

March 12, 2020

Dear families, teachers, staff and Board,

I just wanted to reach out to you all. This is such a confusing and possibly scary time on many levels. I hope you are all doing well and that you are able to stay calm and be present with your children despite the massive swirl of rapidly changing information that surrounds us. I am sure that you have been following the various alerts, closure announcements and speeches over these past couple of days. I have been receiving updates and information from SJC Health Department, Washington Federation of Independent Schools, The WA Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction as well as the CDC and other reliable sources. Here's a summary of a few key points:

First, of course:

- Wash hands
- Cover coughs
- Stay home if sick

-Earlier this week, Governor Inslee announced a ban on all gatherings of >250 people and today announced mandatory school closures for all public and private schools in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties.

-Currently there are no confirmed Covid-19 cases in San Juan County, but, as of this afternoon, six patients have been tested and are awaiting results.

-My sense is that once there are confirmed cases in SJC, we will begin to see school closures locally.

-I will be meeting with the Salmonberry Board tomorrow afternoon to discuss and refine plans in the event of a closure.

-If Salmonberry School were to close, we would begin with a period of vacation days for students, while staff use the time to gear up for providing instruction, materials and support for students remotely.

-It is likely that we would re-open as soon as possible with a "virtual campus." Teachers will be providing physical and virtual resources, materials and plans offering video-conferencing with students, and offering one-on-one support by phone or video with parents. The precise details of how this looks would become clearer.

-Salmonberry School will remain fully committed to supporting your kids and you in every way we can come up with to insure that the children continue to learn and grow in alignment with Salmonberry's Mission and pedagogy. I am very confident that we will be able to offer a lot of help and guidance in the event that you need to initiate home-based learning.

Thank you for your patience and support as we navigate through this difficult time. It is an honor and privilege to work with a community of such dedicated

parents and educators. I love you guys! Stay tuned for additional updates over the coming days.

Take care,

Paul