

April 3, 2020

Dear Families,

I am writing today with a couple of reminders and announcements.

First, Salmonberry will have our regularly scheduled **Spring Break from April 13-17**. I recognize that this will not be the spring break you had been hoping for, and that travel for you and your family members and friends continues to be prohibited. That said, our teachers do need this time off to refuel and breathe. I am so proud of our staff and the program they have created after turning on a dime and reorienting towards our current distributed model. Teachers will make an effort to post some additional projects and extensions for you to use as resources during this April break if you choose. That said, at our staff meeting yesterday there was consensus that we also urge you to allow your kids to enjoy some down time, away from school assignments and screens. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and you can enjoy some family time at the beach, in the woods, or in the garden. We are all hoping to return to school on April 20 renewed and refreshed!

Also, yesterday WA Governor, Jay Inslee announced an extension of the previous “stay-at-home order” to proceed through May 4. Interestingly (and inexplicably to me), he did not include school closures in these extended guidelines. So **the current mandatory closure remains through April 23**. That said, *I am expecting that a separate announcement related to schools for May and June will be made in the next week or so*. Salmonberry will of course follow the directives of the Governor, the WA State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the San Juan County Health Officer. (If I was going to set odds, I would guess that the mandatory closure of in-person education is more likely than not to continue through the end of this school year.) We will keep you informed of any new announcements as they are made.

And, from the teachers to the kids, “We miss you! We love you!! We are grateful for the online tools, but we would much prefer if we could give you a real hug, rather than this virtual one. HUUUUUGGGGG!!!”

And finally, from me to you, in the Lakota words of my friend and colleague Dr. Don “Four Arrows” Jacobs, “Okiciya makiyokipi na iyuteya, cuke wayokapi, mitakuye oyasin.” (Help each other acclimate and adjust, because the truth is, we are all related.) Be well. Be patient. Love one another.

Warmest Regards,
Paul