



May 1, 2020

## **Superintendent's Update**

Dear staff, students, parents, families, and community,

Hope everyone is enjoying the spring weather and getting outside to enjoy the sunshine! It appears we have settled into a routine of teaching, learning and connecting with our students - but we also look forward to when we can be together again.

Here is an update:

### **1. Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, families, and all employees.**

Our focus continues to be on health and safety for everyone entering our school building. To date, we have been following the Provincial Health Officer's guidelines for K-12 settings as our Health and Safety Protocols. Further to this and in conjunction with our stakeholders, we are reviewing a comprehensive document, "Exposure Control Plan for COVID-19", which outlines control measures to minimize or eliminate the potential for transmission of communicable disease. This document is to coordinate staff training and safety measures used to minimize the potential of exposure to COVID-19 as we prepare to invite our priority students to our school sites, and not only keep them safe but continue to provide safety for all of our staff.

### **2. Provide services to support children of essential workers.**

We have opened our education care for children of essential service workers at Lax Kxeen school site. We currently have 13 students in attendance in two classrooms. There are physical distancing procedures in place, as well as continuous cleaning and sanitizing. The teacher and EAs are thrilled to be working with students again. The focus is on keeping up with the students' education plans, their online meetings with their regular classroom teacher, and getting plenty of outdoor exercise.

### **3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.**

We are continuing to provide a food program to our students who normally access our breakfast or lunch program. Grocery cards were delivered to our priority families this week. Next week we will once again deliver groceries, which we are calling "Bags of Goodness". We look forward to the opportunity to meet, greet, and say a friendly "hello" to the parents and students. It warms our hearts to continue the connection between home and school.

### **4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.**

Schools are working with their Occupational Health and Safety Committees to review the guidelines to the "Exposure Control Plan for COVID-19" and will be followed by staff training in order for schools to be safely prepared to invite students into school sites. Each school will determine how and when they support priority students who may require additional support accessing continuity of education opportunities.

Pacific Coast School (PCS) was the first to open their doors for their Grade 12 students. Both staff and students are happy to access their learning and connect with school staff.

On Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, PRMS will be inviting students into their school for both academic and social emotional connections. Additional school sites are getting ready to open up shortly thereafter. Parents will be contacted by their schools with additional information.

**Remember:**

***Everyone has a role to play in reducing the spread of this virus and protecting the people we love.***

**The most important things we can do to limit the spread of the virus are:**

- Do not come to work or school if you are sick.
- Stay home as much as possible and limit contact with other people.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your face.

Stay safe and healthy.

We are all in this together and we've got this!

Irene LaPierre  
Superintendent of Schools  
School District 52 Prince Rupert