



# *Rainy River*

## DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

May 22, 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

This week, the Ministry of Education officially announced that all publicly funded schools in Ontario will remain closed for the remainder of the school year to further prevent the spread of COVID-19. While this is disappointing news, it is a necessary step to keep all students and staff safe during the uncertainty of the pandemic.

We understand that physical distancing and learning at home are not simple or easy for everyone, but we are committed to supporting you during this time. I want to thank you again for your input on our recent parent/guardian survey. We heard how much our students appreciate interactions with their teachers and peers and the connection and engagement it offers. Our staff has worked hard to provide access to the tools, resources, and supports for students to continue their learning journey, and we continue to enhance synchronous learning, with teachers and Education Support Personnel regularly meeting with whole classes, small groups of students, and individually with students.

The announcement confirmed that our traditional graduation ceremonies cannot be held at this time. In light of this, our schools are working on creative ways to celebrate the 2020 graduates. All students who were on track to graduate from secondary school before the initial school closure order was made in March will be able to graduate, and all students will receive report cards in June. We will provide further details on these events and reporting to parents/guardians in the weeks to come.

We understand that this extended closure brings a number of questions for families, such as the collection of personal belongings. Please know we are working with our local Health Unit and will be communicating a process to take place in June. For other questions and concerns, please also check our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

The Ministry of Education is asking school boards to plan for summer learning to be delivered through remote teaching and learning; in-person programming may be possible should emergency measures be eased or lifted during the summer. Please look for our summer learning plan, to be shared in the near future.

Finally, many of you are likely wondering what September might look like with respect to reopening of school. The government has said that it will announce a plan at a later date with respect to the continuation of learning in the fall and the necessary supports and practices that will be put into place to keep everyone safe and healthy. With this announcement, we will continue working with the Northwestern Health Unit and other partners to plan for a safe reopening.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and support as we work together to provide teaching and learning in new ways.

Sincerely,

Heather Campbell  
Director of Education

***TOGETHER, WE EMPOWER ALL STUDENTS TO BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES, TO ACHIEVE, AND TO DREAM.***

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**DIRECTOR**

Heather Campbell