



# WEST OTTAWA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

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April 27, 2020

Dear West Ottawa Families:

It's hard to believe that it's nearly May. As the weather continues to improve, providing us with beautiful conditions like we had yesterday, I hope you and your children are able to get outside to enjoy it together, while still adhering to social distancing guidelines. Outdoor activity is essential to our physical and mental health, so please be sure to spend time outside, sprinkling in learning activities wherever possible. There's plenty to learn from nature and it's a great way to keep children engaged.

On the subject of keeping children engaged, we're just a few weeks into the Remote Learning Plan—as each day passes you and your child should feel more comfortable. Still, we understand that this is unexplored territory for most, if not all of our families. While our school buildings are closed, we are here for you and your children. Don't hesitate to reach out to your teacher for support.

Speaking of teachers, as you may be aware, next week (May 4-8) is Teacher Appreciation Week. It is no secret teachers have an enormous impact on the lives of the children we are privileged to serve, but the current situation has cast an even brighter spotlight on the role our educators play. The passion and dedication they bring to the classroom every day is inspiring. Now, they are bringing that same commitment to helping students learn from home. What they do is not easy. If you haven't done so already, do not hesitate to share that appreciation for them today, tomorrow or whenever you have time. I know they are grateful for the support and recognition they've received, and they miss their students dearly.

Today marked the successful launch of our Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspot Program, with 15 West Ottawa school buses serving as mobile internet access points. The buses were parked in select locations throughout the community and will continue to be operational on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. I'd like to once again acknowledge the work of the district team that made this possible. Providing access to the internet is critical for the continued growth of our students. The locations of all 15 WO Mobile Wi-Fi hotspots can be found on our Remote Learning Resources page at this link: <https://www.westottawa.net/internet-access-options-tech-support/>.

With the introduction of our Remote Learning Plan, we hope to have offered a small return to normalcy to your lives. Still, the crisis is not over and there is much work left to be done. Don't forget you can find the Plan by visiting the district's website at [www.westottawa.net](http://www.westottawa.net) and clicking on the blue announcement bar at the top of the page. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. The safety and well-being of our students is our first priority, and that includes their academic growth. By working together, we can accomplish continued student learning.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TKM'.

Thomas K. Martin  
Superintendent of Schools