - Grades 7-8:* 10 hours of work per student/week (focus on Math, literacy, Science and History / Geography)

- **Assessment on this learning** - For **elementary students**, teachers will use approaches to gather evidence of student learning and will provide meaningful feedback to students on their progress. Evidence of significant improvement in learning, during the closure period, may be taken into consideration by the teacher when assigning a final grade in a subject area. Otherwise, students, in Grades 1 to 8, will be assigned the grades earned based on their learning of the expectations in the curriculum up until schools closed on March 13, 2020. All students, Kindergarten to Grade 8, will receive a June report card.
- **Reading to your Child** – Ms. Rauthmell has posted a great instructional video on how to read with your child. This 3 part video is posted on our [Morrish website](#) under the Teachers’ link.
- **Staying Active** – Mr. Crabbe has posted a CN Tower Stair Climb challenge for our students. You can find this challenge by visiting our [Morrish website](#) under the Teachers’ link.
- **Setting up your children for success** – Below are a few guidelines to assist you in supporting Remote learning at home:
 - I. ***Establish routines and expectations wherever possible*** - The absence of routine may make it difficult for some children to adjust. Try setting regular hours for your children's school work and keeping normal bedtime routines. Children should move regularly and take periodic breaks as they study.
 - II. ***Create a physical study space*** - Families are encouraged to establish a space/location where your children will learn most of the time. To help your child stay on task, try establishing a space where you are able to monitor your child’s learning. Connect with your child’s teacher for support and suggestions in this area.
 - III. ***Monitor communications from your child’s teachers*** - Teachers may communicate with families through email, online learning platforms (such as Brightspace and Google Classroom, SeeSaw). Encourage your child to explain the learning tools that are being used.
 - IV. ***Check-in at the start and end of each day*** - Some children struggle with too much independence or lack of structure. By starting and finishing each day with a simple check-in, children can better process the instructions they've received from their teachers, organize themselves and set priorities.
 - V. ***Play an active role in your child’s learning*** - While some of the regular school day social interactions will be re-created on virtual platforms, others will not. Regularly circle back and engage with your child about what they're learning. It’s important, however, that your child owns their work; don't complete assignments for them, even when they are challenged.
 - VI. ***Establish times for quiet and reflection*** - Each family’s circumstances are unique and will require families to not only adapt but to also do what’s

best based on their situation. Consider using headphones to create a quieter space to complete work. If your living arrangements allow, try finding different times or rooms for siblings to complete work to avoid distractions. Establish these parameters from the beginning to build habits of success.

- VII. ***Encourage physical activity and/or exercise*** - Remind your child to move and exercise. Research shows that increased physical activity links with positive changes in cognitive functioning, health, well-being and learning. Consider an online physical challenge and/or exercise class.
- VIII. ***Be mindful of your child's feelings*** - Try to help children manage the worry, anxiety and range of emotions they may experience. Physical distancing can be seen as an opportunity to learn with your kids and increased family time. Stay connected through social media, phone call or video calling with family and friends. You can also view our [online resources](#).
- IX. ***Monitor time spent online-*** Monitor the length of time your child is spending online. Communication is key and teachers will require your feedback in order to find the necessary balance.
- X. ***Stay social, but set parameters for social media-*** Monitor your child's use of social media and the platforms they use. Remind your child/teen to be polite, respectful and appropriate in their online communications, and to represent your family's values in their interactions with others. Online interactions should continue to align with the school and board's values and [online code of conduct policy](#).
- **Staying Connected** – Our first group of families who completed their device request will receive a wi-fi enabled device. The TDSB is working through all the requests and will reach out to the family and the school when it is ready to send you a device. Families expecting a device will receive an email or call from Purolator providing them with a delivery window.
 - **Toronto Public Health Website for COVID-19 Updates-** <https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/>
 - **Ontario 211** – This is a great resource for updated information that allow you to browse Ontario 211's database of local service organizations by topic. Find providers in your area and connect with them directly by phone or email.

Take care of yourselves and each other. As we move forward, please know that we are here to support you and your family during this unprecedented time. Please continue to practice safe social distancing.

Be well.



Arif Nathoo
Principal