

Mrs. Lisa Achilles-Belanger, Principal

lisa.achilles@kpdsb.ca

Mrs. Kristen Fregeau, Vice Principal

kristen.fregeau@kpdsb.ca

April 4, 2020

Dear Viper families,

We miss seeing and engaging with our students, and we hope all of you are well and safe at home. For those of you still working to provide essential services in our community, we thank you for your hard work and dedication. As we all learn to adjust to our new reality during the COVID-19 pandemic, we acknowledge home life may not be running as usual as we learn to adapt to new routines, work schedules, distance learning and family commitments. Ontario's education system is now focused on how to support student learning from home in this unprecedented time. Minister Lecce has signed a new school closure order until Monday, May 4th and may extend the closure if necessary to protect the people in our community.

We look forward to continuing to learn, and support our students and families during this unprecedented time. Your child's homeroom teacher should have been in contact with you regarding your child's technology and internet access. Staff will continue to check their emails and can access their messages from the school to ensure ongoing communication takes place. If you have not received communication (such as a phone call, email, text, etc.) from your child's homeroom teacher, please contact the school and leave a message for Mrs. Novak along with your updated contact information. As we proceed into uncharted territory, the importance of open lines of communication between parents and education staff is critical.

If you have participated in learning activities at home during our two week closure, we thank you for continuing to learn with your child(ren). Officially, April 6th is the implementation of the KPDSB Distance Learning Program. We would like to treat this week as it's the first week back to school. Our staff have been working hard over the last two weeks to prepare students and parents for a *gentle entry* of how learning from a distance will work from your homes. This week, our teachers will focus on reconnecting with their students, familiarizing students/parents with the preferred technology platform and applicable resources and/or Apps to be using in their learning activities.

Students who access special education programming will continue to receive accommodations and modifications as outlined in their Individual Education Plans. Special Education Resource Teachers will work behind the scenes to support teachers in special education programming. Education Assistants will be supporting their students while learning from home. Details will be communicated to families by our Special Education school team next week.

As students engage in distance learning programs over the next few weeks of instruction, teachers will use formative assessment approaches to gather evidence of how students are progressing in their learning. Continued student engagement with their learning from home is designed to enhance skill acquisition and prepare students for promotion to the next grade level. Teachers will be providing ongoing feedback on student achievement, skill refinement and assessing growth in your child(ren)'s learning.

It is the Ministry's expectation all students will continue to learn while in-school classes are suspended. The Ministry has suggested a minimum of 5 hours of work per student per week with a focus on literacy (reading and writing) and math for students in kindergarten to Grade 3 and same for Grades 4-6, but with a content focus on literacy, math, science and social studies. Final report cards and the Kindergarten Communication of Learning will be issued at the end of the school year based only on assessment and evaluation of student learning between September 4, 2019 and March 13, 2020.

We recognize that this new way of learning from a distance can be challenging for our students and families. Teachers will soon be reaching out to families who indicated they have no internet access at home so your child can remain actively involved in the KPDSB distance programming. It is imperative our lines of communication are open as we overcome the challenges of learning from a distance together. Please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions or concerns, and as always, your school administration is available by phone or email.

We are working with community partners to provide support if needed. Firefly continues to offer services to children, youth and families in our community through virtual telephone or video-conferencing while remaining at home. Visit www.fireflynw.ca for more information. Students can also access Kids Help Phone for counselling and information available 24/7 by calling 1-800-668-6868 or text CONNECT to 686868. We are also continuing with the Rotary's Nutrition on Weekends program. If you would like more information about this, leave a message with VVPS admin assistant, Mrs. Novak.

Our school's commitment to stay connected with our families is important. Currently we have been communicating information through email and our Valleyview Public School Facebook page. We thank you if you have participated in our Viper Virtual Spirit Week and if you have yet to do so, check it out. We post a week of fun activities your child(ren) can participate in and will continue to do so.

Continue to check the [KPDSB website](#) for up to date information related to distance learning, mental health support and COVID-19. Social distancing, although difficult for everyone, is a necessary measure in order to keep our community safe. Take care, be well, and stay safe!

Sincerely,

VVPS Admin