



Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Dear St. Stephen families,

As of today, the office has received three phone calls from different parents stating that they tested positive for the Coronavirus. They did not send their children to school so those families have not been in the building or around the other students while school has been in session this week. We are taking this news very seriously. We have been so fortunate to have been open for this long; however, I feel our ring of invulnerability is becoming smaller and smaller.

After prayerful contemplation, and consultation with several colleagues, I am faced with an incredibly difficult decision. I need to protect our students so that we can remain healthy. I believe that it will be in the best interest for the students to close the school until January 25th. We will begin remote learning on Thursday, January 14th and come back to school on Monday, January 25th.

Believe me when I tell you that there is no one more resistant to this than me. I also want to stress that this is not a situation of having a positive case within the school that will spread to other students. We are only taking a pause of in- school learning. It will be for six days. Monday, January 18 is still a day off of school. When we count the weekends, that gives us eleven days out. The CDC recommends ten days; this should give enough time for any other cases that may present to do so without affecting other students, teachers, or staff.

We will have school tomorrow so that teachers and students will have the opportunity to gather books and materials that will be needed. We do have 30 iPads available for students to take home if your family needs to have a device. Please **email** (schooloffice@ststephennb.education) the office if you will need a device for the six days of remote learning. If your family will be borrowing a device, you can pick it up after school on Wednesday from the activity center. We will be there with the devices and a release form for you to sign. We encourage you to let us know in advance if you need a device so we can keep track of how many we will be lending. Each teacher will advise their class as to how they will instruct/conduct their day. Again, thank you to the parents who have been so honest with us, and for all of your cooperation. We will be back in school on January 25th!

God Bless,

Mrs. Christine Vaughan