



May 1st, 2020

Dear Gordon Families,

Earlier this week, the Ministry of Education announced that the school closure will be extended to at least May 31. This means we will be continuing with online learning to support all students. This is a challenging time, with students not attending school as usual, and we know that everyone is trying their best to make this learning from home experience successful.

I wanted to clarify the expectations for students with respect to-online learning. It is our goal that every student is able to fully engage with their teacher in the online learning opportunities provided. If there is a circumstance/situation that prevents your child from fully participating in learning from home, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher at any time. We are here to help.

It is important that your child continues to actively participate in the online learning opportunities provided so that he/she will be confidently able to use knowledge and skills developed at home to support success back at school. The online learning opportunities are building a foundation for success upon return and in the next grade. During the closure period, your child's teacher will continue assessing your child's work and providing feedback to support ongoing learning, as they have been since learning from home began. Students with special learning needs will continue to receive support consistent with their Individual Education Plans (IEPs). The EQAO large-scale assessments for students in Grade 3 and 6 are cancelled for this year.

Although our focus is on supporting students with learning and not evaluating, we wanted to provide some clarity about report cards. Following the Ministry's framework, the Kindergarten Communication of Learning will be based on educators' observations of key learning and growth in learning. Report card grades for students in Grade 1 to 8 will reflect student work completed and evaluated before March 13, 2020. Where it benefits your child, teachers will include evidence of learning completed during school closure in your child's final grade. Grade 1 to 8 Learning Skills and Work Habits comments will be included on the final report card to support your child's progress. Term 2 Report Cards will be issued on June 24, 2020. As always, if you have any questions about student progress, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

I am inspired by how our staff and families have adapted to our new circumstances and understand how challenging it has been. On behalf of the staff at Gordon. I hope you and your family are healthy and safe. We all look forward to the time we can see everyone in person.

Sincerely,

Jay MacJanet, Principal