Message to parents from BC’s teachers

Dear Parents,

In this time of COVID-19 uncertainty, parents and teachers everywhere are concerned about the physical, emotional, and psychological wellbeing of the precious children in our families and communities.

Here at the BC Teachers’ Federation, we want to make sure you know that we are working hard on behalf of BC’s 550,000 public school students and their families.

Our focus continues to be working with the government and districts to make decisions that are based on science and on the advice of the Provincial Health Officer. Our number one priority is the health and safety of our students, their families, our members, and our entire communities.

We fully support the four main priorities that the Ministry of Education has created, which are to:
1. maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, families, and employees.
2. provide the services needed to support children of essential workers.
3. support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.
4. provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.

As teachers continue to engage in the ongoing process of fulfilling these four priorities, we recognize that you and your children may be anxious about how to keep up with learning. Please trust that BC’s teaching professionals have been, and will continue, to communicate with you and your children about the best ways for learning to take place in your particular situation.

Above all, please know that you are not expected to become home schoolers, there is no expectation that the pace and rigour of a normal school day will be duplicated.

As Joel Westheimer, University Research Chair in Democracy and Education at the University of Ottawa and education columnist suggests, “… help your children structure their day. Help them process what is going on around them. Help them maintain physical activities, whether that means running around the block, running up and down the stairs, or running around the kitchen. Help them be creative. Give them—to the extent possible in your household—the gift of time and attention.”

Please continue to take care of yourselves and your children. And please do not hesitate to reach out to your children’s teachers with any of your questions or concerns.

We’re in this together, and we’ll get through it together.

Teri Mooring
President