

April 5, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope that this email finds all of our Holy Spirit families well and safe during this unique time. I am happy to hear that our teachers have reached out to all of you to reconnect and say hello. This past Tuesday, the Ontario government announced that school closures will continue for both staff and students. If there is no further extension to the health precautions being taken due to the COVID-19 outbreak then Holy Spirit will reopen on **Monday, May 4th, 2020**.

In a concerted effort to continue education for our students, we implemented Phase 1 of our distance learning plan and are looking forward to beginning Phase 2 as outlined by our Director Mr. A. Falconi in his most recent letter to parents. Please take a moment to review the information below. As more information becomes available, I will continue to email our school community. Please stay safe and I look forward to seeing everyone once this situation resolves itself so that we can get back to creating wonderful, lasting memories at our school.

**Holy Week & Easter**

As Catholics, we are approaching a very significant time in our faith. Palm Sunday signifies the start of Holy Week. A week that commemorates the triumphant arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem. Palms, used as a traditional way to pay homage, signify peace and our Saviour’s victory over death. While we cannot gather as a school community to reflect and celebrate, it reminds us of the importance and strength of prayer. Take the opportunity to pray and reflect on the joyful message of the risen Lord, especially during this intriguing time in our lives. I have provided a prayer below which we have been sharing over our morning announcements during Lent which you may wish to use with your family over the next week.

**Lenten Prayer**

God of the journey,

Walk with us this Lent,

Help us to persevere,

In staying with you on the journey

through Lent to Easter.

Amen

**First Holy Communion and Confirmation**

Please wait for communication directly from the Parish for all information regarding the celebration of these Sacraments.

**The Virtue of the Month**

In April we celebrate the virtue of reverence. Students are reminded to honour and respect God’s gift of life. They are also encouraged to show good manners and treat others the way they wish to be treated.

**Hot Lunch During COVID-19 Closure**

All hot lunch dates that were missed due to the school closure during the COVID-19 situation will be cancelled.  If possible, the dates will be rescheduled once the school reopens.  If the school closure is extended and the dates cannot be rescheduled, then all family accounts will be credited for orders that were not fulfilled. The credit will be applied to hot lunch orders for the 2020-2021 school year.

Alternate arrangements will be made for families that will not be returning to Holy Spirit in September.  Due to the school closure, we do not have access to refund any orders. Please email the hot lunch committee if you will not have a child in the school in September. I appreciate your patience and understanding regarding this issue.

**Scientists in The School Programs**

At this time, due to the school closure, no refunds can be made. We hope to reschedule our Scientists in the School programs when our school reopens. More information will be provided after May 4th, 2020 when we can reevaluate how and if we can proceed with the program.

**Distance Learning: Phase 2**

Additional resources continue to be added to the Learn at Home website. The website and additional resources can be found at <https://www.ycdsb.ca/covid-19>.

Many of our teachers will be using Google Classroom to provide distance learning to students. In order to access classrooms, students will need their google username and password. If you need further information on how to log in, it has been provided in the PowerPoint and links in the latest letter from our Director of Education, Mr. A. Falconi. The parent resources can also be found on the website above as well as on our Holy Spirit school website.

Teachers will continue to reach out to parents by phone and through email. If you receive a phone call from a blocked telephone number, please know that this may be your child’s teacher trying to reach you.

**Access to Technology**

We continue to develop and put into practice a plan to distribute technology devices to those families in need who have filled out the survey sent by our director. This will include the distribution of SEA claims for students who have one. More information will follow.

**April and May Events**

All events for April and May have been cancelled at our school in conjunction with the information outlined by our school board. This includes:

* Field trips
* Overnight trips
* Academic, athletic and arts competitions/camps
* Welcome to Kindergarten and Kindergarten First Impression Visits
* Catholic Education Week

**Kindergarten Registration for 2020-2021 School Year**

We continue to accept online registrations. Due to the school closure, no appointments can be made at this time.

**School Website**

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

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. A. Modica

Principal