



Shaw Island School District 10

December 4, 2020

Dear Shaw Island School Families and Community,

Over the past 9 months, we have all been struggling with the COVID-19 reality. As a community, Shaw has pulled together, supported each other and kept the virus from intruding on our island. We can all be proud accomplishing this under very challenging circumstances.

Our school is no exception.

As the elected representatives of the Shaw Island School Board, it is our responsibility to find innovative, successful ways to educate our island's children during the pandemic. Obviously, this has created a huge challenge for us as well as for all school districts in our country and the world.

Providing the best academics possible under these difficult circumstances is our top priority, with social connection and development coming in a strong second.

Academics: Because of the extraordinary efforts of Diane and Toni, we are meeting this goal with flying colors. Their endless hours of hard work and dedication have made remote learning enjoyable, challenging, and productive for our students.

Social Connection and Development: We define this key goal as providing a loving, active, social atmosphere where students can interact and learn skills from one another. COVID-19 has certainly limited our ability to fully provide this. The School Board is exploring several methods to expand the social interaction opportunities, which include expanded staffing, outdoor shelter construction and additional group activities where and when we can.

We can tell you this: We will continuously look for more social opportunities for the children until the pandemic is over and everyone is safely back in the classroom. Until then, we ask for your patience as we search for more solutions. We value the input and feedback we have received from each of you, from Diane and Toni, and from the community! As we have stated in our parent zoom conferences, we are open to all ideas within the bounds of health, safety and educational parameters. We also believe that safe, COVID-responsible family connections outside of school will benefit the children until this is over.

Many thanks to each of you. We see you as our partners in creative solution building as we move forward in these tenuous times. We feel very confident in our mission, our team, our students and you. We will continue to keep safe COVID-19 protocols at the very center of our planning to assure the health and well-being of students; staff and the community. With continued collaboration, patience and creativity we will offer our children the very best education possible during these very stressful, challenging times.

Thank you,

John Bogert, School Board Chair, Jennifer Swanson, Superintendent and School Board member, Shirley Lange, school board member, Cari Miller, school board member, Jon Shannon, school board member

Shaw Island SD 10

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