



**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 62 (SOOKE)**  
3143 JACKLIN ROAD,  
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA • V9B 5R1  
TELEPHONE: 250-474-9800 FAX: 474-9825  
WEBSITE: WWW.SD62.BC.CA

Dear Families:

I hope this letter finds you and your families healthy and well, adjusting to the new way of connecting and learning while in-class instruction is suspended.

I am very proud of our students for quickly adapting to learning remotely and connecting with their teachers in new and different ways. Having said that, we are also aware that the COVID-19 pandemic can cause worry or anxiety for students that they may be having difficulty coping with. We have created a page on our external website designed for students as a place to turn if they need help. [https://www.sd62.bc.ca/sites/default/files/2020-04/Resources%20for%20students%20SS\\_0.pdf](https://www.sd62.bc.ca/sites/default/files/2020-04/Resources%20for%20students%20SS_0.pdf) It has links to service providers in the community as well as to information posted elsewhere on our site. Our hope is that students who might want to reach out have a place to find the assistance they need quickly and confidentially. We are sharing it with you for your information and as a way for you to start a conversation with your children, should you need it. We will be sharing the page with teachers as well so they can pass it on to students, especially those they feel may benefit from it.

I also want to remind parents that Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> is a professional development day for teachers. Even though schools are closed to in-class instruction, our dedicated teachers must still be afforded the time to continue their learning and development. What does this mean for you and your children? It means that on Monday teachers will not be contacting students, while they engage in their own professional learning. While it is not mandatory, we suggest your students plan to dedicate some time to their school work. In times such as these, routine is important. Even if the routine is different from what we recognize as the norm. We appreciate you supporting your teachers in their professional development as you do in their efforts to connect with and instruct your children.

We continue to connect with those of you who are Essential Service Workers (ESW) as deemed by the provincial government as well as those who utilize our food services program. We want to remind you that our care for children of ESW is not structured like a normal in class school experience. We are providing care and limited learning opportunities and continue to develop the program as it unfolds. If you have questions about the ESW childcare program or our food services, please email [info@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:info@sd62.bc.ca) and your queries will be answered in confidence.

We are still planning for the safest way to return student belongings to families. Information on this will be coming to families shortly. We have focused on returning essential items such as medication, followed by critical learning supplies and then personal belongings. At this time, we continue to ask families not to attend at our schools, unless by appointment.

We understand these are challenging times and want you to know you are not alone. For tips, mental health resources, and learning activities, please visit our website: [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

Finally, thank you again for your patience and understanding. We encourage you to continue practicing physical distancing and to stay home whenever possible. We know we are all in this together and by continuing to follow the advice of the Provincial Health Officer we hope to see a return to our regular lives sooner rather than later.

Be well,

Scott Stinson, Superintendent of Schools