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Dear Families;

I hope this letter finds you in good health and good spirits.

As has been the case since COVID-19 became a part of our collective reality, things are constantly changing. I'm sure that by now, many of you have heard the Premier's announcement regarding the "BC Restart Plan". While the majority of this was focused on restarting business and social life in the province, education was mentioned as well.

Both the Premier and the Minister of Education have indicated that there may be a voluntary return to in-class instruction for some students prior to the end of this school year, as long as the current trend of declining new COVID-19 infections continues. It's important to note that any possible reopening in June would be voluntary for families.

In addition, we would need to adhere to the following guidelines:

- In-class learning for students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 would be on a part-time basis.
- Access to in-class learning would be 'as needed' for Grades 6 to 12 and also on a part-time basis.
- Remote and online learning would continue to be available for students.

This announcement may be a surprise and/or a concern for some of you and welcome news for others. We recognize the many competing thoughts and emotions that this may bring.

I want to assure you that as a district we will be working diligently to ensure that returning to school for both students and staff will be done in a manner consistent with direction from the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry.

While dates and details for a return of students to classrooms have not been confirmed, over the coming days, we will be working with our partners to determine how best to accomplish this task. We expect to receive further direction from the Ministry of Education as well.

I thank you again, for your continued patience and understanding. I've said it before that we do our best work when we have support from you and even in these uncertain times, we feel that support, and thank you for it.

I encourage you to get out and safely enjoy the warm weather this weekend. Staying active and getting fresh air is great for the whole family.

Best Regards,

Scott Stinson, Superintendent of Schools