



Lord Kitchener  
Elementary School

April 9, 2020

Good Afternoon Lord Kitchener Community,

As we move to the end of our second week, we would like to thank you for your trust and support as teachers move their classrooms over to various online platforms. For many of us, this process is new. As I mentioned to staff last week, we often ask our students to step out of their comfort zones and to try something new – and now, it's our time to take the leap! This new format has been nerve-wracking, frustrating (at times) and extremely exciting! It has been wonderful to see students connecting with their classmates online. Some classes have tried a video check-in and others have been posting online messages and assignments.

It is important to remember that the continuity of learning model the Ministry of Education has requested from us is not the same as "online learning." That model looks quite different from what we will be working with. Online learning is often suited for older, independent students who set up workspaces for minimal distraction, their instructors are trained to work within a very unique setting and students are prepared to receive a very different model of instruction.

We are working under some very challenging circumstances. Many parents are now working from home, children and many families are sharing devices, internet speeds are being affected and home learning is presenting a number of different challenges for our families. We also need to remember that many teachers are experiencing the same challenges in their own lives, a balance we are trying to manage in a very challenging time.

As teachers begin to roll out their programs, please be mindful of their time as well as their ability to get back to you. We have recommended that they set some dedicated "office hours" to help with the flow of communication. For job share partners, please ensure that you are emailing both teachers and they will respond to you on their usual teaching day. Teachers will be focusing on communicating with students and will be providing support, encouragement and reflection along the way. This will look different for each teacher and will take some time to master. We expect that there will be some glitches along the way, but we will get there, together.

Our school counsellor, Resource and SSA teams are also busy connecting with parents and students and will continue to offer support over the next couple of months. Please feel free to reach out to them if you have any questions. They will also be supporting their classroom teachers, so if your child is needing any extra help, please let us know.

We will be sending out something fun to our community - Mrs. Shepherd is in the process of preparing it, so expect a little surprise in your in-box next week!

- Our Superintendent, Suzanne Hoffman, is posting short, video updates. They can be found on the VSB's website [www.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.vsb.bc.ca)
- Many of our students will be working from their school account as it allows access to Microsoft Office, word documents and Teams. Their account is their student#@learn.vsb.bc.ca
- Parents can now access a new website that will allow them to change the password. Please go to <https://studentpass.vsb.bc.ca>
  - Parents must use their child's PEN (Personal Educational Number) with their date of birth to update passwords. If you do not know your child's PEN or student number, please contact your child's teacher or the office.

We trust that you will be able to enjoy the long weekend, and if you are observing Passover or Easter, we hope that you are able to connect with your community in many creative and unique ways.

Take Care, Stay Home & Stay Safe

Mr. Murphy and Ms. Stewart