



March 18, 2020

Aanii to the Families of WBE Students,

RE: School and Hub Center Closures

The Chief and Council of Wikwemkoong Unceded Territory has announced that the Hub Center, Junior School, Pontiac School and Wikwemikong High School will be closed for students until April 5, 2020. This decision was made to help reduce the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Wikwemkoong Board of Education is advising parents and students that the Schools and the Hub Center will be closed for students. During this challenging time, the WBE will continue supporting your child's learning through the following:

Planning Session with WBE Staff:

Planning Sessions with the schools and Hub Center will take place with staff and principals/supervisors on March 23-24, 2020 within their separate education buildings or virtual discussions. We are committed to keep within the threshold of avoiding gatherings for more than 50 people. Some staff will be attending this session virtually. Planning for this will take place with the principal/supervisor and staff members.

As a school team, your child's teacher will be working to provide you with learning activities for your child. This learning can be done virtually or may be paper-based. More specifically, grade 12 students still need to continue with learning as they are planning to graduate by the end of the school year. Your child's principal will reach out to you to advise you how the school is planning to meet the learning needs of students.

Continued Learning:

The WBE education staff is working on how the Junior School, Pontiac School and Wikwemikong High School will continue to meet the educational needs of our students. We ask that you support your child as they learn from home. More information will come from the principal of your child's school on what this may look like. This learning can be done virtually or may be paper-based depending on your family's need.

The education staff have had to adjust quickly during this unprecedented time. This is the first time to offer off-site learning for our students, board wide. This is a unique way of teaching when it comes to teaching online. Some of our teachers are having to learn as they go when it comes to virtual teaching and learning. We ask for your patience as we roll out learning for your child. We are learning through trial and error as we proceed over next couple of weeks.

Laptops will be available for student use to participate in virtual learning from home. If you need a device, parents are asked to provide an email address and to make a request to borrow a laptop to the IT Manager, Josie Tober at jtober@wbe-education.ca. She will email you the 'Information Technology Agreement Form' to be signed via virtual or paper options. Following this request, you may expect to pick-up your child's laptop to be anywhere from 12-24 hours. Once this agreement is signed and returned to Josie, she will email you a set time, date and location to pick-up your child's device. Furthermore, if you require internet access during the school closure, guest access will be available near any of the 3 school buildings anytime. Josie will provide you with Wi-Fi-passwords when laptops are picked up.

Student Nutrition:

The WBE is continuing with the student nutrition program through a different avenue. While encouraging social distancing, we will be supporting students as we provide food vouchers for families at Andy's. All actively enrolled students and early learners from the Hub Center thorough to grade 12 from March 23 to April 3, 2020 are included in this initiative.

The WBE Admin Office will be providing Andy's Administration Office with the food vouchers under the name of the primary care-giver of the child(ren) that attend the Hub Center and/or WBE schools. The amount to expect is \$25.00 per child. Therefore, parents can expect to pick up the vouchers at Andy's Administration Office on March 25, 2020.

Wiikwemkoong Post-Secondary Student Support Services:

Post-Secondary students are asked to keep up-to-date with the information they are provided from their education institute. Most universities and colleges have announced that they have closed their doors for face-to-face learning and will be proceeding with online learning. As such, students are expected to adhere to the expectations of their learning institutes.

All students, including returning students, will need to apply for the new school year. The due dates for student applications for the school year 2020-2021 is June 1st and already has the application online for you to access. If you have any questions, please advise the Lead Education Navigator: Rona George rgeorge@wbe-education.ca

The WBE Administration Office:

Our staff at the administration office are preparing to work from home. This is in the best interest of our team as we aim to provide essential services while looking out for the welfare of our staff. We are planning to work remotely with each other as we meet virtually on Microsoft Teams.

The best way to reach any members of the Senior Admin Team is through cell or email:

- System Principal: Mick Staruck Cell: (705) 210-0146
Email: mstaruck@wbe-education.ca
- Senior Business Official: Maureen Aiabens Cell: (705) 208-0915
Email: maiabens@wbe-education.ca
- Education Director: Fay Zoccole Cell: (705) 207-1346
Email: fzoccole@wbe-education.ca

In closing, the WBE would like to remind everyone in these challenging times to stay safe, continue hand washing and social distancing practices. If you have any questions, please advise.

Miigwech,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fay Zoccole".

Fay Zoccole
Education Director