



École Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea
Senior School

Great becoming GREATER!

Todd Barter, Principal
John Mumford, Vice-Principal

April 2020

Dear Bear Country families,

I apologize in advance for the length of what will serve as our April newsletter but we have lots to cover in support of our students and our families during this time away from school.

We hope you are doing well during the uncertainty and stress that these times are creating. We recognize that these are challenging times for us all and are not able to control everything that is happening around us. Please follow public health guidelines, support each other, and show patience and understanding during this world health crisis.

We recognize that some families may be overwhelmed at this time as you balance many pressures. We have been communicating with our staff and want to reassure you that we are all here for you and your children. Teachers have reached out to each of you to find out if you have access to technology and internet at home and then shared that information with us so that we can communicate family needs to support children at home.

You may have heard, Premier Stephen McNeil announced that all public schools in Nova Scotia will remain closed until at least May 1. Premier McNeil also announced plans to support ongoing student learning during this closure period. We are following the guidelines provided to us and are putting plans in place to support learning. This learning is not meant to recreate the school day and it will look different in each of your homes given your situations. The hope is that each student will do an hour of learning each day if possible. They do not need to do this all at the same time and they do not have to be online to do it. Teachers will provide students with learning opportunities and will support you and your children. Families without access to technology will receive a learning package in the flyers that are delivered via SaltWire Network of Newspapers to homes. This is the same company that delivers grocery store flyers. If you do not receive flyers and would like to have a learning package delivered to your home every two weeks free of charge you can call the Chronicle Herald at 902 426-3031 ext. 5 regardless, if you have internet or not. If your child was receiving specific support for their individual needs at school be assured that their school team will be supporting them.

You cannot live a positive life with a negative mind!

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You will be hearing from your teachers on April 6 to explain what the plan will look like going forward for their class. We are sure you have lots of questions and we will do our best to answer them as soon as we know more. One of the most important characteristics we will draw on in the days to come will be our individual willingness to adapt and respond in extraordinary circumstances. We are stronger together, even with the physical distance that must currently exist between us.

Please find below some supports that you may find helpful.

The St. Margaret's Bay Food Bank is still servicing those who are in need of food support. If you would like this support please call 902-826-9272 to make an appointment. Once the appointment is made (which has been same day so far) you show up with your own reusable bags or boxes and collect your items.

A parent page has been developed and will be linked from the curriculum website. <https://curriculum.novascotia.ca/> This will have ideas for parents to extend learning at home. Equally, our school's web site has many At Home Options for extended learning (<https://tjh.hrce.ca/>)

If you find that your children are having difficulty coping with missing school, their teachers, their friends, social distancing, isolation and a disrupted school routine some additional resources you may want to access aside from staying connected with family and friends through social distancing methods are:

- Kids help phone - 1-888-660-6868
- Mental Health Crisis Line - 1-888-429-8167
- COVID19 website: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus>

Additionally our guidance counsellor, Mrs. Landry, is here to support students and/or family members during these challenging times. Please reach out clandry@hrce.ca as she is eager to help.

As a way to raise school spirit during these unusual times our school will be having a virtual spirit week we are calling our Bear Country At Home Spirit Week (yes a catchy title!). That information will be e-mailed to homes tomorrow night, April 3.

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Please know that it is within the realm of possibility that during these times your child's teacher may become ill to the point of not being able to support the class the way they had intended. In this case their grade level colleagues and specialist teachers will jump in and provide for the students in their regular teacher's absence.

To highlight:

On April 8 your child's teacher will e-mail an educational package for the first few days. **There will not at home learning expected on April 10 or 13 due to Easter.** For those families with challenges related to online learning you will find educational material within the weekly flyers that homes have delivered. Please know that this meant to be about an hour each day and will address math and literacy typically. Families can decide what works for you in relation to learning at home. If your child requires educational options beyond what their teacher sends or is within the package in the flyers they can refer to the web sites found at <https://curriculum.novascotia.ca/> or on our school's web site (<https://tjh.hrce.ca/>) . Your child's teacher will elaborate on what will be their office hour, for support, each day starting on April 8.

Please stay up to date on our school happenings from our Twitter account (@bltsenior).

Please keep in mind we are here to help, the work your child does at home (if they can) is not meant to replicate the classroom and will not be a perfect fit, may be messy and will evolve. All communication should be positive and in the name of working together. We are all figuring out our path together, your family can only do what you can do.

Please say hi to your children from us and let them know that we are thinking about them and miss them!
Take care and be safe.

Respectfully,
Todd Barter

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