



From the Desk

of Silke Yardley
Superintendent, Southeast Kootenay
School District



April 27, 2020

Happy Monday!

Thank you to all the parents, teachers, principals, vice principals and support staff who have sent emails to share the good things happening in School District 5 on our Facebook page. What stood out for me was all of the positive messages, creativity, smiling faces and people working together to do what is best for our students.

In just one week of having our page up and running, we already have 152 people following us! The post below had 737 people viewing the great work these three are doing!

Mary Elliott, Sandy Montgomery and Melissa Young (missing From picture) are working with the Food Recovery Program, Salvation Army, Soul Food, Cobbs Bread, Fort Steele and other organizations throughout town to provide for 15 Laurie Middle School families. Beyond the generous supply of groceries, these ladies are also including a weekly Hot Meal that has been prepared with a whole lot of love!



The Facebook page will be a place where we can celebrate the good things that are happening in School District 5! In order for you to get the updates on your own Facebook page, please “like” our Facebook page so you can keep up to date. For those who don’t have Facebook, the Facebook link is on our website.



Please continue to send any photos or videos you would like to share to our CBO email at cbo.mailing@sd5.bc.ca and we will post these on our Facebook page [here](#). We would also love to share examples from parents who are working with their children at home!

Below you will find an update in each area:

1. Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees.

Our website has great resources on mental health. Check out the website created by our school counselors [here](#).

2. Provide services to support children of essential workers.

Staff have created a safe and caring environment for the students. We wanted to give a special thank you to the staff who are providing school care for our children of Essential Services workers.

If you are a Tier 1 or 2 Essential Services worker, please fill out the form on our [website](#) and contact your school principal.

- Tier 1 families include those employed in Health and Health Services, Social Services, Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Emergency Response.
- Tier 2 families include those employed in all other occupations not included in Tier 1 that are in the Essential Services workers list. See list [here](#).
- Children aged 0-5 (pre-K): Essential Service workers can fill out a new form to identify their need for urgent child care. The “Temporary Emergency Child Care for Essential Workers” sign up form is available on our website or by calling 1-888-338-6622 and selecting option 4.

3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.

- We have been looking at how to support our vulnerable students and our question is: “Who is this not working for?” Students with learning needs are being supported by Student Services, classroom teachers and EAs through their IEP’s, but what about those children that learning at home is not working for? How can we help? What additional supports can we put into place?
- Last week, Principals were meeting with staff to look at students who may need additional supports while learning from home. We are meeting with them again on Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss.
- Two areas that we also identified as vulnerable: our grade 2 students, who may not be reading at the level they should be for this time of year, and our grade 12 students.
- Our plan for our grade 2’s is to look at ways we can support them with literacy. We are also in the process of identifying our grade 12 students who may need support to graduate.
- Technology could also be an area of need. Please let your school principal know if you need a device for your child. They can help you fill out an application.

4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.

It is neat to see all of the learning that is happening in School District 5!! Here are a few photos of the last week! Check out our Facebook link on our website for more photos and videos.





Teachers:

Focused Education Webinar - The ABCs of the BC Digital Classroom: Through Focused Education’s webinar on April 30, teachers can learn 26 ways to use the great resources and activities in the BC Digital Classroom collection. These resources are available to all B.C. teachers and students from home. The webinar registration page is available [here](#).

Parents, here is the link to Microsoft Team App if you are using teams with your teachers.

<https://products.office.com/en-ca/microsoft-teams/download-app>

Parents of grade 12 students, the deadline for many of the School District 5 scholarships is May 1st, 2020. Please click [here](#) to download the application forms!

Please check out our website for more information at: www.sd5.bc.ca

Take care of yourselves during this time,

Silke

