



March 27, 2020

Dear Aspengrove Families,

I trust you are all staying well, taking care of each other and finding ways to enjoy the final days of our Spring Break. These are complex times, and I expect we have each experienced the kinds of challenges and uncertainty that were unimaginable a few weeks ago. We are fortunate to be supported by the relationships of our Aspengrove community, where the gifts of friendships and shared values buoy us up during difficult times. And so it goes without saying, we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school (virtually and from your homes, of course) on the morning of Wednesday, April 1st.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the members of our Aspengrove community who are front line workers in public health and health services, social services, law enforcement, first responders and emergency response, and to thank them for their ongoing demonstrations of dedication, resilience and courage. We are grateful for your service and, along with the rest of Canada, we heartily applaud you each night at 7:00 pm. Thank you so very much!

As you can imagine, teachers have spent time over the Break further researching, planning and designing our Online and Guided Learning Model. They are excited to be embarking on this new learning journey with their students--to be challenging themselves with new ways of teaching and learning; to be inspiring their students with new ways of engaging with the world of knowledge and understanding. Here are a few details to help you prepare over the next four days before returning to learn:

- Parents and students will receive division specific information (ELC, PYP, MYP and DP) on Monday, March 30th. Please be sure to read this information as it will outline schedules, expectations for online and guided learning, and communication/problem solving protocols.
- Parents and students will receive grade specific information on Tuesday, March 31st, from their classroom teachers. This communication will outline the specific learning plan that will begin the third term's work. Again, please be sure to read this carefully with your children.
- For the morning of Wednesday, April 1st, all students should have a device with video capability and a dedicated learning space.
- The first lesson will begin at 9:30 am on Wednesday; students should be in place and ready by 9:15am.

There are a few other, more general details that we believe are important for parents and students to understand:

- We are responsible for reporting to the Ministry of Education the hours of instruction we are delivering and our student attendance. It is important that students attend all scheduled lessons and commitments as indicated by their teachers. Attendance will be taken and all student instructional time will be accounted for.
- We expect all students to participate fully in all scheduled instructional activities and submit all required work for review or assessment. We will be submitting reports on progress for the third term and these reports will record student engagement and achievement.
- We require a respectful and professional tone to govern our learning at all times. Parents and students will receive guidelines that will outline specific expectations for the Online and Guided Learning model.
- During this period, we expect students to follow a dress code that is an extension of our regular classroom dress with some modifications. For all grades, the new dress code consists of: an Aspengrove polo (with an Aspengrove sweater, sweatshirt or fleece overtop where necessary) and pants or shorts of any kind, but that must be in good repair (no tears or rips) and clean, and not sweatpants or athletic tights.

Last week, I offered a few key actions you can take to support your children as they transition into this model of teaching and learning:

1. Read our communications and do so with your children. For parents of young children, this will be imperative; for parents of older children, this will be incredibly helpful in keeping them accountable.
2. Create a learning space for your children that will support focused engagement. Enlist their help in designing this space and ask key questions about how and when they learn best. It is ok if this space is shared with a sibling as long as there are agreements regarding use of technology, break times, and non-academic activities.
3. Create predictability by supporting a clear schedule of "school" versus "play" times. There may be times when this is determined by the activities and online collaborative/ classroom expectations. With your child, establish the patterns that will support learning. We will do the same through our communications and learning expectations.
4. Many of your children may be in an environment other than home, or with other responsible adults, due to childcare needs. Be sure to share the plans and expectations you have established and we have provided with those who will be supporting your children each day.
5. Finally, make sure to model a positive attitude. Your children will have varying responses to this model. It is our job to create a hopeful and encouraging atmosphere in which they can continue to learn.

We recognize the transition to the Teacher Designed Online and Guided Learning model may cause considerable uncertainty initially, until students have settled into routines and have sufficient understanding of practices and expectations. There will be myriad demands on families during this period. Please know, there is no problem too big or little for us to consider alongside you. Your child's teachers are prepared to offer support and guidance if anything is unclear and you have questions, or you simply need someone to problem solve with. Please do not hesitate to reach out to them, to any of us, directly via email.

Should you wish to contact the school for any reason, please call the Main Office phone (250-390-2201). While the office itself is closed, Amy Swanton will pick up and answer your call!

I know you are all monitoring the health and wellness of our community and the developments that are taking place each day around the globe. I encourage you to continue to practice all the good guidance we are being given by our local and provincial leaders and to seek out only the most reliable resources for information. Until our next communication, I wish you all well.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo-Anne Kingstone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jo-Anne Kingstone
Head of School