



# David Livingstone Elementary School

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May 1, 2020

Dear Livingstone Families,

I hope you are doing okay in the midst of #SchoolAtHome. Just a reminder that weekly invitations to learning are just that. They are possibilities to incorporate into your day. Suggestions are open ended to incorporate a broad range of subject area learning and core competencies. We are not offering a Distance Education Program with strict requirements. That being said, it is not an extended holiday. I have insisted that staff maintain regular weekly communication with families. I want students to understand that each one of them continue to be part of a school community that cares about them.

Teachers are working from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm every day, usually at home. Sometimes at school. I am so proud of the efforts and risk taking that has allowed a number of supportive and rich learning opportunities to unfold for our Livingstone students. How the learning is structured is entirely under the discretion of the classroom, and resource teachers. Ms. Presley, our music teacher, is also providing invitations to continue to develop music skills and support mental health. I am trying to provide opportunities on the website and via daily video tweets and letters to students to encourage whole school participation in common activities. I am currently trying to wrap my mind around doing an online assembly. All of us very much appreciated Dr. Bonnie Henry's recent thank you message to educators. It has been intensely stressful trying to meet the demands of our own expectations of ourselves as educators.

Email is not always the best communication. Feel free to pick up the phone and call the school office. We will pass the message on to the teacher to call you back. I am in the office every day. Office staff is working at school and sometimes at home where they are regularly checking messages. We need to know that all of our students and our families are okay. We are happy to step in with resources and assistances where needed. The office is crazy busy, but please do not let that deter you from calling. I will always make time for the conversations that matter most.

There continue to be questions about assessment and reporting. The most dominant message is that student marks from prior to the Spring Break will not go down as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The philosophy of assessment and reporting remains the same. The format will also remain the same. Any information that teachers are able to collect in this context will be added to the data that already has been collected. I have included information from the VSB website at the bottom of this letter for you to review. Expectations for instruction and reporting are different from when we were young. Research tells us it is better. That is why other countries look to us for guidance.

I hope you are able to find some time for fun this weekend. I'm a big believer in the saying "If you don't laugh, you cry"! My husband and I are laughing a lot these days. Perhaps more so when I leave every morning! HaHa! Perhaps the weather forecast will be wrong again! Enjoy.

Happy weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. C. Froese".

Carrie Froese

Message from VSB website:

### **Communicating Student Learning**

Because of the redesigned curriculum, a new approach to assessment and reporting is needed. It is called Communicating Student Learning or CSL. The Vancouver School District is therefore changing its assessment and reporting practices. Changes in how parents receive information on their child's learning will include strengths-based reporting (using a proficiency scale). This change will take place for all elementary grades by the 2020-2021 school year.

This approach gives information that advances learning rather than focusing on measuring learning. The approach helps students and parents answer three questions about the learning:

- Where is the student now?
- Where are they going?
- How do they get there?

This reporting practice gives a complete picture of how students are doing at school and how their learning is developing. By participating in this process, students are provided with meaningful information and feedback about their learning, so that they are more empowered to reach their learning goals. Parents are involved as partners in the best ways to support and improve their child's learning.

## **Report card format**

As a result, report cards will look different, and will include:

- Descriptive written comments addressing:
  - student learning strengths
  - areas for growth
  - ways to support learning
- A student proficiency scale for each subject area (in relation to grade level expectations):
  - BEGINNING to acquire knowledge, skills, strategies and processes
  - DEVELOPING the ability to apply knowledge, skills, strategies and processes
  - APPLYING knowledge, skills, strategies and processes consistently
  - EXTENDING knowledge, skills, strategies and processes creatively and strategically.