May 25, 2020.

Dear HV families,

This evening you will have received an email from our Superintendent, Mr. Scott Stinson with information about the most recent direction from the Ministry of Education. We are continuing to learn of next steps and plan accordingly.

This week, things are evolving at the school level. This includes: **preparations for the part time return of some students in June, additional staff returning to work from school sites, children in the ESW programs returning to home schools, and scheduled pick-up of all student belongings.**

**June Schedule**

The Ministry of Education has mandated that *part-time in class instruction be available for students in Kindergarten-Grade 5 as of June 1st, on a voluntary basis*. **Elementary schools are limited to 50% density (half school population)**. At this time, our planning is based upon numbers as indicated in the parent survey data received last week. According to the survey, **205 HV students plan to attend part time in June**. This is nearing 50% of our school population. While schools remain below 50% density, students in K-5 will be offered **in-class instruction on Tuesdays and Thursdays**. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, teachers will continue to offer remote continuity of learning opportunities for those students who will not be returning to in-class instruction in June.

The look of the school day will be *very different* when children return to part time instruction. In order to meet health and safety protocols, students will not necessarily be working with their classroom teachers and peers. Where class numbers exceed 50% density, students will be reorganized into smaller groups, with different teachers in alternate spaces. We will do our best to have students learning with their classmates and regular teacher wherever possible.

All available spaces in the school are being utilized to meet safety requirements as per the COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings, for children. Existing schedules have changed to allow for frequent handwashing routines and new washroom protocols. At this time, the gym, library, music room and multi-purpose room will be used to group students where classes exceed 50% density. We will not be following our existing schedule for Learning Support, Reading Recovery, Music and Library as staff will be redeployed to work with students in alternate spaces. Communal supplies, classroom resources, toys and playground equipment will not be accessible for shared use. At this time, our playground remains closed.

Children who are returning to school can expect to see their classrooms looking different. They will see familiar staff and smaller numbers of classmates. They will enjoy more outside time and will have opportunities to socialize and engage in classroom activities in a safe manner. Children will bring back basic supplies and belongings for their own daily use.

If you have not completed last week’s District survey, please do so to enable us to make accommodations for returning students**. If your survey information has changed, please email Mrs. Sjerven.** Given our strict Health and Safety protocols, **we are unable to accommodate additional children being dropped off at school** without prior arrangements**.** Thank you so much for your assistance.

**Staff Working from School Sites**

Our administration, clerical staff, custodial staff and facilities staff have been working on school sites since Spring Break. This work has involved extensive District and school level planning, working at ESW sites, deep cleaning of the school, health and safety preparations and modifications to allow for physical distancing in common spaces. Thank you to staff for their ongoing work to support safe return for staff and students.

Our teachers, EAs and support staff have been providing daily support and student instruction while working remotely. These staff have done an exceptional job of working with children and families in new and different ways to provide meaningful continuity of learning. Thank you to all for your incredible efforts to date.

As we move into the next phase of instruction this week, most staff will be returning to work from school sites. As Mr. Stinson indicated, this week is a transition time for our staff, as they sort classroom materials and prepare their spaces for smaller groups of students. ***This week, the schedule of students’ remote learning will be reduced to 3 days, as teachers do additional critical work at school sites.* *Please watch for information from your child’s teacher about changes to remote learning schedules this week.***

**Essential Service Workers’ Children at School**

Over the past weeks, several children of Essential Service Workers have been registered for continuity of learning and childcare at various District sites. Children in Happy Valley’s catchment have been attending the Colwood site, until today. This week, registered ESW students return to Happy Valley. As per the Ministry of Education mandate, ESW sites are open for these students between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm **until May 29th**. **As of June 1st, ESW children may attend up to 5 days per week *during regular school hours* (8:00-2:30).** Families must meet criteria for this service and students must already be pre-registered through the District website in order to attend. This is not a drop-in opportunity. Thank you to our staff who are supporting children in this program.

**Picking up Student Belongings**

**All student belongings will be available for pick up during scheduled times between Wednesday, May 27th and Friday, May 29th.** Students who are planning to return to school part time after June 1st will be asked to bring back particular items which will remain stored in backpacks. **At this time, we request that all student belongings be picked up and library books and home reading books returned to school.**

To allow for physical distancing during pick-up, please adhere to the schedule and instructions below and parent please come alone wherever possible. If you have more than one child at school, we will attempt to retrieve all of the belongings in one visit.

**Wednesday, May 27th**

8:30 – 10:30 Kindergarten (Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Beswick)

10:30 -12:30 Grade 1 (Mrs. MacLean, Ms. Kimoto, Ms. Logan)

12:30 – 1:30 Grade 2 (Ms. Hagar/ Ms. Ede, Ms. Therrien, Ms. O’Regan, Mrs. Parker)

**Thursday, May 28th**

8:30 – 10:30 Grade 2 & 3 (Mrs. Gervais, Ms. Roberts, Mrs. Andrew, Ms. Taylor/Ms. Allen)

10:30 – 12:30 Grade 4 & 5 (Mrs. Leakey, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Sihota)

12:30 -2:30 Grade 5 (Mr. Cook, Mr. Gadd)

**Friday, May 29th**

8:30 – 10:30 (Alternate pick-up time available for all )

* Please maintain distancing on school property. For health and safety reasons, parents and the public are unable to enter the school at this time.
* School supply pick-up is located at the exterior doors of the gym.
* Please follow the line-up around the garden fencing near the picnic tables. Signage will be posted.
* After requesting your child’s belongings at the gym door (nearest the garden), staff will collect the items.
* Please proceed to the opposite gym door (nearest the portables) for pick-up.

**A NOTE FROM HV PAC…**

Tuesday, May 24th is the PAC’s Annual General Meeting via Zoom. Please see the PAC email sent out last week for the meeting link. We are looking forward to hearing about the successes of the school year and electing our 2020-21 PAC!

**A NOTE FROM MRS. SJERVEN FOR HV KIDS**

*I am enjoying hearing about your remote learning activities. I even had a chance to join a few video chats recently! Things will keep changing over the next few weeks. For those of you who might be coming to school part time next week, we look forward to seeing you. We will be doing a lot of things differently at school from now on, but HV is still a safe place. For those of you who will be continuing to stay home and work remotely, know that we are thinking of you and we are still connected. Have a fun week in the sun, everyone!*

Sincerely,

Mrs. Karen Sjerven

Principal

Happy Valley Elementary

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