



February 1, 2021

Dear Matawa Education & Care Centre Families,

As a follow up from the December 30th, 2020 letter regarding school closure, the Matawa Chief's Council and Matawa First Nations Management Board of Directors have decided the following:

- Extending the closure of the Matawa Education & Care Centre (MECC) to in-person for the month of February. This decision will be reviewed monthly with updates being provided by the Matawa Education Department and applicable health service providers;
- The MECC will continue to offer Virtual/Remote Learning programming for all students.

Based on these decisions the MECC will continue the following program and services:

#### Course Delivery

- Virtual/Remote learning will take place all day with attendance being taken through student participation and interaction with applicable staff (phone calls, emails, on-line learning);
- In-person instruction and learning will not be permitted until further notice. It will resume when it has been deemed safer to do so by school staff, health authorities, and Matawa leadership;
- Students already enrolled in virtual learning courses will see no change to their schedule;
- Teachers will work with students virtually, and over the phone to deliver lessons and academic supports.

#### Special Education

- Students with special education needs will continue to be supported by our Special Education Resource Teachers and Education Assistants.
- The MECC remains committed to ensuring that students with special education needs will be engaged in remote learning with appropriate supports. Work is underway to determine how this could be safely done;





- Parents and guardians of students in our special education program will be continue to work with applicable staff.

#### Mental Wellness Supports

- Mental Wellness supports will continue to be available to our students. Any students who are experiencing or could experience mental health challenges will continue to have access to our school counsellors, St. Joseph's Care Group counsellors and youth workers, Elders, and Cultural Workers.

#### Devices

- Students who do not have access to a device to use during the virtual learning period will have the opportunity to use a Chromebook from the MECC.
- Cell phones are available to students on as needed basis.

The MECC is aware these adjustments can be challenging and stressful for our students, families and communities. We will continue to keep you informed of new developments regarding our program delivery and supports. We are committed to providing a safe environment for our students and staff. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Brad Battiston

Principal Matawa Education & Care Centre

