

March 20, 2020

Dear DSBN Parents:

This March Break has been very different for everyone, and we know with your children staying at home for the next two weeks, you likely have many questions.

I will be providing community updates to you every Friday, as a way to provide new information to you, and to answer some of your questions.

Updates: Week of March 16 to 20:

- We know that many families are wondering about the possibility of the school closure being extended past April 5. At this time, we have not heard any information from the Ministry of Education. We attend a teleconference with the Ministry twice per week. If we receive any information about an extension to the closure, we will let parents know immediately.

- Ministry of Education has waived the EQAO assessment for this year. If your child is in grade 3, 6, or taking grade 9 math, they will not be writing it.

- The OSSLT graduation requirement has also been waived for this year. If your child is in grade 12 and supposed to write the OSSLT to graduate this year, this requirement will be waived. All other students required to write will do so during the 2020/21 school year. All students should continue to record community volunteer hours.

- Many parents want to create learning opportunities for their children at home. The Ministry of Education has launched online learning modules for students in K-12. You can access these modules by going to <http://www.dsb.org> and clicking on the front page slide.

We will also be adding to the Ministry's learning modules with learning activities for elementary, secondary and special needs students. Included in this site will be mental health and well-being information.

- I know parents are wondering what measures will be put into place when students and staff return to school on April 6. We work closely with Public Health and will implement any recommendations they have for protecting our students from illness.

- Many DSBN students rely on breakfast and lunch clubs at their schools. We are working with Lunch Angels, Niagara Nutrition Partners, and Food4Kids to make sure that these students are receiving either food packages, or grocery cards for their local stores. Contact communications@dsbn.org if you would like support or to volunteer.

- I know this is a stressful time for families. On our website, we have posted online resources you can access to support you with helping alleviate this stress. Go to [dsbn.org](http://www.dsb.org) and click on the COVID-19 slide on the front page.

We've all noticed that the news is changing moment to moment. If you have questions, please send an email to your child's homeschool. While schools are closed, principals are working and can assist you.

I would like to say thank you to parents, students, and staff for your support and understanding during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Warren Hoshizaki". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education