



R.L. Hyslop Newsletter - February 2021



The beginning of the New Year has brought with it more challenges as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. It makes it difficult to stay positive but we have to continue to pick through our daily lives and find the positive things and take time to enjoy them.

I would like to share three life lessons that was shared with me. They have helped me to get through the past 9 months.

1. Human beings are creative beings. I have never seen more examples of taking problems or challenges and finding answers or solutions. It's easy to let COVID win, but I've rarely seen it. Instead we explore, invent, and create ways to do it better. Where there is a will, there is a way...for real!
2. I have learned to seek to understand, and then to be understood. Everyone has their own level of urgency. What gets me anxious or excited may not excite you. Your worries are not necessarily my worries. But, everyone's feelings are real and need to be heard and respected. We can all be better at this. We all have a story that should be heard.
3. Tough times bring people together. I have seen more genuine relationships formed in this school year than I have in many combined in the past. We expose our fears and anxieties, empathise and relate, and then support. I have seen this over and over in both students, staff and parents. I can only hope that this carries forward into more normal times.

I hope everyone gives these three lessons a glance, and spends some time over the next few months practicing at least one. I can only hope we can find creative ways to enjoy what we still have. Empathise and listen to our loved ones, and maximize the time with the ones you can be with.

No matter what you do, make sure your #1 goal is to take care of yourself.

Dates to remember:

February 11, 2021	Schools re-open upon Ministerial direction
February 14, 2021	Valentine's Day
February 15, 2021	Family Day. No School
February 15-19 th , 2021	Families transitioning to Remote Learning receive transition information.
February 25 th , 2021	First Day of new school placement for students transition from remote to in-person learning if in-person learning has resumed.

Learning During School Closure:

With 2 more weeks of school closure to go, if you are in need of technology, please call or email the school to be placed on the waiting list. As of now the list is empty as everyone who requested received a device.

Kindergarten: The board continues to send out work packages for our kindergarten students. The work packages are spread out over a 2-week period.

There are also work packages being shared from the Board for primary, junior and intermediate students. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you are having issues with technology and need a work package.



Report Cards

It is quickly approaching the time for report cards to be coming home. Yes, even though our students have been learning online we continue to assess their learning. Your child's teacher continues to use information gathered from observations, conversations, and student products to share specific examples of what your child has done to demonstrate their strengths.



One important change that you will see on your child's 2021 report card is in the mathematics section. As you know, The Ministry of Education released a new Mathematics Curriculum this year. Your child's teacher has been utilizing this new document to guide the mathematics lessons taking place in class. One of the changes this new curriculum introduces is a more cohesive approach to assessing mathematics. Previously, students would receive a separate grade on each of the five strands/categories covered in class on their February and June report cards. The new policy introduces a single grade to reflect the overall learning of the student in mathematics.

If you would like to learn more about the new mathematics curriculum, this resource contains more details on the changes to how mathematics is being taught and assessed in your child's classroom.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/new-math-curriculum-grades-1-8>

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Supporting our Kids During the Pandemic

Coping with the uncertainty around COVID-19 is challenging for most adults, and kids may be having an even tougher time during the pandemic. Social isolation, being off school or learning remotely for an extended period of time, and uncertainty about what all this means for their friends and family are just a few of the concerns young children and teens may have at this time.

Our children may be afraid of a number of different things during this situation, so let them know you're looking out for them and things will inevitably return to normal. It's OK to provide a little reassurance during this time. Don't be afraid to tell your child you're anxious too – normalize their worries by helping them know it's OK and healthy to worry a little (it keeps us safe!) but that we never want to let worry take over and become unhelpful.



We can't expect children to understand or even be OK or happy with staying home and not seeing their friends during periods of lockdown or isolation. Explain to them you're not happy either but that you're working on this together. Take a break from the news and social media and take this time to play/hang out with your kids and help build an even better parent-child relationship during this time. With school closures or disruptions like remote learning, try to build in new routines and predictability to help kids adjust to the changes in their lives. Kids still need consistency, fun and attention even in the midst of all this anxiety and uncertainty.

Last but not least, don't hesitate to reach out for help. There are a number of agencies out there available to provide some support to help us all cope as best as we can with the pandemic.

<https://www.anxietycanada.com/articles/talking-to-kids-about-covid-19/>