

March 7th, 2020, 1:20 PM

Good afternoon MYIS community

After long discussions with the MYIS Crisis Management Team following the events of Friday (miscommunication and understanding of government directives) and the response from our community, it has been decided that MYIS will close for one week from Monday the 9th of March and reopen on Monday the 16th of March, 2020. As a community, we have over 35% of our student population in self-quarantine/participating in Distance Learning, and believe that school closure is the most effective way of ensuring our students wellbeing. With the uncertainty over self-quarantine and changing guidance, we believe that this week of closure will provide families with a more stable week and will allow teachers to provide a reliable Distance Learning Program for all of the MYIS students. This week of closure will also allow all students to complete any self-quarantine periods and therefore everyone can return to school on March 16th as a complete MYIS community and continue the regular classroom program.

PREPARATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND

Over the weekend we would ask that you and your students work together to create stable and inviting workspaces for them to undertake their lessons from home next week. Students from Grades 1 to 5 in particular, will need to have access to a device that allows them to access Zoom and Seesaw. Please help your students to document/record their planning of these spaces to share with their teachers and classmates via Seesaw. *If you are a family who indicated earlier this week that you will need to borrow an iPad please let me know via email.* I will share with you the iPad Waiver form and arrange a time for you to pick the device up on Monday morning.

TEACHERS DURING SCHOOL CLOSURE

Teachers will be at school each day during the week and will be available throughout the regular school hours from 8-4. They will be in contact with their classes first thing on Monday morning, *posting a welcome message and asking for students to respond by 8.45 am. This response will act as "taking attendance" for the day.*

We can not highlight enough, the vital importance of the role you must play in ensuring that your children participate DAILY, in their class lessons. The Distance Learning Program will ensure that the MYIS school year

will not need to extend into the summer vacation and that teachers will be able to move forward with their curriculum, even from a distance. We understand many of you may be working while your children are at home and ask that you help organise the technology and resources that they will need in order to participate in the Zoom sessions during the day. You may choose to set a schedule that sees students completing tasks once you are home from work and this is 100% ok! Teachers will need to see daily evidence of the work that your child is doing but when this is shared DAILY, is flexible.

We ask that should you have a problem with your child completing their work for the day that you write directly to the class teacher OR co-teacher, to explain and discuss when the work will be able to be completed.

WHAT WILL THE WEEK LOOK LIKE?

An email will be sent to you all on Sunday evening with further suggestions and guidelines specific for next week.

As always, our priority at MYIS is for the success and wellbeing of our students, together we know we can achieve this, even during this difficult situation. We thank you for your support and understanding and look forward to a unique week of learning for the MYIS community next week!

Warm regards

Khanum

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