



# HAPPY VALLEY ELEMENTARY

3291 Happy Valley Road, Victoria, B.C. V9C 2W3

Phone: 250-478-3232 Fax: 250-391-9624

Principal: Mrs. Karen Sjerven

Vice-Principal: Mrs. Krista Leakey

March 31, 2020.

Dear HV Families,

The Happy Valley staff are thinking of our entire school community during the global pandemic. While it was not the Spring Break anyone could have anticipated, we trust that our students and families are continuing to follow the orders of our Provincial Health Officer and staying safe and healthy at home. We look forward to continuing to be an important part of your child's learning in different ways in the coming days.

Last week, families received an email from the BC Minister of Education, Rob Fleming, and another from Sooke School District Superintendent, Scott Stinson. Please continue to monitor your email and refer regularly to the District website for updated information at [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

As you can appreciate, we are all facing unprecedented circumstances. As a province and a District, we are working toward best meeting the needs of our students and families while following provincial mandates.

Sooke District schools remain open with administrators, clerical staff, custodial staff and facilities crews working on site. Teachers and support staff are working from home until further notice. Schools are closed to in-class instruction for students. At this time, we ask that all students and families stay home in order to maintain health and safety protocols.

## **Planning Week**

This week is a "Planning Week" while staff prepare for continuity of learning for

all students. Staff at all levels are working with new technology and exploring learning opportunities. All staff are involved in on-line meetings as we look ahead to providing essential learning opportunities for our students.

## **Staying Connected**

This week, you will be hearing from your child's classroom teacher via telephone or email. Teachers will be checking in with families to see how children are doing and to gather information about best ways to support learning. We are looking forward to staying connected with our families remotely as staff are working throughout the school day. Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions.

## **Learning Continuity Plan**

Staff are hard at work to plan for learning opportunities for all children. This learning is *not* intended to replicate a typical full day in the classroom. We understand that while students are home with families, there are many factors to be considered. Teachers are experts at differentiating instruction and we look forward to providing opportunities for children to demonstrate learning in different ways.

You will be hearing more about your child's learning opportunities in the coming weeks. The Ministry has mandated that by April 15<sup>th</sup>, students will be engaging in learning activities. We anticipate that in Sooke School District, we will be prepared to focus on some aspects of student learning as early as next week.

## **Picking up essential belongings**

Essential belongings (medicine, glasses etc.) will be available for parent pick-up at designated times only. This is a

coordinated process to ensure everyone's safety. Please email Mrs. Sjerven to arrange for pick-up of medications, etc.

### **Essential Service Workers**

We are extremely grateful for the challenging work that is being done by all of our front-line essential service workers. Please visit the District website for information about care for children of our first-responders and health care workers. To those HV community members who are providing and maintaining essential services for all of us, our heartfelt thanks.

### **Student Registrations for 2020**

Amidst the unanticipated events of the past few weeks, we are also continuing to work on finalizing enrolment and registrations for next year. Parents of newly registered Kindergarten children will be receiving information in April. We are also looking forward to meeting many new students in older grades who will be joining the HV school community. Thank you for your patience!

### **Thanks PAC!**

Our PAC Executive have been meeting and planning ahead to address Hot Lunch cancellation week to week, future online PAC meetings, anticipated arrival for Spirit Wear and Grad Wear etc. Please visit PAC's Facebook group at Happy Valley Elementary Parent Advisory Council or send your questions to [hvpac@hotmail.com](mailto:hvpac@hotmail.com)  
Thank you parents!

### **A Special Message for HV Kids...**

Have fun playing, reading, writing, singing, dancing, experimenting, creating, building and exploring. Help your family and talk with your friends. Always be kind and safe.

We sure miss you!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Karen Sjerven  
Principal