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May 21, 2020

Dear Chinook families,

As a school division, we are thinking about planning for the fall. At this time, we know that we will be back to regular classroom learning for all students rather than optional supplemental learning. What we don't know is whether students and staff will be able to return to school or what restrictions will be in place when they do, and we likely won't know this clearly until August.

In the coming weeks, we will be working with teachers to ensure that no matter what the health and government restrictions are, we are able to take care of the learning needs of your children starting September 3rd when school begins.

I know that learning at home has not been easy for you or your children. This pandemic is a difficult circumstance for all with no playbook. We are all trying to do the best we can in a challenging and uncertain time. During this pandemic, we are travelling in uncharted waters. The Premier and the Chief Medical Health Officer have ordered the closure of all provincial schools to limit the spread of the coronavirus and, more importantly, to keep our children and our communities safe. We did not choose this, we had no choice. Once we are told it is safe to gather, we will gladly reopen our schools. In our schools with children is where we all want to be.

To date, this closure and learning from home has been effective in limiting the spread of the virus, but it is taxing and it is clearly not ideal. This is not how I want your children or my own children to learn. Provincially, behind the scenes, we are working on a plan for reopening Saskatchewan schools for the fall that will balance the health and safety of students and staff with the need of providing a strong education to our students.

Because we know it is difficult for families to have children at home, our fall planning will move forward. However, when our schools do open, there will be many necessary protective and hygienic measures that will need to be put in place to ensure student and staff safety.

We have developed a [Parent/Caregiver COVID-19 Survey](#) to collect feedback on supplemental learning at home and to guide our planning for what reopening may look like in fall 2020. Please complete the survey by Friday, May 29, 2020.

We value what you are doing to help your children while protecting their health and safety. Please hang in there. Stay healthy and stay safe. You have been amazing partners over the past several weeks and we admire the support you have provided for your children and for the staff at Chinook.

We are committed to use the learning we have achieved to provide even better service for students in the fall. There will be bumps in the road, but your children are going to be okay. We can't wait to see them when it is safe for them to return to school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KM', written in a cursive style.

Kyle McIntyre  
Director of Education