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August 17, 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

We trust that you are having a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer. I am excited to join the Fraser Cascade School District as your new Superintendent of Schools. Our new Assistant Superintendent, Renge Bailie, and I, recognize that our district is made up of healthy relationships, community pride and a caring and compassionate atmosphere. It has been a fantastic introduction. We are both parents as well as educators, and we make decisions through these lenses.

I am sure that many of you have questions about school start-up. The Ministry of Education and Public Health have made it clear that we want our students back in our schools. The emotional health concerns, loss of learning, lack of social connection, economic stress, pressure on parents, lack of access to technology and inactivity are some of the primary reasons to get our students back in our buildings. We have been working hard with our school leaders to ensure that schools are ready to support our students.

If you would like to review a more in-depth rationale for why we are encouraging students to come back for in-person learning, please review this link from public health.

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf

Over the next week, please expect communication from your child's principal to discuss the back to school which will include the following possible topics:

- Health and safety measures
- Entrances to the school building
- Learning cohort arrangements
- Support for vulnerable learners
- Support for Indigenous learners
- Altered bell schedules (if required)
- Staggered recesses and breaks (if required)
- Supervision arrangements
- Transportation arrangements

- Food services
- Daycare arrangements
- Technology support
- Switching from in-person to remote learning if necessary

While the information may not be specific to your child, we hope that the depth of these plans will give you some comfort as we plan to return to school. We expect these plans to be shared by your child's school during the week of August 24-28. After you receive the school start-up information, you will be contacted by your school's administration about your family's readiness to return to school. We want to assure you that the safety and well being of our students, families and staff members are our highest priorities.

We look forward to connecting with you in person soon.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Moorthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Balan Moorthy
Superintendent of Schools