

ONE YEAR LATER

What's Your Silver Lining?



Our kindergarten friends start each day with a positive attitude and a big smile...
we can see their smile in their eyes!

-Kristine Schwandner

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What's Your Silver Lining?



As a remote learning teacher, my silver lining has been getting to work with colleagues and students from all of the buildings in our district. It really makes it feel like we truly are one big team!

--Anna Arreola, Special Education Teacher

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What's Your Silver Lining?



- Learning that we can always have fun (building snowmen)
- Finding ways to cope with stress and anxiety with classroom yoga and meditation;
- Letting each other know we care with the compliments project

-Nick Grigolo, 4th Grade Teacher

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What's Your Silver Lining?



Building social and imaginative play skills with a friend through Zoom.

--Holly Osifalujo, YE RLA Teacher

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What's Your Silver Lining?



During the holiday adaptive pause, each day one of my students had a mystery object that the rest of the class had to guess by asking questions. It was a nice way for the class to build community over Zoom.

-Clare Thomas, 6th Grade Science Teacher

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What's Your Silver Lining?



I have come to love using a platform called Pear Deck. I started using it to help my students see the lesson content from far away in socially distant seats, and as a nice substitute for many of my usual engagement opportunities for which Covid restrictions wouldn't allow. Now I feel more confident that my students are 'with me' and there are regular opportunities for interactions in real-time, and students feel more comfortable sharing.

--Wendy Concklin, Health and Wellness Teacher

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What's Your Silver Lining?



My 5th-grade remote learners demonstrated resilience when they got kicked out of Zoom but came right back, ready to keep learning and even volunteering to share some Spanish pertinent to the lesson. They don't miss a beat, and they do it with a smile!

--Alisa Kusnitzow, World Language Teacher

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What's Your Silver Lining?



Our students are still getting an incredible educational experience, and they are thriving from the social interactions they get to experience each day. The learning environments, both in-person and remotely, are helping our students learn about resilience and appreciate what it means to get to go to school.

--Jason Peichowiak, 6th Grade Social Studies

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What's Your Silver Lining?



One silver lining is our outdoor classrooms -- everywhere!
--Larry Hewitt, Superintendent

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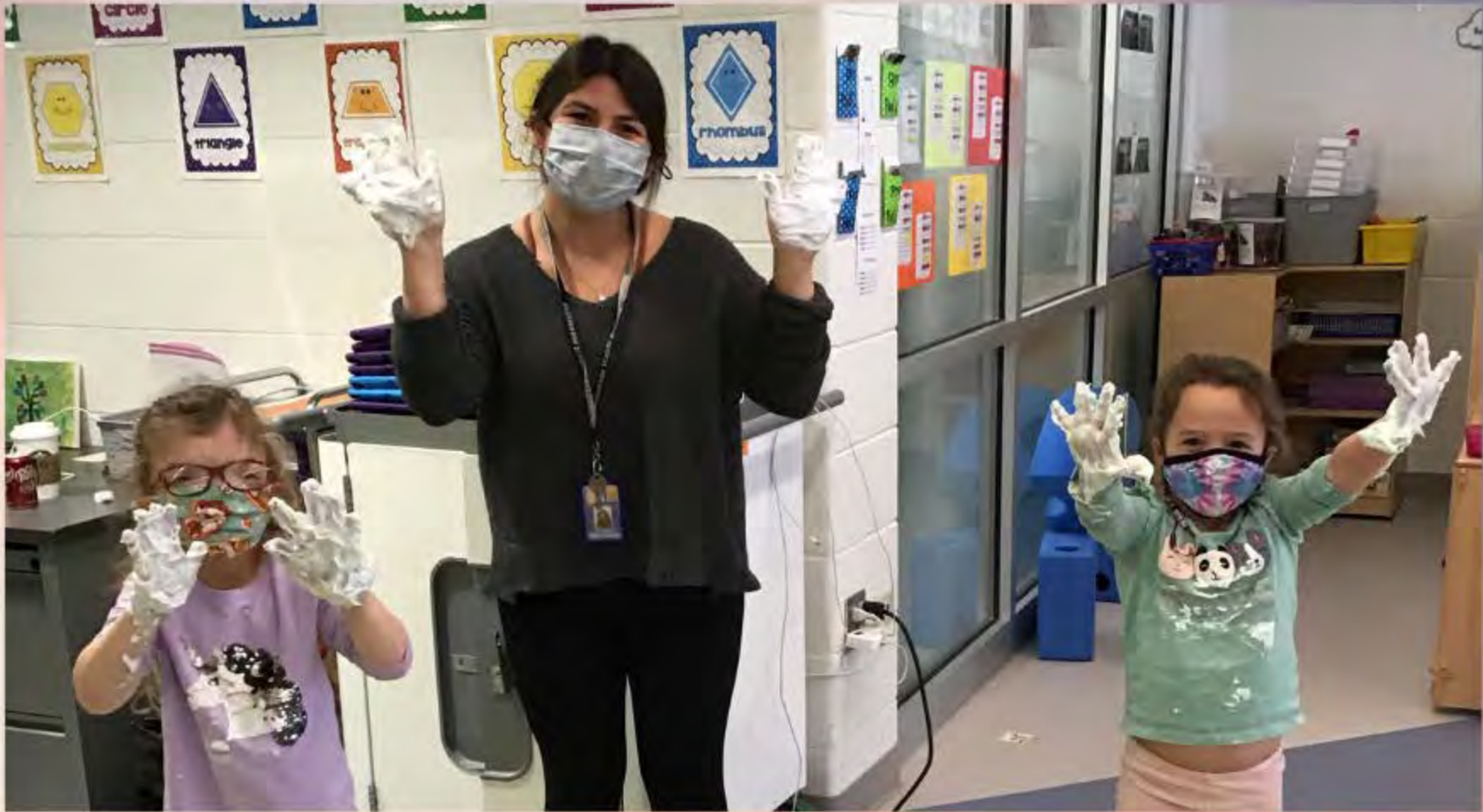
What's Your Silver Lining?



Never underestimate the power of greeting kids when they arrive and saying goodbye to them when they leave each day.
--Scott Meek, NBJH Principal

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What's Your Silver Lining?



Young Explorer students are showing they can be flexible, adaptable, and still have fun with their peers! It's been amazing to see how they have learned to play and communicate while still practicing our safety protocols.

--Sia Drakoulis, Young Explorers Teacher

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What's Your Silver Lining?



I am amazed by the strength and humor of our kids! They seem to take all the challenges in stride, and have fun at the same time. It's easy to be a good teacher when you have great kids!

--David Downing, Drama Teacher, NBJH

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What's Your Silver Lining?



We were able to offer NBJH students a sense of normalcy and serve lunch from the cafeteria.

--Lisa Tenuta, administrative assistant

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What's Your Silver Lining?



The pandemic required us to rethink how we structured students' arrival at school and we found a silver lining in allowing students to enter the building at their own arrival pace and have time to choose an activity, touch base with teachers, or catch up on some work before the official start to the school day.

--Ginny Hiltz, Greenbriar Principal

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What's Your Silver Lining?



Staff, students, and families have worked through these challenging and uncertain times together, whether it is through RLA or in person. Seeing everyone working toward the same goal gives me strength and hope as we move through the days ahead.

--Melina Leber, social worker

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What's Your Silver Lining?



I believe eating lunch in our own classrooms has been a plus. The students have their own personal space, the atmosphere is certainly quieter and calmer. They spend this time eating more of their lunch as well!

--Kelley Roth, Classroom Assistant

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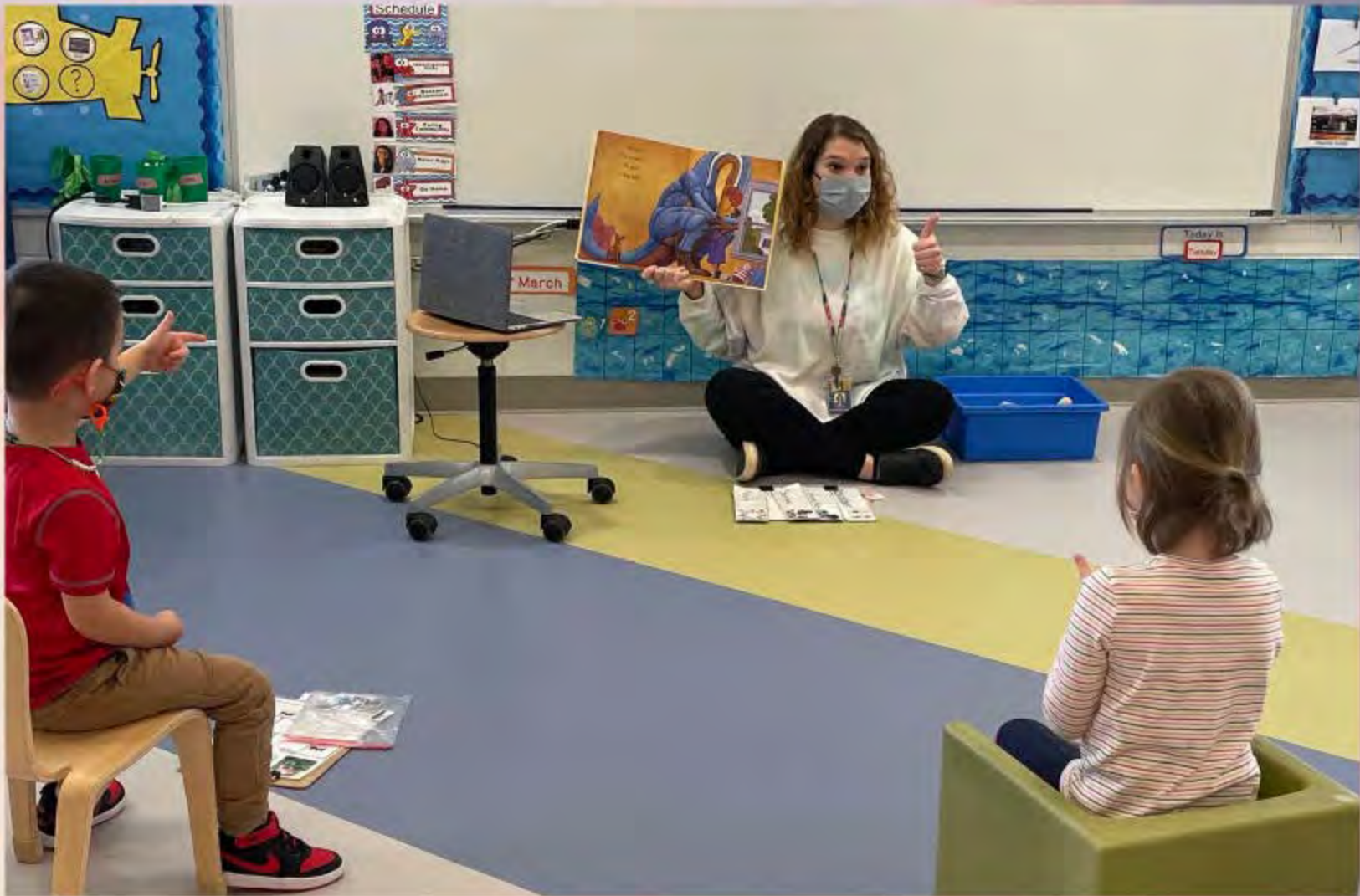


Being able to share our work and ideas in partnerships, while also being socially distanced and safe.

--Lauren Israel, 1st Grade Teacher,

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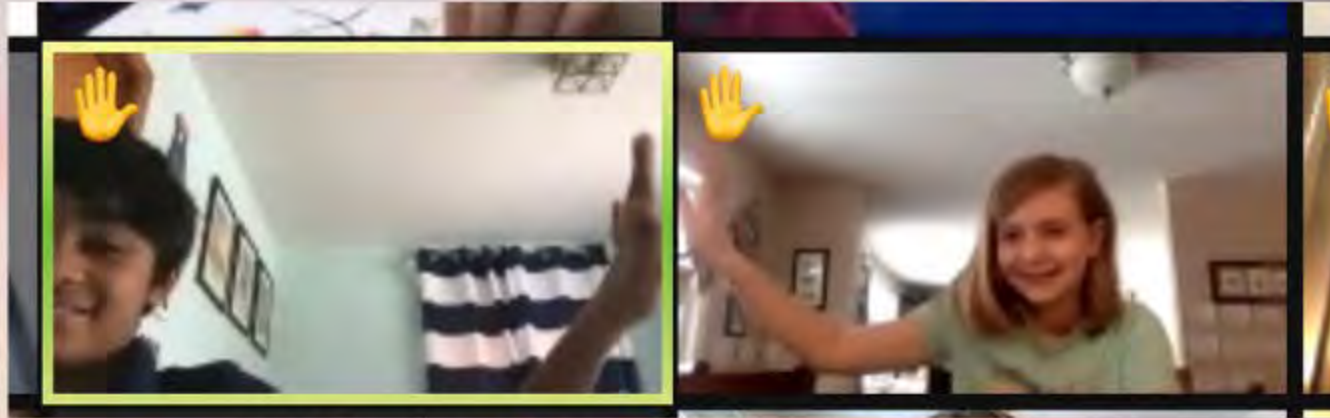


The YE team has had a variety of challenges, and we have all worked together to overcome each of these challenges. Resilience is being able to support each other, even at distance.

--Katey Schwartzman, YE Social Worker

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What's Your Silver Lining?



RLA Students Exchange a 'High 5', above, and students work on relief collage, below



We are limited in art because each child gets their own 'kit.' I noticed students are demonstrating even more creative solutions on their artwork within these limitations. Creative problem-solving is the most powerful lesson that the arts teach, and this is being demonstrated by everyone.

--Diane Stein, Elementary Art Teacher

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What's Your Silver Lining?



To me, a silver lining was definitely virtual parent conferences! I had more conferences with both parents this year and I am sure one reason is that no child-care was needed. It was nice to visit with and get to know both parents. This was a great way to ensure that they could both get information from the teacher firsthand.

--Kimberly Farrell, 2nd Grade Teacher

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What's Your Silver Lining?



Resilience is: Putting out sincere positive energy for your students' sake when you are personally going through a hard time. The positivity is contagious and it lifts you up in the end.

--Deb Carlberg, 3rd Grade Teacher

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What's Your Silver Lining?

I am in awe..

I am in awe of the educators in our schools who took what seemed to be impossible and made it possible. Together, our educators built two programs, one in-person and one virtual, retooling and rethinking everything familiar and making something new. The pandemic was nothing we could have imagined, but the imagination that arose out of crisis resulted in extraordinary learning opportunities for students.

--Kris Raitzer, Assistant Superintendent

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What's Your Silver Lining?



Our students are so resilient and have adjusted to our new safety procedures. Once they all learned why we need to wear all of the PPE during our safety unit they had minimal difficulty adjusting.

-Heather Lerner, Early Childhood Teacher

D28 ART WITH MRS. HAVLICEK



WATCH ART MAGIC HAPPEN HERE

Awesome seesaw participation to show progress helped showcase the hard work & creativity from beginning to end!



DIGITAL DESIGNERS



Artists explored new tools, learned from each other, & discovered innovative ways to bring art to life digitally

HOME ART STUDIOS

Homes turned into imagination hubs. Check out Mrs. Havlicek's art studio in her dining room!



One Year Later
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The one that I believe will have the most lasting impact is simply the resilience and compassion that this has instilled in students.

They have been forced to adapt in school and in other settings, and this has raised their awareness beyond any of my childhood experiences.

While some of their childhood has been impacted negatively, in the end, I believe they will all be better people for having experienced this together.

--Pat Thome, Meadowbrook Principal

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What's Your Silver Lining?



Students becoming experts in technology and taking the lead in teaching their peers! This student shows how he created his own website for an ecology research project (ozone depletion). He was helping others come up with ideas and innovative ways to demonstrate their learning.

--Tara LaCerra, 5th Grade Teacher

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What's Your Silver Lining?



Prior to the global pandemic, I viewed resiliency through a singular lens—with a focus on “self.” I have found that resiliency is often times more powerfully reflected within a “group” as we rely on each other.

--Michael LaCerra, Language Arts & Social Studies Teacher

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What's Your Silver Lining?



I'm so proud of the resilience of the staff at Westmoor. We've adapted and changed the way we collaborate and share ideas. Our meetings, for example, are smaller and don't happen as often but we are able to still safely distance and have great conversations about student learning!

--Mary Sturgill, Westmoor Principal