

**Dear École Bannatyne Families,**

This is to express our sincere appreciation for your patience and understanding throughout the past week, during these unprecedented circumstances we all face together. Given the decision to shift learning from the classroom to home, our staff was tasked to transform their teaching practice. I am beyond proud and amazed at the extraordinary work they put in over the past week preparing for the upcoming change in the learning lives of our students. Their work is a testament to our commitment to supporting each other and our students and I know you join me in thanking each of them for caring for our École Bannatyne Families while balancing and taking care of their own during this challenging time.

As we work and learn together over the coming weeks, the following are some suggestions and information that you might find helpful as you and your child(ren) adjust to learning at home.

**1. Create a Learning Space:**

Each student would benefit from a comfortable, functional, well-lit space for learning and room to have the materials they need at hand, while also staying organized. This could be a desk in their room or a section of your dining room or kitchen table. This learning space might also be shared with siblings who are learning from home too.

## **2. Try to maintain Schedules and Routines:**

As you know, our school day runs from 8:50 am – 3:55 pm with many chances for movement, music, and opportunities for play and collaboration. Our hope is that you will be able to incorporate these elements into your child’s day at home. On the other hand, we also recognize that your schedule at home might not be the same as a typical school day. Please try your best. We understand the learning environment at home will be different from the learning environment at school. We expect only that families will do their best to adjust daily routines, so that students are able to navigate their learning, as best as possible, while at home.

For example, a typical school day generally consists of three, 30-45 minute “working” chunks that are broken up throughout the day with sharing of stories, music, gym, recess, lunch, learning games play and exploration. It might be beneficial to use a timer to help incorporate breaks in individual work times and to encourage movement throughout the day.

## **3. Get Supports from Our Staff:**

**Teachers** – students and families will receive direct communication through Seesaw, email or over the phone from their teachers and teachers are available during the school day to check in and support learning and emotional well-being. Be sure to reach out to them, as needed.

**Student Support Services (Guidance and Resource)** – Mme Smart and Mme McLachlan continue to support all students in our school, working closely with teachers to ensure all students who already receive support at school continue to

receive it while they are at home. They are also available by email and phone. Mme Burnett and I are as well.

**NOTE:** Even if your family has not worked with Mme Smart or Mme McLachlan in the past, our team is available to you and your child. These are unprecedented times. We know some children (and families) might need some extra support, and we are here to provide it.

#### **4. Student Expectations:**

**Getting Ready for the Day** - students should be encouraged to gain independence and ready for learning each day. This includes getting dressed (out of their PJ's), having a good breakfast and organizing themselves with the supplies, books and resources they need for the day.

**Completing assigned activities** – It might be beneficial to set learning goals for the day in terms of what needs to be finished while ensuring the day remains balanced and includes time for speaking, reading, singing and/or listening in French, movement, music and play. The idea of the take home learning packages and activities provided by teachers on SeeSaw is to not be the first finished. It is rather to demonstrate understanding of the content and to maintain communication with your child's teacher. Be sure to take time to stop and celebrate when learning goals are achieved.

#### **5. Parents' Role:**

Parents are not expected to teach their children or even understand the class material. The parents' role is to help make sure children have what they need for learning, get them to "class," check in to make sure they are completing their

assignments and let teachers know if they have any questions or require extra support or resources. Please note the following link to a SeeSaw parent tutorial that you may find useful in answering some of your questions about this on-line learning platform:

<https://web.seesaw.me/remote-learning-for-families>

#### **6. Take Advantage of Technologies:**

**Seesaw** – Much of the communication and learning will take place via Seesaw and each classroom teacher has and will continue to be in contact with their students, their families and each other.

#### **7. Stay Connected to Our School Community and help us continue to take care of each other:**

Taking care of each other is how we operate day to day. Right now, helping students and families continue to feel our sense of community and connection, is equally critical. I invite you to share with us. I know some amazing things will be happening in your households over the coming weeks. Please share your photos, videos and stories of your child(ren) learning, speaking French, at play, taking breaks outside, practising mindfulness, being creative and/or “taking care of each other”. **Only with your permission**, Mme Cadieux, Mme McCaughan, Mme Burnett and I will work to share these special moments with our community. (send these moments and stories to [bannatyne@sjasd.ca](mailto:bannatyne@sjasd.ca))

Finally, as communicated earlier in the week, student take home learning packages are available for pick-up on **Tuesday, March 24, 2020 between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm**. Please plan to send only one family member when you drop by to pick-up packages and help us adhere to social distancing restrictions. Mme Burnett and I will be at

school to distribute packages and are required to limit the number of people entering the building in order to maintain appropriate distance. We promise to work as quickly as possible to distribute the package(s).

Again, on behalf of our staff, thank-you again to our entire École Bannatyne Community for your patience and understanding and for your partnership in this new learning adventure.

Sincerely,

**Roné Boyko**

**Principal/Directrice**

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