

Educator Update this week

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Share your school stories about supporting learning

Many schools and teachers are showcasing their creativity and ability to adapt to the unique way we are aiming to offer learning to students. Media and parents/guardians are asking to hear more about how schools are delivering learning to students.

Please share photos, videos and stories of how you are creating interesting new learning opportunities for students. The Community Relations and Engagement Unit is working on sharing school-based stories through Nicole's Notes, the Educator Update and the media.

We also recognize this is a historic time in all of our lives and recording how we were able to plan and adapt will give us something to fondly look back on.

If you get a call from a reporter during this time:

- Inform the Community Relations and Engagement Unit about the call.
- We can work with you on how to respond as needed, including developing messaging and coaching on how to respond effectively.

Please share your school-based stories with us through your superintendent or by e-mailing the Community Relations and Engagement Unit directly at edu-communications@gov.yk.ca at 867-667-5701.

Educator Update

April 22, 2020

Technology and privacy when working from home

It has been a month since a large portion of our workforce transitioned to working from home in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to everyone for managing through this transition. As we continue to work from home, please remember the available secure options to access your email, documents and messaging.

Find important information on protecting government and student information when working from home on Yukonnect: [Protecting Government, student information when working securely from home.](#)

Reporting and Assessments

- **Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment**

We are still working in collaboration with the BC Ministry of Education with respect to the Grade 10 Graduation Numeracy Assessment.

- **High school teachers: Spring/Interim submission of data to Trax**

Teachers need to enter Term Marks into Aspen for Grade 12 students prior to April 24, 2020 and Post Grades. Schools will then submit their TRAX Spring/Interim Data by April 24, 2020, for Grade 12 courses ending in June 2020.

Mental health and wellness

Students, educators, parents and guardians are under new kinds of stress right now. It is important to support and treat our mental and emotional health and wellness with respect and care.

The Government of Yukon has compiled all [counselling and crisis supports available to Yukoners.](#)

We encourage you to share this information with your students and their families, along with the [Talking and Sharing with Kids and Families](#) resource to support their mental wellness as they return to learning.

For Government of Yukon employees, including educators, check out the [mental health and wellness resources available to you on Yukonnect.](#)

Professional learning opportunities

- **Updated April 24th Professional development sessions**

If you would like to participate in the Apple, Microsoft, Connected North and the Curriculum Assessment Unit professional development sessions, please see updated link: [April 24th PD sessions](#)

- **Tluuwaay 'Waadluxan Mathematical Adventures**

We are considering professional development on "Tluuwaay 'Waadluxan Mathematical Adventures". You would be given a copy of the book and guided through an exploration activity that can be shared with your students remotely. Groups will be subdivided in grade levels: K-3, 4-7, and 8-12.

If you are interested, contact Tanya.Lewis@gov.yk.ca.

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Resources for educators

- **Online education applications**

As we adapt to distance education, you may be receiving lots of offers, promotions and recommendations for educational apps that will allow you to connect with students at a distance.

It is important that you keep your students' and your own privacy in mind when considering an app.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Is the app grounded in solid pedagogy, and can I explain how it is going to benefit my students to a parent, my principal, or my superintendent?
- Have I researched this app, read reviews, reviewed the privacy, determined its rating on [common sense media](#)?
- Does the app require me to have an account? If so, what personal information am I willing to give up about myself (as the teacher) to use this app?
- Does the app require the students to have personalized accounts? If so, can I get around this by:
 - Only providing students with a 'class code' to join, and nothing more
 - Using aliases, or pseudonyms, for my students and keeping an offline, secure corresponding 'match list' to determine who is who.
- Am I aware that if I do have to provide personal information for my students, then I need to seek informed consent from the students' parents/guardians before doing so?

Tools and resources to help you make decisions about online apps:

- [Online Education Services Policy Compliance](#)
 - A Privacy Toolkit is available in First Class teachers Global Conferences that describes this in detail as well as provides a parental consent letter template for you to use.
 - Privacy Toolkit (First Class--> Teachers Global Conferences--> Privacy Tool Kit)
- The Technology and Student Information Unit has developed an [Online Learning App Evaluation Request](#) tool to help with evaluation of platforms
- [CommonSenseMedia.org](#) – [App reviews](#)

- **Elementary resources for families without connectivity**

In order to support families that may have little to no connectivity for their home learning, we have some mathematics (K-7) and literacy resources (gr. 1-2) for schools. Please work with your administrator to do a tally of the number of students per grade (K-7) that may need some additional supports based on inability to access e-learning.

E-mail Denise.McDiarmid@gov.yk.ca with your numbers so we can get the resources out to your classroom and school.

- **Zoom best practices**

Familiarize yourself with [Zoom best practices](#).

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- **Science Teachers:**

Visit this blog for ideas on [virtual science labs](#). Please keep in mind to only use the sites that do not require student data.

Action items for consideration

- Share your school-based stories with us through your superintendent or by e-mailing the Community Relations and Engagement Unit directly at edu-communications@gov.yk.ca at 867-667-5701
- Enter Term Marks into Aspen for Grade 12 students prior to April 24
- Read the [Protecting Government, student information when working securely from home](#) document.
- Share with your students and their families: [counselling and crisis supports available to Yukoners](#), [Talking and Sharing with Kids and Families](#)
- Check out the [mental health and wellness resources available to you on Yukonnect](#)
- See the updated [April 24th PD sessions](#)
- Contact Tanya.Lewis@gov.yk.ca if you are interested in Tluuwaay 'Waadluxan Mathematical Adventures.
- When considering online educational apps, use:
 - [common sense media](#),
 - [Online Education Services Policy Compliance](#) document
 - Privacy Toolkit in First Class (First Class--> Teachers Global Conferences--> Privacy Tool Kit)
- E-mail Denis.McDiarmid@gov.yk.ca with the number of students in your class that need some additional supports based on inability to access e-learning
- Familiarize yourself with [Zoom best practices](#).
- Visit this blog for ideas on [virtual science labs](#)