

March 27th, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

After hearing Governor Scott's announcement yesterday that schools are likely to remain dismissed for the remainder of the year, we imagine you are experiencing a range of emotions. We want you to know, this news has saddened us all greatly as well.

We know you are all working to adjust to this very new and different reality. We are as well. This adjustment has likely included a number of challenges and we want you to know that we are here for you. Our teachers and staff have been working to implement new programs to provide meal delivery and temporary child care for essential workers. They are also setting up systems for providing your child with the very best home-learning experience possible in this new distance-learning environment.

We want you to know, you have permission to focus on being a parent first and foremost. Your child is likely experiencing a range of emotions, especially as they imagine the reality of not returning to school. They may be more anxious about this new learning experience than they show. The very best thing for them in these uncertain times will likely be to spend quality time with you. The health and well-being of your child is of utmost importance through this time and your primary job remains to provide the care and love that your child is undoubtedly craving.

Of course, school is important and we will rely on you to partner with your child's teacher in supporting their learning. As you may well know, our teachers are working tirelessly to imagine new and exciting ways to connect with you and your child, while also developing new knowledge around new tools and resources so that your child remains motivated to learn. Our teachers are amazing and we are so thankful for all they are doing.

As we work to develop plans for distance learning on our end, we want you to know, it's ok for you to continue to focus primarily on being your child's parent. In fact, it's perfect.

As we head into the coming weeks, give yourself permission to enjoy time with your child. Take a walk together. Snuggle up with a story together. Play a board game together. Watch a funny show and chat about it. Make something together.

Learning happens in many so many different ways. Nature provides real-life opportunities for scientific exploration. Math is likely hidden within that board game. Reading that story together models a love of reading. Chatting about a show gives your child an opportunity to practice conversation. And time with you provides comfort and stability during these unstable times.

Years from now, your child will look back and remember the precious time they spent with you. Your comfort and reassurance is of utmost importance to them right now. They are looking to you to know that we will all be ok. This is the most important thing you can provide for them right now.

We know you are likely to be juggling many things and want to be sure you know that we care deeply about you and your child. We are thinking of you. We miss you and we are here for you. We will get through this together.

Sincerely yours,

Lyle Holiday, Superintendent

Deb Kardane, Curriculum Coordinator

Julianne Eagan, Dummerston School Principal

John Gagnon, Guilford Central School Principal

Herve Pelletier, Putney Central School Principal

Mary Kaufmann, Oak Grove School

Mary Ross, Vernon Elementary School Principal

Kelly Dias, Academy School Principal

Jon Sessions, Academy School Assistant Principal

Mark Speno, Green Street School Principal

Marisa Duncan-Holley, Director Special Education

Shelley Wilson, Assistant Director of Special Education

Paul Smith, Curriculum Coordinator