



## ST. MATTHEW'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

16065 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Surrey, BC V4N 1G3 P: 604.589.7545 F: 604.589.7113  
www.stmatthewselementary.ca

March 26, 2020

Dear Parents,

The Ministry of Education and the Superintendent's Office of CISVA have provided guidance as to what the expectations are regarding the resumption of learning once the spring break ends. Schools are working now to put in place a plan for an alternate delivery of learning opportunities for students. I will present these guidelines, as well as some of our school's own local decisions, in a Q&A format below. There will be many more questions that will arise as we go through this process together and I ask for your patience as we work to get this organized and communicated to you.

Also attached with this letter is a very helpful set of frequently asked questions released by the Ministry of Education on 25 March.

### **For Essential Service Workers (health care workers and emergency responders)**

*If you have **unaddressed** childcare needs please contact me directly.*

If you have questions, please email me directly at [welsh@stmatthewselementary.ca](mailto:welsh@stmatthewselementary.ca)

Sincerely,

Deborah Welsh, Principal

### **Q & A for Parents Regarding Learning for the Remainder of the Year**

#### **1). *Will schools re-open on 30 March?***

Schools will reopen on Monday 30 March for staff only. The Ministry of Education and CISVA have stated that parents should expect learning to commence **within a week or two of that date**. Because in-classroom learning has been suspended in the province how schools are to deliver education will take on some new forms and approaches. Staff are currently working on getting a comprehensive plan together and we will have these details to families **on or before Thursday, April 9, 2020**.



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The Ministry of Education is expected to release a planning framework document for teachers on Friday 27 March, which will provide support and direction for our school's plan. Our teachers will need some time to digest this framework and put it into practice. In the meantime, our staff have already been working to anticipate the changes needed to ensure the continuity of learning for your child.

### **2). *How will teaching and learning take place when in-class instruction has been suspended?***

Learning for your child will be delivered in a variety of ways. We recognize that the methods used will need to be age appropriate and our teachers are working to ensure this for our students.

It will take time to work this out and we ask for your patience and understanding as we work through the logistics of how this will occur. The goal is not to replace the classroom experience, but to provide the best possible learning under these circumstances. We do not want learning to become a source of stress and conflict in the home and recognize that striking the right balance will take some time. Ultimately, it will be up to parents to determine when and how much work can be accomplished each day. This is an opportunity for all of us to work together to support our students.

### **3). *How do we collect our child's personal items from school?***

Within a week your family will be informed of how and when to pick up your child's personal belongings.

### **4). *When can I expect to be contacted by my child's teacher?***

On or before Thursday, April 9, 2020.

### **5). *Will tuition be waived?***

The Ministry of Education has been clear that while in classroom learning has been suspended student learning continues. Our goal is to ensure that this takes place in as seamless a way as possible recognizing the challenges this presents for all concerned – parents, student and staff. We will continue to charge tuition to meet our financial obligations to staff and suppliers.



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If your financial circumstances have changed significantly as a result of COVID 19 and you are unable to pay your tuition, please write to me (Miss Welsh) and the Education Committee Chair Katrina Bellosillo and we will work with you on an appropriate plan to defer whole or in part. We are here to help. We do not want anyone to withdraw from the school should they be unable to pay tuition.

If you need to make such a request, please email **before March 31, 2020** as tuition payments will be processed the next day. Email [welsh@stmatthewselementary.ca](mailto:welsh@stmatthewselementary.ca) and PEC at [katrina.amurao@gmail.com](mailto:katrina.amurao@gmail.com)

**6). Will this impact First Communion and Confirmation dates?**

Students in Grades Two and Seven will continue preparation for receiving the Sacraments. Formal celebrations will be postponed until further notice from the Archbishop's office. Schools will communicate with pastors to determine how preparation will continue.