

## Principal's Weekly Update - April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

*And they shall stand every morning, thanking and praising the Lord, and likewise at evening* (1 Chronicles 23:30)

I hope that you all had a wonderful long Easter weekend!

This third week of remote learning has definitely been a busy one for staff! Teachers have been preparing to move forward with remote learning, and are excited to share their lessons with their students. Beginning next week, teachers will be engaging their students with more online teaching, keeping in mind the government's response planning requirements which state: **Teachers will plan a minimum average of five hours per week of curriculum-based learning for students in K–Grade 4, and 10 hours per week for students in Grades 5–8.** This means that students *should be* spending these *recommended times per week*, engaged in their schoolwork, and learning. Students can and will learn through hands-on activities, print materials, and online platforms. Teacher-directed learning will focus on literacy and numeracy, with opportunities for Science and Social Studies, Physical Education and Health Education, and the Arts through cross-curricular planning. SCCS teachers will also post extra learning activities/suggestions on their websites, to promote academic growth. We are very aware that each student and family has unique needs and their own set of circumstances during COVID-19, and know we must be flexible. This is why sharing the recommendations with you should help in supporting your child's learning. This is not a "typical" school day situation, as it is not business as usual.

As you continue to access teacher websites, you will see teaching videos posted introducing/teaching new lessons/skills/concepts. The videos will be posted so that students and parents can access them when you are able to, and can also go back to watch a lesson being taught again, if necessary, if more explanation is needed. Teacher-directed learning will continue to focus on both literacy and numeracy, with many opportunities/expectations for cross-curricular planning where possible. As always, please email your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Teachers will also be scheduling classroom "meetings," and invite their students to connect with their peers, with their teacher leading the meeting. We recognize how important the social/emotional connection is, and so many of our students miss their friends and peer groups. This will give all students an opportunity to connect with their friends, and be reassured that everyone is safe. The teachers are looking forward to connecting in this way as well. A couple of teachers actually started this today, and the response was terrific!

In preparation for assessment and third term report cards, teachers will be evaluating curricular outcomes that need to be covered in Term 3, and prioritizing remaining outcomes based on what is manageable for students working from home. They will continue to provide learning opportunities that support grade-level outcomes, and provide the ongoing support for both students and families, while assessing student needs. Students are expected to do their best to complete the assigned work, so teachers can assess/grade it.

**PARENT PORTALS**

Parent portals will be back online on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES STILL NEEDED TO BE PICKED UP**

We still have some families who need to schedule a pickup time for student supplies. I would ask that you click on the link below to sign up for a pick up time that is convenient for you. If you are also picking up for another family at the same time, I ask that you include that family's name along with your own, so the correct student bags can be ready when you arrive. All bags will be put outside the front school doors for you to take. Staff will be monitoring your arrival. At the same time, I would ask that if you have any of the following, to please drop them into the boxes that you will see outside when you arrive. They are: library books, guided reading books, "Gel" books from the Gr. 8 classroom library, Musical books, any "mail" you might have for the office, homework assignments that need to be returned. Items in the boxes will be sorted by staff once the family drop off/pick up has been completed.

We are also still collecting for the **Winnipeg Harvest Food Drive**, as part of our Catholic Schools Christian service initiative. Once all the food has been received by Winnipeg Harvest, it will be weighed, and we will find out how many pounds of food has been donated by our schools!

**[LINK TO BOOK A TIME SLOT FOR STUDENT MATERIAL & MAIL PICKUP & DROPOFF | WINNIPEG HARVEST DONATIONS](#)**

### **Tuition Assistance/Bursary Application deadline has been extended to June 30<sup>th</sup>**

Invoices will go out in June without the bursary totals allocated. Families should not worry if they see an invoice in the full amount. Once the bursary amounts are calculated, new invoices will be created and distributed. If a payment is made and applied to an account before the bursary is calculated, payments will be corrected to reflect early payments.

### **VIP Hours**

Our VIP program has been **cancelled**, and all hours to date will be honoured. No cheques will be cashed this year, and all cheques will be shredded. If you have any questions please email [Finance@stccs.ca](mailto:Finance@stccs.ca)

### **Mental Health Supports**

The Provincial COVID-19 website has a section called [Care for Your Mental Health](#), which features a [virtual therapy program](#) available to Manitobans age 16 or older. Students can access [Kids Help Phone](#) by calling 1-800-668-6868 or texting CONNECT to 686868.

Please see the attached poster for information about the Youth Quaranteen Support Line. The Government of Canada offers mental health information, including resources on [improving your mental health](#) at work and in your daily life.

The **My Learning at Home** portal is a resource designed to assist families in supporting the work of teachers as they continue to educate students. **My Learning at Home** will

grow over time as more resources are developed for Kindergarten through Grade 12. This is a great website to share with all of you!

<https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/mylearning/index.html>

This is just an extra government support for parents during COVID-19.

*Wishing you all a relaxing weekend full of sunshine!*

*Tammy*

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