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Friday, May 1, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

On behalf of our entire Carisbrooke Team, George and I would like to say that we miss your children very, very, much, and that we most sincerely hope that you are all well.

Today we wanted to reach out with some reassurance about learning at home. Our school team has been providing your families with developmentally appropriate learning plans for your student(s). Some of you have requested more work and others are reaching out in exhaustion and frustration stating that your family simply cannot keep up. Staff will continue to plan for student learning using their professional expertise and knowledge of their classroom learners. Once the weekly learning plan is emailed out however, **please know that what ever your family is able to manage is enough.** There is no expectation that parents and guardians provide a level of instruction commensurate with formal schooling. It is ok not to be able to manage all of the weekly assignments. Feel free to communicate your family situation directly to the teacher(s) and they will help you prioritize from the lists of weekly learning activities given.

If your family is looking for more school work to do, we encourage you to visit the BC Ministry of Education's [B.C. Keep Learning](#) website. It is updated daily, and includes tips for staying healthy, suggestions for structuring learning at home, and a list of recommended websites and resources to support learning.

The Ministry of Education has provided guidelines during this difficult time to alleviate frustration and worry.

- These are exceptional times and while it's important for children to keep learning, there is **no expectation that the pace and rigour of a normal school day be duplicated at home.**
- Teachers will continue to provide instruction and **parent/caregiver involvement will depend on the age and ability of the child and the time that parents/caregivers are able to give.** Every family will determine what works best for them in discussion with their children's teachers.
- The Ministry has not mandated or specified the minimum (or maximum) number of learning hours that must be completed at any grade level, including secondary grades.
- The time commitment required from parents will depend on a number of factors including the grade level of the student and the approach used by the school and individual teacher.
- The evaluation of learning taking place after the suspension of in-class instruction should be in relation to a smaller selection of learning standards which students are able to complete at home.
- Since many students will not have easy access to specific learning resources aligned to the curriculum, summative assessment should **focus on the development of competencies and key literacy and numeracy skills**, rather than mastery of specific content.

Ongoing communication with students and their families is important. **This week the Ministry of Education formalized their expectation of weekly communication with families during remote learning.** A duty of the school system is to ensure that families and children are safe and healthy. The Ministry of Education expects **a minimum of one contact** by the teacher and **one response by the student or parent per week.** This "two-way" communication can include: teacher-student phone call, a replied email from the student or parent(s), a completed assignment, comment, or interaction in Scholantis, FreshGrade, or Microsoft Teams, participation in video

conferencing as well as any other examples where a student has engaged or communicated in learning. If you like, you can simply reply 'received' to the weekly teacher email to simplify this process.

On a lighter note, we are enjoying writing 'Carisbrooke Connects for Kids'! Keep sending us your stories, adventures and shanigans! By sending us content, you are giving us permission to publish them as part of the weekly kid's newsletter. [Click here for the Carisbrooke for Kids Newsletter](#)

Our staff is thinking of you and sending our very best wishes. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to connect with us.

With kindest regards,

Lisa Upton	and	George Polymenakos
Principal		Vice Principal