

“I don’t want to be the teacher who whines.” I love my job, I love the students I work with and the content I teach but I don’t care for the verbal attacks that have shown up frequently in the comment section on Facebook. The education world has been on a wild ride since March. At first we were heralded as heroes who deserve far bigger paychecks, next parents and others realized how much schools provide to the community (daycare, food programs, etc.), then the hero sentiment was dropped as parents and lawmakers started demanding the teachers go back to the classroom, and finally we find ourselves on the precipice of a new school year. The Journal of the Plague Year Covid-19 archive has been along to document that entire roller coaster ride. I’ve never really been a fan of roller coasters, but I can tell you without a doubt that I am not a fan of this one.

Teachers are Heroes

I wouldn’t consider myself a hero. I consider myself lucky as I wake up each morning excited to go to work because I love my job. I like to think that I make a positive impact on the lives of children and ignite a love for learning. The hours are long and the pay is meager but I can’t think of a job I’d rather do. When school closures forced me to move my teaching online I was ready. Immediately the feedback from parents was great. They were shocked by our dedication and ability to organize the work of 150 students. As one parent told me, “I have 3 kids and I can’t keep up with what they’re supposed to do. How do you keep track of 150 students?” This sentiment wasn’t just found in the U.S. In fact, it was found around the world. In one item submitted to the archive the Minister of Education in British Columbia highlights the extraordinary work of educators when they say, [“There have been so many amazingly innovative ways educators are supporting students to help them stay engaged in the curriculum from home, while ensuring vulnerable students are supported with customized resources.”](#)

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By **Rob Fleming**
Victoria - Minister of Education
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632 words

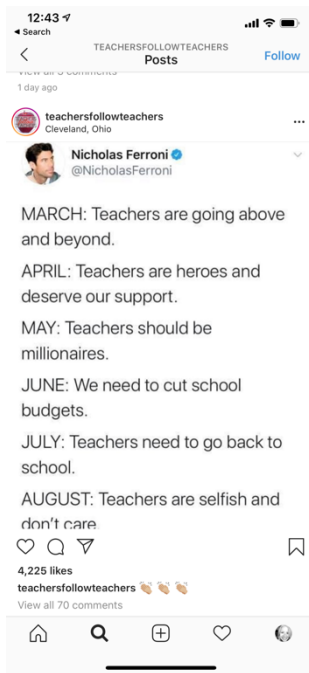
As we celebrate Education Week 2020, there’s never been a better time to shine a bright light on the extraordinary work being done throughout our province right now to ensure B.C. kids keep learning.

It’s only been a little over three weeks since our government made the difficult decision to suspend in-class learning to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and one week since most school districts returned from spring break. In this short period of time, we have seen B.C.’s education professionals meeting each new day with tremendous innovation, teamwork and perseverance.

Over spring break, government worked with all our education partners to develop a common set of teaching, and health and safety, guidelines to ensure education continues to be inclusive, while being safely delivered across all 60 of our school districts.

Immediately after spring break, school leaders began connecting with families in their communities to determine the number of essential service workers who need child care so their parents can continue to serve on the front lines of the COVID-19 response. They were also checking in with students who need a meal program, a computer loan, internet access, learning resources mailed or dropped off to their homes, mental health or one-on-one tutoring support.

As educators began personally connecting with students and delivering lesson plans by phone or online, they took their creativity and compassion to a whole new level. There have been so many amazingly innovative ways educators are supporting students to help them stay engaged in the curriculum from home, while ensuring vulnerable students are supported with customized



Schools Provide Free Meals to Students

Many students receive 2 out of their 3 meals a day from school especially low-income students who rely on free and reduced lunch. That need didn't disappear when schools closed their buildings. In fact, due to the economic struggles tied to Covid-19 more families found themselves in need of [school meal programs](#). Schools around the country got creative. The Montgomery County Public School district located in Christiansburg, Virginia, repurposed their busses and drivers. Instead of delivering students to school each day the busses were packed with lunches and breakfast and made their regular stops where they were greeted with hungry children. This worked well for most people as it gave the kids a reason to get outside and walk, meals were provided for all students, the bus drivers stayed employed, and hungry kids were fed. These meal programs will certainly be continued throughout the fall.

CUSD 
MEAL SERVICE

WHEN
During School Closure
Monday-Friday
(Excluding Holidays)

WHERE
George T. Egling Middle School
813 Webster Street, Colusa, CA 95932


TIME
7:45am-9:00am
USDA is an equal opportunity provider.

FOR CHILDREN 18 AND UNDER

FREE
Grab and Go Breakfast, Lunch or Both

DRIVE UP/WALK UP
Children **MUST** be present to receive meals
Meals must be consumed off-site
Child does **NOT** have to be enrolled at CUSD to receive meals

QUESTIONS?
Contact Callie Barber at (530) 458-7791 ext: 4040

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Student Nutrition

Demanding we go back to school

Last night I had the oddest interaction with my neighbor. It was my first time meeting her though my husband has spoken to her before. She was going around from house to house to make sure all of the front doors were the correct color because she noticed one wasn't and apparently that's now allowed in the HOA. Anyway, she asked him how my school year was going and said, "I just hate this distance learning stuff. It's useless and kids aren't learning anything. Give up your own agenda and go back to work." I was so taken back by her statement. As I was speaking with her I learned that she doesn't have any children or grandchildren which means she doesn't have much of an investment in the education system. After continuing the conversation she ended this portion with, "I'm a big fan of Trump those liberal ideas out there are idiotic." These are the verbal attacks teachers are facing every single day. People who are distanced from the education system seem to think they know how to best run a school district. People who are fully engaged in the education system are being attacked for advocating for the health and safety of our students and teachers. There's not one person to blame in this situation but there is one thing we know for sure, [President Trump](#) is simply fueling a fire we cannot afford to be fighting right now. Do we want the schools to be reopened? YES! Our jobs are so much easier when we can teach in person. Is it safe to reopen the schools in my district right now? NO! The CEOs of two major health systems pleaded with our board to not reopen because the hospital would not be able to handle any kind of spike.



Reopening Plans

Perhaps this section should have a subtitle as well and should read, "Reopening Plans – or Lack of." With the president tweeting simple statements like "OPEN THE SCHOOLS!!!" districts have faced a hard divide in their communities. Some parents and students want the schools to reopen fully with no extra safety precautions. Others want schools to be entirely online for all

of the fall semester. Since education is a right held by the states each state, city, and district has been busy working on their own plan since the 19-20 school year ended. These aren't easy decisions to make and I certainly am not envious of their jobs. Meetings regarding these decisions have been broadcast to the public via Zoom, YouTube, Facebook and more. While I'm sure this section would be complimented by a screengrab from the comment section of those meetings I have sworn off reading the comments. I cannot bring myself to read the words of adults who are sinking to the low level of calling teachers lazy, demanding their tax dollars back, and telling us that we obviously don't know what's best for their children.

With my own school year starting I know there will be many more new developments and the roller coaster is far from over. I know I will continue to contribute many new items to the archive and I hope that future researchers will be able to see what a difficult time this was for education. I will close with this, I feel very fortunate to work for the Nampa School District. In a video message sent by our superintendent she said, "...teachers need to be cared for as well" and made sure that self-care time or time to simply get up and walk away from our computer was built into our virtual bell schedule. We'll be ok.