



*"Home of the Thunderbirds"*

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June 19, 2020

Dear Carisbrooke Families,

Today Carisbrooke School honors **National Indigenous Peoples Day**. Although we are not able to gather to learn, share and grow as we normally would, it is critical that our school community re-commit to anti-racism and to learning the true history of Canada. I am deeply aware of my moral obligation to educate myself. We must all seek out voices who will speak their truth, and listen with an open heart to become more fully educated citizens of the world.

Today I can think of no voice more poignant in its truth-telling or powerful in its courage than that of Chief Dan George. This Tseil-Waututh Nation Chief, author, poet and Academy Award nominated actor delivered his powerful "Lament for Confederation" at Empire Stadium on Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

A transcript can be found here: <http://www.whitewolfpack.com/2013/07/canada-day-lament-for-confederation-by.html> . In reading these words I know that not enough has changed in Canada. Each of us has a role to play in the creating a country that is authentically accepting of diversity and active in anti-racism.

To learn more about Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada click here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/indigenous-peoples-day.html> .

The annual Carisbrooke School Plan renews our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. Carisbrooke's exploration of Canada's history of systemic racism as well as ongoing discrimination is entering its fourth year. As a community we have committed to creating authentic and deep systemic change through education.

The Black Lives Matter movement shows that the world wants to name, call out, and protest racism. Today the United States is celebrating "Juneteenth" to commemorate the abolition of slavery in that country while it too continues to struggle with systemic racism. All over the world, fellow citizens of our planet, are raising their collective voices to amplify the demand for change at all levels of government and society.

At home you may be interested in exploring these complex issues with your children. The school district has compiled a resource list for parents on Diversity, Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism to support Anti-Racist and Black Lives Matter Action. This information has been posted to the NVDS website for parent and public access [HERE](#).

A family in our school shared the links below which you may also find of interest:

<https://yoopies.co.uk/c/press-releases/blacklivesmatter>

<https://www.getepic.com/collection/15765540/racism> .

Carisbrooke grade 5 student Victoria Kang wrote a moving and honest 'Letter to the Editor' published in the North Shore News on June 17<sup>th</sup>. She courageously shared her personal experiences of racism during this time of COVID-19. The link to the North Shore News can be found here: <https://www.nsnews.com/opinion/letter-a-message-from-a-fifth-grader-who-s-experienced-racism-in-the-era-of-covid-19-1.24154629> . We admire Victoria for speaking her truth. Thank you for your leadership Victoria!

## REMINDERS FOR THE LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL

The last week of school and summer break are upon us! This is a friendly reminder of the alternate instructional schedule planned for next week. As you know, the last week of school is a shortened, four-day week, with Friday, June 26 being a Professional/Administrative Day. The schedule for the last week of school has been adjusted to ensure equal access to classroom opportunities.

- **Monday, June 22** - K-5 Cohort 1 and Priority Learners
- **Tuesday, June 23** - Grades 6-7 (both Cohorts 1 and 2) and Priority Learners
- **Wednesday, June 24** - Priority Learners only
- **Thursday, June 25** - K-5 Cohort 2 and Priority Learners
- **Friday, June 26** - Administrative Day

Parents are reminded of their responsibility to ensure a health check is completed before children are sent to school and to ensure that children who are unwell are kept at home. We are reliant upon parents' cooperation and diligence with this task. Students who arrive, or become, ill at school will be sent home.

All children, older students and adults are reminded to strictly maintain physical distancing measures. Stay two metres away from people outside your own household. While the PHO and Ministry of Education have acknowledged that strict two metre physical distancing is harder for younger students, we are teaching younger children to minimize physical contact, encouraging them to "keep their hands to themselves" and/or "stay within their own bubbles":

With Wednesday being the last day of remote learning please be sure to return any computer equipment that has borrowed from the school. Call ahead to arrange safe drop off to the main office.

Other school items – texts, library books and school uniforms - can be dropped off at any time to the boxes at the main door, undercover.

Our year end car parade happening in front of the school on Wednesday June 24 beginning promptly at 1:30pm. The invitation can be found here:

<https://www.sd44.ca/school/carisbrooke/About/Newsletters/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

Parent drivers are reminded to follow the rules of the road. The Motor Vehicle Act applies to this community appreciation event – students must be sitting, seatbelts on, and in booster seats as appropriate. No hanging out of car windows please.

### **And finally, regarding next year...**

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 8. It will be a shortened day beginning at 8:43am and ending at 11am.

While the Carisbrooke school team is planning ahead for September, there remains some uncertainty regarding what school will look like in the fall. In order to help us plan, we invite you and your child(ren) to share your learning experiences during COVID-19. Please take a few moments to respond to this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JSFDDX2> . The survey will close at the end of the day, June 30.

Friends, we have come far but there is still much to do. As we head into summer, I encourage you to continue to take care of each other, to speak up against injustice, and to move kindly and gently through the world. Have a safe and restful summer!

Warm regards,

Lisa Upton, Principal