

Office of the Superintendent

Shelley Green - Superintendent

June 25, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

RE: A Year in Review

As the 2019-20 school year comes to an end, our District would like to thank you for your support, patience and participation in our public school system. It has been a year like no other. Our world quickly changed in a short span of time and we understand the impact the global pandemic has had on our students, families and the broader community. Your commitment to supporting learning from home, shepherding your children and possibly your own parents and other family members through a pandemic, all the while maintaining careers and some normalcy of home life is commendable. Without your partnership, we would have had a much more difficult time. Thank you.

This past month has been a great learning opportunity for all of us, and having the students return to our schools in June has better equipped us for the upcoming school year. As we plan for the fall, we will be taking into account all the important considerations that you shared with us during our latest Thought Exchange. More than 5,000 people participated and over 7,000 thoughts were collected for our team to review. Your input will help us to better understand the learning needs of our students and families and best prepare for September start up.

In terms of what we can expect in September, it will all depend on what happens over the summer and if the number of COVID-19 cases continue to remain low. We are very fortunate to be in BC where we have been extremely successful in flattening the curve. Our Province is one of the few places to not see an acceleration of cases after reopening schools.

Over the summer, our Pandemic Response Team will continue to monitor the situation and follow the direction of the Ministries of Education and Health and our Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry. How our society does as a whole over the next several weeks will set the direction for September.

We have been informed that the Ministry of Education will provide us with an announcement around mid-August, outlining what back to school will look like. More explicitly, they will be determining what stage of the Continuity of Learning Plan we will be returning to for the fall.

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

In the meantime, we hope everyone is able to enjoy the summer break. I encourage students to get outside and enjoy our beautiful coast and to read over the summer. While we may not be able to physically travel, a book can almost take you anywhere. Connect with the things that bring you joy, whether that is an instrument, a friend or a hobby. Use this time to reflect and be creative.

Most importantly, be healthy and keep safe! We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Sincerely,



Shelley Green
Superintendent of Schools

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One *Learning* Community

