



May 31, 2020

Dear Living Sky Families:

Just over two months ago, we shared with you a quote from Dr. Jody Carrington, who reminds us that *we are wired to do hard things, and we can do hard things much easier when we remember this: we are wired for connection.*

Since then, we have been so inspired by the stories of connection that people have shared. A few of them are listed here:

- A parent expressed how great it was to be part of an online speech session with her child.
- An educational assistant wrote about gaining confidence in using technology to work with a student.
- When a vice principal was helping a parent logon to one of the platforms we have been using, she commented that the parent would be an expert by the end of the pandemic. The parent responded that she was excited to be learning so much!
- Meetings on Microsoft Teams and Zoom have allowed staff and students to stay connected, and some elementary students quickly figured out how to invite their teachers to meetings rather than waiting for invitations to arrive!
- Grandparents have been helping their grandchildren complete Seesaw activities.
- Teachers have expressed that personalities shine through, even on Zoom, as students dress up and dance, eat, and sometimes disappear for a bit during class.
- I have also heard about the positive interactions between families and schools whose staff members are taking turns reading chapters of the same book to students in various grades and posting activities that siblings can complete together on the school's Facebook page.
- Living Sky has gotten into badging and has established criteria for students to earn a variety of badges including one for learning from home. Some students have really enjoyed earning their e-badges!

For the past several weeks, learning has taken many forms. Living Sky's professional and support staff have provided supplemental learning opportunities for students, and a variety of activities are also available on our website. In addition, students have been taking part in activities with their families such as reading (and being read to), connecting to the outside world, and helping out at home. Although this time has presented all of us with challenges, we hope that you feel good about making the choices that were best for you and your family.

Supplemental Learning 2020

Supplemental learning will end for students from pre-kindergarten to grade 9 on **June 16, 2020**.

For students in grades 10, 11 and 12, supplemental learning opportunities will end on **June 16**, but teachers will be available to provide feedback, and students will have until **June 24** to submit all remaining learning evidence.

For all students, learning activities will remain available on Living Sky School Division's website.

Planning for September

At this time, we are uncertain about what school will look like in September. We are working with the Ministry of Education, and our next steps will continue to be guided by Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer. As the Province works to create guidelines for the fall, we too are beginning to prepare for a variety of scenarios depending on whether learning will take place at our schools, at home, or at a combination of both places. We are hopeful that we will receive information from the provincial Response Planning Team soon.

Whatever back to school may look like in the fall, we want you to know that we will respect your decisions and continue to find ways to support our Living Sky students. As you make decisions about what might be best for your family, we want you to be confident that we are here to support you in whatever way we can.

We will be in touch when we have more information to share regarding school in the fall.

Continue taking care of yourselves!

Sincerely,



Ronna Pethick
Board Chair



Brenda Vickers
Director of Education