Message from Mrs. Thorne:

Sunday April 5th, 2020

Good afternoon to our parent/guardian community:

This has definitely not been easy for all of us – on a personal note, I would like to express to each and every parent (that although we may not have always been on the same page) how much I value and appreciate you, as you all add a lens to our school community.  I have had some time to reflect over the past while and I would like to share with you if I may:

* It has provided me a lot of time to reconnect with my family – when we are told to stay home how do I stay in touch with my mom, my brother, his wife and my two nephews and my extended family.  I even baked chocolate chip cookies J I know even old dogs like me can learn new things J
* I have learned that the phrase “we are in it together” has an whole new meaning, sometimes it feels very lonely as I miss the staff, the students, the parent connection, the community connection.  I took a lot of these connections for granted and when they are not there, it leaves a hole in my heart and a little bit of sadness – but also a ton of joy and gladness knowing that I am a part of Townview School (with each and everyone of you)
* You know, I always say “it is what it is” for me that tells me that there are some things that I cannot change – but I can learn new ways of doing things and interacting with the ones that count the most, and I can honestly say, that each and every one of you matter to me.  You all play a major role in my life and the life of Townsview and I am thankful for that.
* I also have a sign in my office – “when I thought I had my ducks in a row – someone moved the lake”.  I learned that I do not always need that same lake – just need to find another one J
* We have the capability to check voice messages when a parent calls in with questions or looking for support
* We have updated our school website to put as much information for our parents as we possibly can and to also promote the student connectedness as well (in a virtual way), the website address is

 <http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/TownsView/Pages/default.aspx>

* On our website in the upper left hand site – you will see a link called COVID 19 Request to Connect Online Form (click on that image and record your message) this message is being sent directly to a school administer to answer your question
* You will also see that we have turned Thunder Express to Townsview Good News Update – check out the first video that our staff prepared for our students (thanks to Chris Belzil for taking the lead on this)
* We have also included a link to information on COVID 19 to help answer any question you may have
* ASD-W website also has a link for COVID 19 (the link is to the right on the website) this link offers valuable information for all parents and also offers information on the Continuity Learning Plan – the website is  <http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/Pages/default.aspx>
* Parents are asking when can we receive our refunds – Wanda Dickinson and myself will start that process tomorrow.  We are going into the school once a week until we are able to close our books.  I would ask that parents or students not come to the school, as I am not permitted to let you in at this time.  Once we have cheques written we will be mailing them out, I do appreciate your patience on this as with all the activities that were going on, this is a pretty big task
* Parents are asking when can we come to the school to pick up our child’s personal items – at this time, parents are not permitted to enter the school. We are following the directive from the State of Emergency asking people for physically distancing and staying home.  When this changes I will definitely keep you in the loop.  Thank you
* Thanks to the Home & School who have been helping us to promote positive messages about staying well and helping to connect our parent and student community.  If you have a photo that you would like to share with how you child / children are doing that would be great.  You can email these photos to Pam Steeves pamsteeves42@gmail.com or Chelsey Phillips chelsandcaliphillips@gmail.com .

As you all know that the Department of Education released the Continuity Learning Plan last Thursday, April 2nd – and I would like to offer clarification to our parent community to help answer your questions as to what this might look like and feel like for your child, I will highlight a couple of items for you:

* The Minister of Education declared that all schools are closed for the remainder of the year, unless drastic changes to the State of Emergency take place.
* There are no plans for April report cards and yet to be decided on would be June report cards
* All students will be promoted to the next grade level for the 2020-2021 school year
* Teachers have been provided the framework and have a mandate to offer learning opportunities to your child while they are at home
* Teachers have been asked to not turn your living room into a classroom and be sensitive to the needs of all families
* Teachers have been asked to stay within the instructional time that was laid out in the Continuity Plan, and they will be sending learning opportunities per grade level or subject level as outlined in the Continuity Learning Plan.  If you have not read this document – it can accessed on our EECD website, our school website or the ASD-W website.  I would encourage you all to read it as provides the directive to the learning opportunities
* This week, teachers will be reaching out to all students that they teach in the areas of literacy, numeracy, science & social studies depending on the grade level (as outlined in the Continuity Learning Plan).  It is vital that you respond to their email so that they know the email went through.  If by chance you did not see an email from your teacher, you can contact the school and we can help you out.   If a teacher does not hear from you – they will try to connect with you by telephone – it may come in as a blocked message, as teachers have been instructed to do this as they are using their private line and would need to protect the privacy of their phone line.  Hoping you can appreciate this, thank you for your understanding and patience.
* Each week, teachers will be sending home a weekly plan to offer learning opportunities – they will not be daily lesson plans.  I will leave it with the individual teacher to let you know of the timelines
* It is important to note the learning opportunities are not online instruction or teacher led instruction – the weekly plans to encourage and engage your child for learning at home
* You will note that there is no perfect way to do this and teachers will be working within their grade level and subject areas to ensure consistency and to ensure it does not get complicated

I know most of you will have some questions but I wanted to outline the basic premise of the Continuity Learning Plan.  I would encourage that you reach out to your child’s teacher.  If you have another question for admin or resource staff, you can reach out to them as well.  The number one priority is ensure all families remain safe and we follow the directives from the Provincial Government.   In closing, I hope you all continue to find new ways of learning and connecting with one another, while all staying safe.  Take care

Pat