

April 23, 2020

Subject: Information about COVID-19 (coronavirus) – update no. 15

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians.

It's hard to believe that it has been almost six complete weeks since schools/centres have been closed. To say that we miss our SWLSB students and community is an understatement. Our school/centre teams are looking forward to seeing you in person with all the required measures in place for a safe return when the time comes. In the meantime, we would like to remind you that, although schools and centres remain closed, our SWLSB team continues to work at a distance and is available for you. You are not alone.

## Supporting students and parents/guardians

#### **Teachers and School Teams**

As we've mentioned in previous communications, teachers and school teams are making every effort to communicate on a weekly basis with their students to consolidate and maintain the skills and knowledge acquired up until the closure. Teachers are offering pedagogical support to their students, with the support of the school team. If and when required, your principal can connect you with the other members of the school team depending on the support you need.

#### **Centre Teams**

For the adult education sector, teachers are also providing services to their students. Do not hesitate to contact your centre director should you require information about the services offered to you. You can also visit our Adult Education and Vocational Training <a href="website">website</a> for additional resources. We take this opportunity to thank our health education teachers and students for their commitment and dedication in helping out in the health sector.

# **Occupational Therapy Resources**

During this challenging period, it is important to keep our children's bodies and minds active and healthy. In line with this objective, the Learning Backpack website contains a <u>list of resources</u> compiled by the Occupational Therapy team to support students' functional and play skills. You will find resources that focus on the areas of fine motor skills (hand skills) and gross motor skills (movement and physical skills), which are fundamental for play, activities of daily living (dressing, eating) and school-related activities (printing, drawing, colouring, etc.).

### **Speech and Language Resources**

Our Speech and Language team has put together a <u>selection of resources</u> and activities to support students. We hope you will enjoy these activities which we believe are useful in promoting children's language and speech development during this time of school closure.

### Kids Help Phone | LigneParents

As we all struggled to rapidly adapt to this "new normal", it comes as no surprise that this unprecedented situation has raised our level of anxiety. Social distancing, being away from school/centre/work, being confined at home and not having a routine can certainly be challenging, especially for children and teenagers. Do not hesitate to call/text Kids Help Phone if you feel the need. Help is just a phone call or a text message away, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And parents/quardians needing help can call LigneParents 24/7. You are not alone!

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### **SWLSB Hope Fest 2020**

The SWLSB will be holding a special Facebook Live pre-recorded event on Friday, May 29. This unique event, the <u>SWLSB HOPE FEST</u>, will showcase the many talents of our students. You will be receiving a separate email with all the details by the end of this week. This event promises to be "a must" to pencil in your calendar!

# Reopening schools/centres

During his daily press conference, Premier Legault declared yesterday that the Government plans to reopen the schools/centres before the end of this school year and that different scenarios are being considered by Public Health. At this point in time, we have no information to communicate to you, but we will do so as soon as the authorities have updated us.

We reiterate the importance of following the recommendations from public health authorities and of taking good care of yourselves and the people around you.

We are all in this together. "When it rains, look for rainbows. When it's dark, look for stars."

Keep well, keep healthy, keep safe.

Gaëlle Absolonne Director General Paolo Galati Chairperson

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