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## ÉCOLE RIVERDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

14835 108A Avenue, Surrey, BC V3R 1W9  
Tel : (604) 588-5978 Fax : (604) 581-6382  
[www.surreyschools.ca/schools/riverdale](http://www.surreyschools.ca/schools/riverdale)

Principal: Mr. Jonathan Vervae  
Vice Principal: Mme Janesse Boudreau

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April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Riverdale Families Students,

I hope this message finds you all well and finding joy in the additional family time you are all getting during this time away from school. The teachers and staff here at Riverdale are doing well and doing an amazing job adjusting to this new world of teaching online. I wanted to write to you to let you know that Riverdale isn't the same with the almost 500 faces arriving here each and every day. The halls are quiet and the playground empty and it just doesn't feel right. The teachers and other staff feel the same way as they continue to do what you are doing; that is, staying home and staying safe. We look forward to having you all return to school as soon as it is safe to do so.

In our online staff meetings I remind staff that we are staying home because we are in the midst of a history making time on our planet. None of us have experienced a time like this and we are doing this for the first time. I'm proud of our students, families, community, teachers and staff for doing their part to stop the spread of COVID-19. During these uncertain and unprecedented times I want to remind that we are all trying to do something that hasn't been done before. So when doing something for the first time it's important that:

- 1) We talk with each other about what is happening and the feelings it can bring up. It is important to, as much as possible, normalize what we are experiencing at this time and to know that it's okay to feel the way we do.
- 2) We put this in perspective. If we do what we need to by social distancing and staying home when possible then the sooner we'll get back to normal. We must not forget this will pass and we'll start to begin to see things become more familiar in the future.
- 3) We keep our expectations about school and life at this time realistic. As I've said, these are unprecedented times and we have to be kind to ourselves as we think about what is possible at this time.



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Teachers will be sending work home and we ask that you do your best to support your children. We know this is difficult and recognize that different students will be at different places in the weeks ahead. This is totally expected and okay.

By now you should have heard from your child's teacher either by phone or email. They will have checked in with you and this week will have started to provide learning activities for their students. This week and into next you might see a consent form in your email asking to do two-way video conferencing with your child. Some teachers will use video conferencing and others might not. If they do, and you give your consent please send this form back to your teacher as soon as you can. This will be one way of support your child's learning. Many teachers have also created class websites to keep you informed.

If you haven't heard from your teacher or wish to contact them please visit our school website and under 'About Our School' tab click on 'School Staff List.' Our teachers are always available and look forward to hearing from you if you have concerns or want to reach out.

Riverdale, we miss you and hope you and your families are staying safe. If there is anything you need please don't hesitate to contact me. We're looking forward to seeing you all again soon.

Take good care,

Jonathan / Mr. Vervaet

Principal, Riverdale