May 21, 2020

Dear Students, Families and Community Members,

As we continue to endure the effects of COVID-19 across the world, we are working to carve out a special celebration for our seniors. Although it will be different from past celebrations, we hope it will prove to be a fond memory for our graduates and their families. The class of 2020 is a special group of dedicated students!

Principal Patton and I had our final meeting with the graduation committee on Wednesday. This committee includes the senior class parent representatives, student representatives, faculty members, the assistant principal, and principal. They’ve had multiple meetings in the last several weeks and worked to create many special events.

All events are planned to comply with social distancing with safety being our first priority. On May 19th, Island County applied for Phase 2 status of Washington’s Phased Reopening. Although we are currently in Phase 1, we expect to be approved for Phase 2 and following these distancing measures for graduation. The following
graduation plans are based upon Phase 2 approval. These plans are subject to being updated and amended as necessary.

**June 12th** will be our seniors last day of class instruction based upon our Continuous Learning Plan (please note that June 19th will be the last day of school for all other students). All seniors will have a yard sign presented to them prior to graduation.

On Monday, **June 8th**, we will be emailing seniors and their parents/guardians a slideshow of senior awards and scholarship recipients.

On Tuesday, **June 9th**, we plan on having the Senior Slideshow and select Senior Speeches viewed at the Blue Fox Drive In. This will all culminate in a graduation parade ceremony on June 13, 2020.

On Saturday, **June 13th**, each graduate will arrive with members of their household in a single car to line up in the parking lot of the South Whidbey High School at a specified time. As the parade commences, they will proceed through the “graduation loop”, stopping to step out of the car and walk the stage while family members watch from inside their car. A professional photographer and videographer will capture this moment. The student will get back into their car with their family and proceed out onto Maxwelton and into the parade route through downtown Langley (a map of the route will be provided at a later date). The video footage will be used in a final graduation video that will include the graduation speakers, etc. This keepsake video of the 2020 graduation will be available later in the summer when completed.

As seniors plan for this celebration, we hope they will plan decorations for their car that celebrate their personal accomplishments! The car filled with proud family members will be part of the celebratory parade through Langley and back. The logistics of the ceremony are being finalized and will be communicated in advance of the ceremony. We fully expect that spectators may watch this parade and these spectators must be socially distanced and wearing a mask. Again, we want this event to be safe and memorable so
all participants will be asked to adhere to the guidelines. We are all looking forward to honoring the South Whidbey class of 2020!

Teachers and administration are working on the promotions for our 4th, 6th and 8th grade students too. These plans will be released in the near future by the principal at that level. There are only 20 days left of school. Our last day of school is June 19th. Please continue with our at home learning plans. Continue to attend the zoom class meetings and do the school work as presented by the teachers. They are working hard to provide this continuous education for their students.

We are all in this together and appreciate everyone’s efforts to stay home and stay healthy. As the phases for reopening allow for greater activity outside of our homes, it becomes ever more important to practice our good hygiene. Wash Hands Often. Cover your mouth and nose, especially when you sneeze. Please stay home if you are sick or are a member of the vulnerable category.

This weekend marks Memorial Day. The unofficial beginning of summer! Monday is a holiday in honor of those service members we have lost.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Jo Moccia and Principal John Patton