



## The Firewire

*April 27- May 1, 2020*

Hello parents & guardians. This week I am sending out a “new look” Firewire as we continue to live through our new normal. I will endeavor to send out a Firewire every two weeks, or as news comes by my desk. We are all living this crisis, doing what we can. Its survival for many of us as we balance work, working from home, no work, children home, navigating technology and possibly worrying about sick family or friends.

Please know that we are very aware that many of our Fultonvale families may not be in an ideal place. As for your child’s schoolwork, pace yourself, do what you can and submit work when you can. Teachers and administration will assist in anyway we can. Alternative learning is not truly online learning and we are all trying our best and changing as days & weeks go by. Please keep in contact with your child’s teacher, the school counsellor, or school administration as appropriate.

Below, I will be sharing some information that you can reference as you need. Some of the information is from District, while other pieces surround Mental Health tips from our counsellor, Ms. DeRosier and our Mental Health Capacity Builder, Asma.

## School/District News

### Elementary Course work

Some parents are requesting additional work for their child in the complementary courses (Music, Art, PE). Alberta Education has mandated that schools only focus on literacy (LA) & numeracy (math) in elementary. If you are interested in accessing some of these activities, please see our school [website](#) for some fun optional activities.

In grades 4-6, teachers can supplement social studies and science work into language arts and mathematics as they deem appropriate. Science and Social are not to be taught as separate subjects. The total amount of teaching and work time should be 5 hours/week. Elementary students will receive an **alternative report card** that will show a grade for the 4 core subjects. The format of the report card will be decided upon at the district level early next week.

### Junior High Course work

Similarly, junior high school are to teach the 4 core subjects. The workload here is 10 hrs./week. This includes ELA, math, science and social studies. Supplementary courses are not part of the alternative learning environment. Like elementary students, an **alternative report card** for junior high students will also be coming out from District next week.

### Staffing & Budget

Many of you are aware that our provincial government clawed back funds from school districts earlier this month. As a result, Fultonvale School had to layoff 5 classified employees effective April 30<sup>th</sup>. With

the reduced classified staff, some students may see a different Educational Assistant working with them starting this Friday.

Schools received their budgets for next year and we are working through a very difficult budget scenario. Once information is finalized, I will inform our parent community of the implications of the budget. This will include tentative staff changings and class sizes.

## Survey Feedback

Mr. Wever & I wish to thank you for providing your thoughts on our survey about how things are working in our alternative learning model. We had over 100 responses. We understand as with any new practice there is room to further develop our Alternate Learning processes. As a staff we will work on the goals we created as a result of the feedback received. **Please see the attached survey results for detailed information.**

## School Celebrations

Elk Island Public Schools has made the decision to cancel all celebrations for this year. This includes athletic awards, Kindergarten ceremonies, grade 6 celebrations, and grade 9 farewells. With the uncertainty of how long we will be in this social distancing environment coupled with staff focused on delivering curriculum, the decision to cancel these traditional activities was made. This being my final year in education, I find myself with a sense of loss not being able to say good-bye to a terrific group of students. **A letter is attached to this Firewire email.**

## Mental Health Information/Tips

Parents - let your child know that Ms. DeRosier, school counsellor, will be sending out an email to invite you and/or your 13+ year old children to use the Remind App to text in order to be in contact with her. In the meantime, Ms. DeRosier can be reached through email, which is posted on the school website, or by calling the school.

### Wellness Google Classroom

To support the well-being of our children and youth, there are two wellness classrooms available to students within the EIPS community. One classroom is specifically for youth in grades 7 to 9 and the other classroom for children in grades 4 to 6. The classrooms provide fun and engaging opportunities that support mental health and well-being in difficult time and do not require additional time or support from parents/caregivers.

**Kids Zone for Wellness (grades 4 – 6): udw52m7**

**Youth Zone for Wellness (grades 7 – 9): ie6emuh**

Mental Health Week! Coming up May 4 – 10

### **We all have mental health and our mental health impacts us.**

Mental health affects how you feel, think, act and interact with the world around you. According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, in any given year, 1 in 5 people in Canada will personally experience a mental health problem or illness. Regardless of whether you are experiencing a mental health problem or not, 5 out of 5 people have mental health. We all want to feel safe to be our authentic selves and to be connected with others. One way we can achieve this is by “getting real” with one another and being compassionate, respectful and accepting of ourselves and others. For more information visit

<https://www.strathcona.ca/community-families/well-being-and-mental-health/> Help create a safe, supported and connected community for all!

## A Final Thought...

“Three things in life – your health, your mission, and the people you love.  
That’s it’.

~ Naval Ravikant

Remember that our current learning model is a unique time for school staff & families. Do what you can to take care of yourself & your family.

Stay healthy ~ Brad