

April 20, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope you are all doing well and had a restful and enjoyable Easter weekend. We have completed our second week of distance learning. I hope that our students are finding it enjoyable in reconnecting with their friends and teachers.

**Distance Learning Continues**

Our teachers continue to use Google Classroom to provide students the opportunity to engage in distance learning. The following work limits have been given by the Ministry of Education.

* Kindergarten-Grade 3: five hours of work per student/week (focus on literacy and math)
* Grades 4-6: five hours of work per student/week (focus on literacy, math, science, and social studies)
* Grades 7-8: 10 hours of work per student/week (focus on math, literacy, science, and social studies)

Parents can always ‘assign’ other tasks to their children such as gardening, cooking, reading, drawing, painting or encouraging them to spend some extra time on some of the links provided at the online parent resource database for distance learning: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ugIj0UbOTvwz4_tKdf7jS75p9kD11fRZetc7BXRpeg8/htmlview>

We look forward to continuing our distance education program and supporting our students and parents in this endeavour.

**Funding for Families**

While schools are closed, parents can apply for direct funding to offset the cost of buying materials to support their children’s learning. Eligible parents will receive a one-time per child payment of:

$200 for children aged 0 to 12

$250 for children or youth aged 0-21 with special needs

Applications can be placed through the following link:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-support-families>

**Mental Health for Families & Students**

The article below has some good strategies for parents, guardians, and families to implement to help support students during the coronavirus crisis. If you have a moment, you may be interested in taking a quick look:

<https://childmind.org/article/supporting-kids-during-the-covid-19-crisis/>

There are also many great tips and resources available through YCDSB’s Mental Health account on Twitter: @YCDSB\_MH

**Aurora Teen Idol**

The Aurora Teen Idol competition will take place on July 1st. This is open to all youths aged 12 to 17 in Aurora. Auditions will take place on June 10 and will be done virtually should you and your child be interested in entering the contest. You can find more information at <https://www.aurora.ca/en/recreation-arts-and-culture/canada-day.aspx>

Please see the attached flyer and application below.

**Aurora Cultural Centre**

This month, the Aurora Cultural Centre has launched an online initiative called "Arts At Home Aurora". This initiative, captured by the hashtag #ArtsAtHomeAurora, encourages individuals to share their at-home creations - be it drawing or painting, baking or cooking, singing or dancing, playing an instrument or acting out a skit - and we will share their photos and videos on our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages. If you and your child are interested in participating simply use the hashtag when you post your pictures. Please see the flyer attached for information.

**School Website**

Stay connected with our school website as well as Twitter: @HST\_YCDSB

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. A. Modica