



Colonel By Secondary School

A Message from the Principal...

15 May 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is quite unbelievable that we have crossed the two-month mark of our Learn at Home experience. Like you and your children, I miss the face-to-face interactions we enjoyed at Colonel By prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past eight weeks, our students and staff have demonstrated incredible creativity, innovation and resilience. This new learning environment has required all of us to rely upon those particular [Exit Outcomes](#) and many others, including collaboration, digitally fluency, global awareness and effective communication!

I would like to thank you for the many messages of support and encouragement you have sent to me and the CB faculty. I have been sharing them with staff on an internal web page where they serve as valuable pick-me-up after a challenging day of techno-struggles and working from home.

It is with great pleasure that I announce an unchanged Admin team at Colonel By for next year. Mr. Ruch, Ms. Corrigan and I are immensely proud to serve this community and we very much look forward to continuing our work together for another year.

Student Attendance - [Colonel By's Learn at Home plan](#) includes opportunities for students to access their teachers for "office hours" every Friday. Teachers are reporting that attendance in the 1A and 1B periods is rather...thin. Although it may be tempting to sleep in, we strongly encourage students to take advantage of this live interaction opportunity. Of course, teachers are available throughout the week for one-on-one meetings and support sessions, extension activities or online lessons. We recognize that some students have other responsibilities throughout the day and that is also accommodated in the Learn at Home plan. Live class activities are recorded by teachers and made available for students to access at a time that is convenient for them.

Recognizing the Class of 2020: The Minister of Education has directed schools to postpone their June Commencement ceremonies in order to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. All secondary schools in the District will run Commencement ceremonies in the fall, pending Ottawa Public Health approval. As a District, we are exploring ways to celebrate the Class of 2020 this spring without taking away from the significance of the formal Commencement ceremony. This week, grade 12 students were asked to share their ideas in a ThoughtExchange. The next step will give students the opportunity to review other students' suggestions and provide feedback. A summary of the ThoughtExchange findings will be shared with the school community and will inform planning for celebrations now and in the fall. At this time, the District is not considering virtual Commencement ceremonies as an option but we would welcome any other suggestions you may have. Please feel free to email me with ideas.

CougarVision - This is a reminder that CougarVision continues to put on a show every day with news, information and entertainment. Today's edition included news about scholarships, summer school, and a scene from Master Chef CB. Check it out at the [CougarVision web page](#).

Reminder: Please continue to visit the [Student and Parent FAQ page](#) where we post answers to questions generated by the CB community. There haven't been many new updates to this page since much of the messaging to parents has been delivered centrally but I'll continue to update it as your questions come in.

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

Outstanding Scholar - Congratulations to Lillian Abebe (grade 12) who is one of only 16 global recipients of the uOttawa Faculty of Science Undergraduate Research Scholarship! This scholarship will allow Lillian to more deeply pursue her passion for scientific inquiry and follow in the footsteps of the two CB students who won the scholarship last year. (Yes, CB has had three winners in the past two years!!) To learn more about the scholarship, [click here](#).

Once again, I extend my thanks to you, the parent community, for serving as partners in our students' education under these extraordinary circumstances. I wish you a restful long weekend and look forward to engaging with you and our fellow Cougars next week.

Sincerely,

Steve Spidell, Principal