



April 27, 2020

Superintendent's Update

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

It's hard to believe we are in week four of our "new" form of teaching and learning. I'm sure for most it's been a huge learning curve on how to meet your students' needs at home. I encourage parents/caregivers to reach out to the school when in doubt or when you need some support and guidance. This is "new" for all of us and know that we are in this together.

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. Students' personal items for the most part have been picked up from schools and school work packages are either being delivered or picked up depending on families' situations. We continue to miss our students and families and look forward to the time when we can be together again.

2. Provide services to support children of essential workers.

We have opened our education care for children of essential service workers (ESW) at our Lax Kxeen school site. Last week we invited families with unique needs who require childcare to our ESW program. We've also invited Tier 2 which are the children of service providers of critical infrastructure, such as those keeping our city operating.

3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.

We are implementing the continuity of providing a food program for our students who normally access the breakfast or lunch program. On Friday we delivered "Bags of Goodness" to over 200 families. It was a huge undertaking but the feedback from some of the families made it worthwhile.

4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.

Educational opportunities are available online and with learning packages unique to each school site. We understand how stressful and overwhelming it can be for some families; therefore, teachers will be ensuring they are only covering essential outcomes and not the full course content, especially at the higher grades.

The technology department has been very busy preparing devices for use at home. These devices are available to students from their schools for those families in need only.

Next steps are to support our priority students who may require additional support accessing continuity of education opportunities. School staff will be brainstorming ways we can invite students in our schools under very controlled environments and following COVID-19 guidelines. Pacific Coast School (PCS) has opened their doors today for their grade 12 students.

Remember: we are all in this together and we've got this!

Stay safe and healthy.

Irene LaPierre
Superintendent of Schools
School District 52 Prince Rupert