

March 17, 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

On behalf of our King David staff, I would like to thank you for the support that we have received as we work with you, our students, staff and community in this most unique and turbulent of times. This is a very difficult and emotional time. We all need to be kind, patient and generous to each other; we are a close knit family and many members of our community will need additional support as they deal with so much added stress. Please stay healthy, be strong, and lean on us if you need support. We are here for you.

Difficult as it is to imagine in this moment, it is critical that we work with all of you to create as much normalcy as possible for all of us. We know you need information and we will share what we know and encourage you to ask questions and to have patience as we try to reply. There is much we do not know. In light of the BC Ministry of Education announcing today that all schools will be moving to online learning, I am sure we will learn more in the coming days.

Our first duty is to our students and we want 'our kids' to feel cared for and valued at this time and to know that we will work to support them at every turn. We believe that we must maintain the wonderful relationships that are so important to our students and teachers. We want to connect students and teachers so our students realize they are not alone. As difficult as this is for students, I truly ask you to empathize with how difficult this is for teachers. Like all of us, they have their personal family situations to deal with, having the same stresses as many of you, but they have the daunting task of being asked, in a matter of days, to learn how to teach their curricula online using tools that may be unfamiliar to them. Our teachers have been working hard these past two days and tomorrow they will continue. I cannot say enough about how seriously they have taken to the task at hand, demonstrating their commitment to our community. I should also add it is a loss to all of us to think about not seeing our kids on a daily basis. Their smiles and energy really do make working at King David such a joy.

So...here are a few details to get you started, I think it will be easier to follow in bullet form:

1. Thursday, March 19th we will have our first trial online teaching day. We will run our normal Thursday schedule with adjusted hours that will be sent to you tomorrow
2. Monday, March 23rd we will begin online teaching in earnest and continue to Pesach break on April 3rd
3. The school day will run from 9:30am to 2:15pm – the exact schedule will be sent to you tomorrow
4. The primary source of information for students will be found on our school Moodle
5. Our counsellors and learning support teams will be in touch so that their services can be used during this time

King David will be going completely online and unfortunately, we will not be accessible by phone. To contact a teacher or a member of the admin team, please use our school emails, all of which can be found in the staff directory on the school web site. We will not be able to accept any visitors to the school.

At this time, the BC Ministry of Education does not know when we will return to face to face teaching so school events are in limbo. I wish I could give you more information, but I really do not know the

effect this will have on our Year End Celebration or on our Graduation Ceremony. We will all have to take things one step at a time and think very positive thoughts. We have already been asked what this means for Parent Participation hours. I promise we will turn our attention to other matters but please appreciate that at this time all of our energy is focused on having the best education program online available for your students. The latest information will always be found on our website.

Finally, once we are able to settle into an online routine for teaching and learning, we will be sending out micro-surveys to both students and parents to get feedback to improve our online programming. Once again, please understand and show empathy towards teachers who may truly be stepping out of their comfort zone; as we get more practice and more feedback, we will do even better. Do know that everyone's heart is in the right place.

More detailed instructions and scheduling for students and parents will be shared with you tomorrow.

Thank you once again for your partnership and your patience.

Russ Klein
Head of School