Educator Update

August 14, 2020

Yukon

Educator Update this week

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Message from Deputy Minister, Nicole Morgan

I hope you all had a restful and safe summer break.

My thanks to each and every one of you for your commitment to students and education in these challenging times. As we work together to return to in-class learning, the world has realized the importance of public school in the lives of children and young people. The learning they do and connections they make with you and their classmates support their well-being and resilience in so many ways.

School will look and feel different this year, as we prepare to safely return students and staff to classes in schools. It will not be business as usual. To ensure the risk at each Yukon school is minimized, there will be different routines and a different approach to learning this year. We will need to continue to be patient, kind and supportive of one another as everyone adjusts to this new normal. Students, families and colleagues will all need positive role models, help and reminders as we learn new healthy habits together.

The health and safety of students and staff remains the first priority. All Yukon schools are following the [health and safety guidelines for K-12 settings](#) provided by Dr. Hanley, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health. Your Principal has been working over the summer with your Superintendent, School Council and local First Nation to develop your school's operational plan, which outlines the details about specific health and safety measures and routines to protect students, staff and guests in your school. My thanks to everyone for their efforts to ensure students and staff return safely into each school.

Recently, on August 12, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health made a recommendation for children age 10 and older to wear non-medical masks where physical distancing cannot be maintained. While physical distancing, handwashing and staying home when sick will continue to be the most effective practices for keeping ourselves safe, there are times in schools where physical distancing may not be possible and a mask may be needed. Although masks are not mandatory, we are ensuring that all schools have the resources to

protect the health and safety of students and staff, including ensuring all schools have access to masks for situations where they are needed or recommended by Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

To help you prepare for the new school year, we have arranged time for you and your colleagues to go over the health and safety guidelines for schools, review the details of your school's operational plan and review the learning continuity requirements for this year with your school administrators on your first days back in school, before students return.

This pandemic has also highlighted the importance of flexible and personalized learning in the development of a modern education system with resilient students and staff. Yukon educators have already started to adopt this type of learning as a key aspect of our new curriculum and student-centered assessment. Personalized learning means we are meeting students where they are at, determining where they need to go and then supporting them to get there. Using a blended learning instructional approach allows personalized learning to happen while building digital skills and skills for the future as well as habits for success to support students to become independent learners. These are the tools that will enable us to be prepared to adapt and ready to continue learning during uncertain times.

Resilience is also strengthened by deepening our understanding and connection with our communities and the places we live – through Traditional knowledge, cultures, languages, and through relationships with the Yukon First Nations, whose traditional territory we work and learn in. These aspects of education will continue to be important for students' lives and careers after the pandemic.

The 2020-21 school year will present us with challenges and ongoing uncertainty as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds. Let's continue to work and learn together to keep everyone safe and to ensure students have the opportunities and supports they need to continue their learning journeys successfully.

Professional learning

- **PD Days August 18 & 19, 2020**

Planning is in the final stages to support educators with the professional development opportunities for those returning to work on August 18 and 19, 2020. Please feel free to join colleagues on August 18 and 19 even if your school is not in session yet. With that, similar options will be available to those schools with different PD days.

August 18, 2020 Health & Safety Professional Development Day
- A choice of optional sessions and one mandatory session is being provided. More info including meeting room links: August 18 PD Day Offerings
- Administrators of schools in session have already signed up their school for the one mandatory 1.5-hour session by Safer Schools Together entitled "Trauma Informed Re-entry to School".

August 19, 2020 Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements for the 2020-21 Professional Development Day

- A choice of optional sessions will be offered and delivered to directly support the key principals and topics as outlined in the Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements for the 2020-2021 school year. Just click on the meeting room link of the session that you would like to attend. Most sessions will be recorded and the links will be made available in the same place after the 19th. More info and meeting room links: August 19 PD Day Offerings

Resources for educators

- **Primary Educators Q&A related to the health and safety guidelines for K-12 school settings**

The linked Primary Educators Q&A were developed to support educators and to support developmentally appropriate pedagogical practice in an early learning environment. The information provided is subject to change as the local and national epidemiology of COVID-19 evolves. Questions? Betty.Burns@gov.yk.ca.

- **Sample health and safety lessons for the opening days of school**
  - Grades K-3
  - Grades 4-9
  - Grades 10-12

- **Updated learning continuity toolkit**

The toolkit of resources will help support the various technology platforms that are sanctioned and supported by Yukon Department of Education. English / French. One of the new items of note in the toolkit is the Digital Tools at a Glance: Guide for Yukon Parents and Guardians.

- **Primary literacy kits**

Each primary school will receive a Literacy Kit that is aimed at integrating Word Work/Word Study into a Balanced Literacy Program. The activities in the Literacy Kit focus on Phonological Awareness. Phonological Awareness is an important part of learning to read and write. The activities in the kit have been broken down into three main areas: Phonemic Awareness, Orthographic Mapping, and Phonics. Questions? Contact: Betty.Burns@gov.yk.ca

- **Fall 2020 canoe program**

To participate in the Fall 2020 canoe season please complete the canoe booking form found here: http://jjewell.yukonschools.ca/canoe-program.html Questions? Contact Jesse.Jewell@gov.yk.ca

Digital tools

Cloud-based Services- Consent for Google Suite & Microsoft 365

For students to have Google Suite or Microsoft 365 accounts provisioned to them, their parents must be provided with the Cloud Services Letter of Intent and opt out form and be provided two weeks to make their

decision. This process only needs to be done once for the student's K-12 career. This letter and form is available from David McInnes at david.mcinnes@gov.yk.ca and the return date can be customized by each school.

After the two week period has passed, and Principals are aware of the classrooms intent to use these services, schools can contact Joe Kanary at joe.kanary@gov.yk.ca with the list of students, and those that may have opted out. We will assign permission for cloud services in Aspen. An automated process will provision G Suite and MS365 accounts to all the students (except those that have opted out) in Rapid ID. At that point, students will see the G Suite and MS365 tiles in their Rapid Id portal when they log-in.

All teachers have access to these platforms in their Rapid Id portal by default.

Any questions can be directed to David McInnes- Director of Technology and Student Information david.mcinnes@gov.yk.ca.

Yukon Moodle

Please note that our Yukon Moodle site has a new look this Fall. We have completed a major upgrade, and a new theme has been applied. It still works the way it always has, but things will look slightly different. TSI (Technology and Student Information) is working hard to upload new courses based on the course requests we received over the summer. If you have a Moodle course request, please send it to support@yesnet.yk.ca .

E-mail migration from First Class to Microsoft 365 Outlook this fall TBA
- All staff and students will be on this platform
- Everyone will maintain their same email address @yesnet.yk.ca
- Outlook will include the calendar and email functionality
- First Class will run as read-only, in parallel, for one school year to assist with migration
- Educators and students will access their email via Outlook through the MS365 tile in Rapid ID or by creating a bookmark in a web browser
- Individuals may configure an Outlook client on their personal devices to access their email
- This will be viewed as a 'clean start'. In other words, old email can be manually imported into Outlook, but can't be done automatically.
- Educators and students will still be able to log into First Class to access old email and their contacts, and they can forward important emails to Outlook if required.
- Users are reminded to use this as their school account to communicate with parents, colleagues, students, and not for personal use.
- Training & support materials to be provided

Curriculum
- **Yukon First Nations 12 in now available**

Every school with grade 12 will be sent a copy of the Yukon First Nations 12 curriculum (this is revised from BC Ministry First Peoples 12 course). The course curriculum will also added to the Catalogue of Curriculum materials and available for ordering via the regular process through Resource Services at any time. Questions? Contact: Tanya.Lewis@gov.yk.ca

Reporting and assessments

- **FreshGrade classic for Fall 2020**

FreshGrade has decided to stay the course and use FG Classic in the Fall of 2020. For those of you waiting for FG Next, it will not be available this year. More information: e-mail yukonportfolios@yesnet.yk.ca.

Action items for consideration

- Reread the health and safety guidelines for K-12 schools
- Read or familiarize yourself with the detailed operational plan of your school
- Read the updated Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements for 2020-21
- Join colleagues in PD and for classroom ready health and safety resources on the August 18 PD Day
- Join colleagues in PD on the continuity of learning requirements on the August 19 PD Day
- For more information about FreshGrade, e-mail yukonportfolios@yesnet.yk.ca
- Review the Primary Educators Q&A related to the health and safety guidelines for K-12 school settings
- Complete one of the health and safety lessons with your class on the first day of school.
- Check out the updated Learning Continuity Toolkit English / French.
- Make your bookings for the fall canoe program.
- Watch the overview and welcome video for the Connected North Expanded Pilot and make a booking for your class.