

April 20, 2020

Dear King David Parents and Students,

It's hard to believe the Passover Break has come and gone. It was certainly the most interesting Seder year – this year the Youngson-Klein family Seder was faster than ever – you might even say it “zoomed” by. We have no doubt that this year was different for you, and we hope you all had an enjoyable Pesach, spending time with family and taking advantage of the great sunny weather.

We had a brief, welcome back meeting with our staff after school yesterday and teachers shared how pleased they were to see all their students again and remarked that the students were also glad to be back “at school”. Hopefully it was not too bad for your children with the need for an earlier rise and shine to get ready for class. It may also be challenging for some students (and teachers) to feel that change in routine without physically returning to school.

The days and weeks ahead continue to be undefined, and how the remainder of the school year will unfold is uncertain. In some respects, it will change very little of what we do. We will continue to support the learning of our students and offer them experiences to grow intellectually, emotionally and develop their sense of identity and purpose. We also will continue to explore ways we can keep connecting as a family and larger community. For example, we will, as we always do, have an assembly for Yom HaShoah at 2:15 p.m. We are also finalizing plans for next week to observe Yom Hazikaron and to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut.

In short, we're not going to let our absence from our building diminish all the other (many) things that bring us together as a school. It's just going to change how we do that. We know that many of you have questions and we will structure opportunities for you to connect with the administration and with our counseling team. We know that our graduates and their parents have even more questions and we will connect with you soon to get input from students and parents. There are many challenges as we have moved to this stay at home emergency remote learning platform, but we do feel the greatest empathy for our graduates who we know feel devastated in not experiencing their third and final term at King David together. Let's all do our best to share joy and make this a positive experience for our graduates and their families.

Between now and the end of the school year, you will continue to hear regularly from us in the form of information and updates, our weekly newsletter, and our Information and Reminders. We will be reaching out for your input and feedback again through surveys and, as we have been doing, we will share with you information from the Ministry of Education especially as it pertains to the possibility of returning to in-school learning. As well, feel free to reach out to us directly.

On the following page are a couple of links from the Ministry of Education for both parents and students. Please have a look.

We wish you all the best and that your families are safe and well.

Regards,
Russ and Alex

Ministry of Education Resources

The Ministry of Education Keep Learning website has resources for parents to support their children with learning at home:

<https://www.openschool.bc.ca/keeplearning/>

The Ministry of Ed has also developed a new initiative, the *We Well-being Program*, which is available for free for K-12 students. The site is designed to help children cope with social isolation and other challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic:

<https://www.we.org/en-CA/get-doing/activities-and-resources/wellbeing/covid-19-toolkit>