



DIAMOND SCHOOL Newsletter – May 14, 2020

Dear Diamond families,

Principal's Message

As we head into the May long weekend, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your active participation as we pursue continued learning for all our Diamond students. We are incredibly grateful for the faith and continued support that you, our parents, have put in our school and teachers and the hard work you and your families are doing to keep our students and our community safe, healthy, and learning. Wishing you all a happy and healthy four-day weekend!

Next Steps in School Instruction

As you have likely heard, the BC government have recently announced BC's Restart Plan. What this means for schools in BC is different in every school district.

We are told to expect a formal announcement from the Minister of Education by the end of this week with updated information about the expectations for the phased-in approach to the gradual re-introduction of in-class learning for BC's schools. The Ministry of Education will be putting out a new Integrated Planning Framework, which will include Operating Standards and Guidelines, Health Guidance specific for K-12 schools, Safety Plans and Standards, and recommendations for a practical and safe return to in-class instruction.

We will continue to work closely with the Ministry of Education and follow all requirements and recommendations of the Minister and the Provincial Health Officer as we prepare for the next phase of BC's Restart Plan. We remain incredibly grateful for your continued patience and support during this pandemic. We will let you know as soon as we can what the next steps will look like for our Diamond community.

New Website Login Links

One addition to our website you may have noticed already is a new login option at the top right-hand corner with two things many of you have been asking for: a link to the MySchool login page for easy access and a new page that will allow you to view upcoming events scheduled for your child's grade. We know juggling multiple accounts and organizing multiple schedules is hard, especially during this time of change. Hopefully these links can help in a small way. Thank you for these suggestions and please continue to let us know of other ways we can make this time a little easier for everyone.

Scheduled Events by Grade

The new scheduled event lists will be available on our website starting at the beginning of next week. The event schedules will include Zoom meetings scheduled for your child's grade, significant deadlines, and any school-wide events. They will not include individual Zoom meetings scheduled with individual students or families or individual learning lessons distributed through Edmodo. To view a class schedule, login using the following login credentials:

- email address: *see emailed version of newsletter*
- password: *see emailed version of newsletter*

**Please do not log in on a public computer or share the login info with those outside the Diamond community*

Media Consent

We are continually updating our school website and are very excited to announce that a Diamond School Instagram account is currently in the works. We are looking forward to connecting with you online and showcasing our incredible students and school community in new ways. To continue to ensure our student's privacy, we have updated our Media Consent form (previously called a Photo Consent). Please log in to your MySchool account to complete the new Media Consent for each of your students. This consent will replace the current Photo Consent completed by you last year.



DIAMOND SCHOOL Newsletter – May 14, 2020

Online Learning Tools

Since BC's transition to at-home learning, our teachers have worked incredibly hard to create and implement at-home learning programs using accessible online tools. We couldn't be prouder of their hard work and creativity in this endeavour. The two main tools our school has been using are Edmodo and Zoom. These two tools together have allowed our students and teachers to connect and continue to meet learning objectives throughout the changes in education required to keep our community safe and healthy during this pandemic.

Onboard with Zoom: To help schools with their government-mandated switch to at-home learning, the BC government secured a provincial licence allowing all BC schools, including Diamond, to use Zoom under a special provincial licence that complies with BC's privacy legislation. The government's Information bulletin on Zoom licences, including several language translations, can be found here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/21927>. Our teachers are now using this licence for all Zoom sessions.

Edmodo: We would like to thank all parents who have voluntarily created Edmodo accounts in order to enable continued and effective communication with teachers. The use of Edmodo is not required for any student. However, if you consent to your child's use of the Edmodo platform for this final school term please complete the Edmodo Consent available in your MySchool account.

Duolingo: Specific consents for additional online tools will be available in your MySchool account as needed. For example, students in grades 3 through 10 French may use an online platform called Duolingo, and a Duolingo consent will be available in MySchool shortly.

If you do not have a MySchool account and have not already received the consents by email, please contact the school office.

Website Update Troubleshooting

If you are experiencing issues where recent updates are not displayed on our school website, please delete your browser cookies or sign in using a private browser. Cookies have been turned off on our website since February, but your browser may still be holding on to old information. Once you clear your old browser data, you will see all website updates going forward.

Celebrations!

Dennis and his family would like to announce the arrival of Ariel into their home and future together! Congratulations Dennis and family, and welcome baby Ariel!

Our primary students have been hosting some very special guest readers during their daily Zoom meetings - our Grade 3 students! The Grade 3 students have selected Australian animals to research and have done a phenomenal job creating non-fiction books. They have been so excited to share their stories with their classmates and other Diamond students!



Our Kindergartens have been discussing a very important theme lately - bravery. In fact, they had a class meeting on Friday specifically about it. At the start of Kindergarten all students have to be brave as they start school for the very first time. Ironically, now, at the end of Kindergarten our bravery is needed again. We are incredibly proud of our little Kindergarten superheroes, as well as all of our brave students!

Deborah and her French classes have had a lot of fun using Kahoot recently. Kahoot is a game-based learning platform where students can compete against each other in learning games and quizzes. The Grade 8s reviewed vocabulary, conjugated verbs in present tense, and *l'Impératif*. The Grade 9s reviewed large numbers, vocabulary, the *futur proche* and the *passé composé*. Congratulations to this week's Kahoot point winners!

The Grade 10's have begun to complete mock job interviews as part of Career-Life Education. We are so proud of the maturity, confidence, professionalism and enthusiasm these young adults have demonstrated during these interviews. Congratulations Grade 10s for a job very well done!