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March 16, 2020

*Education Built on Relationships*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The health and welfare of our school community remains of utmost importance through this rapidly evolving situation and senior administration, the School Board, faculty and all staff remain committed to the Mission and Core Values of Linden Christian School.

As previously noted, the school will be closed March 23 - April 13. Details regarding continued education are included below.

### **What We Are Doing at Linden**

Following guidelines recommended by our local health authorities, we had already implemented several measures at school and continue to do so to avoid spread of illness. We are again asking families for their support in being diligent in following recommendations to mitigate the spread of the illness.

You will recall we shared practical measures that were given extra attention to safeguard members of our community. For example, ensuring hand sanitizer stations are accessible and regular wiping of stair railings and door pulls/knobs with a disinfectant. Teachers reviewed on more than one occasion common prevention measures with their students with respect to regular hand washing with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleanser:

- after coughing or sneezing;
- when caring for a sick person;
- before, during and after food preparation;
- before eating;
- after toilet use; and
- when hands are visibly dirty.

Children were also reminded to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing and sneezing. If no tissue was available, the practice of directing the cough or sneeze into the inside of the elbow, not hand, was reiterated.

### **Today, additional measures included:**

- following recommended guidelines for school distancing practices and to the fullest extent possible implementing them, particularly as it relates to group assemblies;
- discussion in class on how we can all take steps to address the pandemic and what precautions we are taking;
- extra cleaning and disinfecting numerous times daily in common areas and widely used surfaces;
- instructing teachers to leave classroom doors open to limit the need to touch door pulls/knobs;
- requesting you to send a water bottle (filled) with your child to school. Although deep cleaning/disinfection of water fountains is occurring, fountains are frequently visited.

### **Field Trips and Events**

As shared on Friday all field trips have been cancelled for the period March 16 through April 30. Refunds associated with these field trips have begun and details confirmed in trip specific emails. As anticipated, the out-of-province trips scheduled for SY Performing Arts students in April (Edmonton) and May (Cuba) have also been cancelled. Details associated with available refunds for these trips are forthcoming.

### **Continued Education During School Closure**

We continue to receive updates and communications relevant to schools and plan to provide age-appropriate work and resources online for all students March 23 through 27 and April 6 to 9. Staff will be present on site at schools to provide virtual programming for most grades; however, the school is closed to students. Details on how children can access online learning will be provided by the Vice Principals by Thursday, and you can expect to receive email communication from your child's teacher about online learning with further instructions and plans.

Students and families will be welcome to come and collect personal items (books, schoolwork, and clothing, etc.) from School between 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Thursday and Friday this week. It is important that you sign in and out on the sheets located on the table outside the Main Office entrance and leave the campus once you have collected your personal belongings.

### **Government Directives**

In the meantime I encourage you to stay informed with updates and advice from the [Government of Canada Public Health](#) and [Manitoba Public Health](#).

As per government advice today, international travelers are required to self-isolate for 14 days. If you or a member of your family have just returned from an international trip, it is important you extend the self-isolation guidelines to all family members.

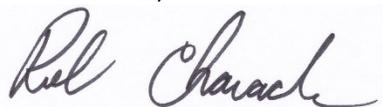
In Manitoba, persons that are symptomatic are encouraged to call Health Links (204-788-8200) to obtain advice on where to go to be assessed. If it is an emergency, call 911 before going to an emergency department or urgent care center.

### **Attendance**

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping children that present with flu-like symptoms or other communicable illnesses at home to allow us to protect the community and each other. For those families who have chosen to keep your children at home we will advise you when classroom resources will be available for pick up. These absences will be "excused".

I continue to keep all of you in prayer during this challenging time and assure you that we are doing our utmost to equip faculty and staff to walk through this unprecedented time with you.

In His Service,



Robert Charach  
Principal and CEO