



Island Pacific School  
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Tuesday, March 30, 2020

Dear Students and Parents,

The past two days have been a whirlwind of Google Meets as the staff has rallied together in online workshops and meetings to prepare for our Distance Learning (DL) launch tomorrow.

I am very happy to report that all staff and their families are healthy and are settling into a new routine of remote meetings and supporting each other during this turbulent time. While the shift to DL has been profound, I am confident we have a great plan moving forward. The teachers are energized to connect with your sons and daughters tomorrow. Our primary focus this week and next will be on well being and reconnecting. In addition, this week will be time to confirm and test our digital platforms and systems and ensure all students and families are set up appropriately.

Our DL is designed to provide continuity and to ensure continued progress toward the Ministry of Education's big ideas, curricular competencies and the associated objectives of the IB Middle Years Programme. The overarching goal of our DL programming is to ensure students are mentally and physically well, and that they continue to foster the love of learning that was present with their in-classroom learning.

#### **Next steps for Students:**

- Log in to your Google account to find an email from your homeroom teacher for your first Google Meet scheduled for Wednesday, April 1 at 9 am.
- Be sure to read the attached Distance Learning Plan Responsibilities for students.
- Check your Google Classroom streams for details about your 10:15 and 11:15 classes on Wednesday.
- See attached special class schedule for this week (Wednesday-Friday).

#### **Next steps for Parents:**

Please review the attached Distance Learning Plan Responsibilities and support your son/daughter for a successful launch of our DL plan.

Please note that IPS has now enabled Google Meet/Hangout to student chromebooks and both of these offer both video and chat (text) interface. While most of our DL plan is asynchronous (not live), these programs will allow us to support students in full class, small group and on a one to one basis. This is particularly helpful for our Learning Strategies team. Please review Google's [privacy and security](#) details. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.



Should any families need to access the school to collect personal belongings or supplies, the school will be open from 2:00-4:00 pm Wednesday-Friday this week. Please contact Jennifer or Scott if you wish to come by so we can schedule times for people to enter safely.

As we find ourselves at the threshold of this new DL reality, I am extremely grateful for the supportive notes and offers to help coming in from parents, alumni and community members.


A final note, social media is awash with inspiring (and humorous) stories and images from the homefront - please feel free to share your stories or images with Barb.


Yours in partnership,


Scott


## Student tips for successful **VIDEO CALLS**





**1**   
Check in with your teacher. Gather your materials.


**2**   
Be on time. Check in thru the chat when you arrive.


**3**   
Stay engaged (nod or thumbs up) if others are talking.

**4**   
Mute your mic if you're not speaking.

**5**   
Use the chat or raise hand to share ?s/ideas.

**6**   
Wait for teacher to call on you or unmute your mic.

**7**   
Take notes in a doc or on paper for reference.

**8**   
If using video, look at the camera, not the screen.