

April 7, 2020

Dear Parents, Teachers, Board and Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and all of your loved ones happy, peaceful and well.

I'm sure many of you have already heard the news that yesterday WA Governor, Jay Inslee and WA Schools Superintendent, Chris Reykdal announced an Executive Order that **all Washington public and private schools are to remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year**. And, of course, Salmonberry is obligated to comply with this directive. Our plan is to take our scheduled **spring break next week, April 13-17**. Then we will resume our distributed learning program and continue on for the remainder of the school year. There are still some details to work out, but for now that is the news I have to share.

Some of the teachers have been shedding some tears (mea culpa), as we know that this order means that some of the students will graduate from Salmonberry without returning to class, and without even one more epic game of barefoot Capture the Flag with school mates. Others will graduate Kindergarten without the usual ceremony. This also means, at the end of the year, we will say goodbye to Paul B and Suzanne without a trademark Salmonberry hug-filled ritual. We will have to find other ways to mark these important life events. And we will have to find new ways to remain connected as a community and hold one another through this year's conclusion. We're working on plans for all of this and more!

And, importantly, as we plan for another seven weeks of virtual school, we would really appreciate your input. **Expect a Survey Monkey survey to come to your in box in the next couple of days**. Teachers will earnestly consider your input as we gear up for the next chapter of this adventure. We want to hear about how our on-line presence has been working for you. What parts are your kids finding most engaging? What are your frustrations? What would you love to see augmented or retained or dropped from our current model? Please complete the survey with all the creativity and collaborative juices you can muster.

Finally, (for now), I'd like to invite you to another **Zoom All-School community gathering on Earth Day, April 22 at 4:00**. This will be another chance to "gather the tribe" and once again hold each other with the Salmonberry spirit of care and love. Details including a Zoom meeting room # will be forthcoming, but please mark your calendar now.

Thank you so much for your continued care and support. On behalf of the Salmonberry staff it remains an honor to do this work with you and your amazing children.

With love and gratitude,

Paul Freedman