

June 4, 2020

Dear Parents,

As we wind down this very different school year, we can start to reflect on how this experience has made us stronger. Certainly coping with a new lifestyle was very demanding, and as a result, I believe that our children have indeed become better lifelong learners. They had to adapt quickly and found that they took on more responsibility than ever before. One of the greatest by-products was that they were required to be very active participants in their own learning, even at a very early age. Many of the benefits of active learning are the following:

- Our world now rewards people for what they can do with what they know, how they behave in the world, and how they adapt. Active learning goes way beyond the report card grade.
- Competency is defined as “the ability to access, evaluate, manage, and create.”
- Digital technology is how today’s students learn. They are enabled through technology. Their thinking, reading, and problem-solving abilities are greatly enhanced.
- Deeper learning requires students reason through understanding rather than focusing on content coverage and memorizing.
- Communication skills remain essential to continued growth. Students have demonstrated a proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
- Our students have continued to produce quality work and have gained independence, as they had to self-manage a great deal of their work.
- Even our youngest students who needed a parent to help guide them, started to acquire new sets of skills as they embraced various vehicles for learning.
- They have built a Growth Mind Set as they realized that a goal is something you want to do, but can’t do yet. Intelligence can be grown through hard work, effort, persistence, and resilience.

Yes, these benefits may not show up on a report card, but in the years to come, I see a great harvest. Our students, parents, teachers, and staff should be commended for their teamwork and dedication to keep the learning going. As a school we will move to 2020-2021 with the assurance that we are prepared for whatever comes our way. Our planning for next school year is well on its way, and it looks very exciting. A comprehensive plan for reopening in September will be coming out soon. When we receive the green light from Governor Murphy, we look forward to a five full day/week schedule.

**Happy Birthday in June to:**

6/6      Ava Massimino (7)

Jennifer Miao (8)

6/8 Jordan Arbeen (3)

6/9 Henry Flemming (4)

Victoria O'Leary (8)

6/11 Christian Ruddy (8)

6/14 Fiona Baughman (7)

Dashiel Cassidy (4)

6/19 Jack Hindermann (7)

Peter Staley (PK)

6/20 Felix Chiu (6)

Leanna Salame (8)

6/23 Geoffrey Yu (K)

6/24 Hope D'Orsi (6)

6/26 Mitchell Oldham (8)

6/27 Gavin Blankenbaker (8)

6/28 Roxanne O'Leary (1)

6/29 Mary Haddad (3)

Gemma Polakowski (K)