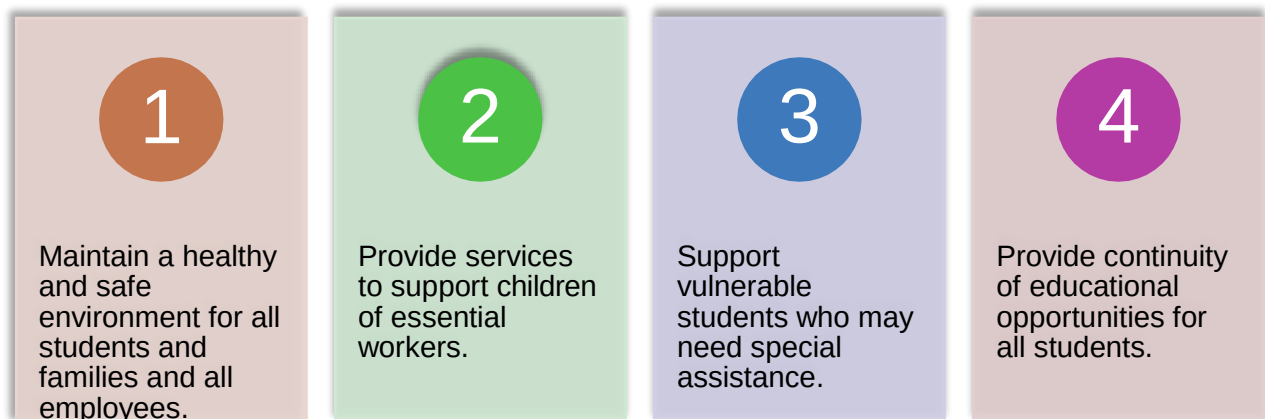


****MARCH-JUNE 2020 --- COVID 19 PANDEMIC SHIFT IN LEARNING ****

In March 2020, on the direction of the Provincial Health Officer, the Ministry of Education, ordered all in-class instruction suspended for students until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our school district worked together to establish a plan so students would have remote opportunities for learning, while ensuring our community was safe. Our School District Board's senior staff members began planning for school building safety and hygiene, for continued learning opportunities for our students, and how we might care for the children of our front-line workers (Essential Service Workers) within our local school communities. Significant consideration was given to how we could support our most vulnerable students, who rely on the school system for many supports including meal programs. In collaboration with our District Board and Senior Administration, on March 30th our school team began the process of implementing strategies and tasks in support of the BC Ministry of Education's Four Priorities.



Our SKE school staff met remotely several times per week in support of these four priorities. We met as a full staff including teaching staff, CEA's, support staff, itinerates, custodial, secretarial and always included our school based team members. Our First Nations advocate, school counsellor, and support staff were all key to supporting many of our families. We also met in smaller cohort groups such as school based team, Primary teachers, Intermediate teachers and our support staff CEA's. Families received weekly communications via email as well as from our district and trustee groups. Our counsellor sent out Weekly Wellness Menus to support families during this pandemic and was always available to support families, staff and students.

Communication was key – here are a few samples of our communication from our school.



SKE April 2020 video.mp4

[Letter SKE Families](#)

[April 17 Updates](#)

[Weekly Wellness Menu](#)

As we began our journey through COVID-19 together, each classroom teacher connected with families and shared plans going forward to stay connected with their students via zoom. The learning and connections changed from in person to online and the transition, though challenging, became the way we continued to deliver our learning and support to all our families. With much collaboration,

communication and dedication from our teaching and support staff, we offered 1:1 support for some students, our struggling learners received 1:1 and small group instruction with the support of our Certified Educational Assistants and all of our students were offered educational learning either through class zooms and/or small group instruction. In many cases, instructions were provided in writing and/or via video format as well as online teacher zoom lessons. Weekly plans were shared with families that included assignments and learning tasks. Language arts, mathematics and development of the core competencies remained the focus of learning. Expectations for each child was student centered so it varied for each learner.

Here are a few samples from our teacher communications to families.

[Robertson Kindergarten](#)

[Estey Gr. 3](#)

[Wilson/Vecchio Gr. 4/5](#)

[Gross Gr. 5/6](#)

To accommodate the children of Tier 1 essential service workers (e.g. health care providers, acute care workers, and emergency responders) our learners joined other essential worker children where space was provided at AS Matheson Elementary. Here, the students of essential service workers and the staff maintained appropriate physical distancing and followed the guidelines for a healthy and safe environment based on our district and school Health and Safety Plan.

Families experiencing food insecurities within our community were provided support via our district where food was delivered to their homes. We were fortunate to have an SKE family who worked with a local chef and provided one full-course dinner meal, free of charge, to four SKE families. The food was prepared fresh and delivered to each family as a gift.

Near the end of May, the Ministry of Education announced in-class learning for students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 on a part-time basis (stage 3). Families were surveyed if they would choose to send their child to school 2 days a week. Based on the survey, 63% of our families chose to participate in this learning opportunity for the month of June. Our remote learners continued to be supported by their classroom teachers and support staff. Our kindergarten/Gr. 1 class enjoying learning in a socially distanced way



June was filled with new ways to engage our students, families and community. We had smaller in-school fun times and changed a few practices via zoom to include all our learners and their families such as our Gr. 6 Year-End Ceremony. Our Gr. 6 teachers and support staff worked behind the scenes for hours to make this possible for our whole school of learners and their families.

Our Kindergarten Orientation was conducted via zoom and we met each new learner during our Kindergarten Drive-Thru where each child received a welcome package and greeting from our kindergarten teachers and other school staff.

Students watched ducks hatch live via zoom! All students who attended class in June spent time learning about duck development and our at-home learners were invited to school on Wednesday (school was open but we didn't have our in-class learners in attendance).

We ended our school year with a socially distanced picnic-style staff meeting on our beautiful SKE grounds.

Our SKE Staff are so grateful for our parent community who took on the role of supporting our learners in multifaceted ways and working closely with our staff. Our parents not only carried out their parental duties but took on new roles that added so much more to their already full days. We are so proud of our families and learners as we continue this journey of learning together.

We at SKE could not be more thankful for the tremendous support from our Senior Staff, School District staff, our Trustees and our district as a whole. Each and every person went over and above to support and be part of our team through this global pandemic.



