

March 13, 2020  
as of 12 p.m.

## INFORMATION FOR REGARDING COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURES

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On March 12, 2020, the Provincial Government issued a Ministerial Order to close all publicly funded schools in Ontario from March 14 to April 5, 2020, in response to the emergence of COVID-19 in Ontario. The intent of this closure is to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the general population.

We understand there are many questions regarding this provincial order and the resulting school closures. We have provided information below regarding the impact on our schools and we will continue to provide updates to our school communities at [www.wellingtoncdsb.ca](http://www.wellingtoncdsb.ca).

In addition to schools being closed, the following are cancelled for the period of March 14 to April 5, 2020:

- The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), originally scheduled for March 31, 2020, with further direction anticipated from the Ministry.
- Secondary school co-op placements, Dual Credit Programs and OYAP.
- Community Use of Schools, including all programs and camps scheduled to run over March Break.
- Before and After School Programs, and St. John Arthur and St. Michael childcare, that operate in our facilities.
- All field trips and excursions.
- All athletic and artistic competitions, and extracurricular activities.

The board will be providing information for families related to learning activities and resources for students during this period of school closures. This information will be posted on the board and school websites over the March Break.

We have received questions asking whether consideration has been given to extending the school year. This decision will be made provincially and at this point the province has shared that it is too early to make a decision on whether or not to extend the school year beyond June 26, 2020.

The provincial government will continue to assess the impact on EQAO testing in Grades 3, 6 and 9.

The board is currently reviewing the status of all future field trips and large group gatherings scheduled beyond the closure period to the end of June in consideration of COVID-19. Information will be provided when available to assist school staff and families in their planning.

The board will continue to monitor this situation throughout this time period and will continue to take our direction from the WDG Public Health Unit, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, and the Ministry of Education. Updates will be provided as they become available.

The safety and well-being of our students and staff are our top priority. Please continue to keep yourselves informed on COVID-19.

Take care of yourselves and your loved ones in the coming weeks. We continue to hold in our prayers all those impacted by the virus and the health care workers responsible for their care. We look forward to welcoming students and staff back when it is safe to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Nugent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and a stylized "Nugent".

Tamara Nugent  
Director of Education