



May 4, 2020



#### **A message to our graduates of 2020:**

We recognise that graduation from high school is a very important milestone for you and your families and that graduation celebrates your accomplishments with family, friends and the many staff who have made a difference in your education. This year will look different than it has in the past.

Teachers, staff and our principals/vice principals feel very connected to their graduating students and want to find meaningful ways to recognize them. We also want to recognize the scholarship and bursary winners and thank the community sponsors for these important awards.

It is very important to celebrate safely and given the message from the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) around respecting social distancing and no large gatherings, we are going to be developing alternate graduation plans. The traditional graduation ceremonies and dry graduation activities cannot happen under the current PHO orders.

Here is a short video to our graduates from Dr. Bonny Henry:

[https://twitter.com/cbcnewsbc/status/1256697635009892352?s=12&fbclid=IwAR1ombnqQP-HdcXKRSFj3qVLSvBj\\_eH-GZ4vpvo2xoAFXfARMFx0u0mADQE](https://twitter.com/cbcnewsbc/status/1256697635009892352?s=12&fbclid=IwAR1ombnqQP-HdcXKRSFj3qVLSvBj_eH-GZ4vpvo2xoAFXfARMFx0u0mADQE)

She reminds us: *"you are and will always be unique in this graduating class... we are looking at making this a memorable and positive experience in your life."*

Over the next few weeks, each school will be meeting with their grad committees to develop new graduation plans. It will be important to work together in developing these plans. Each school principal will be sending an update to parents in the coming weeks as plans get solidified.





In just two weeks of having our page up and running, we already have 354 people following us which is more the double from the first week! The post below reached 1.4k and was viewed 829 times!  
<https://www.facebook.com/sd5southeastkootenay/videos/518415888855869/>

The Facebook page is 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 address at [cbo.mailing@sd5.bc.ca](mailto: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 is an update of each area:

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

- **Mental Health Week 2020** runs from May 4-8! The focus of Mental Health Week this year is social connection and its importance for mental health. This year’s campaign calls for us to #GetReal about how we really feel. 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 services workers.

- We had 21 students of parents of essential services workers for the week of April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- I want to share with you a wonderful email written by one of our parents:

*“I just wanted to send a short note to pass on my gratitude! N came home today so incredibly happy! My heart is SO full! Please send on my appreciation & gratitude to everyone at our school who is going above and beyond during this very difficult time! From a tier 1 essential service worker who has been dealing with incredible stress during these times - I will never forget the way you have made my son feel so special and comfortable and Joyous! THANK YOU!!*

Here are a few pictures from Isabella Dicken:



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



### 3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.

- **Grade 2's:** If you have a child in grade 2 who may benefit from some extra literacy support, you may be getting a call from your principal in the next few days to be a part of our “Rocking Grade 2 Readers Literacy Project.” Our goal ***“To inspire and motivate their love of reading in a playful and fun way along with improving their literacy skills”***. Thank you to the organizing committee as well as all of the teachers, EA’s and Principals/Vice Principals who are helping to support our children in literacy.
- **Grade 12's:** As we know, grade 12 is a very important year. One of our concerns is with grade 12 students where learning from home may cause difficulty in completing the courses this term. Principals will be calling parents and students in the next few weeks to work together to come up with supports to ensure their student’s success. Parents, if you have concerns about your child in grade 12, please reach out to your child’s teacher or principal.
- 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.

Please see the following [link](#) for our assessment and reporting plan during the pandemic. If you have any questions please contact your classroom teacher.

Have a look at this great opportunity scheduled for this Wednesday, May 6 on Zoom from 10 – 11 a.m. This workshop is designed to help parents support their young readers at home. Recommended for grades 1 – 3. Click [here](#).

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.





### **Confidentiality:**

In this new world of learning there have been photos shared on social media where there may not have been permission from parents or teachers. Please ensure that any photos or videos you post, you have checked with the individuals or parents to ensure that they are ok to have their pictures posted. Be cautious sharing an Zoom picture as sometimes there are names of individuals on the screen that some may not wish to have shared.

### **Virtual opportunities for LGBTQ2S+ students to connect**

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0020-000755>

**Please check out our website for more information at: [www.sd5.bc.ca](http://www.sd5.bc.ca)**

Take care of yourselves during this time,

Silke

