



I Matter At DSBN

March 27, 2020

Dear DSBN Community,

Usually the week after March Break is an exciting time to return to school and prepare for the rest of the year. As you know, due to school closures to protect the community from COVID-19, this week, and those ahead, are quite different than what any of us were anticipating. The Premier recently commented that the closure period may extend beyond April 6 and we are preparing for that likelihood.

One thing that hasn't changed however, is our commitment to student learning, and putting processes in place to ensure all DSBN students can be successful.

As you know, on March 20, the Ministry of Education launched their Learn at Home website. This has been an important first step in providing a continuity of learning for students. The DSBN has launched the first phase of a Learn from Home website and we are working on a plan to enable students to remain connected to their teachers and school while at home. All students and families can expect communication from their teachers early next week with further information and updates.

Niagara has benefited greatly from the expertise of Niagara Public Health. We would like to extend the appreciation of the Board of Trustees to Public Health and those working in health care and emergency services in Niagara. We are working on ways we can support the efforts to keep Niagara healthy, including providing masks, nitrile gloves, and other personal protective equipment to Public Health to distribute where needed.

As well, we greatly appreciate the work of our custodial staff and their efforts in thoroughly cleaning every school and administrative site during the March Break. This important work is essential in helping to protect staff and students from COVID-19.

Other ways we are supporting families in Niagara include working with our breakfast and lunch club providers to make sure our students have the nutrition they need to keep learning. We are working with agencies to help connect our DSBN families in need with the services that provide food parcels and grocery cards.

We want to reassure the Niagara community that despite these challenging times, we are focusing on a plan for graduating students and providing DSBN based learning resources for parents and families. As always, we will continue to work hard to meet their needs.



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We would like to thank the Niagara community for your feedback, comments, and encouragement during this pandemic. Our focus is, and will continue to be, the safety of our community and supporting students in their learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sue Barnett'.

Sue Barnett
Chair of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Warren Hoshizaki'.

Warren Hoshizaki
Director of Education