



Ballard families and staff,

I hope this finds you well. This is an update of some recent activities.

A week ago the governor announced school closure for the remainder of the year. Since that time we have continued to work to engage students and improve how we offer educational opportunities in a distance learning environment. Thanks to staff, students and parents for their efforts.

In addition, our staff has initiated the process of closing the buildings for the year. It goes without saying the disappointment we feel in doing so. Please do your best to carry out the plans set out by the principals. They and others have worked diligently to clean out lockers and organize student belongings. It will help tremendously if everyone cooperates to the best of their ability in picking up these items from schools.

Last night the Ballard Board of Education met to approve a modified graduation ceremony for our class of 2020. A week ago Mr. Ronca, Ballard High School Principal, met with a group of seniors to listen to an idea for graduation. While the students didn't refer to it as a "drive-in movie" style graduation, those of us old enough to remember drive-ins immediately made the connection. Throughout this week administration worked to develop the students' idea. Yesterday the plan received approval from county health and public safety officials, just in time for the special board meeting. Due to public health guidelines, participation will be limited to graduates, parents, a few school officials, and public safety. While not ideal, we are pleased to provide the opportunity for parents to witness their graduates cross the stage. We are working to provide a live stream of the event. Thanks to the students for thinking outside the box and coming up with a creative solution!

Stay safe everyone and let us know if you have questions! Take care!

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