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May 27, 2020

Dear Prairie Spirit families:

Our theme “Learning Is Everywhere” is being lived out daily. School classes have been suspended but conversations are not cancelled. Relationships are not cancelled. Love has not been cancelled. Reading is not cancelled. Self-care is not cancelled. Hope is not cancelled.

We are leaning into the good stuff that remains. We see this in hope-filled messages on school building windows, car parades of teachers with tears spilling down their cheeks as they see students, video messages from students to their teachers, school staff reading a book over the phone, classes engaging in challenges to get outside and explore nature, students writing about calving season in their journals, and students working with their dads in their shops. Learning is really happening everywhere!

Parents and guardians, you are doing hard and amazing work! You are modelling resilience and care while creating spaces for learning to occur everywhere. You are balancing transitions in your own work and life with the transition to your children being at home. You are having good days and crazy days! We celebrate you! We are grateful to get to walk alongside you as we seek to support your children during this time. Don't be afraid to lean on us as the other teachers in your child's life. We are hopeful that we will soon get to connect face to face.

We recognize that there are many unknowns ahead of us this fall. Will school start up the same as every other year? Will we still be learning at home with classes suspended? Will learning opportunities be available if my child is still at home in the fall? What will learning look like and sound like and feel like going forward? We know you have these questions and we have the same questions and wonderings.

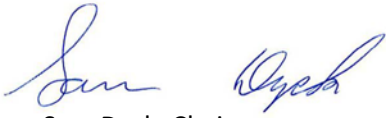
We are working with our Ministry of Education and continue to be guided by the Chief Medical Health Officer in our next steps. We are exploring how we can create safe and healthy spaces in our school buildings. We are exploring ways to provide for the safety of our staff and students. We are looking at all ways that we can continue to learn together in person or online.

Whether you decide to send your child to school or decide to keep them at home, we want you to know that we will respect those decisions and continue to find ways to support our Prairie Spirit students. As you make decisions around what might be best for your family, we want you to be confident that we are here to support you and to walk alongside you in whatever way we can. We don't know exactly what things will look like this fall, but we want you to know we are preparing for a variety of options to be able to continue to learn everywhere!

Teachers will continue to send home new work or new projects for students until **Friday, June 19**, as part of the Supplemental Learning plan. After June 19, teachers and school staff will continue to support students by providing feedback and accepting completed work. We plan to use the time from June 22 to 26 to plan and prepare for the fall, as best we can.

Thank you for the care you are giving others. We hope you are taking care of yourself, too!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Dyck".

Sam Dyck, Chair
Prairie Spirit Board of Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lori Jeschke".

Lori Jeschke, Director of Education
Prairie Spirit School Division