

This email is sent on behalf of Carol Coulson, Acting Principal of CAFE and GOAL

Dear Parents and Guardians,

EMAIL CONFIRMATION

*We need to ensure that our emails are actually reaching the parents/guardians of our students. **To this end, once you have finished reading the rest of the information, can you please hit "reply" to confirm you have received it, and just tell us your child's name and your name.***

Your child's name (CAFE/GOAL Student):

Your name (as their parent/guardian):

Thank you for your attention to this important step. Communication will be critical going forward and we need to ensure we have updated information.

CONTINUITY OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The remaining portion of this email will provide you with information with respect to how your child's learning will look going forward. This is an unprecedented time in our history and as such our Ministry of Education, School District and school are working diligently to work through the details of how to allow student learning and support to be continuous.

We recognize the fact that learning will look different right now. Evaluation will be in relation to a smaller set of learning standards that students are able to complete at home. Students will get a report card in June that will be based on work completed to date AND the assessment of participation in learning opportunities. It will require a fine balance between holding students accountable but also understanding that we are operating under a very different set of circumstances and there may be heightened anxiety, constraints, family situations, etc. to be aware of. Students requiring supports will get them.

Graduation Information:

For those students born in 2001 and 2002: The Ministry of Education has clearly stated that, "Every student **eligible** to graduate from Grade 12 this year will graduate". As such we will do our best to ensure that all of our potential graduates become "eligible" by ensuring they are well aware of their present course completion progress and are scheduled into all the courses they will need to meet at least the basic minimum graduation requirements. This situation does not mean that students will graduate "no matter what", but rather that they are expected to continue learning and complete assignments set out by their teachers in order to graduate. CAFE is a unique school and, as you know, uses an alternative structure for delivering education. This means that each student who has the potential to graduate has a plan with a certain number of courses needed to complete graduation requirements that is very specific to them. In the next few days, the families of students who have the potential to graduate will be contacted and given the specifics of their unique graduation plan. Some students only need a few credits, others need more. Those families whose children are not in a position to graduate this June will also be contacted and informed of the number of credits still required to graduate.

Teacher Contact:

Teachers will be in touch with students and families before the end of the week. The intent of their initial contact is to connect with students and determine needs as well as what communication looks like moving forward. **This communication may come in the form of an email to their school district address (060- followed by first initial and last name) or through a phone call.** If teachers are using their personal phones the numbers will be blocked so please remind your child to answer calls even if there is no caller ID.

SUPPORTS FOR FAMILIES

While we are clear that our primary mandate as a school staff is to provide an education for our students, right now we are trying to assess which of our students (and possibly their families by extension) are needing support with meeting some of their basic needs such as food and shelter. A part of the programming at CABE/GOAL has always included this type of support, as we have regularly accessed our local food bank on a weekly basis, and at times have reached out to community shelters. With the current conditions we are living in, we realize that some of our clients may not have been able to get what they need to live comfortably.

We want to help. Let us know if we can help you and/or your family access food and other supplies needed. While we can make no promises, we will do our best to ease this kind of burden. Please respond to me personally, Carol Coulson, principal of CABE/GOAL (ccoulson@sd43.bc.ca) if this type of assistance would be helpful. I will then forward you a survey to determine needs and numbers, and I will contact you with a follow up plan. This information will be kept confidential.

Should you be experiencing concerns about managing rent payments, we have included an excerpt below with some information about relief.

The information below has been copied from liv.rent in regards to what financial supports are available for renters?

Rent relief

- B.C. is offering up to \$500/month to eligible renters for the next 4 months if their jobs have been lost or significantly curtailed due to the nationwide restrictions imposed to curb COVID-19. The funds will be paid directly to landlords on behalf of renters and applicants will be vetted for need through the federal employment insurance program.
- BC Government has suspended ALL evictions (except in very limited circumstances, namely, properties involved in crime).
- Rent increases have been frozen as of April 1

Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

- is a taxable benefit providing up to \$2,000 a month for up to four months for workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. All Canadians who have become unemployed due to COVID-19, whether they are EI-eligible or not, will be able to receive the

CERB to ensure they have timely access to the income support they need. (NOTE: The CERB is a simpler and more accessible combination of the previously announced Emergency Care Benefit and Emergency Support Benefit)

Employment Insurance (EI)

- The one-week waiting period for employment insurance has been waived.
- The Emergency Response Benefit is also available to anyone who has lost their job due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Climate Action Tax Credit

- one-time enhancement to the [climate action tax credit will be paid in July 2020 for moderate to low-income families.](#)

Tax Credit and Income Tax relief

- Extension of the tax filing deadline to June 1 from March 31st.
- Deferred tax payments until after Aug. 31 for tax payments that are due between now and before September.
- A temporary boost to Canada Child Benefit payments, delivering about \$2 billion in extra support to families with children.
- The Federal Government has announced a [Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers. This three-month measure enables eligible employers to reduce the amount of payroll deductions required to be remitted to the Canada Revenue Agency \(CRA\).](#)

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please remember to reply to this email now so we know that we have correct contact information for future correspondence.

Warm regards,

Carol

Carol Coulson

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