CARISBROOKE
Elementary School

"Home of the Thunderbirds"

510 Carisbrooke Rd E North Vancouver BC V7N 1N5 p: 604. 903. 3380 f: 604.903.3381 w: carisbrooke@sd44.ca

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Thursday, April 9, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

As the sun begins to shine on a more regular basis, our families are beginning to feel the sense of hope that spring brings. George and I hope that you and yours are safe and well.

Our school team is conscientiously, slowly, and with great intention, rolling out planning for Continuity of Education in support of learning at home. The Carisbrooke team is sensitive to the reality that we are all facing unique challenges, so our plans are extended to families with the expectation that they will engage in a way that is most meaningful and manageable for them. Please do not expect learning at home to look anything like a typical school day.

Differences between teachers and schools are to be expected. Each community, each classroom, each child, is unique and will benefit from different supports. Please expect a range in the type and depth of contacts that teachers will make, as each teacher has their own style and tools that they will be using. Next week we will be sending you a Contact Summary document that will include links and email addresses for all of our staff. This will help parents who have multiple children keep track of how to best connect with teachers.

This past week the school staff has continued to meet online through Microsoft Teams as a whole as well as in smaller teams – Primary, Intermediate and School Based Resource Team. The priority has been for teachers to communicate with students and their families directly by phone, to see how folks are doing, to gather technology survey data, and then begin to plan a classroom program that will meet the unique needs of their learners. Our goal is to provide Continuity of Education without overwhelming children and their families.

Today, you will hear about a journal assignment that all of our children will be engaged in. Assignment details will vary from class to class, depending on the ages and developmental stages of students. From a social-emotional learning lens, our team wanted to come together as a school through a common assignment, a shared thread of reflection to connect us in this time of struggle. And also, quite honestly, we wanted to support parents in being able to say: "Everybody sit down, it's quiet journal time". We are parents too and we know first-hand the challenges that you are facing at home.

School has been suspended, not cancelled for the year. At this time, I would like to extend the following, **very limited**, offer. If your child has **essential** items (prescription medications, glasses, etc.) at school our office team may be able to find them for you. We would then arrange an appointment time for you to come and pick up from the undercover area. Please email us Carisbrooke@sd44.ca . Thank you for your patience and understanding.

We are thinking of you, and sending air hugs from afar. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to connect.

With kindest regards,

Lisa Upton and George Polymenakos
Principal Vice Principal