



RIVER HEIGHTS
PUBLIC SCHOOL

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REDHAWK READER



"We ALL Belong At River Heights!"



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Covid -19 Edition

A Letter From Your Education Team

To the Wonderful Families of River Heights:

Your team at River Heights has been eager to contact you during these difficult and extraordinary times. Please know that your classroom educators, support and office staff are at home, healthy and safe. We want you to know we have been thinking non-stop about you and hoping that you are well! "We have physical distance, but we don't have to have emotional distance," and that is why we are reaching out to each of you today - we care about you and we miss our students. While the current situation isn't what we had planned for, we hope you have found some moments to reconnect, spend time together and try some new things out!

Naturally, all of our children will need us to follow their lead to work through their worries or anxieties, take a bit of a slower pace, or get into a home routine and home schedule. You know your child(ren) best and this note is meant only to check-in and to remind you and your child(ren) that we, as individuals, are thinking about them! We encourage you to find ways to emotionally check in with yourself and your children each day. Find ways to connect via a telephone, video chat or text messaging. Let your children tell you how they wish to connect with friends and then help them find ways to do so even as we stay physically apart. We hope you use creative ways to self isolate while staying home. We are all practicing physical distancing when we go out for necessities or for walks outdoors. Be certain to take care of yourselves during these unprecedented times.

We learned on Friday about the sites the government has offered to access educational learning opportunities and are sure they have worked hard to provide excellent resources to you. They assure us they will continue to expand upon these programs and the board will inform you once these plans are known. Please follow the directions sent to you from the school board and use those sites and resources at your discretion. We recognize every child and every home is unique, so what you do with these resources is going to be as unique as each of you. If you choose to access them, you can access them here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/learn-at-home>

For the purposes of communication, please use the board's updates and emails with links and information. They are the best and most current source of information at this time. Like you, we as an education team learn about the most recent educational updates through them. For example, we have all learned from the Premiere's press conference that **school closures will extend beyond April 6th** and like you that is all we know. There **has not been a new date established for reopening**. If you have messaged your teacher directly, please know that they don't have any further information or central resources to share at this time. Please direct your questions to our Principal Joe Sheik at j.sheik@tvdsb.ca.

We know how hardworking each and every one of your children are and we will all get through this when we work together. Remember you are not replicating school at home, that is not our intention. These are board and provincial suggestions and reminders only. You may use this information as you see fit. There is no expectation to be doing specific school work during this time. Should that situation change, you will hear from the board and the school.

We want to remind you of the board's web site which may help to answer any questions that you may have. This situation is very unexpected it is changing daily and our hearts are with you all!

Our hope is that we will be able to return to school as soon as it is safe to do so. We miss you all SO MUCH and all of the jokes you share, your hugs, questions and funny stories!

With Love, Your Education Team at River Heights