



Weekly Note from PS Administration

May 26-29, 2020

Dear Primary School Parents!

WOW, it is unbelievable that we only have three more weeks of school left. It seems like we haven't seen each other for years and at the same time it's surprising how fast time goes by, to think that the school year is almost over is astounding.

Reaching the end of this cycle might also be a good opportunity to reflect on the reality we are living. Although no one was prepared for it, as with many other critical moments in modern history, the many challenges we face are a test on how resilient and strong we are as human beings.

For all of us, things might be tough and still overwhelming at times, but we are slowly starting to inhabit this new reality that life has created. New routines have been established, new relationship dynamics have been discovered as we go, new priorities have been evaluated and new blessings and things to be grateful for have been received.

In difficult times such as these, we could also resort to our memory and the history where we come from. Many of us had to live in a time where fear was the predominant feeling in our everyday life. Bombs exploded for no understandable reason, family members could be kidnapped or killed just because it happened, and when we uttered the casual greeting of "take care", it had a completely different weight to it. We looked outside our windows to see a pitch black hole instead of a city because there was no power. We had no cell phones, video games or computers and still we managed to work and do homework. We had to find new ways to connect and to relate to each other, we had to keep on going. And we grew strong and resilient as a generation, we were not traumatized by it, we were shaped by it. We became strong, we held each other's hands as a community -and although at times it seemed it would never end-, we managed to push back and continue our journeys with endurance and with a larger toolbox to face the future.

“Our eyes only see, and our ears only hear, what our brain is looking for”.

As they grow, our children will go back in time and might remember this also as a definitive moment in their lives, a time when they were able to spend special moments with mom and dad. When normality was disrupted and they, and their families, had to reinvent life, when time itself became a chewy substance that was not measured by the clock but by the passing of countless feelings. In the many decades that lie ahead of them, it will be a small parenthesis where they could build forts and playhouses with their dad, where they heard mom share strange stories about her childhood. A time when the world paused and they had the opportunity to grow as a family and test themselves in extraordinary times.

This week, I would like to encourage you to look at how blessed our kids are of having had this experience in their lives. Yes, they haven't been able to see their friends. Yes, they are learning through a screen and in a way no one had ever taught them before. Yes, they are facing challenges but overall they all have a loving family, a roof, food on their plate, health and love. Our kids will be Ok. In fact, they will come out to be much stronger, creative and resilient than ever before. And hopefully, we are coming out of this as families, parents, and human beings more united, empathetic, more caring and better human beings.

Have a great week ahead!

With Warmest Regards,

Donald and Paula

Hot Topics

Assessment Protocol

Beginning next week teachers will be starting to assess students in reading, writing and Math. These will happen during second synchronous time and Seesaw activities. These assessments are for teachers to know where students are at and therefore plan instruction accordingly for next year. We kindly ask you to please follow the attached assessment protocol to make sure that we are able to see where your child needs support or challenge next year. As always we

remind our students about our four core values of responsibility, respect, integrity and caring. Thank you for your support.

Before Assessment	During Assessment	After Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finding a space that is appropriate for assessment. A quiet place with no distractions (no toys, no food or other objects which can create distractions) Appropriate seating with a desk and a chair Parents may only help clarify instructions to students Parents may ask students to state directions in their own words in order to check for understanding Parents may only translate instructions if needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must work independently If students ask for clarifying questions you may <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-read instructions Listen to the instructions again Paraphrase instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents may help students turn in assignments on Seesaw Picture uploaded on seesaw must be large enough and with good quality for teachers to be able to read it.

Parent University

Part of our Coffee with the Principal will be dedicated to giving you strategies for helping you with distance learning. This week, Austin Levinson, will be talking to you about supporting parents with STEM activities at home.

Report Cards

As usual, report cards will be in skyward on June 11th. During the third trimester we don't have Parent-Teacher Conferences. If you have any questions about your child please contact their teacher during office hours.

Placement

At the end of the first week of June we will be letting you know your child's teacher for next year. The last week of school, teachers will be scheduling one to one time with their incoming students and families to get to know them before the year is over. We will share more details later in the week.

Library Books

All of our students went home with several library books. If you are withdrawing from school we are asking you to please return those books to school. We will be placing a return box at the front gate so you can just drive by and drop them off. Thank you for your support.

Summer

Summer is usually a time we all look forward to. It is a break in our daily routines, an opportunity to be together as a family and many get to travel to a different city or country. This year things are very different and the uncertainty of what to do with our kids for such a long break becomes one more thing to feel anxious about. As a Learning and Teaching group we will be sharing with parents different academic, emotional and entertainment resources to begin to plan for it. As much as possible we will try to guide you along the way.



RESILIENCE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

CARING CONNECTIONS



Coffee with the Principal

We will see you next Friday, May 29th at 2:00pm.

Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94804750571?pwd=aDhpMTVyUmlLbG9xbEpoNWpBQWZzdz09>

Meeting ID: 948 0475 0571

Password: 049233

Read Alouds

Don't forget to visit **Mr. B's Youtube Channel** where he is doing daily Read Alouds. Your children will enjoy them as well as you:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyKZHN4U2C6fl8YMdDngbuA>

Paula will be having a read aloud this week. I hope your kids can join me. Watching my little ones through the screen brightens my heart.

Maria del Rosario Uribe, our wonderful librarian, opened an Instagram account, **i_read_to_kids**, where she is doing live read alouds and sharing recommended books. We encourage you to take a look at it.



- **May 28th- Paula Read Aloud 4:00pm**



[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

ID: 91326601108

Password: 723366

- **May 29th- Coffee with the Principal 2:00pm**

Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94804750571?pwd=aDhpMTVyUmlLbG9xbEpoNWpBQWZzd09>

Meeting ID: 948 0475 0571

Password: 049233

- **June 08th - End of the year Assembly for K4-K5- First Grade 2:00pm**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

ID: 93963104490

Password: kiSLLI9D03

- **June 10th- Second Grade Moving Up Ceremony 2:00pm**

Zoom Link

<https://zoom.us/j/94620387279?pwd=bnYvT2sybEE4S3lWQWk0MTFBSmINZz09>

Meeting ID: 946 2038 7279

Password: 044743



*Most websites are adjustable for any grade level by selecting the appropriate level for your child.

Reading websites:

<https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>
<https://www.spellingcity.com/>
<https://www.starfall.com/h/>
<https://quizlet.com/>
<https://freerice.com/categories/english-vocabulary>
<http://www.readwritethink.org/>

Math websites:

<https://www.ixl.com/>
<https://pages.sumdog.com/>
<https://www.youcubed.org/>

Reading & Math websites:

<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/>
<https://skoolbo.com/>
<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>
<https://mrnussbaum.com/>
<https://mosamack.com/>
<https://www.softschools.com/>
<https://www.abcya.com/>
<https://pbskids.org/>
<https://www.funbrain.com/>