

Make this time about family, not academics urges education director

This Week

There is no way of knowing the full extent of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the local public school board is offering parents guidance in the interim.

“I know there are many, many parents of Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) at home wondering what is going to happen to their child’s education and to the rest of the school year,” states director of education Larry Hope. “There may also be increasing concerns about your child’s mental health and even your own well-being as you make your way through each day in this new reality.”

Currently, the Ministry of Education is working with school board directors to identify next steps and share information.

In the interim, Hope encourages parents to continue to look after their needs and those of their family and not focus on their child’s learning. Programming and resources are in place that are fair and equitable for all students if the shutdown is going to continue for any length of time. This includes consideration for families who do not have internet access or resources for any number of reasons.

Those wishing to are invited to view resources posted by the provincial government through the Learn at Home initiative.

“Additionally, please consider the positive impact something as simple as integrating learning into your daily routines can be,” states Hope. “For example, a half hour of reading a couple times a day, measuring in the kitchen or workshop, or tuning into online learning resources if you are able. These are a few simple things that can support our students with continuation of learning in a manageable way until more formal learning opportunities are implemented.”

Hope added that many staff members have been, or are in the process of, reaching out to students to check in to see how things are going.

“We are highly supportive of our staff reaching out and engaging with their students and families but again, I have not directed our staff to do so in the short term,” he noted.

As information becomes available, the school board will post details to its website at tldsbc.ca/covid19/.