



## St. Stephen Middle School

Good afternoon,

This is certainly an unprecedented time, with things changing rapidly. I have been reading about many acts of community kindness, a reminder how people come together and help one another in difficult times. We all recognize that the priority at this time is the health and wellness of all.

The Anglophone South School District has shared helpful information via School Connects and on their website (<https://secure1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/Pages/welcome.aspx>). Here are the links to the documents sent on Sunday:

- [Talking to Children about COVID19](#)
- [Q & A for Parents - COVID 19 and School Closures](#)

As noted in the Q&A, all out-of-province school trips, including our grade 8 trip to Quebec, are cancelled for the rest of the school year. The Snider Mountain trip for grade 6 FI is cancelled. Information on refunds will be available when school re-opens. This will include the refund for the grade 6 ski trip scheduled for March 20.

As also noted in the Q&A, there will be no work sent home at this time. Again, family health and wellness is the priority. You may be looking for ideas for your children and some suggestions are below. Children and youth are naturally creative and curious and will have many ideas of their own. This could be a time that they dive into an interest or passion and share what they are learning with family members. Many thanks to the people who shared ideas for this list:

- Read, read, READ!
- Outdoor play and exercise (Hike, scavenger hunts...)
- Create, build and explore
- Helping at home – laundry, organizing and more
- Board games, jigsaw puzzles, crosswords, marbles (design a marble maze, for instance)
- **Literacy & Math**
  - Story and poem writing, journal and diary writing
  - Writing letters to isolated seniors in the area, and/or to families members/friends near and far
  - Reading and making recipes
  - To-do lists
  - Origami
  - Create secret codes
  - Design a magazine or newspaper
  - Design a solution to a problem at home

- **Arts & Science**

- Draw and paint – still life, abstracts, portraits etc.
- Consider using unconventional items such as utensils or string for art work
- Paper mache and collage making (<https://www.instructables.com/lesson/Paper-Mache-With-Glue/>)
- Homemade play dough (<https://www.instructables.com/howto/play+dough/>)
- Singing and karaoke – making and playing instruments
- Listen to new types of music
- Improv theatre, charades
- Science experiments with household items (<http://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments/>)

Experts suggest limiting the amount of screen time, especially on social media. Below are some sites you may want to explore with your child:

- <https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>
- <https://www.poetry4kids.com/lessons/poetry-writing-lessons/>
- <https://nb.mathgames.com/>

ASD-S will continue to inform families via School Connects and the website. For any questions, please call the St. Stephen Education Centre at 466-7300.

Take care and wishing everyone to be healthy and safe.

Bronwyn Tanner

SSMS Principal

Compassion **Willingness to Learn** **Respect** TEAMWORK Honesty Empathy **Acceptance**  
*Creativity* Community *Resiliency* Safety *Responsibility* INCLUSION