

New Westminister K-8 Online Learning Program: November Newsletter

Website: <https://newwestonlinelearning.ca/>

Technology support: OnlineLearningSupport@sd40.bc.ca

Hello Parents/Guardians:

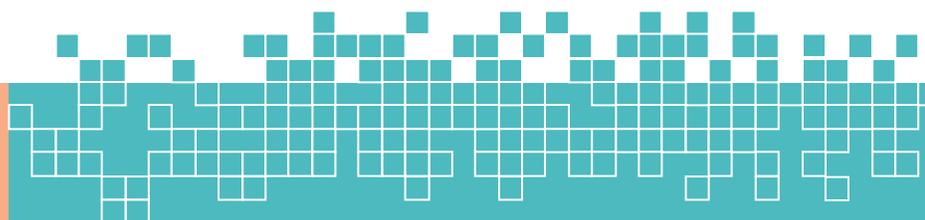
This is hard work....

As we settle in to our K-8 Online Program, we want you to know that we acknowledge the hard work that you as parents/guardians have to do to support your child online. We also know that things look and feel different than they did in the Springtime when we were all engaged in emergency remote learning—it all seemed easier then! The difference for us now is that we have created an entire program that is supporting all areas of the curriculum. We are also starting from scratch with your child—getting to know them and understanding their learning needs using online instructional methods. It is a time of learning for all of us!

You are our partners, and we need your support to ensure your child's success. Please review the Weekly Learning Plan with your child and assist them with their practice assignments and activities. For our K-3 students, they may need help to login to their virtual lessons. As we all get more comfortable with the schedules and structures of this type of learning, your child will become more independent in their use of the online tools and in managing their activities and assignments on their own.

We also want to acknowledge that learning is a process. Every child is unique in their learning development. Your teachers are working hard to determine what skills your child has mastered and what skills require more support. With this in mind, if your child is working on a test or an assignment that the teacher will be formally assessing, please make sure they are doing their own work. We want to see their successes and their challenges with the activity so that we support them in their learning. We know it is tempting to give your child an answer or write the sentence for them, but that will not give us the best picture of where they are at and determine what we need to do to move their learning forward. Step back and let your child show us what they know, understand and can do and we will help them get to the next level!

As always, if you have concerns about your child's learning progress, please contact your teacher directly.



Additional Supports for Students with IEPs:

For the past few weeks, our Online Teachers have been working with our Learning Support Teachers and Educational Assistants at their home schools to provide additional learning support for any of our students with a Special Education designation. Your home school will update Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and provide you with a schedule of support times. These special education teams from the home schools are coordinating schedules and supports for both their face to-face students and our online students. Giving these scheduling challenges, your child may not be able to receive the same level of support that they had previously in a face-to-face learning environment. Please reach out to your home school Learning Support Teacher or Principal if you have any questions about learning support or your child's IEP.

Additional Supports for English Language Learners:

English Language Learners from beginner to advanced levels have been invited to join an ELL Team. Once a week (on Mondays), a "menu" of English language development opportunities will be posted on the ELL Team. The focus is on vocabulary development. The ELL teacher at your child's home school is working in collaboration with the online teachers. This ELL Team is an additional service provided by the district ELL teacher, Kathleen Weinkam. Participation is optional.

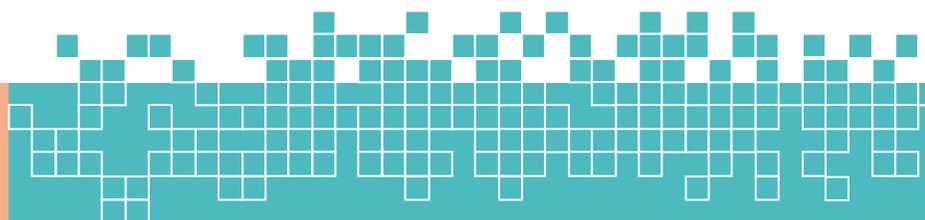


Student Engagement:

We are so happy to see so many of our students attending and engaging in online lessons, participating in the chat discussion, asking questions and completing assignments! Just a reminder that attendance in online lessons and class meetings is required and teachers are taking attendance and tracking the completion of activities and assignments. If your child is unable to attend a class lesson, please contact the teacher. We will be following up with students who are not attending or completing work.

Foundation Skills Assessment:

For our Grade 4 and 7 families—the Ministry of Education's Foundation Skills Assessment has been postponed until January 18. We will send out more information in December about the process.



Teaching and Learning Highlights:

Lots of great things are happening in our K-8 Online Program! Here are a few highlights:

- Hovercraft event: On October 20 our amazing NWSS Grade 11/12 students competed in a “Hovercraft Challenge”. Mr. Pattern and Ms. Decamp, two of our amazing online teachers supported this event and created a livestream for our online students to view. The event is directly linked to our Applied Design Skills and Technology Curriculum. Mr. Pattern has provided grade appropriate activities for our students to try that link to the Hovercraft Challenge.
- Forest Fun: Ms. Wong, one of our awesome Kindergarten teachers is working with small groups of her students, with parent support, every Wednesday at Moody Park. Ms. Wong is passionate about the importance of outdoor education and is teaching many important learning skills during her “Forest Fun” Wednesdays.
- Virtual Bulletin Board: Ms. Copley’s Grade 4/5 class have been working on West Coast First Nations Art and Legends. The students were asked to choose the event in the legend “How the Raven Feed the Moon” that they felt was the most important. They choose whatever art medium they wanted to create their picture for the virtual bulletin board. They also were asked to write about the event and why they chose it. Check out their amazing art work!

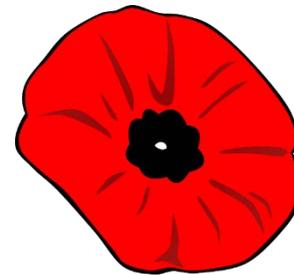


 [How Raven Freed the Moon - Virtual Bulletin Board.pptx](#)

Remembrance Day Virtual Assembly:

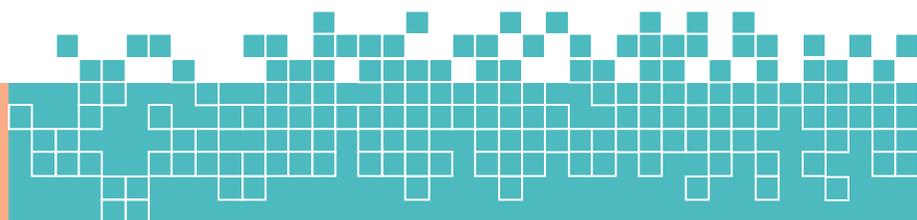
Please join us for the K-8 Online Learning Program’s Remembrance Day Assembly!

Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 **Time:** 11 am
Link to the assembly will be sent to families soon!



Agenda:

- Indigenous Territory Acknowledgement
- O Canada
- Presentation narrated by students
 - What is Remembrance Day?
 - Moment of silence
 - [Story of Tommy Prince](#) - Most decorated Indigenous Canadian
- Song-Remembrance Day Child (Remembrance Day artwork by students)
- Reading of *In Flanders Fields* by students of Kate Copley’s class
- Song - Where Have All the Flowers Gone? (Revised Lyrics-Sung by students/Poppy art by students)



Report Cards:

At New West Schools, we have been working hard to provide families with regular updates on student progress. We do this in many ways; meetings, phone calls, emails, assessed work sent home for your review and parent/teacher/student conferences. We also provide three written formal report cards in December, March and June. The Ministry of Education has been working on aligning the way we report to families to support our redesigned curriculum. For more information please see:

[Ministry of Education Student Progress Report Order](#)

[Ministry of Education Draft Reporting Policy K-9](#)

For the last several years we have been focusing on writing report card comments that provide clear information on what your child **knows**, **understands** and can **do** in each curriculum area. This year we are making a few more changes to support our redesigned curriculum and the Draft Reporting Policy from the Ministry of Education:



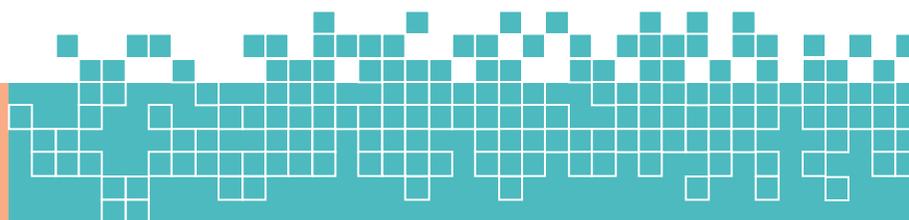
- We are shifting the way we grade our students to align with a new “proficiency scale” created by the Ministry of Education. This scale uses growth mindset language and supports a continuum of learning.
 - Students in K-5 will see this scale on their report card to indicate their progress
 - Students in Grades 6-8 will continue to receive letter grades

Proficiency Scale	→			
	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
	The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

- Students will be focusing more on the essential skills of learning--the Core Competencies: Communication, Thinking and Personal and Social interaction. Students have been assessing their abilities with these competences for the past 5 years in the June reporting period. We will now be adding an additional self-reflection in the March reporting period.
- We will also be working toward “Three-Way Conferences” at least once per year. At this conference, parents/guardians, the teacher and the student will meet together to discuss progress and set goals for further learning. Many of our schools have already been working on this method of conferencing for the last few years. This approach puts students at the centre of their learning.

For more information view our short “Reporting Updates” video here:

<https://youtu.be/djax6pP3w7k>



Potential for Return to In-Class Instruction:

For those of you whose circumstances may have recently changed, we would like to provide further clarification about the potential to return to in-class instruction. If you wish to be considered for a transfer back to your home school you will need to complete a “request for transfer form” that will be made available on the website.



Our next potential return date is **January 4**. We will open up the transfer application process on **Monday, December 7** and any applications must be received by **Friday, December 11** at 4:00pm.

In the meantime, we encourage you to continue working on the online learning activities provided during Term 1, as all work completed will be shared with your child’s new teacher. Once this transition has occurred there will be no re-entry back into the Online Program.

Please note that we will try our best to accommodate a return to your catchment/enrolling school but cannot guarantee this and you may be offered placement in an alternate school for the remainder of the school year. However, your child’s spot will be held at their catchment/enrolling school for the 2021-2022 school year.

Online Permission Forms:

You may be receiving reminders from our KEV online permission program, “School Cash Online” to complete outstanding forms. Even though your child is currently enrolled in the online program, ***we do need your consent for the acceptable use of technology (Microsoft and Teams), photo and video release if we want to post events or photos on our website or share in the virtual classrooms, and walking field trip consent for some of our classes who are going to meet small groups of students outside for some learning experiences.*** Please check your email for messages from School Cash Online to complete these forms as soon as possible.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Remembrance Day: November 11, Statutory Holiday, no school for students
- District Professional Development Day: November 30, no school for students
- Report Cards published in the MyEducation BC Family Portal: December 11

Check out our K- 8 Online Learning School Calendar for more information:

<https://newwestonlinelearning.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/K-8-Online-2020-2021-Calendar-.pdf>

Thank you for your ongoing support of our program!

Kind regards,

Maureen McRae-Stanger, Director of Instruction mstanger@sd40.bc.ca

Pam Craven, District Principal, New Westminister Virtual School pcraven@sd40.bc.ca