



SECONDARY COMMUNICATION

May 8, 2020

Dear Parents of Secondary (Grades 7 to 12),

A concerted effort this past week was made to connect via telephone with parents at the secondary level so as to understand and gain perspective on how you and your family are doing. This is to fulfill our previously communicated Touchpoint #2: phone calls to families, following Touchpoint #1: Parent-Teacher Interviews.

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) held its May meeting on Tuesday night. The focus of discussion was on CWA's response to COVID-19 and the implementation of the Interim Home Learning program.

The following are key points from our PAC meeting and regarding Touchpoint #2:

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) - Tuesday, May 5, 2020:

- Parents shared their gratitude for the quick, effective response that CWA instituted to meet the educational needs of the students during this time of uncertainty.
- While parents reported that there is good structure being provided to each day of learning, they also lament the fact that their children are missing the social connection that they would normally have while physically at school.
- The PAC is looking for new parents to join the council for next year. If interested, please send an email to me personally (dforrester@clearwateracademy.com).

Touchpoint #2 - Calls to Secondary Families:

- A phone call is being made to each CWA secondary family to touch base. Calls of this nature allow for the partnership between home and school to flourish even in these difficult circumstances.
- To date, the calls are indicating that parents are pleased with the Interim Home Learning program. They are reporting that they see real effort and learning on the part of their son or daughter as they embark on each school day.
- Interesting commentary by some parents focused on the etiquette of students learning in an online environment. What to wear to online classes; how to participate; when not to watch non-assigned Youtube videos during class time; and, always a favorite among Junior and Senior students, punctuality, were some observations discussed by parents. While our CWA community is indeed an extraordinary one, we are not perfect, and these aforementioned observations are viewed as great opportunities for ongoing formation.

Continued

Throughout the week, Mrs. Wachtler and I have been meeting (via Google Meet) with all secondary teachers to discuss two issues. The first is to identify if any students are not meeting their learning potential since our Easter break. The second issue centres on the assessment approach in each class. The goal is to ensure that we have stability in the performance of the students and to avoid significant fluctuations in their achievements for term 4. Clearly evident in these conversations with our teachers is their desire to teach and prepare their respective students for promotion into next year's grade or course.

One area we have ascertained this week is that both parents and students want to know in concrete terms how exactly the end of this school year will unfold. Such necessary information will be provided in next week's communication, and I thank you for your patience as we navigate this ever-changing educational landscape.

A very happy Mother's Day to all our wonderful CWA moms!

Blessings,

Darren Forrester
Head of School