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Dear Living Sky Families:

As we all get ready to enter the second week of a new way of learning for all, I wanted to reach out and say, “Way to Go!”. **Way to Go Parents!** for making it through another week of working from home, caring for your family, collaborating with school staff, and doing your best to keep it together because you want what’s best for your kids. **Way to Go Staff!** for working hard to reconnect with families, adjusting to new expectations, learning new skills, and doing your best to keep it together because you want what’s best for your students. **Way to Go Students!** for continuing to be positive, being patient with the adults in your life, and discovering new ways to learn and grow because you want to be the best you can be.

Over this past week, I have heard great stories about connections between school and families. I have heard that teachers miss their students and students miss their teachers, families were excited to hear from staff and some of the new ways of learning will continue long past the crisis we are in. As we move from the known to the unknown, we are discovering that together we are truly stronger.

Last week, two of our goals were to reconnect with students and families and to determine, through a student survey, the high school courses students want us to be sure to offer. The high school survey link will remain open until Monday at 6:00 pm. After this time, expect to hear from your teacher, if you have not already heard from them. High school marks, as of March 13th, will be available on HomeLogic by Monday afternoon.

Please continue to refer to our Resource for Parents (attached) that details a Supplemental Learning Plan for all Living Sky School Division students. Supporting ongoing learning at home does not mean covering all curriculum outcomes or having students sit for five hours a day *doing school*. Learning takes many forms. Taking part in activities such as reading (and being read to), writing, connecting to the outside world, and giving back (helping out at home or preparing a meal for someone) all provide valuable learning opportunities for students. Families will vary in the amount of time available to support student learning, and that’s okay. Remember to check out some fun learning activities at www.lskysd.ca (click on the *Keep on Learning* image).

Starting Monday, at the Division level, we will be working to determine a safe way to create learning packages for students and deliver them to families. We will also need to think about how to get the technology to students for whom a lack of technology presents a barrier to learning. We’re currently in the process of assessing needs and getting direction from health experts regarding the safest way to deploy our plan.

Through all of this, our main priority remains the health and safety of all. We continue to work from home to do our part in being socially responsible and to slow down the spread of COVID-19. Thank you to all of you for joining us in social/physical distancing. We recognize that these circumstances can affect our mental health and well-being. Please see the attached list of community and online resources and remember that you can contact your school for counselling support. We will get through this together.

Take care,

Ronna Pethick, Board Chair

Reminder: Good Friday is April 10th and Easter Break for students and staff is April 13-17th.