



ORONO PUBLIC SCHOOL

April 2020

Orono Public School

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Interesting Times in Education

To say that we are living in an interesting time is a bit of an understatement right now, but this is what we find ourselves in. As far as I can tell from my research, it has been more than 100 years since schools were closed, and the last time was for the Spanish Flu epidemic in 1918. I've tried my best to keep everyone informed of what is happening right now, but thought I would put together a newsletter with some longer term information for all families at this time.

First of all, I just want to say thank you to everyone for your understanding, patience and support through this transition. None of us here at the school were trained for something like this, so it has been a learning curve for everyone. I also want to thank you for the extra time and help you are putting into your child's education as you support them at home with the work teachers are sending.

All teachers have set up their distance learning environment and all kids should be connected and interacting with them via this platform. Weekly tasks will be posted on in these locations and students can access work and submit items through that media source. Students can expect five hours of work per week, the main focus of the work being mathematics and language arts (with science and social studies covered for the grade 4-6 grades also). If you haven't already done so, please make sure that you have responded to your child's teacher through the learning platform, so they are sure that you are receiving the work and that your child is able to access things.

We have heard about the expectations for final report cards. Report cards will be completed for the end of the year, and since final reports are based on the whole year, they will include all assessment and information up to and including March 13th (March Break). Any information received since March Break (during this distance learning phase) can be considered for marks, but only if it profits their overall learning in that subject area. We don't want this very unique and not ideal learning situation to hinder or negatively impact any student's mark.

In the next week or so we will also be in a position to start reimbursing families for the missed hot lunch program. Those who paid by School Cash will be reimbursed through that system, and those who paid by cash will receive a cheque. We will send out a message via School Messenger once that is set-up and ready to go out to families.

It is important to know that, even if we do get back into the school before the end of the school year, the ministry has disallowed any school trips for the remainder of the school year. This means any school trips or sports events planned for the rest of this school year are now cancelled. This will have most impact on our grade 6 class, which would have had a class trip to mark the end of their time here at Orono. I am still looking at options for some sort of Graduation ceremony, but not knowing if we will be back into the school or not before the end of the year has left that planning up in the air. I am keeping my eye on that, and will communicate a plan once we have clarity on our situation in the coming months.

Although things are in somewhat disarray, we are still continuing to plan and get ready for our school year in the fall. We have continued with staffing and are in a position to point out a temporary plan for our school in the fall. Please be advised that this is still temporary classroom set-up and could change due to enrollments or other unforeseen circumstances.

JK/SK	A. Armstrong
JK/SK	B. Shewfelt
Grade 1/2	S. Scott & A. Winslow
Grade 1/2	M. Richardson (on Mat leave—replacement TBA)
Grade 2/3	L. Gershon & A. Winslow
Grade 3/4	J. Parish
Grade 4/5	J. Griffin
Grade 5/6	R. Forbes
Grade 6	S. Riga

I want to finish this newsletter by saying a special thank you to all of our teachers here at Orono. They have really stepped up during an unprecedented time in education, and I couldn't be more proud of them. They are working hard to support your children and you at home, and still care about the wellbeing of every child. Many of them are also trying to support their own children at home and playing a dual role can be stressful and difficult right now.

I hope we are able to see each other face to face again this school year, and will continue to keep you as informed as possible during this time. Please know that you can always reach out to me via email at: stephen_fisher@kprdsb.ca

S. Fisher

Principal