

March 13, 2020

Dear Families,

As the situation continues to evolve rapidly with COVID-19, the safety and well-being of our entire school community remains paramount. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some important updates and information.

### **Travel**

Yesterday, new information was provided by the Provincial Health Officer and Minister of Health regarding COVID-19. The Provincial Health Officer has advised against all non-essential travel outside of Canada, including to the United States. If people do travel outside of Canada, they are asked to self-isolate for 14 days upon return. This would include staying away from both school and work. Just this morning the federal government warned against all international travel and is limiting inbound flights in order to restrict the spread of COVID-19.

The situation continues to evolve quickly. It was only last week that we announced the difficult decision to cancel all international student trips planned over Spring Break due to concerns over the possible risk for students and staff of COVID-19. We are currently reviewing all planned domestic student trips. Please also be assured that the District will not permit work-related travel outside of Canada through until June 30, 2020.

### **Timely and Factual Information**

Yesterday, Dr. Henry encapsulated how quickly things are changing when she said, "this is our best advice today." As this issue evolves, we will continue to post the latest information from the Province on our website: [www.burnabyschools.ca](http://www.burnabyschools.ca), including any updates received during Spring Break.

Please be assured that we're actively monitoring all updates from the Provincial Health Officer and continue to take direction from the Ministries of Health and Education, as well as the Fraser Health Authority.

If you have questions about your health or are concerned that you may have been exposed to or are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness or COVID-19, the Province advises you to contact your primary care provider, or call 811 to arrange for safe testing.

### **School Closures**

At this time we have been advised that there are no plans to close schools. Decisions about school closures will be made by public health officials.

### **Social Gatherings and School District Activities**

Yesterday Dr. Henry also directed the cancellation or postponement of all gatherings and events of more than 250 people.

We are working with school principals to identify even smaller school events or social gatherings planned for after Spring Break. Lunchtime activities, assemblies and all special events are being considered. In addition we are also reviewing all District facility rentals, which would include public programming and community events. For all students who are scheduled for Career Education Work Experience over Spring Break, we have postponed those activities. For those students impacted, their school Career Education Advisor will communicate with them directly and alternate arrangements will be made for future placements.

## Prevention

Public health officials have consistently recommended that among the most important prevention measures are: for people who are sick to stay home; and, for everyone to be mindful of hygiene practices, such as regular handwashing and not touching your face.

We have implemented the guidance from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer regarding frequency of cleaning. We are giving all schools and district buildings a deep clean over Spring Break.

## Supporting Community

A new virus such as COVID-19 can create anxiety for students, especially if someone they know is sick, or they see or hear troubling messages in the media. The Provincial Health Officer advises that you can support your children by acknowledging that it is normal to feel worried and have questions, as well as by reassuring them that they are safe, and there are many things that they can do to stay healthy, such as: regular hand washing, keeping their hands away from their face and mouth, eating healthy foods, keeping physically active, and getting enough sleep to help their body stay healthy. Additional links with information for children are available on our website.

As circumstances evolve, and especially in times of fear, it's essential that we remember who we are as a community. During these uncertain times, the safety and well-being of our entire community – and particularly those most vulnerable among us – rests upon us all.

I want to thank you in advance for your continued support and understanding and wish you all the best during these difficult times. The Burnaby School District relies on the strength and compassion of our entire community.

Sincerely,



Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent

 <p><b>BOARD OF EDUCATION BURNABY SCHOOL DISTRICT 41</b></p> <p><b>IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE HAVE THIS TRANSLATED</b></p> <p><b>RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS Prière de les faire traduire.</b></p> <p><b>重要資料 請找人為你翻譯</b></p>	<p>これはたいせつなお知らせです。 どなたかに日本語に訳してもらってください。</p> <p><b>알려드립니다</b> 이것을 번역해 주십시오</p> <p><b>CHỈ DẪN QUAN TRỌNG</b> Xin nhờ người dịch hộ</p> <p><b>ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ</b> ਬਿਕਰਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਬਿਸੇ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਉਲੇਕਾ ਕਰਵਾਓ ।</p> <p><b>INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE</b> Busque alguien que le traduzca.</p>	<p><b>اطلاعات مهم و سودمند</b> لطفاً از یک نفر بخواهید که برای شما ترجمه کند</p> <p><b>ITO AY MAHALAGANG IMPORMASYON</b> Isalin sa wikang tagalog kung hindi maintindihan</p> <p><b>برجی ترجمه هذا معلومات هامة</b></p> <p><b>ВАЖНАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ</b> Переведите это, пожалуйста.</p>
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